

UFO

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EVENING GAZETTE, Stillwater, MN - Oct. 3, 1991

UFO event is topic of UW-River Falls speech

A researcher will present new information at a public speech they contend proves a government cover-up of the nation's most celebrated UFO event.

Donald R. Schmitt, co-author of the recently published book, "UFO Crash at Roswell," will speak at UW-River Falls on Oct. 17. The presentation will be given at 7 p.m. in the North Hall Auditorium. There will be an admission fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Tickets are available in River Falls at Dick's IGA and More 4.

Schmitt is director of special investigations for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Chicago. Prior to his death three years ago, Hynek had established an

international reputation as an investigator of UFO reports. A professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, Hynek was a member of the initial "Project Blue Book" team that investigated UFO reports for the Air Force. Hynek's investigative findings on UFOs served as the basis for the movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Schmitt has been affiliated with the Hynek Center since 1979, and was previously a field investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. He has written numerous articles on UFOs, and has been widely interviewed on the subject, including on NBC and ABC News, by the AP and UPI, Paul Harvey News, the *Wall Street Jour-*

nal and *Omni Magazine*. He co-hosted the television program "Greetings from the Unknown" with actress Sally Kellerman.

In his presentation at UW-RF, Schmitt will present a detailed account of the reported crash of a UFO in 1947 near Roswell, N.M. The speech will include excerpts from an upcoming two-hour Cable News Network documentary, "UFO Secret, the Roswell Crash," based on the book Schmitt co-authored with Kevin D. Randle, a former U.S. Air Force intelligence officer.

According to the Hynek Center, Schmitt's Roswell Crash research draws on the testimony of 150 first-hand witnesses and "reveals

conclusive proof of the epochal nature of the crashed object, its recovery and the subsequent government cover-up of the facts that exists to this day."

As events of the Roswell crash unfolded in 1947, an Air Force commander initially said it involved a "flying disc" and then later recanted, saying that further examination determined the object was a weather balloon. According to the center, although the event was forgotten by the public and the media, the military took "extreme measures" to prevent disclosure of information.

"These measures, orchestrated from Washington, D.C., include past and current threats against wit-

nesses; illegal withholding of documents; alteration of personnel records; actions taken against the press to prevent the disclosure of the crash, and the recovery operations," according to the center.

The center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the continuing examination and analysis of the UFO phenomenon. It acts as a clearinghouse for the two-way exchange of information on UFO reports and research. Its members are comprised of an international group of scientists, academics, investigators and volunteers.

For more information on the presentation, contact the UW-RF department of Continuing Education Extension at 715/425-3256.

'Flap' UFO-sighting story prompts flurry of flying-object reports

DAILY NEWS, Longview, WA - Oct. 1, 1991

By Pauline Bains
The Daily News

VANCOUVER — The calls have come pouring in to local UFO researchers Mike and Brenda Dobbs after a Sept. 23 *Daily News* article about their work.

Since the story appeared, Mike Dobbs said, the couple has received 18 calls, 15 of which were reports of recent sightings. Many described unidentified flying objects in the Silver Lake and Castle Rock areas, he said.

"Probably only one in 10 people who sees a UFO reports it, so if we are getting this many calls there must be a lot of people who have seen things," Dobbs said.

Having such a large number of sightings in one area is known as a "flap," and frequently when this happens callers offer varying descriptions of the UFO, he said.

"We've had reports of bright orange lights, blue lights and white lights," he said. "Usually it's one light, but sometimes it will be maybe two, like a pair of headlights."

As state section directors for the Mutual UFO Network, an international organization for the scientific study of UFOs, Dobbs and his wife investigate sightings in their spare time.

Although some of the objects can be identified as aircraft, planets or stars, Dobbs said that most of the recent sightings are hard to explain because the UFO will stop and hover.

"They tend to be very low, lower than what you would find with private planes, and silent," he said. "When something is hovering and it's silent and you know it's fairly low, that's not a description of something like a helicopter."

He said that callers have spotted UFOs on Sept. 12, between Sept. 15 and 20, and then on Sept. 22 and 23.

"One person reported being woken up by a bright light that flashed outside their house and it caused their power to become interrupted," Dobbs said. "They didn't see an object but they live quite a way out and there was no thunderstorm or anything like that."

Another report came from a woman and her 8-year-old grandson who live in the Camas-Washougal area.

They recounted seeing a huge flying disc in the sky Saturday night. White lights surrounded the perimeter, and the object was flying only about a quarter-mile off the ground, Dobbs said.

Although he said it seemed a bit odd that the local police department had no other reports of the object, "Sometimes we have had very, very good, well-documented cases in residential areas and you would expect a lot of people to have seen them and they don't. There's a theory that the UFOs are selective in who can see them."

He quickly added, however, that that is simply one possibility, and he isn't sure he subscribes to that explanation.

Although the calls about recent sightings have slowed somewhat this last week, Dobbs said, he and his wife are still getting about one report a day.

"We have been talking with school teachers, we've been talking with children. A lot of these are very credible, educated people. . . . Most people who report UFOs don't seem to be the nutty type."

Anyone who wishes to report a sighting, may call the Dobbses at 1-892-0262.

ISLANDER, Pensacola, FL - Nov. 22, 1991 CR: E. Walters

Journalist From Germany Witness UFO Sighting

By Gary Watson

On an assignment from Germany, Richard Pleuger and Thomas Muller-Siemens arrived in Gulf Breeze to write a report on the local, internationally known, UFO sightings. Thomas said, "Based on the sales of the best selling book, 'The Gulf Breeze Sightings,' German interest in the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze phenomena is at a record high, so we are here to see if it is real."

Richard said, "We were very surprised. Finding UFO witnesses in Gulf Breeze is very easy. I simply asked the people I met if they had seen anything. Almost everybody I talked to had seen the UFO or knew somebody who had." Richard went on to say that he "was very interested in the hoax controversy that was brought on by the discovery of a UFO model. But I was forced to dismiss the hoax claims when I learned that the model itself was the hoax."

It was made by a prankster in 1989, about two years after Ed Walters took his first UFO photographs. Somebody went to a lot of trouble to try and discredit the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings and in a way that cover-up effort is confirmation that something big is going on in Gulf Breeze."

Thomas said, "as a journalist, I learned to be skeptical, but when I met dozens of people on a 'sky watch' on November 13, 1991, I didn't know what to think. They were waiting at the south end of the Bay Bridge, waiting to see the UFO! A MUFON investigator told me that they had documented over a hundred sightings from that location in the last twelve months, I was shocked. These people were serious. They had cameras with infra-red film, video cameras, and a parabolic microphone. They expected the UFO to show up! But on that night

there was no UFO sighting and I began to regain my sense of reality until the next night, November 14, 1991 when we met with the MUFON investigators again. This time we went with them to South Shoreline Park and to my absolute amazement, we saw the UFO!

Like all of the people who saw the UFO with us, I am not saying that what we saw is something from Mars with little green men, but I do know that it was not something normal. It was not an airplane, helicopter, weather balloon or flare. It was suddenly just there, hovering motionless in the sky for several minutes before vanishing into thin air."

Richard and Thomas work for the largest newspaper in Germany and expect to return to Gulf Breeze for a follow-up story.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL Oct. 3, 1991 CR: R. Reid

UFO News: Latest in local sightings

By Joe Barron

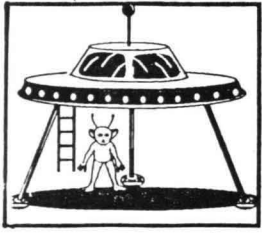
It's getting to be an almost nightly thing. A brilliant light was spotted over the Town Point of Gulf Breeze on Saturday night, September 28 and 29. The red light was, at first, about the size of the light on the water tower. It slowly got larger, turned a little to white and then back to red as it got larger. The time was 7:58 to 8:01 p.m. A crowd of approximately 50 to 70 people were there. Many were MUFON investigators. The light appeared to be about 45 degrees on the horizon - westerly, and stationary. Before going out, a stream of light descended in a downward motion at about 150 degrees below the light with a "ball" appearing below the stream.

The September 29 sighting was also witnessed by a large crowd at the south end of the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze bridge. The light behaved in much the same manner as the night before. The time was 7:57 to 8:02 p.m. and appeared to be brilliant red. As it appeared to

approach the crowd, from a westerly direction (the same as the night before), it seemed to get larger. At one point it stopped, hovered, and then turned north traveling at a modest speed and stopping intermittently, before breaking away in a tremendous burst of speed out of sight. A Naval Reserve aviator observed the light through a telescope. He could not be contacted for additional information. The wind was northeasterly at 20 degrees.

In both of these sightings, photographs were taken and are currently being analyzed. For those of you who are skeptics, you are requested to come to the ramp side of the Gulf Breeze end of the bridge on any night starting around 7 p.m. if you want to see a UFO. There you will find people from all over this area as well as many from local neighboring states. Just come out and share this experience with the believers.

This article was prepared by Joe Barron, 932-5394 (MUFON Investigator).



Close Encounters of a different kind come to N.H.

By HARVEY DICKSON

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — Alien abductions of the weird kind are up. That was the unsettling message at "The Uninvited — Alien Encounters," a one-day seminar sponsored by the

New Hampshire Mutual UFO Network yesterday. The good news — depending on your frequent flyer plan — is that many people have already survived an abduction and don't know it because they are repressing the experience. That sent

many in the audience looking for telltale "scoop" marks that indicate a tissue sample has been taken by aliens. It was the kind of crowd, gathered at Yoken's Convention Center, where the

words "beam me up" have a palpable reality.

A crowd where someone can ask UFO author Budd Hopkins, "In your experience, did you ever come across a creature the color of the inside of a cantalope?" And that question is greeted with polite interest instead of snickers.

Which is not to say that UFOlogists don't have a sense of humor. When speaker John E. Brandenburg was asked, "Who or what are your sources?" he answered, "Well, I did marry an alien. . . ."

And when his interrogator asked, "You did?" he laughed and added, "No, no. She is a resident alien of the U.S. She's applying for citizenship now," and pointed to his Asian wife sitting at a back table where his books were for sale.

Brandenburg — lit up by a star map beamed from an overhead projector, constellations written across his forehead — gave a kind of "I'm OK, You're OK" pep talk to the concerned audience.

"You," he said, "are equal to them. Even if they fly around in ships we can not yet equal, they are flesh and blood just like we are."

Brandenburg is the author of the "Rainbow Declaration," a kind of cosmic Bill of Rights that urges democracy among the various intergalactic species, and begins: "All peoples are created equal."

But Brandenburg also had dire warnings about a space race called the Reticulans, who act like E.T. on a binge and make Col. Moammar Gadhafi look like a weenie. The Reticulans, he said, regularly kidnap earthlings for dark experiments. And our government does nothing.

"The action of the Reticulans resemble that of a terrorist state such as a Libya or a North Korea," he said.

The doyenne of alien abductions, Betty Hill — who was snatched (she says) in 1961 as she and her late husband, Barney, drove home to Portsmouth — used yesterday's conference to announce her retirement from public life. The dress she wore the night of her capture was displayed shroud-like in a glass case.

"At the time I wasn't happy about it," she said in the lobby of Yoken's, re-lighting a cigarette she had put out for an interview with New Hampshire Public Television. "Now, I am. I'm an adventurer. I like to travel."

Sure, she said, being kidnapped was terrifying at first, but the leader of the mission was polite. "He kept apologizing," she said, (and saying) "Sorry we scared you in the beginning."

Hopkins said that for years we have known aliens used the Hills to take small tissue samples. What is only becoming known now, he added, as America's ability to talk about sex changes, "is the whole area of genetics, reproduction and even sexual assault that we haven't wanted to talk about."

Perhaps most interesting in this now-it-can-be-told category are the strange bruises found around Barney Hill's groin after the encounter. Hopkins claims a sperm sample was removed from Hill.

Then there was Gordon J. Gianninoto, publisher of the UFO Contact News, numerous other inspirational tracts and a sort of celebrity-spectator at yesterday's conference.

An interview with Gianninoto has many of the sensations of space travel, but the trip includes the following disclosures:

● His father invented the flip-top on Marlboro hard packs;

● Aliens came down and healed him as he drove to a hospital for treatment in 1988;

● His current girlfriend (he seemed to say) was sent to him from outer space as a "star companion."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Nov. 24, 1991 CR: J. Vallee

BOOKS

Beam him the truth, Scotty

Years of UFO research yields author no answers

By Charlie Brennan

Something is happening, but we don't know what it is.

With no apologies to Bob Dylan, that's the conclusion author and scientist Jacques Vallee offers as a result of his research into the UFO phenomenon.

But if Vallee doesn't know, it's not for lack of trying.

"I only wish I had the answers," the San Francisco-based scientist said during a recent visit to Denver to talk about his book, *Revelations* (Ballantine, 273 pages, \$20), the third in his Alien Contact Trilogy. "Sometimes, it feels like I'm the only person in the world who doesn't know what UFOs are."

Vallee served as the model for the French scientist played by Francois Truffaut in Steven Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. He has acknowledged in previous writings that there are many UFO sightings that cannot be explained through any technology, trickery or phenomenon known to man.

Revelations, however, is Vallee's analysis of alleged UFO events which — despite the claims of those eager to believe in visitors from other planets — he believes are the work of humans with motives for perpetuating the UFO legend.

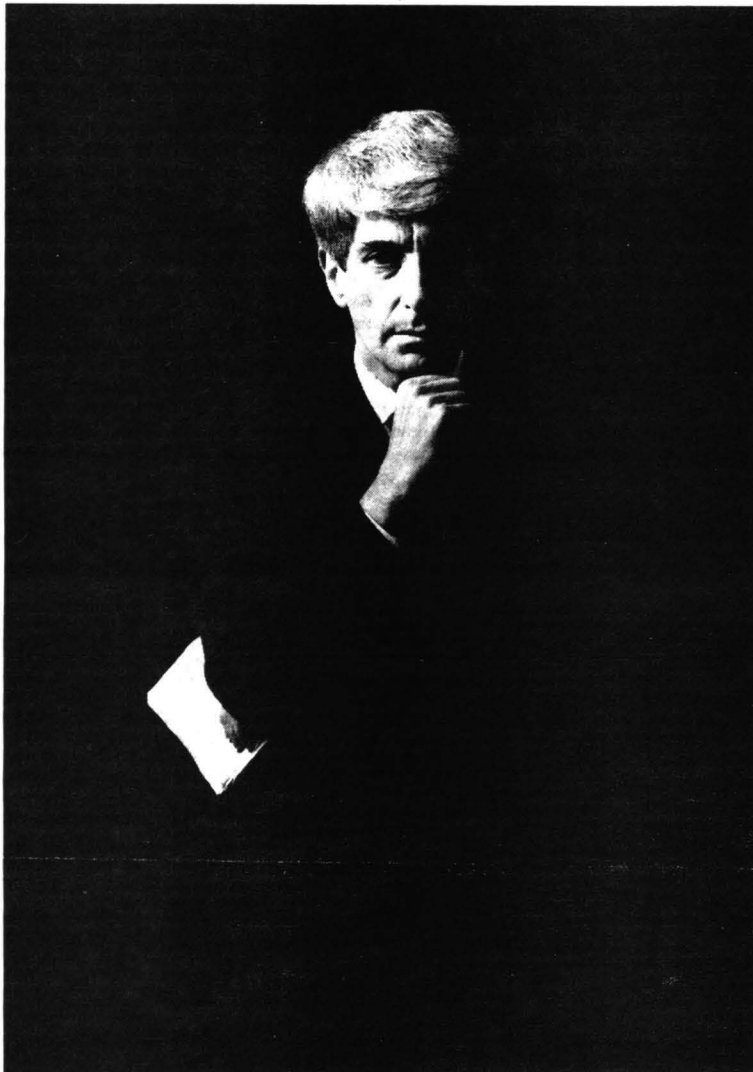
These incidents are among the best-known cases considered by UFOlogists to be evidence of human-alien contacts. In each case, Vallee peels away layer after layer of rumor and third-hand reporting to find that ultimately, there is little, or nothing, to support the belief that aliens have landed. Those cases include:

■ The "Majestic 12" report. First surfacing in 1984, this eight-page discourse, which to the layman has every appearance of being a classified government document, purports to be a Nov. 18, 1952, briefing prepared for President-elect Eisenhower concerning the military's analysis of spacecraft and alien pilots recovered from a crash site near Roswell, N.M.

■ The Holloman Air Force Base landing. Supposedly, three alien ships approached New Mexico's Holloman Air Force Base on April 25, 1964, and one landed, dispatching three alien beings to meet with earthlings. The result of this episode, allegedly filmed by an Air Force camera crew, is a treaty under which the government has agreed to officially ignore ongoing cattle mutilations and human abductions that are supposedly research aliens are conducting on "developing civilizations."

■ The 1979 abduction in France of Frank Fontaine, who was missing for a week, triggering a national alert. When Fontaine returned, he said he'd been abducted and examined by aliens. There was enough corroborating evidence that his story is still accepted by many.

In all these cases, Vallee said that where there was smoke, instead of finding fire, investigation turned up smoke, smoke and more smoke.



Janet Reeves/Rocky Mountain News

Author and scientist Jacques Vallee spent years researching UFO sightings.

"My conclusion is that the UFO phenomenon is a real, physical, unexplained happening that science should be studying. My speculation . . . is that we are dealing with a form of consciousness that we have not recognized previously."

Jacques Vallee

Vallee believes that people such as Fontaine are being victimized by sophisticated plots whose authors remain unknown. The Fontaine incident, for example, is traced in *Revelations* back to the French Department of Defense whose goals were "military, scientific and political."

Vallee said the Fontaine case is a classic type of deception perpetrated upon UFO believers. "It's an example of the possible use of the belief system that's out there,"

Vallee said, "the expectation of this mysterious phenomenon, as a cover for something that may very well be a straightforward, state-of-the-art technology experiment."

But exposure of these hoaxes hasn't stilled Vallee's belief that there are many other UFO events that remain unexplained. "My conclusion is that the UFO phenomenon is a real, physical, unexplained happening that science should be studying," Vallee said. "My speculation . . . is that we are dealing with a form of consciousness that we have not recognized previously, one that can manipulate time and space in ways that we have not mastered. But that does not mean that we are being visited by extraterrestrials."

Vallee says he makes a habit of listening carefully to witnesses. "And what they tell me is that they see objects that appear to be physical, that come out of nowhere and disappear into nowhere, change shapes, that affect their environment in very strange ways."

Vallee's conclusion: "If there is a technology that can do that, it can come from anywhere, anytime. Including from other dimensions, including from here on earth, including from a parallel universe."

Charlie Brennan is a staff writer for the Rocky Mountain News.



ROSEMARY KAUL / Los Angeles Times

Marina Lavrentevna Popovich says Soviet interest in UFOs has shaken off its taboos. Gorbachev himself, she says, may be an extraterrestrial front man.

Out of This World

■ **UFOs:** A former Soviet air force colonel preaches the gospel of extraterrestrial visitation, in which the friendly folk from outer space are waiting for us to get our act together.

By PAUL DEAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Winds of glasnost that have scattered Soviet secrets from KGB management skills to the final blame for Chernobyl are airing another classified operation: UFO research and sightings.

"For 25 years now there have been secret studies by the Ministry of Defense," says Marina Lavrentevna Popovich, a former test pilot with a doctorate in flight technology from the University of Leningrad who, almost overnight, has become lead-spokesperson for

extraterrestrial happenings over Eastern Europe. "They [officials] are beginning to open the archives, but very slowly."

Full and final release, she believes, will be a long time coming in a nation addressing the more pressing priorities of bread lines and civil wars.

"We think the reports will confirm about 14,000 contacts [UFO sightings] in the past 25 years," says Popovich, 54. She was in Los Angeles to speak at this week's Whole Life Expo that heard holists, gurus, channeled metaphysicians and a speech by presidential candidate Jerry Brown. "But I don't think we'll find anything in the secret files to change the direction of our work."

Before glasnost, she says, UFO watching was neither safe nor easy in the Soviet Union.

"We had been researching UFOs for 25 years and talking about it in small groups, but underground. People who tried to talk in public about UFOs were either fired or put in psychiatric hospitals."

NEWS, Detroit, MI - Nov. 8, 1991

Just how groundless are reported UFO sightings?

By Mark Muckenfuss
SAN BERNARDINO SUN

A recent Fox Television program brought the mysteries of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) to prime time television.

On Nov. 24, National Geographic's highly rated "Explorer" series once again will tackle the subject when it focuses on crop circles, those puzzling circular areas of flattened grass and corn that have appeared throughout the world and have sometimes been attributed to extraterrestrials.

What's happening here? Are we hovering on the brink of another cycle of flying saucer mania?

Probably not. While UFO sightings continue to be reported throughout the world, fewer people seem to believe in the phenomenon now than in the recent past.

Still, nearly half the U.S. public — 47 percent according to a year-old Gallup poll — believe UFOs are real, compared to 31 percent who believe they are simply a fantasy. In 1978, 57 percent believed in the phenomenon.

The same survey indicated that 14 percent of those polled had at one time seen something they thought might be a UFO. This means more than 36 million U.S. residents think they might have observed an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Even the Air Force, in its much-cited Project Blue Book, admitted that of more than 12,000 incidents it investigated between 1952 and 1969, 600 remained a mystery.

And those are just reported incidents. According to Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist and well-known lecturer on UFOs, only a small percentage of UFO encounters are ever reported.

"One of the guiding principles of most people is to avoid ridicule," Friedman says. "Eighty percent think most people don't believe in UFOs," he adds. But national polls consistently indicate "the believers outnumber the nonbelievers 1 1/2 to 1, and it's been as high as 2 to 1."

Are we being visited by superintelligent beings from other worlds?

Some people claim rather bizarre experiences that lead them to believe aliens have visited Earth. Judy Miller of Yucaipa, Calif., remembers a night about nine months ago when two bright objects flew out from behind a range of hills near her home.

"They were these bright lights and they were coming toward me. One was in front and the one behind was swinging back and forth," she says, indicating a pendulumlike motion. "It looked like the one was trying to catch the other one."

That appeared to happen, and the objects merged, she says. Then suddenly, they changed course.



'The bottom line of these multiple contacts is: "We are not going to give you our technological information until you raise your spiritual and moral levels on Earth."'

MARINA LAVRENTEVNA POPOVICH
Soviet UFO activist

from the skies around her to the Earth below.

"I saw rivers drying up, lakes dying, the whole ecological disaster," she remembers. "We were ruining soil for its natural resources, building ozone holes, creating dams that spoiled the dynamics of the Earth's rotation."

Economic activities intended to benefit a nation and a continent, she realized, were actually ravaging the ecology.

"I knew we would have to call a higher intelligence to enlighten us, to guide us through this mess," she explains. "So I started on a long, personal journey of discovery."

Popovich joined a safari in the mountain ranges of south Asia, tracking the Yeti, the infamous and Abominable Snowman that is fact to a scant few and myth to millions. She didn't get her Yeti.

But one dark night, says Popovich, "two giant hands grabbed hold of my daughter and tried to pull her out of her sleeping bag." The daughter saw nothing.

The next night, she claims, "a ball of light appeared . . . and three beams of light fell on the camp. It hovered for a while before zigzagging away at high speed over our valley."

"It wasn't an aircraft. It wasn't a helicopter. It was a UFO."

It also was a sign, Popovich says, to devote her post-military career to studying airborne phenomena.

In that work she writes, lectures, heads organizations researching anomalous phenomena and is pro-

posing a series of television programs to contradict what she considers the UFO-busting propaganda of the PBS series "Nova."

Popovich also is aviation consultant to such groups as the Inter-Sectoral Scientific and Technical Center of Venture Non-Traditional Technologies, which addresses the theoretical, applied and technological problems of torsion field magnetism. (No television program is planned.)

Popovich does not believe that Twilight Zone experiences in the Soviet Union have been any more startling or detailed than events reported in the United States.

Our grocery store tabloids accuse the Air Force of holding mummified remains of a space being found in New Mexico. The main Soviet rumor, says Popovich, is of extraterrestrial metals found at a saucer crash site near Minsk.

We have a UFO Information Retrieval Center in Phoenix and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy in Alexandria, Va. They have the National Assn. of Ufology in Moscow and the Soyuz UFO Center in St. Petersburg.

Both nations, agrees Popovich, have stacks of photographs of glowing blobs said to be flying saucers. Crackpots who believe Elvis was kidnapped by aliens are not exclusive to America. And both sides have crops of the untalented who enter apparent trances and produce abstract paintings and oddball music.

Popovich believes these people are mediums—or telepathic cordless phones—who bring painted, printed and musical messages from space. She travels with samples.

"This is Los Angeles," she says of a small painting by one Soviet medium. It is in tempera and shows royal blue smog clouding a twinkling skyline. The effect is of fireworks over Las Vegas.

"This is the structure of the human soul," continues Popovich about another painting. It shows two clusters of eyeballs hovering in space like celestial frog spawn.

"This next one is a picture of the language structure of the constellation of Orion, believed to be the basis of Mayan," she adds. Or the basis of any Chinese menu.

As expressions, the paintings certainly may be accepted as personal interpretations. As a collection of art, they are very poor Dali.

Popovich wears an amethyst necklace that she says contains power to ward off evil spirits. She also wears a NASA watch that only keeps her safe from being late.

From her work, from her absolute faith, Popovich believes the Force is with her. Unfortunately, it hasn't carried through to her terrestrial life.

She is divorced from her cosmonaut general and says their differences were out of this world.

"I had the guidance," she reasons. "He didn't."

But now, in just two years, a Moscow magazine titled "Inward Path" has become a 50,000-reader forum for yogis, psychics, faith healers, ufologists and other bearers of formerly taboo news. More important, the monthly is printed on the presses of Pravda, the official government newspaper.

Such outing has brought absolute freedom of speech for Popovich and her army of "tens of thousands of scientists, academics and lay volunteers" devoted to close encounters of any kind.

They, like her, believe there are too many sightings, too many unexplained visitations to not believe in an extraterrestrial intelligence struggling to communicate with our planet. The argument that such highly sophisticated ETs should have little difficulty making direct and unmistakable communication with primitive earthlings does not wash with Popovich.

"The bottom line of these multiple contacts is: 'We are not going to give you our technological information until you raise your spiritual and moral levels on Earth,'" she says. "And the only way to raise them is with unity, as one Earth together to reducing negative feelings, pollution and other detrimental-based energies."

She is equally firm in other beliefs:

■ The inventions of Leonardo da Vinci, the writings of Jules Verne and now the science fiction of Ray Bradbury were and are technology transmissions from outer space using the three men as mediums. Or maybe they were, and are, messengers from outer space.

■ Only 10% of all UFO sightings have significance. The rest can be explained as hallucinations, space debris, marsh gas, weather balloons, first ascendancy stars and Friday-night vodka parties.

■ Skeptics pose no threat to serious students of ufology because "in Russia they once criticized cybernetics as a rotten bourgeois pseudoscience, as they once criticized genetics."

■ And Soviet President Gorbachev could be an extraterrestrial front man because "he's an epoch-making phenomenon." She makes no such claim for President Bush.

Interviewed through three interpreters—one for technical terms, another for conversational nuances and jokes, and a third who said he used to be a major in the KGB—Popovich says her own experiences in space have been rather down to Earth.

As an air force colonel, she came within two finals of graduating from cosmonaut school. She was dropped, she said, after cosmonaut Pavel Popovich, the general she married, convinced officials that his woman's place was anywhere but in a space capsule.

Previously, Marina was a test pilot, living in Star City and flying the full Soviet aircraft inventory from AN-22 transports to supersonic MIG-21s. She holds 90 flight records and has been billed as "the Chuck Yeager of the Soviet Union."

It was during those test flights that Popovich's attention went

Twentieth-century angels and other true stories

Members of the **UFO Contact Center International** in Federal Way say encounters with UFOs and contact with aliens are real. And now their lives will never be the same.

BY SALLIE TISDALE

I hold out expectations and the materials of new hopes and new despairs and new triumphs and new tragedies. I hold out my hands to point to the sky. . . .

—Charles Fort, *New Lands*

Once upon a time, shepherds watching their flocks by night were startled by the sudden appearance of a light in the sky. There was nothing new about such a thing. People have been seeing lights, color sprays, spinning wheels, and lecturing angels in the air for as long as they've been recording what they see. But now, in these latter days, the lights have changed. We're in a breakneck sprint for the millennium now. The inchoate, distant gleams of light have taken on solid form. In 1947 a pilot flying near Mount Rainier saw nine gleaming disks rush past his plane, and the UFO

as an object of technology was born. In 1950 a farmer in Oregon took what is widely considered to be the first photograph of a UFO, a silver saucer tilted against the clouds. Eleven years later, the abductions began.

Since World War II, there have been about 60,000 unexplained cases of UFOs in the United States. These 60,000 are the ones that remain, filed away, after the 80 percent to 90 percent of mistaken cases are understood. What is sometimes called the "strangeness spread" of such cases is remarkably small. UFOs are not disparate or unique, like hallucinations. They are in fact remarkably limited in appearance. Witnesses, independent of one another, tend to see the same kind of thing again and again, at different times, in different places. We are hooked, and hungry. A tall column of disks, a grainy photograph, is not enough anymore.



The study of UFOs is a big and sprawling field, and is marked, like all such fields, by rancor among its specialties. The discipline travels a long continuum, from the physicists who listen for radio pulses, through the witnesses of lights and disks and radar shadows, to the "contactees," people who claim they've been visited by or kidnapped by alien beings. The field itself is stained by scoffing and ridicule, by the limits of both credulity and disbelief. No group within the field elicits more distress than the contactees. It is one thing for a lone eccentric to build a flying-saucer landing pad somewhere in Iowa. But the alien-contact movement is big, and growing, and won't keep still. It could give UFOs a bad name.

Anyone who has had a close brush with an unexplained UFO could be called a contactee. My next-door neighbor, a 42-year-old architect, denies the existence of UFOs and nevertheless describes a vivid experience with one several years ago. For ten minutes or more he stood by the side of a dark country road in Vermont, watching a hovering, silent oval mass ringed by colored lights. It disappeared, with great speed, and he can't explain it and he refuses to call it alien. But the word "contactee" is generally reserved for those people who have spoken with aliens, who have been variously invited aboard, abducted, examined, and interviewed by the aliens who pilot the UFOs that others see. Contactees share what might be called a psychological environment, a kind of symptomology both chronic and acute.

Many people who consider themselves contactees believe that they have been having such experiences since childhood, and sometimes in past lives as well. They report childhoods colored by odd experiences, like waking dreams and frequent sensations of déjà vu. Eventually the strange experiences accelerate. Contactees describe rapid weight loss, puncture wounds appearing in the night, voices speaking in their minds, strange bruises. Very common is the amnesia called "missing time": blank periods of a few minutes to several hours during which an alien contact is believed to occur. Contactees also describe a kind of chronic pattern, a personality set, that has shaped their entire lives before the memories of meeting aliens surface: a sense of being different or isolated, of having been adopted, or of being drawn to a particular place or a field of study—the feeling, reads one brochure about contactees, "that Earth is not your real home." Reading these descriptions can be like reading the warning signs of a common disease; one starts to look more carefully at one's skin, or digestive habits, and wonder, and sometimes yearn.

When I first began calling UFO groups and asking to speak to contactees, I expected reticence. But while many of them were unwilling to give last names, they spoke to me readily, eagerly, and passed the message to others, who called me and asked for their chance to speak, too. Many tell of the compulsion to speak publicly about what happened, a compulsion they believe is implanted by the aliens. They feel a compulsion to study, as well: "I developed a great thirst for knowledge," one woman told me. "I started studying everything I could get my hands on, all the Far Eastern religions, metaphysics, spiritualism." A young man told me he was compelled to spend three weeks in a library studying horticulture. Another woman was driven to go to law school. A few contactees say the aliens have shown them a book of great wisdom, a book that reveals the past and the future, written in a strange language.

Contactees, for the most part, are ordinary people. And they have had an experience that cannot be explained or dismissed, an experience that demands unshakeable belief. It is undeniably religious, a new Weltanschauung, irrational, absolute. In his book *The Varieties of Religious Experience*,



Aileen's regular meetings serve as a kind of self-help group for contactees.

(continued on page 5) 4

William James described religious conversions as being "as convincing to those who have them as any direct sensible experiences can be, and they are, as a rule, much more convincing than results established by mere logic ever are . . . you cannot help regarding them as genuine perceptions of truth, as revelations of a kind of reality." Contactees have had such "direct sensible experiences," and have grown content with them, and there were many moments in listening to them speak when I felt envy more than anything else.

The UFO Contact Center International is a loose association of 60 different groups in the United States and Canada, and virtually all of its members—an informal designation at best—believe that they have been taken aboard alien ships. Every time a UFO-CCI volunteer gives a lecture on the topic, people in the audience confess that they, too, have had such an experience. Most of the auxiliary groups have been started by someone who attended a lecture and realized that he or she was also a contactee.

In these 12-step times, UFO-CCI is a kind of self-help organization for contactees. It is largely supported by subscriptions to its magazine, *The Missing Link*, which publishes many accounts of contact experiences, analyses of varying quality on historical mysteries, poems and cartoons and classified ads. The literature of UFO-CCI (chiefly a typed pink brochure) says the organization's mission is to help people "examine and assimilate their traumatic abduction experiences into their daily lives." This is accomplished mostly through group therapy and hypnosis, the last used extensively to unblock the suppressed memory of alien contact.

UFO-CCI has its headquarters near Seattle, in the faceless suburb called Federal Way, which is distinguished for its position under the flight path of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Jets skim the silhouette of trees in Federal Way every few minutes. The office and publishing concern and bookstore of UFO-CCI is in the living room of its founder and director, in a trailer in the Camelot Square Trailer Park, near the corner of Sir Gaheris Court and Sir Gareth Drive.

I was welcomed here on a cool June Saturday by the founder, Aileen, a man named Clay, and Clay's small daughter, Annie, a laughing girl with curly red hair. Aileen, who works in computer design at Boeing, is a pretty, ample woman of 55 with shaggy black hair and a breathy, girlish voice. She prefers to use no last name. Aileen runs UFO-CCI and also belongs to three different organizations devoted to the belief that Elvis is still alive, a fact she confesses with a self-deprecating smile. Her neat mobile home is filled with a variety of Native American art and Elvis memorabilia. I could see on her bookshelves the standard collection of the UFO devotee: the works of Whitley Strieber, who has grown rich from his *Communion*, a purportedly true account of an elaborate series of alien abductions; those of Budd Hopkins, a serious and somewhat portentous believer in contact; the books of Charles Fort, a remarkable catalogue of such arcana as rains of frogs, ball lightning, and floating cities; and the "books of wisdom," works by people such as Billy Meier (*UFO Contact from the Pleiades*), who believes he was Ezekiel in a previous life.

Aileen has had only one contact experience, and adds, laughing, "No one has ever been able to regress me." She laughs because she is the one who offers regression hypnosis to newcomers, who has hypnotized Clay and the other contactees who will be coming tonight. Her contact experience came in 1953, on a nighttime drive through Eastern Oregon. She remembers shimmering green light, the car stopping, and waking from a trance a few hours later with the inevitable memory only of "missing time." Many years later she went to work for a Seattle-area UFO research group, collecting evidence. She left feeling that the witnesses themselves, the contactees, needed help, and started UFO-CCI. "A lot of people are scared to start with because they don't know what's happened, but once they get through that, and see they came out OK, then they start to grow. And that's really what it's all about. We don't want to



In hypnosis sessions, Aileen helps contactees recall their experiences.

suggest anything to them, but we find that hypnosis really, really helps."

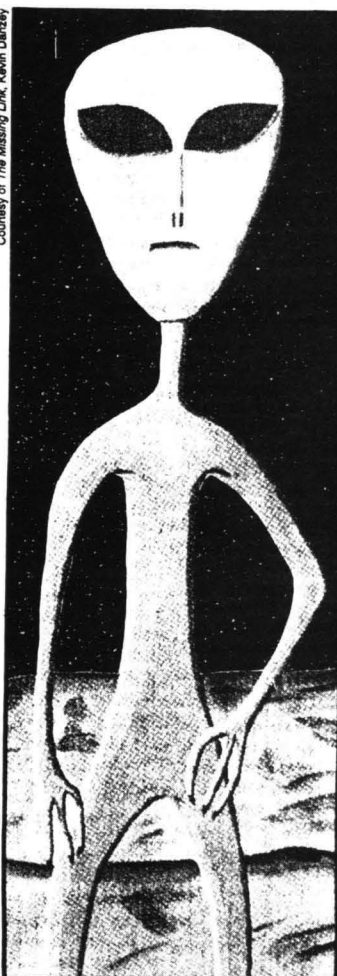
A lot of the literature on UFO contact divides contacts into what might be called happy and harmful experiences. (One man I spoke with on the phone, describing another woman's research into cattle mutilations, told me, "She deals with the bad guys. I just work with the good guys.") The paranoia associated with UFOs is potent and almost impossible to kill. It breeds its own vocabulary. Quite a few people have reported meeting the MIB: Men In Black. The Men In Black arrive at the door of a person who has just had a contact experience, but before he or she has made a report of it to anyone. They wear black suits, travel in trios, and often drive dark-colored luxury automobiles. From there, accounts vary: sometimes the MIB threaten the person if he or she makes a report; other times, they explain the truth about UFOs in exchange for secrecy. The MIB supposedly know what happens during "missing time," and they know about the Ultimate Secret: that the government has a secret facility holding a crashed alien ship and, perhaps, its pilot's corpse. Every denial creates new paranoia. Every effort on behalf of a government official to dismiss UFOs or the existence of any hard evidence seems like further proof that a secret is being kept. How else would an official protect such a secret than by denial? To a person absolutely convinced of alien visitors—convinced because he or she has seen them, talked to them, touched them—the behavior of the government is downright sinister.

Aileen smiled at my questions, told me that it seems to be, for some reason, only in the United States that contactees are abducted, and then said that in her many sessions with contactees she has found no truly negative contact experiences. "I believe it has to do with the people who are dealing with the witness. They don't know how to handle them, or how to bring out what really happened, and help the person get through that fear." Her work, she added, is for "mental health." The entire UFO contact movement has a therapeutic quality, a kind of touchy-feely kindness. I see it in the way Aileen greets the newcomers when they arrive, with a hug and kiss on the cheek, the way they attend to one another's stories. Contactees listen carefully, no matter how familiar the anecdote, and nod and murmur assent, touching one another's arms or shoulders in support. Each has come in real trepidation before, and each has found complete credibility. Contactees can tell you not only the date of their first remembered experience, but the exact time, the place, the weather, and what they were wearing. Their lives divide permanently into two parts: before contact, and after.

J. Allen Hynek was a physicist recruited in the 1950s by NASA for the Blue Book Project, the government's official investigation into the UFO phenomenon. He came to believe two things: that the United States government had no desire to truly investigate reports of UFOs, and that UFOs were real. He saw the sophistry common to the government's dismissive reports. (One of the most common military explanations for a UFO goes something like this: An air-traffic controller trained to identify planes sees something strange. Though he can't identify it as a plane, it

must be a plane because planes are what he's trained to see.) "How would you prove," wrote Hynek, "that on a walk through the mountains and woods you had sighted a California condor?" Hynek thought it odd how vehemently scientists rejected the concept of UFOs without investigation; curiosity and fluid thinking were supposed to be hallmarks of the scientist. But Hynek couldn't be lured into admitting that a UFO meant aliens. He would only point out that not seeing something did not mean it didn't exist, that evidence of a phenomenon we didn't recognize didn't mean it couldn't happen.

There are times, listening to a person's story, reading yet another interview transcript, that I want to shout "Enough!" I want to shake the speaker and say, stop. Stop there, give me less of it, and I can believe you. I feel the potential for utter credulity, the slippery slope of that will to believe. There is a kind of infatuated faith in which literally anything goes, and the hoary human urge to make everything mean something pulls together levitation and the Old Testament and fire-walking and adds it to time travel, parallel dimensions, ghosts, and UFOs to make one grand casserole. Taken one at a time, I can examine and accept the real possibility of each event. I balk at the tapestry of connection



Artist's rendition of a typical alien.

that denies coincidence. I know that a lot of people who believe in UFOs, and contactees especially, feel a sense of hope and order that stretches across eons of time and

light years of space. They feel an urgency, but they also believe that things are unfolding as they should, as things must, here and elsewhere, for the best.

When Mike and Mary arrived, in the early evening, Aileen jumped up from her chair to greet them. Mike, like Clay, gives lectures for UFO-CCI. We sat around Aileen's small dining table, Mike and Mary holding hands, and I could see onto Camelot Drive and into the orange sunset. Now and then a jet rumbled overhead, and I caught a brief glimpse of a long cylinder disappearing into the west.

Mike, a physicist, is scrawny, tall, almost painfully thin. He wears glasses and a goatee. He folded himself languidly into a small chair. "I was always a fairly unusual person," he said. "I've always been extremely, exceptionally intelligent, and I've always felt out of place socially. I never felt like I really quite belonged."

Out of curiosity, Mike attended a UFO lecture, and then decided to go through regression hypnosis. In several sessions, Mike discovered that he shared his body with a disembodied alien, a choice Mike made when he was 2. The alien, he explained, is a marooned pilot from the constellation Orion who had acted as a spy against the dark forces in the caverns of Alamogordo in New Mexico, where Mike was raised. "We decided we were going to share this body. So we delicately and intricately interwove our energies into this physical body, and we've been living on this Earth ever since." Mike gave me a small, wry smile. "It turns out on the alien's part that it was quite a commitment to do that; it sort of stranded him here. But we've learned to be somewhat 'more than human,' to take a phrase from the writer Theodore Sturgeon." Mike continued, mentioning the plans for the alien's spacecraft, which he plans to introduce "in the private sector," and then described his centuries-long role as the protector of an Anasazi vortex in the Southwest.

"This is as a human," Mike pointed out. "I remember being able to simulate eating. It's just a state of mind, to eat. You don't necessarily have to eat; we just think we do. I could also move things without being visible."

Mary, a plump, pretty blond woman of 40, was married and living with her husband and children a little more than a year ago. Now she is divorced, and lives alone with Mike. She has only recently begun talking about what she described to me as a "very traumatic experience." Her voice is very feminine and soft, as though she never raised it. Declining to give details, Mary said, "Once I had the hypnosis, things started falling into place—activities that happened when I was very small, really strange events that I remember, conversations, a lot of imparting of knowledge when I was small. We had really strange things happen in our house, like poltergeists. But the abduction, I felt, was separate from these other things. And it generated a real deep anger, and ultimately it changed my life. I took my power back."

As she spoke, another woman arrived, and silently took a place next to Aileen.

I asked the group about the changes that follow contact, and Aileen, nodding, answered. "I have a name for that. 'The Molding of the Instrument.' It happens to so many abductees. Everything changes."

"Everything," added Mary.

They all describe childhoods of isolation, of, I have to say, alienation. It is a significant word to this group, a word of broad implication. Neither of the men admitted to sudden changes. Both had always felt different, had always had strange memories and a sense of solemn purpose. The women agreed with that, too.

"You can't get excited over a game of marbles—"

"—when you have the universe in your head!" And they laughed.

UFOs are an occupation, a preoccupation, a study that excludes other studies. UFOs are rarely just a hobby, and the zeal of believers can be positively startling. Some people spend their evenings drawing charts of the varying sphericity of sighted craft. Others make maps, marking sites of contact by frequency and season.

I read the story of a woman who became convinced that a contactee had a

(continued on page 6)

star map of the aliens' home implanted in her mind. The woman consulted astronomical charts and compared them with a drawing made by the contactee, and eventually chose the likely stars. She got a peg board and a lot of little balls and hung the balls from the board by strings in the correct position, each ball a sun. She made her star board and then, one degree at a time, tilted it this way and that, to simulate how the strange constellations would look from different positions in an imagined solar system. I don't know if the contactee ever recognized a particular orientation of balls and string, but I can easily imagine the effort involved, the patience and the desire. It takes all one's waking hours to sort through the emerging memories, to pursue and make sense of the growing mountains of stories. What, after all, could be more important? What could matter more? "We should be prepared for the impossible," wrote Richard Grossinger in his book *The Night Sky*. UFOs, to Grossinger, are so fundamentally strange that "we can hardly begin to take them seriously until we have to."

Like Grossinger, the psychologist Carl Jung thought UFOs a phenomenon of "essential weirdness," a serious, potent phenomenon. In his book on "flying saucers," Jung warned against the reflexive urge to dismiss them as merely imaginary. "It boils down to nothing less than this: that either psychic projections throw back a radar echo, or else the appearance of real objects affords an opportunity for mythological projections." Jung knew that lights in the sky were nothing new. What interested him was that they had become, in our time, a "technological construction," with physical properties, and he could imagine little else more telling of the losses suffered by modern man.

We had magic not long ago, and alchemy, and angels. And now, when more is possible than ever before, we dislike the inexplicable, the unseen. The hash of esoterica called "new age" has not even begun to reclaim the mystical for daily life. Perhaps we are simply paying more attention to the skies, a different kind of attention, than in the recent past. A half-dozen centuries ago, a landing spacecraft and an emerging being might have been frightening, but it would not have been exactly a surprise. It would not have been thought impossible. Even our physics is turning back to alchemy, to

concerns of source and origin, essential substances and transmutations, but instead of miracles we have mental illness. Since World War II, we look to the sky less with wonder than with fear. We are battered by technology; our horizons become broader as our analyses grow more shallow. We are starved for William James' "genuine perceptions of truth," and trust no one. What a poor soul is the late-20th-century citizen, only dimly aware of his poverty. Perhaps we see flying saucers and aliens now not instead of angels, but because we can't see angels anymore.

As I spoke with Aileen, as I read one book after another, heard one story after another, the anecdotes began to take on the quality of a chant. They so often begin with these words: "I had an experience," and it is as though no other experience would ever compare, as though the speaker had come to the contact a babe, a slate waiting for its writing. The details are similar, the phrasings of language from one person to another repetitive and familiar. Some stories are baroque, picaresque; others are tantalizing, peculiarly vague and unfinished, like dreams. But they're not dreams.

Kay, who had come to Aileen's table late, sat through the recitations of the group without a word. Only when everyone was finished did she speak. She is a thin, energetic woman in her forties, and she had only been through hypnosis with Aileen the week before. She was in a honeymoon of relief.

"I thought I was going crazy! I'm a logical person and a logical person says that's crazy! People are not getting beamed up in ships! I just finally decided I had to know. I had to find out if I'm nuts or not." Kay is a practicing Catholic, the mother of seven, and a lawyer. She has not, she noted with a laugh, told her priest about the aliens. She first began having contact experiences when she and her husband were both in the Air Force and living on a base. Shortly after the experiences began, Kay felt a compulsion to quit the military and go to law school, a drive she now believes was implanted by the aliens to help lend credibility to the contact movement. "People who are being abducted are not all wacked-out weirdoes," she said. "We do have a brain, we're educated, we have professions. And I know that I

am not supposed to keep my mouth shut."

Kay talked for a long time, disarming in her humor, full of excitement, telling a story suddenly new. She told me that the aliens have implanted sensors in her body that respond to stress, so that they can find her when she is in difficulty. As the sky outside turned black, as Aileen patted her arm, Kay told me how she loved to dance, how her husband would not dance with her, and how finally, not long ago, the aliens had come back to dance. "They want to dance with me," she said with wonder. "I could hear this music. I'm singing it, and this music is Wagnerian-sounding. And they say to me on the ship, 'Well, of course it's Wagnerian, because Wagner is one of us!' And so, of course, he is."

When Kay finished speaking, Aileen, in tears, turned to her and said, "Kay, you made me so happy."

"Well, you don't know how happy you made me," Kay replied. "I am so serious. It's just like getting out of prison."

The conversation drifted a while, and then returned to Kay's experiences when I asked about the more traumatic stories some contactees tell—harrowing tales of abduction, surgical experiments, rape, genetic manipulation. Many such stories involve a particular type of alien called the "grays." The grays (from the planets Zeta Reticuli I and II, according to Aileen) are short, a disconcerting muddy white in color, have large bald heads and big staring eyes. The grays are blamed for injury by some contactees, but credited by people like Kay for life-saving operations that cure everything from congenital heart defects and arthritis to cancer and tuberculosis. The grays, like all surgeons, leave scars.

Kay told me she was taken by grays shortly before she was to have an operation on a neck tumor. She was angry at them because they did something to make her throat sore, but then she had surgery and the tumor was almost gone. "I was thinking these hateful, mean, awful thoughts about these little gray guys, and then it was just like I got a message in my ear, loud and clear over the loudspeaker. 'We're the ones that are responsible for you coming out of that surgery so well and you're bad-mouthing us and just stop it.' I'm driving down the freeway and I'm hearing this."

Try to explain to a child that we stand on the skin of a planet. Try to explain that the sun doesn't really set, but that we slowly turn away from it, and back again, every day, held tight by something unfelt, unseen. Do any of us ever believe such a thing? Can we, until we meet a being from another planet? Perhaps it takes the knowledge of beings from another world to embed, truly, in ourselves the belief that we exist on this world. With such an experience, Earth becomes a planet, in a planetary place, and humans become a species with a future. The technology that so haunts our sleep can be survived, and used. Many contactees have an ecological awakening, and become involved in environmental issues. All this apparent chaos means something. Instead of disintegration, community. If UFOs are hallucinations, they are enormous and archetypal and shared by the masses. If they are wishes, they are the biggest wishes we have ever had.

At the end of the evening I had one more question.

"If a UFO landed outside right now, and you were invited in, would you go?"

A chorus of assent. "We'd all walk in," said Aileen.

"No doubt," added Mike.

Clay, who was holding smiling Annie on his lap, looked at her and at me, and said, "I'd carry my daughter onboard."

"Me, too," said Kay. "I'd take all my kids. I'd be running out there as fast as I could."

I left Aileen's in darkness. There was no moon, only the yellow spheres of light along Merlin Way and Camelot Drive. I drove out of the trailer park and through a corridor of tall, black fir trees set against a soot-colored sky. A fat jet descended, its engine roaring, and as it passed I could see lights on its tail, lights in the sky, blinking red. I have never seen a UFO. Sometimes in the middle of the night I will hear a sound, something vaguely mechanical, and before I'm fully awake I feel a tiny, fearful excitement. I think: This is it. This is it, and nothing will ever be the same again, not anything, ever, again. ■

Sallie Tisdale's most recent book is Stepping Westward: The Long Search for Home in the Pacific Northwest, published by Henry Holt.

LEADER, Fort Meade, FL - Aug. 23, 1991

Fort Meade Lions Hear About UFOs

FORT MEADE — Reports of illuminating balls of fire, silent aircraft with fiery boosters, shiny metallic objects that hover then disappear right before your eyes, and other unidentified objects, are the main interest of an international scientific organization called the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., (MUFON).

Field Rep. Fearon Hicks told members of the Fort Meade Lions Club that he has researched UFO subjects for 27 years.

With the use of slides, Hicks took the Lions on a trip across the country where many unexplained landmarks and locations mark the possibility of intelligent life from outside our world.

From Egyptian writings more than 3,400 years old, recording the sighting of numerous brilliant round objects in the sky, to governmental recorded sightings over nuclear power plants, UFOs are both a part of our past and future, Hicks said.

"Take for example the Biblical encounter of Ezekiel's vision where he saw a wheel within a wheel and persons wearing crystal upon their heads," Hicks said.

He spoke about President Alexander Hamilton's reporting of a cow being taken up into an aircraft, and how the cow's head and hide were found the next day.

The list of recorded sightings began thousands of years ago, and continue to be seen today, Hicks said. Since 1947, there have been over one million UFO reports generated from around the world. After careful examination by experienced researchers

and investigators, approximately 80 percent of these cases have been found to have much more conventional explanations, such as man-made objects, astronomical objects, meteorological and atmospheric phenomena, birds, insects, hoaxes and pranks. These cases are then listed as identified flying objects or IFOs.

The late Dr. J. Allen Hynek defined the UFO as "the reported perception of an object or light seen in the sky or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory and general dynamic and luminescent behavior of which do not suggest a logical conventional explanation, and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients, but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible."

Hicks showed examples of sightings recorded on film by U.S. military pilots and astronomers. According to MUFON, nearly 20,000 pages of previously classified documents have been obtained from various government agencies including the FBI, CIA, NSA, State Department and Air Force, which pertain to military close encounters that have affected national security.

He said the United States government compiled investigations of UFO reports in what they refer to as the Air Force Project Blue Book. At the closing of this project in 1969, Hicks said, the government had recorded 12,518 cases with 701 of those cases

unexplained.

Hicks said even though Project Blue Book has been officially closed, the government continues to document military UFO reports.

Hicks suggested that since the first use of atomic weapons in 1945, recorded UFO sightings have showed up in great numbers, with many in South America.

Landing spots and imprints left by unidentified objects continue to mystify scientists. Hicks said there have been many reported UFO landings. Quite often, these landings leave imprints, burned areas, flattened or broken vegetation and, periodically, traces of radiation.

Hicks showed photographs of landing sites which refuse to grow any type of vegetation even years after their first discovery. One spot, in the northern country, melts snow as it lands and refuses to absorb moisture.

Close encounters are defined in three different areas. Close encounters of the first kind are where the unidentified object is observed at 500 feet away. Those of the second kind are viewed within 500 feet, and those of the third kind are where the observer actually views occupants of the object.

Hicks said of all recorded close encounters of the third kind, the occupants are described as approximately four feet tall and weighing 40 pounds. He showed pictures which depicted them to

have large eyes and a small nose and mouth. These beings are referred to as "The Grays," he said.

Many times after such sightings, Hicks said, the persons viewing the occupants or objects receive a visit from "ominous" men in black suits who tell them to not talk about the encounter.

Hicks questioned the "Star Wars" technology that continues to be developed by Russia and America in a joint program to get to Mars. He said while the government contends that no life exists on Mars, photographs of the planet include a face implanted on the surface of the planet, and pyramid type structures similar to those on Earth.

"We don't know who these people are, where they're coming from, what they want with us, and what they will do with us," Hicks said.

He suggested each person write to his or her congressman or senator to find out what is going on.

"The people around the world deserve an explanation of what is going on," Hicks declared.

MUFON is composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon known as UFOs by combining their mutual talents, areas of expertise, and investigative efforts.

The Texas non-profit organization was founded May 31, 1969, and is governed by a board of directors.

If you see a UFO, MUFON suggests, you:

—If at all possible, obtain additional witnesses, their names and addresses.

—Take photos if at all possible, making note of the camera type, aperture and shutter speed.

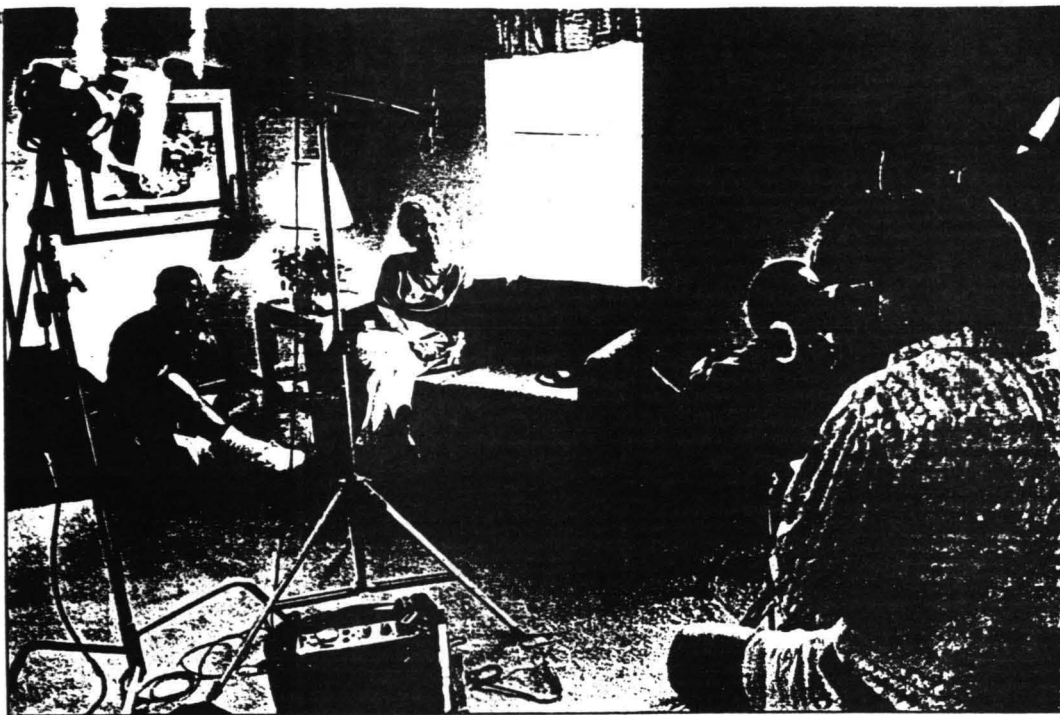
—Mark the exact location with something you could easily identify.

—Make notes of when you first saw the object and when you last saw it, and of any landmarks in the immediate area.

—If you see the object close, note the size, shape, color, and/or any noises that you might see or hear.

—Never approach a landed craft.

—Report your sighting as quickly as possible in Polk County at 967-1594, and across Florida at 904-932-5394.



A production crew from "Unsolved Mysteries" has been in Wytheville this week talking to residents about their experiences with the UFOs for a segment to air on "Unsolved Mysteries" called UFO Odyssey. Here, Mary Jane Williamson is interviewed by director Richard Ross (center) while filmed by cameraman Paul Desatoff.

UFOs get national attention

KATHY STILL
Russell County Bureau

WYTHEVILLE — About 3,000 residents of this small town reported seeing strange shaped objects flying over the Wythe County area four years ago.

The source of the objects still remains a mystery in the community and continues to be a hotly debated topic in the Wytheville area.

But in the spring of 1992, the Wytheville unidentified flying object mystery probably will be the topic of discussion in living rooms all across the nation. NBC's popular show "Unsolved Mysteries" will attempt to recreate what the Wytheville residents saw soaring in the night sky over their community.

A production crew from "Unsolved Mysteries" has been in Wytheville this week talking to residents about their experiences with the UFO's for a segment to air on "Unsolved Mysteries" called UFO Odyssey. Actors hired from



PHIL
STANFORD

PUFOG prexy tenders resignation

Like everyone else in the Portland UFO Group (PUFOG for short), Ron H. was floored when the organization's long-time president Jennifer Brown-Jacobs announced her resignation. It happened at the end of the meeting, shortly after Jennifer had finished the feature presentation on how, several years ago, she had been abducted by aliens.

As she explained, the reason she'd waited that long before coming forward was that she was well aware of what the rest of the world, the uninitiated, thought about people who said they had been abducted by aliens. And now, in order to preserve the credibility of the group, she was resigning.

And like every other member of the group, which meets once a month at Mt. Hood Community College, Ron was deeply saddened by Jennifer's decision. But frankly, he understands, because the same thing has happened to him, not once but many times.

"It was back in 1979," says Ron, "the fall of '79. My wife and I were witness to a gigantic red ball of light hovering 150 to 200 feet above the ground."

At the time, he and Betty were driving back to their home in Molalla from Milwaukie, where they had gone to show off their new car to Betty's parents. It was about 5 p.m. on a drizzly day. The red ball of light was approximately 50 feet in diameter.

"And you know," says Ron, "the ironic thing about it is that before it was a red ball, it appeared to be an airplane coming in for a landing on the campus of Clackamas Community College. It did a fancy maneuver, and no longer was it a plane, but a red ball of light."

"We were in traffic at the time, and we pulled off the highway when I saw it. We were the only ones who did."

Well then, I ask, why didn't the other people on the highway see the red ball of light?

"That was explained when they contacted me later," Ron continues. "The other people were actually seeing the airplane. The airplane was a hologram, but its real identity was a red ball."

And so for the next five hours, says Ron, he and his wife watched while the

Charlotte, N.C. are scheduled to portray local citizens in the dramatic re-enactments.

Danny Gordon, news director at a radio station in Wytheville, will appear on the show to talk about his brush with the UFOs. Gordon, who has reported 47 different sightings, also will have an actor portray him in the show. "They managed to get an actor who looks like me and they found somebody who looks like my wife too," he said.

Gordon said he saw a variety of UFOs including ones shaped like flying wings and circular objects. "I saw 47 sightings and all were silent, moved slowly and hovered," Gordon said. "I've seen them close-up and they are all very astonishing," he added. "I have some photos and some of them will be on the show," he said.

Gordon has been helping the production crew while it is in Wytheville and said filming appears to be going smoothly.

Producer Cynthia Buzzard, who has been working on "Unsolved Mysteries" since it began airing on NBC four years ago, has had her share of UFO

stories. She just returned from England recently where UFOs were reported near a military base. She said the UFO stories all have one thing in common: integrity of the witnesses.

"Our viewers love the UFO stories," she added. "UFOs are definitely unknown mysteries. Buzzard said the producers of the show look for one particular quality when considering a UFO segment. "That special quality we look for is integrity of the people. The people in Wytheville are very credible and that makes it interesting to us," she added.

While filming of many of the residents' stories are shrouded in secrecy, several of the on-site re-enactments will be open to the public. Buzzard said the re-enactments will include Gordon's encounter with a UFO at the intersection of Route 21 and Highway 684 near Wytheville. Gordon and a friend were driving on that section of the road when they saw a series of globes and spheres flying through the sky.

Buzzard explained the crew will film the area and special effects will be added by a

Los Angeles-based company known as Apoge Productions. The special effects company will try to recreate accurately what Gordon and the other Wytheville residents saw four years ago.

"We take a still shot of a sighting location and they will put in the visuals to best represent what Danny and the others saw," Buzzard said.

Students at George Wythe High School also will get a chance to participate in the segment. Buzzard said the students will recreate a sighting in which a busload of students spotted a UFO near a local shopping center in Wytheville.

Buzzard said the Wytheville sightings came to the attention of the producers when a researcher read a story in a Los Angeles magazine detailing the Wytheville UFO mystery. She said the producers were drawn to the story because of the sheer number of local residents who saw the same type of objects in the night sky four years ago.

Perhaps there is additional irony in that the crew will stop filming and leave Wytheville exactly four years from the time

the first UFO was spotted in the area.

Buzzard said the people in Wytheville are very cooperative and have really helped the production crew in many ways. She said when the show was in its first season it was sometimes difficult to get a lot of cooperation from local people when the crew went on location.

However, now that the show has a steady following each week, Buzzard said the crew usually receives a lot of help when recreating a mystery.

Buzzard said the show does help solve some of the mysteries it recreates. "Our best percentage is in the category of lost loves," she added. Buzzard said the show has a good success rate in helping to solve crime-related cases as well.

In other cases, Buzzard said the show can help to put public pressure on law enforcement and court officials to give a case another try. Buzzard agrees that the Wytheville segment probably will not reveal any concrete answers concerning what the people saw hovering over the area.

However, she said it could result in people putting political pressure on the military to see if the objects could have been related to military maneuvers.

Buzzard also would not say if she believed the sightings were flying ships from other parts of the universe. She said she would just let the public hear what the people saw so the viewers could draw their own conclusions about the source of the UFOs.

The date the segment will be broadcast has not been determined. However, Buzzard said officials with the show plan to air the segment during the important "sweeps week" in which networks have their shows ranked by the amount of viewers that tune in each week. Buzzard said the segment probably will air in February or March and officials will provide that information to area media when a decision is made.

Several people in the Wytheville area wore T-shirts that proudly claimed Wytheville was the "UFO capitol of Virginia." When "Unsolved Mysteries" airs this spring, Wytheville may well be considered one of the UFO capitals of the world.

glowing red ball played what appeared to be a cat-and-mouse game with them, hovering over trees and farm houses. Finally, at about 10 p.m. it meandered down the highway and disappeared into the misty night.

But of course an experience like this leaves its mark on you. "You feel compelled to do something about it," says Ron. "It's like you've been chosen to do a job." And Ron, who at the time had a Radio Shack franchise in Molalla, became consumed with the idea of communicating with the beings who, he felt sure, were responsible for sending the glowing red ball into his world.

A friend named Terry, who was into UFOs, suggested meditating. Maybe, Terry said, he could contact them by sending out telepathic vibes.

"And it worked," says Ron. "Because about six months later I was in the living room. My wife had gone to bed and I had drifted off to sleep in my lounge chair. When I awoke, I could see them."

"The lady was milky white and quite beautiful. The men were kind of a bright copper color, very handsome. They appeared to be working around the living room around my body, recording everything about me on a strange apparatus that consisted of five concentric rings joined in

the center like a star."

The best Ron can explain it, the visitors were concerned about prospects for peace in the Middle East, and wanted to use him to communicate their concerns to the rest of mankind. Their precise program, at this date, is also unclear.

In any case, Ron began holding meetings at the library. This was when, as he recalls, the government agents began visiting his store. Of course, they didn't just come out and flash their badges and that sort of thing, but you could see they were from an authority.

And of course that didn't make it any easier for Ron to tend to his Radio Shack business, either. "I became forgetful, I couldn't concentrate," he explains. He lost his business.

After another year or so he got a job as an electronics technician. But the same thing happened. "The sickness," he calls it.

But this time it was worse: "All the symptoms of chronic fatigue," he says. "I couldn't even get out of my easy chair."

But, very wisely, Ron saved up his energy, and once a month his wife would drive him to the PUFOG meetings in Gresham. So he was there last month when Jennifer Brown-Jacobs dropped her bombshell. He understood.

Barefoot On The Beach



By Jane D. Waters

One of the frustrations of my life is that I have never seen a UFO. When I look at the sky, it is filled with normal stuff like stars, clouds, and airplanes. Deep inside, there is a little nagging voice that tells me there are such phenomenon as Unidentified Flying Objects. They may not be from outer space. They may not be filled with big eyed, big brained creatures. But, there most certainly must be objects in our skies which are not identifiable as any kind of craft currently familiar to us.

In the past, we have left the coverage of the UFOs to our good friends at the Gulf Breeze Sentinel. Although Mayor Ed Gray was firmly convinced that the Gulf Breeze image was damaged by the focus of national attention of the sightings, there was still a substantial side to the story. After all, pillars of the community such as Dr. Fenner McConnell had reported seeing strange objects over Santa Rosa Sound. Realtor Ella Hess has described a circular craft hovering above the tree tops at dusk as she returned to her home off Hwy 98. Jerry Thompson has told about two sightings from the toll booth late at night.

If there was ever a hoax involved in the origin of the Gulf Breeze UFO story, it was never proved. It did stir up a lot of interest and a lot of controversy. Channel 3's Mark Curtis received a state media award for his coverage of the Gulf Breeze UFOs. Eventually, the story drew the attention of national television.

Still, we did not get into it. The story belonged to Duane Cook, and we respected that. However, the recent turn of events in Gulf Breeze involving the sale of The Sentinel, has motivated the MUFON people to bring their information to The Islander. So, now, it is becoming our story. We have agreed to print any material which we feel has a sound basis.

UFO 'believers' keep an eye on the sky, rally together for support

By Pat Sunderland
Staff Writer

Scoff if you wish, but for a surprising number of Delta County residents, there is ample proof that unidentified flying objects (UFOs) really do exist.

Of course, "scoff" is exactly what many people do when they hear tales of these "close encounters." That's where the Delta County UFO Contact Center comes in.

One of approximately 50 such centers around the United States and Canada, the Delta County UFO Contact Center was started in 1986. Ann Ulrich is the associate director of the local organization, which means that she hosts monthly meetings, plans special events such as "sky watches," and publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Star Beacon."

Ulrich explains that the local organization functions primarily as a support group, to reach out to those who have had sightings. "People who have come in contact with extraterrestrial visitors often turn to police, clergy or doctors,

who ridicule them or suggest psychiatric examination," explained Ulrich.

Too often, she says, reports of sightings are treated as disparagingly as the bold headlines in supermarket tabloids, which proclaim "Aliens impregnate 86-year-old grandmother," or something similar.

"We just listen," said Ulrich. "We're not as interested in getting physical evidence as in helping the person who has had contact with an alien craft or visitor."

In a small community such as Paonia, it can be particularly hard for these "contactees" to come forward. Perhaps that explains why the only other UFO Contact Center in Colorado is in another small town, Crested Butte.

Although Ulrich said she tries not to form opinions, there were some stories told at a recent UFO convention which even a true believer like her found hard to swallow.

The UFO Contact Center holds an annual conference called "Jor-pah" (which means gathering). This year's conference was held in Cottonwood, Ariz. One evening a star watch was held in the hills above Cottonwood. Although no authentic UFOs showed up ("unfortunately," Ulrich says), one fellow grew excited every time he saw an airplane.

"It's a jumper!" he exclaimed. He swore it wasn't an airplane, even though the airport was visible from where the group watched.

"I overheard him remark, 'I never call anything an airplane until I know for sure,'" Ulrich said. "No wonder there are so many skeptics out there!"

She gives more credibility to reports such as the one from a Crawford-area couple, who saw a huge object hovering over Crawford Reservoir on Aug. 11. The craft, which they said was at least the size of a house, gave off a bright glow of red on one side and blue on the other. They reported the object was oval and more vertical than horizontal.

Because the object was airborne, the couple decided it certainly couldn't be a police car. Then they decided it couldn't be a helicopter either — it was too big, too

far from them, and it made no sound.

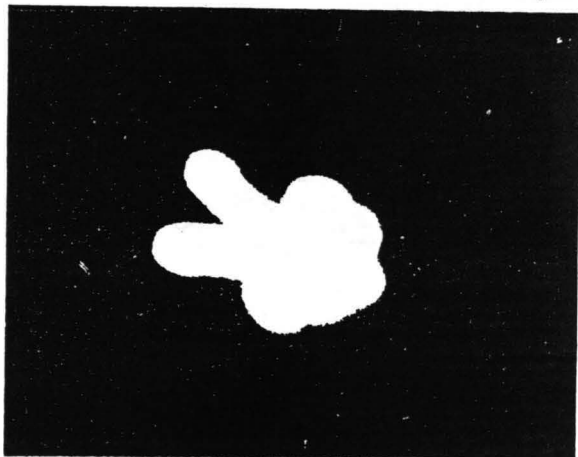
The object was so bright that they had to turn away; when they weren't looking, it disappeared.

Then there's the nephew of a local contact center member who saw a UFO from his home above Hotchkiss in mid-September. The nephew saw an oval-shaped light over toward Crawford that had pulsing lights around it. The object, he told his uncle, was big — about the size of a house.

son, the international UFO Contact Center will aid contactees with hypnotic recall.

"While amnesia may result from repression of material the conscious mind is unable to accept, many cases probed utilizing hypnosis indicate that the entities themselves purposefully apply mental blocks in an effort to conceal their activities," the international center explains in its promotional material.

Ulrich does not feel she is quali-



PHOTOGRAPHS OF UFOs, many of which are naked to the invisible eye, have been featured in "The Star Beacon," a monthly newsletter published by Ann Ulrich, associate director of the Delta County UFO Contact Center. These photos were taken by a woman in Hawaii.

Ulrich also reported her own sighting — a long cigar-like object which she saw moving across the sky. She was on the highway travelling from Paonia to Delta, when she saw three huge white lights all in a row. She pulled over to the side of the road to watch the object as it moved across the sky toward Grand Mesa.

That wasn't her only sighting, of course. She describes her first major sighting at the age of 14 as a fireball in the sky, and cites a number of "symptoms," including a beeping in her ears, which she's experienced as a result of her contact with aliens.

Not all persons will remember their encounters with extraterrestrial visitors. Ulrich explained it may be months or even years before a chance circumstance triggers the individual's memory. For this rea-

fied to conduct hypnosis, but she is very interested in talking to people who have seen UFOs.

Why these vehicles make themselves apparent to some people, and not others, is a question not even she can answer, but she can cite a Gallup Poll which found that millions of Americans have had some type of contact with aliens. Astronomers, policemen, experienced airline pilots and military personnel are among those who have seen UFOs.

"We encourage people to come forward who have questions," Ulrich said. "We will try to answer questions the best we can, or at least steer them in the right direction." There is no charge for these services, and there is no cost to join the Delta County UFO Contact Center. For more information, contact Ulrich at 527-3257.

NEWS-EXAMINER, Connersville, IN - Oct. 2, 1991 CR: D. Worley

Things That Appear In The Dark

By DON WORLEY

Some beautiful Indiana autumns have seen UFOs haunting our landscape, and scaring the bejabbers out of some persons. As an investigator-researcher for 26 years with several scientist-staffed groups, I documented many of these strange intrusions. Most witnesses in the events chose not to brave the ridicule/laughter barrier so you heard little about it. Many were not learned about for weeks so were not deemed "news." However, the Connersville News-Examiner and Rushville Republican did carry some of the events in the massive 1966-67 wave and 1973 flap.

There were a total of 350 witnesses in 93 cases primarily in a 5-county area here. Some 65 domed disks, oval, or cigar shapes were seen. Some 48 other shapes were seen with one being a gigantic bar bell. A total of 21 occupants were seen.

Let's go back to the young exciting years of 1966-67 when I often found myself swamped with reports. One October evening saw many CBers roaring down county roads and yelling over their radios as they tried to track glowing craft whose aerial per-

formance was astounding. One object hovered next to the microwave relay tower northeast of Rushville. Meanwhile two early morning newsmen sat on their bikes at the end of John Street in East Connersville and watched a curved-top object in the field. On the previous morning its pulsating lights had been farther south next to the transformer bank. A sulphur odor, whirring sound, and then the crunch of something coming toward them in the field sent them peddling frantically away. Three equidistant cone-shaped holes, and a pile of reddish substance that soon disappeared remained behind.

On the evening of October 6 a disk with pulsating red lights around its rim made a slow low flight from north of this city to beyond Arlington. There were at least 25 witnesses along its path. Clifford Smokewood thought it expedient to stay behind a tree.

A herd of cattle in the field across from the Little Charm Motel, that was once north of Rushville, went into panic. Patrons of the motel gazed up at the glowing blue dome of the craft. Next day the motel sign said, "Saucer Pilots Welcome."

In the October 1973 flap, a trisected

bottomed craft must have been around here for about 15 days. The bottom feature was not mentioned in the News-Examiner until the third report. I called this one, "the tree top cutter." It would zip off at fantastic speed right over the tree tops. Once when it hovered over a Laurel street a truck driver spooked it with his air horn and it went into its tree top act.

A favorite event of mine in this time period was that of the three innocent little Johnson children who lived on the hill south of Elm Park. In twilight the large domed disk hovered between the house and barn. It projected a brilliant beam of yellow light toward Connersville. What looked like a little car was brought back in the end of the beam and into the craft. Tina looked up at two red-eyed creatures in the transparent dome. Under some trees, Bobby watched his cat throw a fit and fall out of a tree. Gale had headed for the house at the start of the high-pitched sound. I got some funny looks from law enforcement as I tried to trace any missing autos.

Let me briefly mention a few other good cases.

One cold November night in 1967

coonhunters in Union County flashed a light beam up at a UFO low overhead. It became a glowing fire coal going away in 4 seconds. In December, 1967, light revealed a disk hovering just off the blacktop at the rear of the Ayrway Department store in Richmond. Christmas shoppers? A disk emitting a red glow on all below it followed Ind. 44 in Union County. Next morning a rooster was so affected he could only utter a shrill scream. In 1971 a great orange boomerang flew up from a low field near Milhouses in Decatur County leaving behind a strange mottled red-orange object on the field. It vanished before Noah Gosness could get it with his tractor.

In 1976 a UFO materialized and flew away from a creek bed off Harrisburg Road two different times in one week. The tenant and I hid in tree roots awaiting a third emergence which didn't occur. Martha Cain, a farm widow, was levitated in her car by a bowl-shaped UFO. Once on the ground she slumped unconscious and her time loss indicates abduction. At home her body was red and swollen and eyes affected. The car finish was ruined with rust spots. The radio, bat-

tery, and rubber parts went to pot. She suspected implant insertion via the usual nasal into brain route.

Farmer Whitlock of near Anderson had three visitations from a Saturn-type UFO. The uproar of his animals was something to behold. On the last visit they apparently abducted him plus killing the large tree they hovered over.

Why did these mysterious aeroforms give us their attention? In their 1966-67 presence here they were so thick maybe it all had an intelligence motivation. I'm sure they know us down to the bedrock. Having finished with us I don't look for them to return in such numbers again. As for their other years scenario, who would know the thinking of something that is apparently not flesh and blood. We do know that they are busy on abduction and still in certain cattle parts acquisition at a reduced tempo.

Whatever they have done or are doing it all has a purpose and will one day affect us all in a profound way.

Don Worley, who has compiled UFO reports for many years, resides at 1051 Beech Street.



FOREIGN NEWS

STAR, San Juan, Puerto Rico - Oct. 2, 1991 CR: T. Good

PREPA blacks out Lajas to dispell UFO rumors

The Associated Press

LAJAS — The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority switched off all power here Monday night in hopes of dispelling persistent rumors of UFOs near Cartagena Lagoon. The blackout, coordinated by PREPA and the Civil

Defense, left hundreds of homes without electricity for 30 minutes, police said Tuesday.

Cartagena Lagoon has been the scene of numerous sightings of purported UFOs during the past few weeks, with people saying they have seen mysterious lights bouncing off the ho-

rizon above the lagoon.

Ramón Montalvo, an electrical engineer at the San Germán PREPA plant, said the mysterious lights disappeared from the nighttime sky the minute power was cut off.

Police Lt. Rafael Rodríguez said the blackout proved the lights thought

to be UFOs actually are reflections of public lighting on the lagoon's surface.

"I don't think this has anything to do with flying saucers," said Rodríguez.

Fred Shaffner, a marine biologist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the experiment was aimed

at discouraging UFO enthusiasts from camping out near Cartagena Lagoon and further damaging its delicate environment. The federal agency oversees the lagoon area.

Shaffner said that although no strange lights were sighted Monday night, some people insist on believing that some sort of extraterrestrial life lurks

under the surface of the lagoon.

Rodríguez said the blackout dimmed all lights reflected by the lagoon, effectively destroying the myth of the extraterrestrial origin of the lights.

Rodríguez said that the sightings began in Lajas two months ago.

Creations of the Dark

Lord Zuckerman

Circular Evidence

by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews. Phanes Press, 191 pp., \$16.95 (paper)

Crop Circles: The Latest Evidence

by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews. Bloomsbury/distributed by Phanes Press, 80 pp., \$14.95 (paper)

The Crop Circle Enigma:

Grounding the Phenomenon in

Science, Culture and Metaphysics

edited by Ralph Noyes,

photographs by Busty Taylor.

Gateway Books,

192 pp., £9.95 (paper)

However much they lagged culturally behind the Egyptians, Greeks, and their Roman conquerors of AD 50, the ancient Britons were certainly a busy and ingenious people, whose artifacts have never ceased to amaze, some because of their monumental size, others because their significance remains a mystery. The counties of Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Dorset in southern England are particularly rich in their works. Stonehenge and the smaller stone avenue and circle of nearby Avebury are the most prominent of the scores of stone circles of which remains can be seen in many parts of the British Isles. How the enormous stones of Stonehenge were transported from Wales, where they were quarried, is a never-ending matter for argument.

Carved into the chalk of a hill in Uffington in Berkshire is the figure of a horse that measures 374 feet from nose to tail, and in Cerne Abbas in Dorset, a little less than a hundred miles away, also carved into the chalk, is an 180-foot figure of a rampant man. The largest man-made hill in Europe is at Silbury in Wiltshire; its significance is still a mystery.

Tourists have always been attracted to these prehistoric remains, and in recent years the attraction has been growing so fast that today the police have to be mobilized each year to protect the stones of Stonehenge from being damaged by the crowds that forgather, as if to participate in some mysterious rite, at the rising of the sun at the time of the summer solstice—for the stones are so arranged that they form a crude clock of the seasons. Much of the region is one of vast rolling landscapes, patterned by cultivated fields, with few farmhouses or buildings in sight, most of which help form the picturesque villages that lie in the valleys.

About 1980 or thereabouts, circles of flattened corn with diameters of up to hundreds of feet, with the corn pressed down in a clockwise direction, began to appear in the fields of Wiltshire and Hampshire. As interest and comment grew, the story of what was happening became increasingly complicated. There were reports of circles with corn flattened in counter-clockwise swirls, and of circles surrounded by narrow unconnected annular rings of flattened corn. In 1987, as the number of circles increased, ever more elaborate geometric designs appeared, to which the name of pictograms was given. In 1980 only a

handful of circles had been reported. By 1990 the number of circles and pictograms approached a thousand. The story was always one of instantaneous appearance. A field of growing corn which a farmer said was undisturbed when he went to bed would next day be graced with one or more circles. They were creations of the dark.

As news of the mystery spread, circle-spotter groups started to form, first in the south, and then in other parts of the country. In the hope of

other apparatus to register whatever happenings might occur in the fields of Wiltshire and Hampshire, but to the best of my knowledge, none has so far come up with any decisive results. On a recent visit to Hampshire to see for myself what a circle or pictogram looked like, I turned my field glasses onto a Japanese TV team that was armed with a variety of apparatus. It was the ninth day of a ten-day vigil. The farmer who had given them permission to camp on his land told me

three perfect circles of flattened corn in a field in Wiltshire. He started to investigate and was told that similar circles had been seen in previous years, as well as on many other farms in southern England. Mystified, he got in touch with the press and with television companies to report what he had seen and what he had been told. Over the next few years he saw to it that both were kept informed about the appearance and location of new circles. The not surprising result was that the number of people who wanted to see them began to multiply. Two years after Mr. Delgado's first broadcast in 1981, Mr. Andrews got in touch with him, and found that the two were "on the same wavelength"—something supernatural was at work.

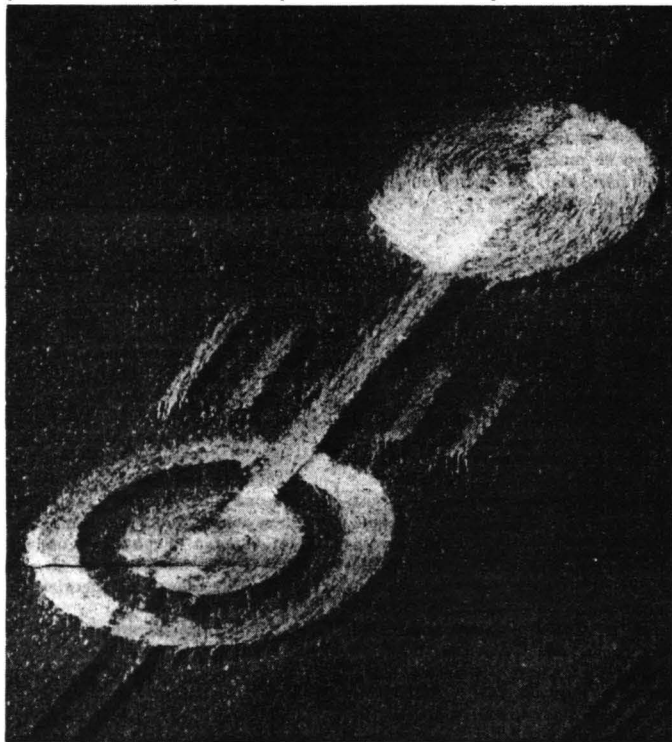
As the Eighties wore on, there were reports of circles being spotted not just in counties in the south, but in parts of England where they had never been seen before. A few "circles" were reported in other countries—one in a paddy field in Japan. Mr. Delgado tells us that he and those of his colleagues who were on the same wavelength as his own traveled hundreds of miles examining circles, paying attention to their configuration, their "floor" details, weather conditions, moon phases, location, and other parameters. His 1989 book is lavishly illustrated with photographs of all manner of flattened corn circles that he had examined both on foot and from the air.

Several, we learn, were found in fields that were the site of tumuli and other ancient burials. Some were not far from Silbury Hill and Avebury. They were frequently close to roads, and Mr. Delgado was told that unspecified road accidents had often occurred near the site of a circle. He also writes of circles that were identified as hoaxes, but apparently only after their perpetrators had confessed. And he implies that he has a secret way, which he does not describe, that allows him to tell a hoax from the "real thing," without however trying to explain how "hoaxes" are carried out.

In a follow-up booklet published in 1990 and entitled *Crop Circles: The Latest Evidence*, he and Mr. Andrews include a photograph of one "circle" that spelt out the message WEARENOTALONE. "Each letter was 36.5 metres from top to bottom and the whole word was 183 metres long." The farmer on whose land this mysterious message appeared had no explanation. The letters had not been there the previous evening, and it was only very early next day that one of his men told him about it. Mr. Delgado was quickly informed, and was able to examine and photograph the flattened corn message, both from the air and on foot. His account of this particular pictogram indicates that he did not take it to be a hoax but thought it a genuinely remarkable event.

After the publication of this second booklet, Mr. Delgado and Mr. Andrews launched a quarterly newsletter of between four and six typescript pages, of which four have now appeared. They tell us that their first

(continued on page 10)



Crop circles in Hampshire, England

"seeing" one in the process of formation, teams of enthusiasts kept all-night vigils for as long as two to three weeks, with their attention focused on fields that were thought to be circle-prone. They armed themselves with appropriate photographic and other equipment to record any untoward event. Aerial surveys were carried out. Radar is said to have been used. To this day, however, there are only a few unsubstantiated claims of circles having been "seen" as they became formed in the night, and fewer still of circles in process of formation during the hours of daylight. There has been talk of weird lights, of balls of fire, of strange noises over a field where next day there was a circle. UFOs came into the story, and talk of people who felt nauseated and otherwise disturbed after venturing into a circle. Some have told of carrying instruments that registered electrical changes when they were taken into one.

The circles and pictograms are real enough. To this day, however, the information we have about their creation remains essentially anecdotal. TV companies from as far afield as Japan have paid professional watchers armed with nighttime cameras and

that up to then they had drawn a blank. When I enquired later I was told that on their last night they had made a video recording of strange lights that they had seen in the area.

Circle-spotter groups competed in the recording of new circles. There were those who believed that supernatural forces were at work. Others felt that there had to be a scientific explanation, and still others were convinced that a gigantic hoax was being perpetrated. Publicity was at first confined to the counties where the circles had started to appear. With the publication in 1989 of a book called *Circular Evidence*, interest spread rapidly. The authors were Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, the first describing himself as a retired electro-mechanical engineer, the second until recently as chief electrical engineer of the Test Valley Borough Council.¹ Mr. Delgado's attention had been drawn in 1981 to the occurrence of a line of

¹Neither name figures in the membership registers of the following national engineering institutions: Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Institution of Mechanical Incorporated Engineers.

book, which is now in its second edition, is a world best seller, and has sold 200,000 copies. In addition, thousands of people throughout the world "are already subscribers" to their gossipy newsletters, which invite information from people who are interested. Anyone can become a subscriber at a cost of six pounds in EC countries and eight pounds in others, "cheques payable to Pat Delgado." A slip in the second edition of their book informs readers that those wishing to arrange personal or TV interviews with the authors can do so by getting in touch with their agent.

By 1990 so many tourists from home and abroad wanted to see the circles and pictograms that farmers were becoming concerned about the way their crops were being trampled and ruined. One who helped me when I went to see some of this year's harvest of circles had been forced in 1990 to limit access to his land by charging visitors an entry fee if they wanted to inspect a large pictogram that had appeared in one of his fields. He had to follow the same practice this year when an even more elaborate pictogram made its appearance. His "gate-receipts" just about covered the wages of part-time helpers whose job it was to prevent visitors who wanted to walk into the pictogram from trampling down otherwise undisturbed corn. He told me that he knew of four or five other farmers who have followed his example during the two- or three-month period between the appearance of a magic circle and its elimination at harvest time, but that he did not know whether they made money by so doing.

According to the *International Herald Tribune* (September 19, 1991), travel agents have been offering package tours for visitors from the US and other countries who wanted to see the circles. A landowner with whom I have been in touch regards the circles phenomenon as an unexplained hoax and as an unmitigated nuisance, and has tried to keep people off his land by strengthening his fences. The farms are so large, the landscape so open, that a nighttime guard against intruders would be prohibitively expensive.

As I have said, Mr. Delgado and his colleague, Andrews, believe that the circles are caused by some supernatural "intelligence," something beyond "the grasp of contemporary scientific understanding." This, however, is not the view of Dr. George Meaden, an Oxford Ph.D. in physics, who apparently works on his own, and whose field of research is atmospheric vortices, tornadoes, whirlwinds, water-spouts, and ball lightning.

Some time ago Dr. Meaden formed his own Tornado and Storm Research Organization (TORRO), from which he has recently budded a Circles Effect Research Group (CERES), whose main responsibility is to keep an independent register of circles as they are reported.² The first specimens to which his attention had been drawn, and in which the corn had been flattened in a clockwise swirl, were single and simple, and appeared on a Wiltshire farm at three different times between May and July of 1980. The farm is below an eighteenth-century carving in a chalk hill known as the White Horse of Westbury, and presumably is one which had also been visited by Mr. Delgado. The circles were not perfect—he calls them quasi-circles—and were about sixty feet in diameter. In 1981 he was told of three new circles that appeared in line on another farm in the same general area. The largest had a diameter of sixty feet, and was flanked by two smaller circles each of twenty-five feet wide. Nineteen eighty-two, he writes, was a "dull year," but as the Eighties moved on the circles that he noted multiplied both in number and in complexity of



A crop circle at Farley Mount, 1990

pattern. Of the hundreds reported throughout Britain in 1990, more than two thirds were in Wiltshire, which, together with its neighboring counties, continued this year to be the area of highest density of new sightings.

Dr. Meaden is convinced that the circles are formed by "the descent of energetic atmospheric vortices of previously unrecognized type," and that the electrical effects and luminous phenomena that some circle spotters have reported may be due to "a low-density of charged particles carried along by the primary vortex." He recognizes that "most vortices known to meteorologists are ascending." An ascending vortex is the basis of a tornado that may suddenly develop in, for example, the plains of northern Colorado, and, as it rapidly moves, destroys or damages everything in its narrow path, at the same time as an accompanying wind makes the prairie alive with tumbleweed. Equally, a commonplace whirlwind can devastate an entire cornfield while leaving a contiguous one intact. The new "problem for the atmospheric scientist," he writes, "is to determine how the breakdown of the common spin-up vortex condition can evolve into a state of downward vortex-motion" so as to create a stationary vortex that discharges its energy within a few seconds in order to produce a crop circle.

In 1990 he and Dr. Derek Elsom of the Oxford Polytechnic convened an international conference—made somewhat stormy by the interventions of Mr. Delgado—to consider the "circles effect." Ten papers were delivered, three by Dr. Meaden himself in which he set out his theory, but which, like two of the others, were essentially descriptive in nature. Three Japanese scientists contributed to the remaining five papers. The purpose of the first was "to describe conceptual models for possible formative mechanisms of the basic circular pattern." The second paper claimed to report "trial laboratory experiments for simulating the creation of plasma vortices under natural circumstances." The third, presented in summary only, described a theoretical examination of "a small-scale helical turbulence with electrical and space-charge fields from the aspect of EHD (electrohydrodynamics)." The coauthor of the first of these papers was a physicist from Purdue University, and he and his Japanese collaborator emphasize that their attempt to formulate models "is highly speculative since it must be based largely on circumstantial evidence"—that is to say, on the reports provided by Dr. Meaden—which they find "more tantalizing than conclusive." Their attempt to formulate explanatory models relates only to the basic circular rings—not to the complicated geometrical patterns that started to appear toward the end of the Eighties. It is particularly noteworthy that apparently neither the British government's meteorological office nor any university department of meteorology was represented at the meeting.

How a downward directed tubular vortex—given that meteorologists agree that there are such things—could explain the more elaborate circle designs is not touched on in the printed proceedings of the conference. Mr. Delgado, his colleague, Mr. Andrews, and those who believe that the "circles" are the work of an extra-terrestrial "intelligence" argue that an attempt to seek a scientific explanation based on downwardly directed energetic vortices is pointless. It is impossible, they say, for a vortex to hit

the ground to make a main circle and then bounce back in a subdivided form to make a coherent geometric pattern.

More recently, a beautifully illustrated book, *The Crop Circle Enigma*, was produced by a new group calling itself the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, most of whose founder members also appear to be associated with the Society of Psychical Research. In an article contributed by George Wingfield we read that the presence of four rectangular boxes of compressed corn as part of a recent pictogram has driven "the final nail into the coffin of the atmospheric vortex theory." Even more remarkable was the appearance of an elaborate geometrical pictogram in a field a few miles from where one similarly designed, and with the same dimensions to an inch or two, had appeared nine days before. "To the honest observer," writes Mr. Wingfield, "the undeniable impression of intelligent manipulation is overwhelming; and this intelligence must inevitably be either human or non-human"—his own view being the latter.

Ralph Noyes, the editor of the book, is an ex-senior British civil servant who is now the honorary secretary of the Society for Psychical Research. He points out that Dr. Meaden's attempts to forecast from his primary vortex theory about the way the circle phenomenon was likely to develop have been a failure, while John Michell, a writer who concerns himself with "many topics at the edge of present understanding," emphasizes "the apparent responsiveness to human ideas" of the circle phenomenon. For example, within a day or so of Dr. Meaden's claiming that the swirl of corn in a central circle alternates in direction with that in the annular rings of flattened corn by which it was surrounded, a new "circle" was reported in which the swirl was the same in both. It is "as though the phenomenon delights in confounding its investigators and upsetting their theories."

Dr. Meaden contributed to the new book in an article in which he reaffirmed his conviction that the circle phenomenon can "be explained wholly within the bounds of conventional science," despite the increasing frequency with which elaborate geometric designs of flattened corn have been appearing. But the explanations that he gives for the increases in complexity are, however, no more than tautological extensions of his primary hypothesis that what is at work is the force of a downwardly directed stationary spinning vortex. The appearance of one or more narrow rings of flattened corn around a primary circle, or a pattern of a main ring surrounded by up to four or five smaller satellite rings is caused, so he writes, by a breakdown of the primary vortex. The inference "together with certain instrumental evidence"—unspecified—is that the rings are due to a flow of ionized air "in the manner of an ion race." Everyone he has met who has inspected real circles, so he writes, "including 'many good scientists'—unnamed—has 'been completely convinced by the legitimacy of the circles problem.'" More than that, the few scientists—also unnamed—who have contested his hypothesis "display their ignorance of the phenomenon of vortex breakdown."

As the difficulty of accounting for the increasing number and complexity of the "circles" has increased, it would seem that Dr. Meaden has kept in step by elaborating the wording of his hypothesis so as to make it cover every

manner of happening. For example, to explain multiple circles "one may deduce" that vortices "may be interlinked and hence interdependent." He tells us that he has been asked to explain how he reconciles the notion that a column of air turbulence, i.e., one characterized by disorder, that results in an ordered pattern of flattened corn can be reconciled with the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Since the energy of the vortex necessarily lessens when it forces down the corn to make a primary circle, the entropy of the system, or the extent of the resulting disorder, should, in accordance with this law, increase—instead of producing regular patterns of satellite circles. The answer, he writes, is to be found at "the microscopic level of inquiry," which insofar as he explains what this is, turns out to be another set of speculations which it would be impossible to test scientifically. Every circle happening, whether simple or complex, whether or not associated with reports of strange lights, fireballs, noises, electrical disturbances, and so on can be explained as having happened because the circumstances were right for the vortex theory to apply. Even the burning bush of Moses can be interpreted as "a luminous incandescent light of plasma vortex origin" while the Star of Bethlehem can be explained by "the movement and hovering of a self-sustaining luminous vortex."

In short, those who follow Dr. Meaden are invited to believe that all manifestations of the circles phenomenon can, or will in due course, be explained by verifiable science. Those who are convinced that they are due to the play of some supernatural force—and here, as is admitted by Hilary Evans, another contributor to the new book on the subject, there is no limit to what faith and belief allow—cast aside Dr. Meaden's theories. They do so not only because his speculations about downwardly directed vortices are opposed to generally accepted scientific explanations about the formation of upwardly directed vortices—with which they are in any event uninterested—but because it is inconceivable that a circular downwardly spiraling vortex could create pictograms graced with neatly arranged rectangles of flattened corn. Nor, since Dr. Meaden's hypothesis demands that his presumed downwardly directed vortices generate their effects only in specific topographical and meteorological conditions, can they accept that an elaborate pictogram can be repeated practically to the same dimensions miles from where it was first seen, and in a landscape totally different from the first. They are also at one in rejecting the notions that the circles phenomenon is all an elaborate, costly, and widespread hoax, as well as being opposed to other improbable suggestions, such for example that simple circles are caused by a spreading fungus similar to the circles of mushrooms that are commonly seen in the fields.

As I have said, in the chapter that he contributes to the new book, Dr. Meaden not only reaffirmed his conviction that the circles phenomenon is the consequence of the play of natural forces, but that what is conventionally regarded as supernatural, such as visions in the sky of the Virgin Mary, can or should be explicable in scientific terms. As it stands, however, what he has put forward is little more than a hypothesis in search of a foundation. The fact is that his vortex theory is neither verifiable in the environment in which it claims to apply, nor can it be used to predict whether this or that field in this or that area will be the site of a further visitation, or what shape the next pictogram will take. Tornadoes and "dust-devils" can be studied by meteorologists while they are occurring. In contrast, the circles are amenable only to what, as it were, is post-mortem analysis and speculation. Anecdotal reports about lights and noises being seen or heard by one or two individuals at the very instant that it is then presumed that corn was

² For the views of Meaden and his associates, see his *The Circles Effect and its Mysteries* (Wiltshire: Arteteck Publishing, 1991), second edition, and also *Circle Research 1, Proceedings of the First International Conference on the Circles Effect*, edited by Dr. George Terence Meaden and Dr. Derek M. Elsom, June 23, 1990.

subjected to a force which created a circle or pictogram do not constitute the material of science. We are not dealing with those lights in the sky that we now recognize as comets, which are there for all to see, and whose appearances and disappearances can be precisely predicted.

Dr. Meaden has written that since 1980 he has personally inspected several hundred—one report says more than a thousand—which, with a very few exceptions, “have been checked out as genuine.” There is, he also says, “an instrumental test known only to a few circle investigators which can be applied to any circle as an independent check on its authenticity.” What this test is he does not say, which is strange for a scientist. I can only imagine that its nature was not revealed, or if revealed, could not have convinced Professor John Snow of Purdue University and Professor Tokio Kikuchi of Kochi University in Japan, two of the contributors to the international conference that Dr. Meaden organized, for otherwise why should they have qualified their contribution by prefacing it with the statement that authenticity has not been proved? Whether Mr. Delgado’s undisclosed method for assuring the “authenticity” of a circle is the same as Dr. Meaden’s is unlikely. The fervid conviction of the one that there must be a scientific explanation, and the equally fervid belief of the other that an extraterrestrial “intelligence” is at work, has left the two at daggers drawn. Up to the end of this year’s harvest both, however, have insisted that all but possibly a few “circles” were not frauds.

Early in September, toward the end of this year’s harvest, the issue of fraud, however, took a new turn. Various accounts appeared in the press that two men, Messrs. Bower and Chorley, variously described as artists, or as being connected with the University of Southampton (in whose register their names do not appear), declared that for thirteen years they had been making the corn circles in southern England, and enjoying the secret pleasure of being regarded by Mr. Delgado and his followers as a “supernatural intelligence.” The representatives of a tabloid newspaper that had been let into their secret took Mr. Delgado to inspect a new circle that had just appeared. Without hesitation he declared that it was something for which no human being could ever have been responsible. When he was then told the truth, he is reported as having declared, “We’ve all been conned.”

This was very embarrassing, particularly as the disclosure and Mr. Delgado’s admission came on the eve of a conference, presumably of the “faithful,” that he had just organized. The two hoaxers then agreed to demonstrate before Mr. Delgado and his colleague, Andrews—plus the press and TV—how they made a circle. No sooner had this been done than Mr. Delgado recanted, and with Mr. Andrews asserted that anyone could see that what the two self-confessed hoaxers had done with the help of boards was not an authentic circle. Dr.

Meaden, who apparently was not present, then gave his views, proclaiming that contrary to both his original and more recent statements, and despite his continuing adherence to his theory about downwardly directed spinning vortices, he had suspected over the past few years that what became known as pictograms were the work of hoaxers.

There have certainly been some remarkable presumed hoaxes about which he must have known. For example the BBC helped to sponsor a three-week “hi-tech” vigil to film a circle in process of formation. On the third day of the operation, it was announced that during the night flashing orange lights were seen (and video-recorded) over a field where next day six circles had appeared. For a few hours the affair was regarded as “genuine.” But when the circles were inspected on the ground it was found that a Ouija board and a wooden cross had been placed in the center of each of them. Military personnel were believed to have made the circles, but this has not been confirmed.

Not many weeks ago, too, a strange pattern of flattened corn appeared on a German cornfield, and was treated by the press as a genuine “circle.” It then turned out to be the work of four young German lawyers out to prove that what the British could do, the Germans could also do. A pictogram in England was roughly in the shape of a swastika. Another that appeared in August of this year on a farm south of Cambridge had the shape of a “Mandelbrot set,” with a maximum dimension of 180 feet. A Mandelbrot set belongs to the subject of “chaos mathematics” or “fractal geometry,” and the relevant equations that underlie the “set” cannot be worked out except with the help of powerful computers. The cornfield Mandelbrot could hardly have been formed by a downwardly directed vortex any more than could the enormous pictogram “WEARENOTALONE.” I can hardly imagine that any of these appearances did not put a strain on the imagination of even the most ardent believer in the supernatural, even on those who for a time were ready to believe that the “circles” manifested themselves only on a line which ran from Wiltshire to the Great Pyramid at Giza.

What therefore seems to me strange is that instead of claiming the ability to tell a hoax from the real thing, circle enthusiasts, whatever their beliefs, have not set out to demonstrate that the notion of hoaxes is untenable. For example, they could have trained one or more teams of, let us say, university students, to flatten a patch of a cornfield to a particular shape, first in daylight and then at night, and, once trained, have them demonstrate their skill—or lack of it—before a jury of scientists representing the government’s meteorological office and, say, the Royal Society, plus perhaps a couple of High Court judges to help assure fair play.

There is no problem about entering a cornfield without leaving any trace behind. As the illustration in the vari-

ous circle books show, all cornfields are traversed by the parallel lines made by the wheels of tractors as they move up and down applying up to as many as seven dressings of fertilizer and pesticides in order to control the growth of the corn. The tractors always follow the same lines of flattened corn as they move—in England the tracks left by the tires are familiarly called tramlines—in order to limit the amount of inadvertent damage that they cause. Each tramline is from twelve to eighteen inches wide, depending on the width of the tractor tires, and is separated from its neighbor by the width of the tractor. The pairs of tramlines are separated from their neighbors by the length of the spray tubes carried on either side of the tractors—usually from twenty to forty feet. It is no problem to walk along a tramline either in daylight or at night without disturbing the corn on either side.

Dr. Meaden writes that circles are as a rule “roughly centered” on tramlines. The numerous excellent photographs that illustrate his and other publications in fact suggest that all, including pictograms, straddle one or even two. The crops concerned grow to a height from about three feet in the case of wheat, or as much as five in that of rye. A single person, or three or four in line, could easily walk along a tramline at night, or certainly in the faint light of dawn, or even crawl by day without being seen. The leader of a hoaxing team could stop at a point where it was decided to press the corn rows either in the form of a circle or of a more complicated pattern. The German and Southampton hoaxers used boards to do the flattening. Another way would be for the leader of a team to trail a rope to which one or more weights would have been attached to make it hang, say, about three inches above the level where it is decided to sweep the ground, stopping either on or a stride from a tramline, so making that point the center of a circle. His follower (or followers), holding the other end of the rope, joins him, and then moves away to the full stretch of the rope before walking round in either a clockwise or a counterclockwise direction until both are satisfied that the corn has been adequately flattened. Dr. Meaden describes one circle which he examined that had a hole in the ground near its center. This would suggest that one man could do the operation on his own, working from a peg pushed into the soil. In theory the same “principle” could be used to produce annular rings around a primary circle. *The New Scientist* of September 14, 1991, published a letter indicating that three trained people using a rope could even flatten corn to the shape of a Mandelbrot set.

Another way would be for a team of hoaxers to begin by cutting out a pattern of a circle, or of a complicated pictogram, from rolls of heavy-duty polythene sheet, and then to carry the separate pieces along a tramline. The parts would be pinned down to lay out the whole pattern, over which a small roller or some other device would then be moved to flatten the corn.

I am not saying that any of these approaches would necessarily work. But clearly there are ways to flatten corn in a particular shape. How otherwise could one explain Delgado and Andrews’s WEARENOTALONE, a pictogram that they regarded as “genuine”? And here it is certainly worth noting that apparently no pattern of flattened corn has ever been reported as crossing the boundary between two contiguous fields belonging to two different farmers.

On my visit to Hampshire and Wiltshire when I saw eight pictograms and circles, I was interested to learn that New College, Oxford, is the landowner of the large farm run by the well-educated farmer who was my guide, and who had followed his father and grandfather as tenant of the land. He has never had any indication that the fact that the farm has been the site of several circles has stimulated any interest among the college’s several distinguished science fellows. His farm is also less than ten miles from Marlborough School, a school which has as always been famous for encouraging the sciences, and which counts among its scientific alumni Professor J.Z. Young and the late Sir Peter Medawar. To the best of my guide’s knowledge, the school, like New College, has never evinced any interest in the “circles” phenomenon. Is this a case of the dog that did not bark? Are the conventional scientists whom one would expect to be interested not yet persuaded that the “circles effect” poses any scientific problem?

Were it to turn out that circles and pictograms can easily be made by trained people, it would not, of course, necessarily mean that all circles that have been reported have been hoaxes. Nor would it mean that a single pair of hoaxers could have been responsible for the hundreds that have been recorded during this and previous growing seasons. That would have been physically impossible. But if it did turn out that hoaxing was easy, it would certainly help knock the bottom out of the explanations that have so far been offered. Equally, it would raise a host of other questions. Why, for example, do hoaxers go to all the trouble? Are different teams of pranksters secretly in touch with one another? How do they maintain their hidden identities? Is it even possible that there are people out to persuade a doubting world that corn circles can be added to flying saucers as proof of the existence of a supernatural force?

Obviously, if carefully controlled experiments were to show that faking is far from easy, we would be back at square one. But I very much doubt that that would be the case. The journal *Nature* has recently asked whether the whole thing is not just “a media ploy.”³ Maybe it is. “The annual spate of crop circles,” *Nature* points out, “brings to light the circular nature of science itself—at least as far as the media are concerned.” □

³*Nature*, Vol. 352 (August 15, 1991), p. 554.

NORTH WALES WEEKLY NEWS, Conway, Wales - Aug. 15, 1991 CR: T. Good

Mystery over new corn circle

HAS A cornfield on a Mochdre farm been visited by aliens?

That's the question facing UFO experts after the overnight appearance of a mysterious corn circle last Sunday.

But farmer Mr Elwyn Williams reckons local children are responsible.

"If aliens wanted to land, I think they would have chosen somewhere more private. I think it is just children copying something they have seen on television," laughed Mr Williams.

But local UFO enthusi-

By Mark Thomas

siats say the circle is the real thing, because the corn stalks have been flattened uniformly in a perfect circle nearly 40 feet in diameter.

Corn circle researcher Mrs Margaret Fry from Llangernyw, a member of UFO organisation Contact International, said: "Even the most sophisticated detecting equipment has failed to discover why these circles appear."

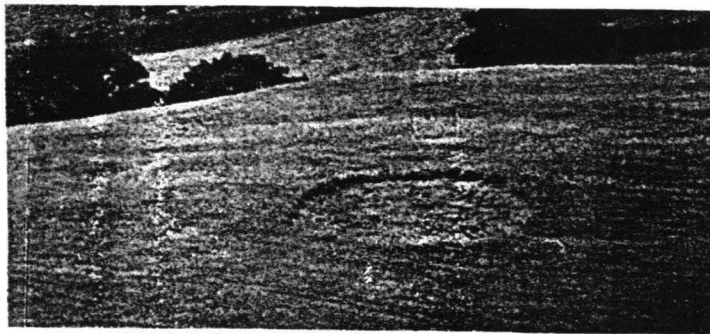
"A variety of theories

cover some of the appearances, but some, like this one, are totally baffling."

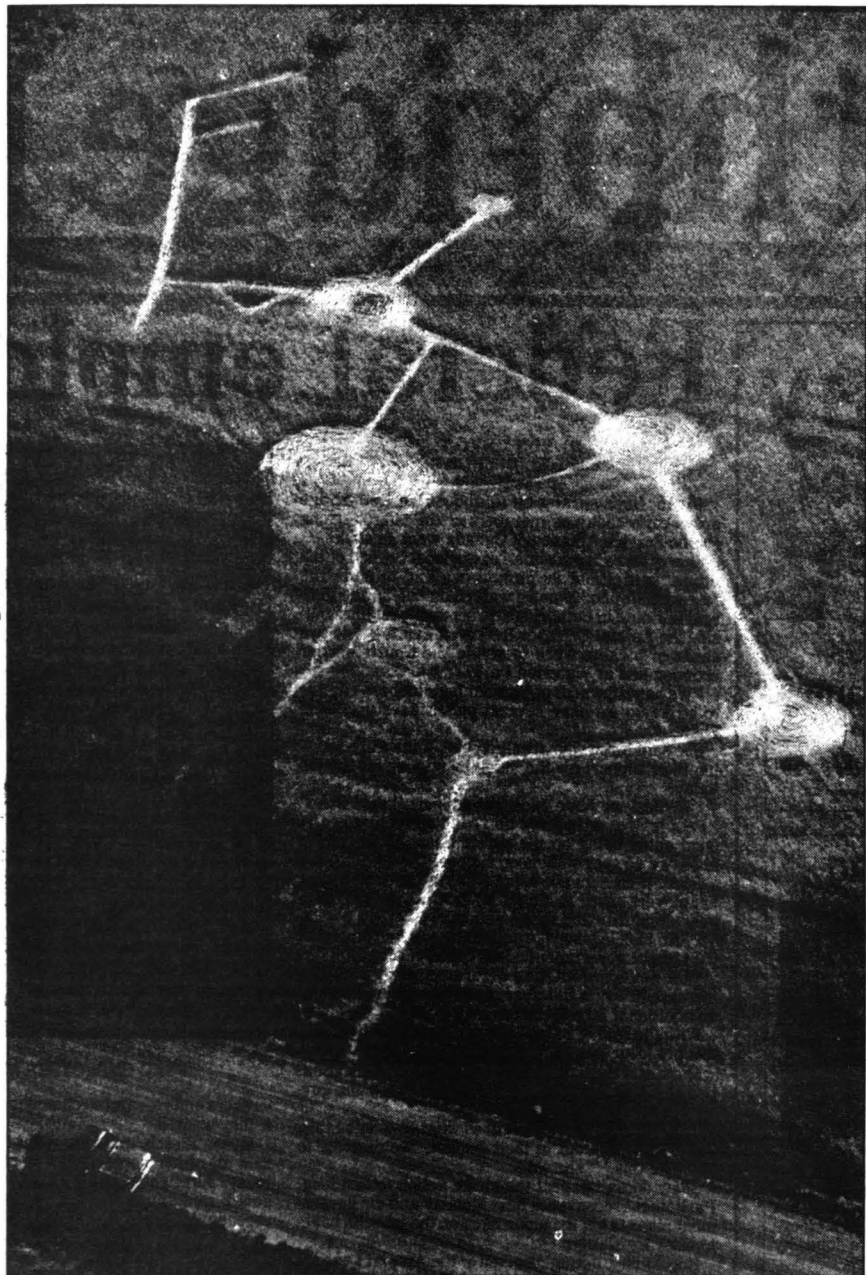
Some circles have been caused by fungal activity in the soil creating fairy rings, some have been caused by small wind vortices flattening the corn.

Another theory is that electromagnetic particles in the air group together to form "plasma balls", flattening circles in the corn.

"Thousands of pounds worth of sensitive hi-tech equipment is being used at sites in Wiltshire during all night vigils," added Mrs Fry.



The circle that has appeared in a corn field in Mochdre



CATCH IN THE RYE? CROP CIRCLES AND LINES IN WEST LETHBRIDGE FIELD MAKE FOR A MYSTERY

HERALD PHOTO BY KEVIN KOOY

Circles of mystery!

□ Experts still baffled over strange patterns in grain fields

By SHERRI GALLANT
of The Herald

Experts are still no closer to explaining six crop circle findings which have occurred in southern Alberta since August 21.

Gordon Kijek, director of Alberta's UFO Study Group in Edmonton, snapped the shutter of his camera furiously through the window of a small plane Friday, compiling one of the first bird's-eye views of the evidence afforded so far.

"A lot of people are going to want to see these photographs," Kijek says. "You get so much better perspective on what's there from up in the air."

But Kijek is cautious about speculating on what the cause of the circles may be — only on what it isn't.



Gordon KIJEK



Shannon KELLY

"If they aren't man made, the real cause is still just theory," he says. "But if people were creating them, it would take a lot of people a lot of time to do what's been done."

"If it is a hoax, then eventually someone will start talking, because they'll be so pleased with what they think they've pulled off. We're still holding our breath."

Some people have tried to duplicate the circles to show it can be done, but their methods don't match evidence of what's been found so far.

Grain in the circles is bent, not broken, and kernels are not damaged. Simply walking through the fields where circles are located shows how easily

the stalks snap underfoot and how readily kernels slough off.

Kijek has scarcely had time to rest since the first of some half-dozen crop-circle sites was discovered in a wheat field south of Lethbridge Television on 28th Street North.

Since then, two locations west of Lethbridge have turned up, one near Okotoks, another east of Stirling and, the latest discovery, four separate circles just east of Warner.

Kijek has investigated the north Lethbridge, Okotoks and Warner sites, taking samples of grain and dirt for analysis by Alberta Agriculture and Canada's UFO Research Centre at Winnipeg.

But Chris Rutkowski at the Winnipeg Ufology Centre has yet to receive the samples, held up somewhere in the postal system.

Kijek's first task is to look for clues which might identify the circles as man made. After researching other circles in the world (primarily in England, but also recently in North America), he knows what to watch for but is cautious about revealing "trade secrets."

Everyone he meets asks him what he really thinks is behind the circles and his answer is always the same — "I honestly don't know."

"There are several schools of thought on these things," Kijek says. "There are the people who think that, given enough information, everything can be explained — the sceptics."

"Then there's the theory of mass hypnosis, or paranormal activity — ghosts and such. Then there's the extra-terrestrial theory, of course."

"But there's another theory which says energy released from under the ground as the earth's plates shift, comes up and causes these patterns."

Agricultural specialists theorize mineral deficiencies or disease-causing pathogens might be responsible. For the most part, these are what Alberta Agriculture will look for in its crop-circle specimens.

Rutkowski, with the help of fellow scientists at the University of Manitoba, will look for radiation, microwaves, structural changes in cellular makeup, and will attempt to germinate seeds taken from the

Close encounters of the Belgian kind

A SPATE of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects over Belgium during the past 18 months has sparked both fascination and alarm. The UFOs have been appearing at an extraordinary rate. Not a week has passed without them being spotted by anywhere between one and ten eyewitnesses.

The Belgian Air Force has scrambled F-16 fighters to intercept them on nine occasions. Three times the warplanes' sophisticated radar locked on to their target.

But the fast approach of the aircraft triggered immediate, evasive action which left radar screens blank. Ground-based radars have also picked up UFOs too many times for the

UNLIKELY STORY OF THE WEEK

explanation to be electromagnetic interference.

Amateur video camera operators have also filmed the alien objects in Braine-le Comte and near Marchin. One film lasts a good five minutes and is a major contribution to UFO research.

It was shot by garage manager Richard Rodberg just after 9pm one day. He said: "The UFO hovered over the ground, 30 metres in the air, in full silence. All of a sudden it darted towards us, stopping 60 metres away. I've never seen a field lit like that. All white. One could have found a needle. Then, without swerving, it went away to our left in the direction of a nuclear power plant." The "flying saucer" was the size of a two-storey building.

Belgium's Air Force chief of staff, Wilfried de Brouwer, the secretary of the SBEPS, a 20-year-old UFO association, Lucien Clerebaut, and an eminent scientist from Louvain Catholic University, Auguste Meesen, are all agreed that something is happening in the skies above Belgium.

"Even if until now there has been no threat, one must accept the fact that for the past 16 months, the Belgian skies have experienced extraordinary phenomena," says De Brouwer.



Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

DAILY STAR, London, England
July 30, 1991 CR: D. Speed

CORN CIRCLES NEAR PM'S RETREAT

A SECURITY row erupted last night after huge corn circles appeared on farmland at the Prime Minister's country retreat.

By DAVID PAUL

The circles are just a few hundred yards from Chequers, where John Major spends his weekends.

"If they were drawn by hoaxers it's staggering they weren't caught by the security forces guarding the Prime Minister," said Lena God-

sall-Bottrill, who found the circles yesterday.

"If they were the work of aliens I still can't understand how nobody saw what happened," added Mrs Godsell-Bottrill, a wildlife author of nearby Terrick, Bucks.

Last night Thames Valley police said they

knew nothing about the circles on the estate, near Wendover.

But incredibly, a Downing Street spokesman said: "We know about the Chequers corn circles, but they are not a security risk."

"They aren't made by people, they are a natural phenomenon, it's something to do with the weather."

grain.

"Last year we tried to germinate some wheat from circles in Manitoba, but it wouldn't sprout," Rutkowski says.

"There are a lot of people who dismiss these as weather phenomena or hoaxes — which they might be," Rutkowski says. "But there are a lot of scientists in the world now who are taking a serious interest in them and are interested in study and investigation."

Kijek is also looking into other sightings while in the area, investigating some claims of UFO sightings and other ground-marking reports.

For now these meetings are confidential, due to the nature of the claims.

Meanwhile, two UFO enthusiasts from Great Falls, Mont. visited Lethbridge Saturday to look at the sites.

Shannon Kelly has compiled an extensive library and video collection since his interest in UFOs began about six years ago. A co-worker, Al Bellanger, caught the fever from Kelly about a year ago.

The two aren't shy about revealing they firmly believe the circles arrived by extra-terrestrial means.

"This sort of thing has been happening in our area for a long time," Kelly says. "But there have also been cattle mutilations which aren't easily explained."

Kelly carries photos of cattle carcasses he's seen on farmland near Malmstrom Air Force base. While some destruction is consistent with scavengers, and other signs match what is known about satanic rituals, other factors don't add up.

"There are burn marks around some of them, on the ground and on parts of the animal," Kelly says. "They are completely drained of blood."

"One farmer had two dogs which fed on the meat before the cows were found and the dogs died within days."

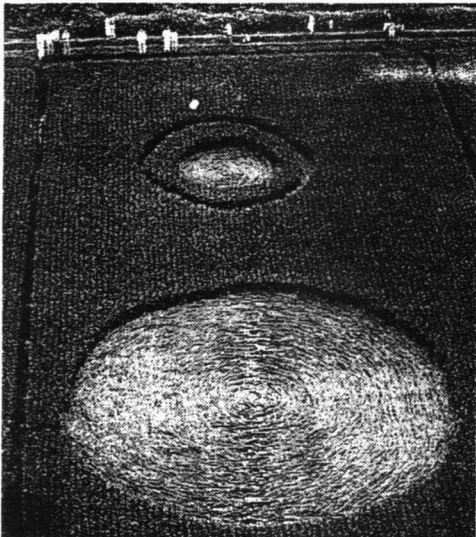
He says dozens of goats have been found slaughtered in the area recently, as well. Investigators are attributing the case to bear activity.

Kelly and Bellanger, along with others in their area, are compiling data on other strange happenings around the base, including UFO sightings.

Kelly says patterns in one of the West Lethbridge sites match those in a photo he has of a site in England.

Mystery Circles

Japanese Professor Offers Novel Explanation



Mystery Circles: The photo was taken in Shinokurimachi, Fukuoka-ken, last September.

By Eric Talmadge

The Associated Press

Swirling, electrified dust picked up by winds over the cliffs of Dover are behind mysterious crop circles in England that have baffled observers for more than three centuries, a Japanese professor claims.

Professor Hiroshi Kikuchi, of the Science and Engineering College of Nihon University, believes that the circles can be explained through "electromagnetohydrodynamic vortices."

According to Kikuchi, as the dust-laden winds pass over hills, turbulence occurs, creating friction that electrically charges the dust particles.

Electromagnetic forces could then combine to create a swirling wind eddy, which, if striking crops, would form a circular trace with an outward-spiraling center.

Circles of up to 10 meters in diameter can be formed by such phenomena in a matter of seconds, he said in a recent telephone interview.

"The first impression one gets after

looking at some of the more complex designs is that they must have been made by beings from outer space," he said. "But I think that, aside from some that may be the work of pranksters, most can be explained scientifically."

Kikuchi, who spoke at an international conference on the circles last June at Oxford, presented his electrified dust theory to a symposium in western Japan last week.

The crop circles, some of which are actually very complex, decorative patterns, were first recorded in English fields in 1678. Similar designs have been found in about a dozen other countries. The circles range in size from 3 to 30 meters.

Since the discovery of more than 300 circles two years ago, scientists and mystery buffs around the world have come up with countless explanations for what forms them. Theories have included witches, rotating hedgehogs, pranksters and spaceships.

Though whirlwinds and electromagnetism have singly been suggested by several researchers, Kikuchi is the first

to combine those forces with the dust, he said. He has not tried to apply his theory to circles outside of England.

One of the most scientific studies of the circles to date was carried out last summer in fields in the vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire, 120 kilometers southwest of London.

Investigators from the United States, Japan, West Germany and Britain equipped with nearly \$2 million worth of heat-seeking cameras and other high-tech gear spent three weeks monitoring the circles, but found no answers as to their cause.

Last month, a four-meter wide circle was found in a field of tall grass near Sendai, in northern Japan. The find, combined with reported UFO sightings days before, created a minor tempest in the popular media.

Kikuchi, one of several Japanese professors actively involved in solving the circle mystery, recently traveled to southern Japan to inspect a newly formed circle in a rice paddy.

"But, unfortunately, a typhoon got there first," he said.

HERALD, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada - Oct. 7, 1991

Crop circle mystery continues



VERNON AND AMANDA CHIEF MOON CHECK VEHICLE DAMAGE WITH GRANDDAD



HERALD PHOTOS BY KEVIN KOOP

More mysterious marks in the grass, a car's rear window smashed from the inside out, and Christmas lights popped leaving the filament intact make up the latest chapter in the ongoing story of crop circles in southern Alberta. John Chief Moon, 63, of the Blood Indian Reserve near Glenwood, found about six grass circles near his home. In addition to the circles, which were first noticed Thursday, and damage to the car and lights, burns marks were discovered on top of some hay bales. 10, and Vernon Jr. Chief Moon, 15, take a close look at the smashed Christmas lights on the house roof. Chief Moon's father Dan, one of the reserve's medicine or holy men, conducted prayers for four days near the circles. The find joins several others which began showing up around Lethbridge and area in August. So far, experts have not been able to determine if they were man-made.

JOHN CHIEF MOON WITH LATEST CROP CIRCLES

Teacher sees two UFOs in formation

GAZETTE, Littlehampton, England
Aug. 23, 1991 CR: T. Good

A SCIENCE teacher from Littlehampton claims she saw two UFOs over her home in the early hours of Monday morning.

Miss Fiona Hamer said she looked out of her window in New Road at 3.30am and saw two dimly-lit rectangular objects in the sky above a nearby house.

"I was in bed and woke up - I don't know what woke me but I couldn't get back to sleep," said Miss Hamer.

"I looked out of the window and saw two solid rectangles, one under the other, which went over the chimneys and disappeared."

"I was left wondering what the hell they were."

She said there was no noise from the

objects and they could not have been aeroplanes because of their shape.

"They sort of went over like two birds would, keeping the same distance apart and the same formation all the time."

"They were there for just a second or two."

She said a neighbour reported seeing a flash at about that time but did not look out of the window.

"I don't want to be dismissed as a crank - I'm a teacher and not the sort of person who makes something up to get in the newspaper," added Miss Hamer.

"I would like a logical explanation for this."

Miss Hamer works in Chichester.

Party-goers tell of mystery lights in the night sky

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England - Oct. 16, 1991 CR: T. Good

PARTY-GOERS Ann Barnes and Trudy Edgeworth, from King's Stanley, were this week appealing to anyone who could explain the triangle of 'weird' bright lights they saw in the sky.

The night-clubbing friends were driving back from Eversham, in Cheltenham, during the early hours of Friday, when they saw what they think was an unidentified flying object (UFO).

Mother-of-two Mrs Barnes (31), from Guildings Way in King's Stanley, was forced to stop her car in amazement as bright white lights shone from the sky.

She told the News and Journal: "It was like two car headlights in the sky, shining down as if it was looking at us."

"It was a triangle shape with curved edges, which started off as red, changed to green, then red and

back to white before it flew off."

The friends were ironically stopped by police on the way home, because one of the car lights was not working.

But Mrs Barnes felt they could not say anything about what they saw, in case the officer thought they had been drinking.

"There were no other cars around at the time, and we seemed to be in

the middle of nowhere," said Mrs Edgeworth, also of Guildings Way. She confessed: "It was a bit scary. I am not sure I believe in this sort of thing or not, but it wasn't an aeroplane - it was definitely something else, and looked like a UFO."

"When you say that to people they think you have gone mad. It really made me go goosey," she said.

Gardens party display theory

Spotlight on UFOs

by Ian Martin

A mystery over unidentified objects in the sky over mid-Somerset last week may have been solved.

Powerful searchlights criss-crossing the sky above the fête champêtre celebrations at Stourhead gardens in Wiltshire are believed to have sparked off a series of UFO sightings by people living across Somerset.

People rang the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton after seeing the lights circling in the sky.

Donald Richards, of Prospect Villas, Ditchet, called out his neighbours on Tuesday night after witnessing strange lights from his window.

"There were bright lights just like dinner plates going round and round in a circle and it lasted 20 minutes," said Mr Richards.

"I thought it was a shooting star. There were half a dozen lights going around and around," he added.

Mr Richards took photographs of the lights, but the mystery deepened when the film was found to be blank when developed.

His neighbour, Yvonne White, described the objects as round bulb-shaped lights bouncing around in the sky.

"It was most peculiar - I have never seen anything like it before. It was big balls of white substance," she added.

But Mr Richards discovered on Monday the possible source of the lights - the searchlights above Stourhead which beam two miles into the sky.

South West regional UFO investigator Richard Tarr said:



Mr Donald Richards shows where he saw 'UFOs' from his garden in Ditchet.

"Since Tuesday many people have been reporting white orbs of light, usually moving in a figure of eight."

He added that there had been a recent burst of UFO activity in the Bristol area followed by complex crop formations.

Mr Tarr said many witnesses had seen the lights move

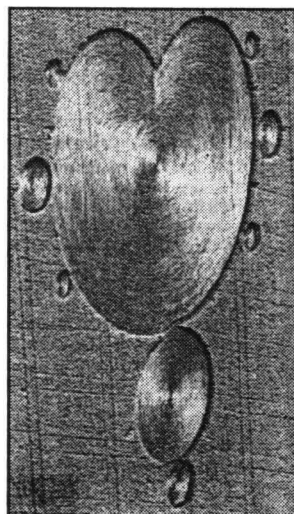
over their heads, which would rule out the searchlight theory.

And he said a number of people living in Bristol had reported seeing groups of alien beings in the city.

They were described as "nearly four feet tall, white-grey, with large heads and almond-shaped eyes."

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Nov. 14, 1991

A fine crop of mystery circles



CROP CIRCLES: Still a puzzle

SURELY one of the great mysteries of 1991 is why Dave 'n' Doug weren't prosecuted for trespassing. These two cereal-killers (sic), you may recall, claimed to have created the hundreds of perplexing circles and pictograms known as crop circles.

Who are they kidding? Not me, not avid circle-watchers and not Alick Bartholomew who, in this timely book dismisses Dave 'n' Doug as 'tricksters'.

I might have believed their hoax story had I not seen the extraordinary Mandelbrot crop circle formation in Cambridge. The heart-shaped Mandelbrot is one of the most complex shapes in mathematics - it is impossible to draw without a computer - and I am willing to bet that Dave 'n' Doug couldn't draw it on graph paper using a deluxe geometry set, let alone in a cornfield in the dark with just a pole and a length of string.

Crop Circles (Harbingers of World Change) edited by Alick Bartholomew (Gateway Books, £14.95)



by VAL HENNESSY

It is possible, of course, that all crop circles are hoaxes. Perhaps an international network of hoodwinkers is at work. But what is the point?

As Bartholomew points out: 'Our rational society does not feel comfortable with mysteries and the unknown', and neither will it feel too comfortable with some of the contributions in this book. Rationalists will balk at suggestions that the circles are SOS signals from pesticide-polluted Mother Nature, or patterns formed by the human collective subconscious. But what IS causing them?

Last summer, along with 30 Americans, I paid my pound (some farmers are doing very nicely out of the circles, thank you), closed my eyes and waited for the vibes. Nothing happened, apart from my hay fever playing up, but other people fainted, saw lights, tuned in to cosmic energies and reported that their camcorders had jammed. I got the giggles, but I was also convinced that the formation defied rational explanation. Bartholomew's book is compulsive reading, although his conclusion - 'a natural phenomenon being manipulated by an apparently intelligent source' - leaves you still in the dark.

CR: N. Oliver

UFO spotted flying over Beit She'an

CR: C. Hind POST, Jerusalem, Israel - Nov. 7, 1991

BEIT SHE'AN (Itim) - An unidentified flying object was observed over this town early yesterday, police reported.

"It was a shining object, quite large as compared to other objects seen in the sky at the time," the local police chief said.

District Superintendent Yitzhak Mordechai told Army Radio he was first informed about the UFO by a taxi driver at about 3:30 a.m.

The driver, Yossi Ben-Ha'ash, said the UFO resembled a shining half-ellipse.

"We came to the area where the UFO was seen, and we followed it while driving east," Mordechai said. "It was some 200 meters off the ground until the morning hours. Then, at about 6 a.m., it disappeared."

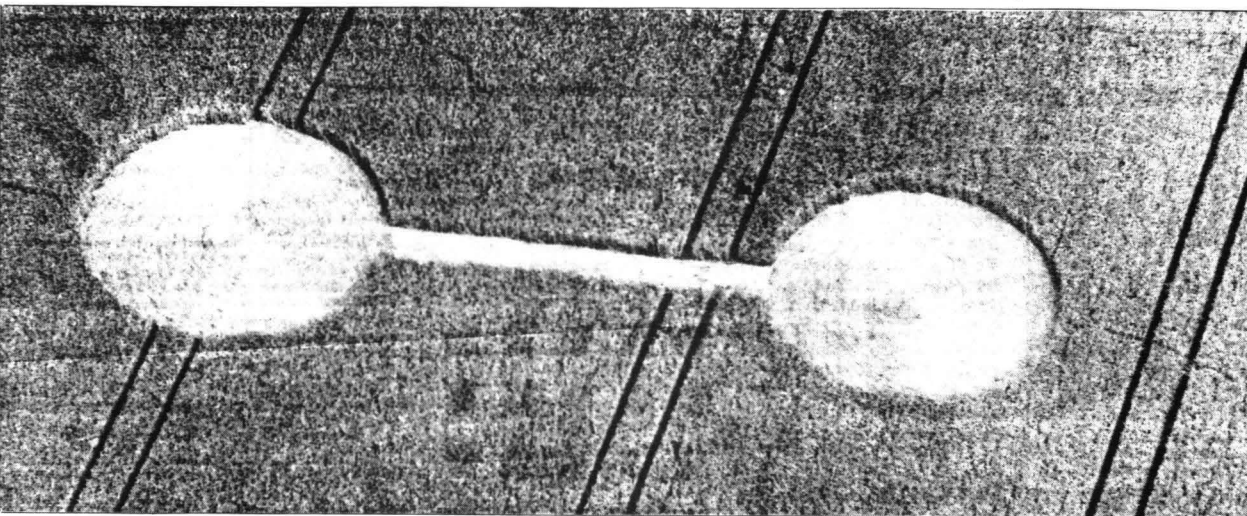
Asked to describe the mysterious object's flight, he said: "It moved to some point, stopped, made turns around itself and after several minutes moved in a northerly direction and then back to the spot where it had initially stopped."

"I cannot make assumptions and decide what it was. This is what I saw ... A police force was with us and they saw the same picture."

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds, England - Aug. 13, 1991 CR: T. Good 'UFO' spotted

POLICE and RAF chiefs are investigating reports of a UFO spotted in the early hours of today at Elvington Airfield near York.

The mysterious object - around 6ft tall by 20ft wide - was seen falling to the ground by a security guard who was on patrol at the nearby Elvington industrial estate. The guard said the object appeared as an aircraft overhead. He reported the incident to military police at RAF Church Fenton. They in turn alerted police at Selby who despatched two officers to the area but despite an intensive search around the control tower where the object was seen, nothing was found.



• Cornfield mystery. This dumbbell-shaped flattened area was spotted by a farmworker in a 30-acre field between Fordham and West Bergholt.

Cornfield mystery shape is back!

by JULIA COOPER

A DUMBELL-shaped "corn circle" has reappeared in a north Essex field almost a year to the day since it first appeared in the same field.

The flattened area of two distinct circles joined by a "bar" was spotted by a farmworker in a 30-acre cornfield

lying between Fordham, West Bergholt and Wormingford.

John Jinks, chairman of the Colchester branch of National Farmers' Union, who is working on the land as a contractor for owner Ian Kedar, said: "I am pretty open minded about these things."

"I thought it was the Young Farmers at first, but

there are a lot of people writing books about it now, so I really do not know."

Farmers all across Essex are keeping an eye out for more of the mysterious corn circles as they busy themselves with this year's harvest.

Mr Jinks said the flattened crops do not make much difference to over-all yields and this year's harvest was ex-

pected to be fairly average.

A disease of rape crop stems has affected plants considerably and the early summer rain looks to have had an adverse effect on barley, although the quality of wheat was looking "excellent."

"It does not look like it is going to be a record harvest, just another run-of-the-mill year," Mr Jinks added.

Strange lights in the sky

KENT & SUSSEX COURIER, England - Sept. 27, 1991 CR: T. Good

A MAN says he saw a UFO over Tunbridge Wells on Wednesday night.

It had large red rectangular rotating lights, and hovered over parts of the town, he claimed.

Patrick Syder, 28, a geologist, told the Courier the he and his friend Damian Payne are convinced they saw a UFO from a flat in Nevill Park, moving slowly over Hungershall Park shortly before midnight.

"We saw a single light, then it dimmed and moved off very slowly. The light changed to three rectangular panelled lights which were rotating. We could not believe it, it certainly wasn't any normal type of aircraft."

Mr Syder, who added that he and his friend had not been drinking, watched the rotating craft for about 30 seconds before it disappeared behind the trees.

But Tunbridge Wells police, although used to strange happenings in the night, said no-one had reported a UFO.

I have a lover from outer space

COUNTRY and Western singer Danny Endersen says silky-furred space aliens are helping him write music and lyrics about UFOs.

Danny, who lives in Oak Flats (NSW), claims the helpful humanoids have taken him on several starship trips during which they showed him remote planets and filled his head with ideas for songs.

One obliging ET even cured Danny's dog, Sam, of arthritis.

"Aliens have been in contact with me for much of my life," the 49-year-old entertainer told me.

"The visits began when I was a kid, living at Mt Keira (NSW). Sometimes, when I was playing outside, I'd suddenly be surrounded by a red mist. It would glue me to the ground for minutes at a time and I'd be unable to move.

"When I told my dad, who was a miner, he said I had too much imagination. But I came to realise I was in touch with cosmic beings.

"They began speaking to me, inside my head, as I lay in bed at night, telling me not to be scared as they were my friends. When I reached adolescence, the visits stopped. But then, in 1971, everything started up again in a major way.

"One night I was lying wide-awake in bed when a red whirl of light seemed to explode from the wall toward me.

"I felt myself being sucked upward at great speed, then found myself in a huge room whose walls were banked with instrument panels. Disco-type lights were flashing all around me.

"I was standing there, scared out of my wits, when a being, about seven feet (213cm) tall, in a skull cap and greenish costume entered. Without moving his lips, he told me to sit in a very strange kind of a chair. Then he placed his hand over my eyes, and pressed so hard that it hurt.

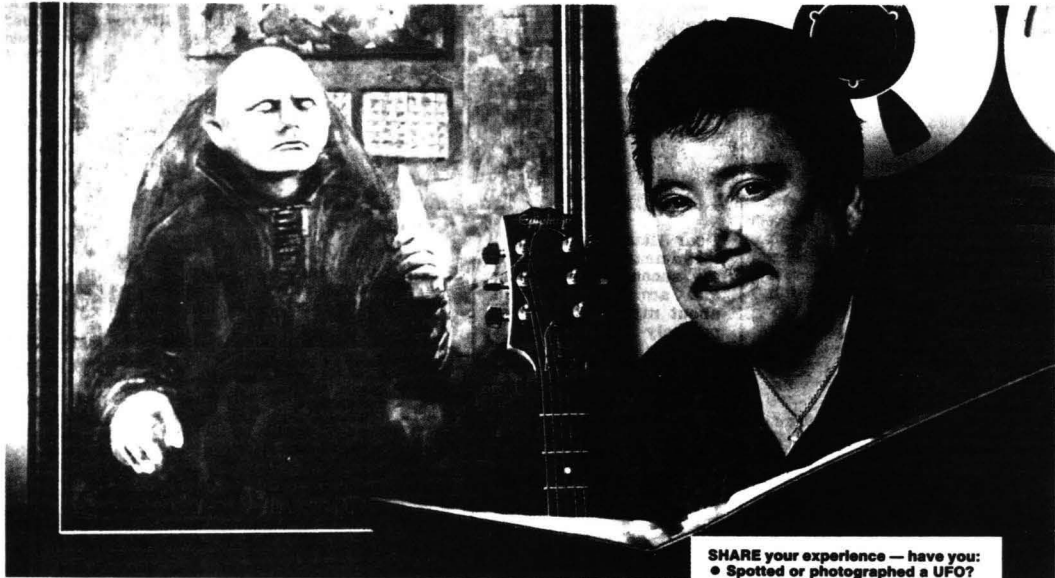
"Before long, though, the pain gave way to a beautiful, peaceful feeling and I knew I never wanted to leave that place. A moment later, I was back in bed.

"The clock on the dresser was so loud I had to pull the pillow over my head to deaden the noise.

"The pillowslip's contact with my skin was agonising. I went and looked in the bathroom mirror and was shocked to see that my face was blazing red and swollen.

"I began to cry uncontrollably. But I wasn't angry about whatever they'd done to me. Instead I felt humble, to be somehow connected with beings full of love and peace.

"Next day, under the shower, I noticed two marks on my chest that hadn't been there before. They looked like Egyptian hieroglyphics. I've never worked out what they



★ Musician Danny Endersen with a painting of one of his aliens.

mean and the aliens won't tell me."

Subsequent space journeys were pleasanter, Danny recalls.

"There was no physical pain," he says. "Instead, I was put through what seemed to be an accelerated learning process.

"I was introduced to a vast range of beings — some insect-like, some egg-shaped and others tall and covered with beautiful long silky hair, which they allowed me to stroke. Once they even showed me an abduction.

"They snatched a woman from a tribe living on a barren, rocky planet they called Monta. One of the silky beings explained that they planned to remove the hatred and aggression from the woman's mind. They dragged her, screaming and kicking, to an operating table, where they clamped a suction device to her forehead.

"Her expression was mild and peaceful when they returned her to the planetary surface. The aliens told me she wouldn't be making any more trouble for her people.

"During those voyages, the aliens talked to me for a long time, telling me how sad they felt about our cruelty to animals and the destruction of our planet.

"They sang and played gentle music to me and asked me to go home and turn it into songs, which I've been happy to do.

"The space beings have turned my life around, opening my mind to subjects I'd never even thought about before. And they're also capable of tremendous kindness.

"My old dog, Sam, was crippled with arthritis. He'd yelp with pain if anyone patted him. Much as I loved him, I knew he'd have to be put down.

"Then, one afternoon, while I was hosing the garden, I saw a mantis-like creature, about 60cm tall, coming out of Sam's shed.

"The big insect snapped off a view like a light going off and I rushed into the shed to make sure Sam was all right.

"He was more than OK. His coat was suddenly glossy and his eyes were brighter than they'd been for years. From that day, the arthritis has never troubled him."

Danny says the aliens' behavior often puzzles him. "One night, about six months ago, I heard a strange noise in the backyard," he says. "There was a squealing, like a small animal being killed, then the flapping of large wings.

"I went out with my cousin, Vi, to investigate, but could see nothing. Next morning, however, we found a sticky, brownish-yellow substance smeared all over the walls of the house. Nothing would remove the ugly stuff. But when we looked again next morning, it had van-

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.

ished completely."

Hanging on Danny's walls are paintings of aliens and their spacecraft which, he says, "posed to have their pictures painted".

"The space people have changed my life in a very positive way," says Danny. "They're not only helping me write some great songs, but they're also protecting me and my home.

"I'm just one of thousands of people around the world that they're using as a channel to spread their message."

Below is song Danny says he wrote with the help of aliens:

★ He says he's been on starship trips.

UFO, I hear you calling, UFO, when night is falling.

UFO, bring my baby to me. Way up high in the galaxy Comes a spaceship from afar. They look just like you and me — So don't be afraid; just let them be. UFO, I hear you calling, UFO, when night is falling. UFO, bring my baby to me. I have a lover from outer space With golden hair and a beautiful face. She visits sometimes at night And we make love till the morning light.



★ Aliens "posed" for a picture.

Men from space here on earth?

DR James McDonald, senior physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, speaking on the subject of extraterrestrial vehicles, said "There are certain patterns that suggest the UFOs are engaged in something of the nature of reconnaissance. I regard this as the number one problem before science."

In the Nato top secret report, The Assessment, which has now been leaked, it reported that some of the 'aliens' looked totally human — which caused intense concern as any of them could infiltrate Nato HQ and no-one would know the difference between them; this actually did happen on some occasions.

The report also concluded that if they were hostile they could take over the earth, but they 'appeared to be peaceful' and that 'they are unfolding a plan to

gradually increase contact with us before landing for meetings.' This, I believe, is what the huge increase in crop circles, pictograms, insectograms, etc, is all about.

On January 16, 1990, the Russian destroyer Vladimir Vorobyev, a 9,000-tonne ship, off the port of Vladivostok was involved in a UFO event when a 30ft long 'cylinder' rose slowly out of the sea with no sound.

Capt Nikolai Petrov, her commander, reported to naval authorities he had found evidence of an underwater base manned by aliens from outer space. Capt Petrov submitted a 160 page report of six more UFO encounters in a 20 square mile area in the Sea of Japan, to a special scientific commission appointed by the Soviet government to investigate UFOs. In this report he also de-

scribed a 600ft mother ship which he stated is the home in space for the underwater UFOs.

A Soviet exploration vessel near the Kamchatka Peninsula had her hull actually scraped by a UFO when it emerged from the sea. Dr Boris Azhazha, head of the special UFO commission stated: "The ship got quite a jolt as the spacecraft emerged. There was no damage to the ship or to its expensive electronic equipment, although everybody aboard was shaken up. The record of the incident was signed by the captain, every member of his crew and all 200 members of the scientific expedition aboard."

In 1989 I had the pleasure of talking with a famous Soviet para-psychologist, Dr Barbara Ivanova, whilst she was on a visit to this country. In her book The Gold Chalice, which she

kindly agreed I could quote from, she states: "In 1975 at the Theoretical Conference, Man and Cosmos, held at the Lomonosov Moscow University, I spoke at the section Problems of Contacts with extraterrestrial Civilisations, where I postulated that now, at our low technical level, our planet can establish the contact only in a parapsychological way."

"It is possible that representatives of some civilisations from other planets, perhaps from many of them, are here among us already. Perhaps they are — and have been for a long time — in constant contact with many people and 'interfere' positively in some areas of the scientific and social life of our planet through different means."

Marilyn Preston Evans
Saltash

UFO In Hungary

BUDAPEST (Reuter)—A saucer-shaped UFO escorted a truck driver to his home in northeast Hungary and "peeped" through the curtains, the Hungarian MTI news agency reported on Monday.

Driver Zoltan Bartus and a companion said they noticed the luminous object as big as a full moon following their truck near the village of Szecsényfalu early on Saturday.

They climbed into Bartus's house through the back window, hoping to shake the UFO, which shone a green beam into the room.

Bartus's family said that as neighborhood dogs howled, the UFO turned into a cigar-shaped object escorted by two smaller lights and disappeared.

CR: Y. Matsumura 15

From saucers to circles

Top UFO detective looks at a recent phenomenon

By Tamsin Curtis

FLYING SAUCERS and strange lights in the sky are nothing new to UFO enthusiast Margaret Fry — she's been investigating them for 46 years.

And recently Mrs Fry of Frys Croft, Parc Aelas, Llangernyw, has started investigating crop circles after two were spotted in Mochdre this summer.

She was deluged with so many calls from people interested in the local crop circles she organised a talk at the village school last weekend.

"I could never have squeezed everyone into my living room so I had a word with the headmaster and he said I could use the school."

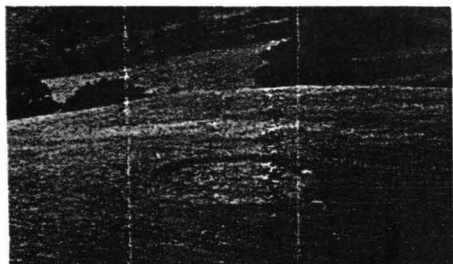
There are a number of theories to explain how the circles appear, which include wind vortices, soil fungi, UFO landing sites, and activity in ley lines, but Mrs Fry isn't entirely convinced what causes them.

"Your guess is as good as mine," she said.

Mrs Fry saw her first UFO in 1955 and she's been spotting them ever since.

"My son and I were with the family doctor in his car when it kept stalling. After three quarters of a mile it eventually stopped and a silver thing about 45 feet in diameter whoosed over the top of us."

"At one stage I thought it was going



A circle appeared in a field in Mochdre in September.

to land on us, but it passed overhead and was still for five minutes before it went off again.

"I got out of the car to watch. On the under side I could see three ball bearing wheels. It was quite extraordinary. My son who was eight and a half at the time remembers it vividly too."

She became a member of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and presently she is their regional investigator for North Wales, Merseyside, and the Wirral, and their senior investigator for Wales.



Mrs Margaret Fry has been studying UFO movements for 46 years

"I've had 40 sightings. If I can say this then other people can say what they have seen and the more people that do the better. People shouldn't be secretive about it."

Mrs Fry is kept busy investigating sightings, giving speeches, and attending conferences, but still finds time to take care of her disabled husband Ron, 54.

She says anyone interested in UFOs should contact BUFORA, or Contact International, who produce magazines and books on the subject regularly.

Crop circle enthusiasts will find it

useful contacting the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS) who also publish literature regularly. Libraries are also an invaluable source of information.

"If anyone sees a UFO they should report it to the police straightaway. Sightings shouldn't go unreported."

Mrs Fry says she is happy to hear from anyone who is interested in the subjects, and will gladly point them in the right direction.

She can be reached on Llangernyw 537 from the beginning of November as she will be at a Scottish UFO conference until then.

UFO sucks!

GREEN light flooded the cabin of a Queensland man's car when a circular craft attached itself to the roof.

Seconds later, the craft sucked the driver's sunglasses out of the window.

"It happened in 1970," says Jeffrey Spiro, Sunshine Coast sightings co-ordinator for Queensland's UFO research organisation. "The man, whom we've interviewed, was driving an old Humber Hawk along Kawana Road."

"Suddenly, the radio program to which he was listening was drowned in static. Then he became aware that a circular craft was hovering above the car."

"Before he could accelerate, the object had attached itself to the roof. He reports that there was sudden, tremendous suction."

"Everything in the car that wasn't bolted down — sunglasses, papers, a coat — were dragged through the open window. It was as if they were being drawn into a whirlpool."

"Simultaneously, the witness reports, the cabin was filled with bright green light. Strangely, the light seemed to seep right through the car's steel roof."

"This man regarded his experience as so fantastic that he said nothing about it for 20 years. It was only after reading about similar cases that he decided to speak to us."

"We suspect that there may be some 'missing time' involved in this incident — time in which the man might have been lifted into the craft."

● Investigators say this incident resembles the 1988 case in which a UFO allegedly tried to lift the Knowles family's car from an outback highway.

Mrs Knowles also referred to "suction" on her speeding sedan. When she reached out of the car's window, she felt "something rubbery" adhering to the steel roof.

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.

Riddle of droning red and green UFO

By Steve Anderson
NEWS REPORTER

AIR traffic controllers are baffled by reports of a multi-coloured UFO buzzing a farmhouse and terrifying a woman as she went to bed.

Housewife Liz Ibbotson and her eldest daughter, Fiona, claim that the mystery object darted low across the night sky before shooting straight towards their home.

The cross-shaped object, which appeared to be red, green and white, disappeared from view after hovering for about four minutes over farmland.

Staff at civilian and military airfields in the region are unable to account for the sighting.

And Mrs Ibbotson said she was convinced there was no straightforward explanation.

"I was absolutely petrified and at a complete loss to explain what it was," said Mrs Ibbotson (39), of Grange Farm, Sancton.

"This was no aircraft or a saucer-shaped craft and I've always been sceptical about such things in the past."

"But, although Fiona thought it was fantastic, I was very frightened. I just don't know what it could have been."

"I would love to hear that someone else had seen the same thing we did."

"I was absolutely petrified and at a complete loss to explain what it was."

Liz Ibbotson
Housewife



SKY SEARCH: Mrs Liz Ibbotson of Grange Farm, Sancton, near Market Weighton, searches the skies with her youngest daughter, Nicola, for another sighting of the UFO.

Mrs Ibbotson was in her bedroom when Fiona, (18), a receptionist at the Londesborough Arms Hotel in Market Weighton, told her to look out of the window.

"It was about 11.30pm and a very clear night, with lots of shooting stars," she said.

"We saw this green and red light which we thought was a plane at first. But then a bright light came straight at us at a fantastic speed."

"We rushed outside into the yard and saw this white light hover above the field at about the height of a pylon. After a few minutes, the light appeared to dim and the object, again red

and green, flew off.

"The only sound we heard was a soft drone, nothing like that of an aircraft."

Humberside airport, which closes down at 10pm, could not account for the UFO. And a spokeswoman at one of the region's principal RAF bases, Leeming in North Yorkshire, said none of its aircraft had been flying at the time.

"In any case, I can't think of any craft that matches this description," she added. "And something very low would not be picked up on radar."

RGIT student tells of mystery silver UFO seen over Deeside

□ IAN FORSYTH

AN Aberdeen student last night told about seeing a mystery silver flying object over Cults.

Mr Fergus Archibald (19), North Deeside Road, contacted the Press and Journal after reading about a Forfar woman's similar sighting on Saturday, October 5.

RGIT mathematics student Mr Archibald was in his garden

on Monday, September 30, when he saw a pill-shaped object in the sky at 4.20pm.

"It was at least 1000ft away and at least 1000ft up and I saw it for about four minutes."

"I didn't think it was a plane because there was no noise. I thought it was a weather bal-

loon, but I dismissed that because it wasn't fluctuating or deviating from its course."

Mr Archibald said it appeared to be going side-on to the wind.

He made an attempt to follow the object's course, but lost sight of it when the sky clouded over.

"I'm mystified as to what it was," he added.



Reported sightings of Virgin Mary span the globe

By Darris C. Blackford
Dispatch Religion Reporter

She might have ascended into heaven, but some people believe the Virgin Mary visits Earth.

Some claim they've seen her image near a Youngstown-area religious shrine, in a suburban Chicago cemetery and in a myriad places across the United States and around the globe.

Science and logic might debunk such sightings, known as Marian apparitions, as simply not possible.

But secular disciplines can't always explain things linked to a religious faith, such as Roman Catholicism, that allows for the possibility of miracles.

"It's all a question of the laws of nature," said Leo Madden, professor of theology at Ohio Dominican College. "A theistic view of reality is (that) nature is not a closed system. There's always the possibility that God will intervene."

Some people believe intervention by the Virgin Mary is taking place at the Society of St. Paul shrine in Ellsworth, Ohio, 10 miles southwest of Youngstown.

Since early June, several phenomena, including images of the Virgin Mary and sightings of the sun spinning and pulsating, have been reported at the shrine.

"I believe there is a miracle taking place out there," said Virginia Yatzco, 49, of Struthers, Ohio, who visits the shrine weekly to pray. "I haven't seen the Blessed Mother, but I have seen the sun pulsating. Our Lord works in mysterious ways."

The Rev. Jeffrey Mickler, spokesman for the society, said unfounded claims that miracles would occur at the shrine on certain days contributed to the society's conclusion that "nothing supernatural is happening on our property or on our grounds."

The Catholic Diocese of Youngstown hasn't taken formal action on the reported apparitions, said Jean Nero, the diocese's director of media and public relations.

Estimates are that thousands of Marian apparitions have been reported throughout the world since the Virgin Mary died nearly 2,000 years ago.

Such reports include everything from sightings of the Virgin Mary herself and claims about statues weeping to such phenomena as the sun spinning and pulsating and rosaries changing color.

Jesus Christ supposedly has made appearances as well. Reports include that his image showed up on the side of a soybean oil tank in Fostoria, Ohio, as well as in a forkful of spaghetti on an Atlanta-area billboard.

An authentic apparition is not simply a subjective interpretation of an event, says the book *The Dictionary of Mary*, "Behold Your Mother," but "results from a real, 'objective,' intervention of a higher power which enables the beneficiary to make true contact with the being that appears and makes itself known."

Sometimes, though, the reports are questionable.

For example, an article in the August U.S. Catholic magazine, citing the book *A Woman Clothed With the Sun*, says the Virgin Mary "seems to drop in only on Catholics."

The article and other writings also note that some reported Marian apparitions seem linked to events of the day, such as strife or social ills. Strong desires to have the Virgin Mary offer help for such problems might cause people to think she actually has visited.

Also, different accounts note, Marian apparitions sometimes are reported only after a priest or other church leader tells a person that's what they saw or experienced.

One of the greatest skeptics of such reports is the Roman Catholic Church.

Since 1830, only a handful of reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary have been authenticated by the church. These occurred at seven sites in three European countries — Belgium, France and Portugal.

It is up to the bishop of the diocese where an apparition is reported to rule on its authenticity.

Criteria used were updated in a 1978 "confidential document" of the Vatican's Congregation of the Faith, said the Rev. Rene Laurentin of France, who has taught at the University of Dayton's International Marian Research Institute.

The criteria include whether

enough information about an apparition has been provided, if it conforms with faith and morals and whether it leads people to God. Laurentin wrote in his book *The Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary Today*.

The seven places where authentic apparitions are said to have occurred include two well-known shrines — Lourdes in France, where reports date to 1858, and Fatima in Portugal, where apparitions supposedly occurred in 1917, says the book *Mother of Jesus*.

Fatima is attracting considerable interest given recent changes in the Soviet Union. Some believe the Virgin Mary referred to the fall of communism when she reportedly appeared to three children there more than 70 years ago.

Perhaps the most well-known modern-day apparitions, said to occur in the Medjugorje parish in Yugoslavia beginning in 1981, have not been authenticated by the church.

"On the basis of studies that have been made to this moment, it

cannot be confirmed that supernatural apparitions and revelations are occurring here," the Yugoslavian bishops conference said in November, reported Catholic News Service.

Numerous U.S. apparitions have been dismissed for failing to meet the established criteria.

These include reports from a woman in Bayside, N.Y., who said she received messages from the Virgin Mary beginning in 1975 that an impostor had been substituted for Pope Paul VI.

Still, a tape-recorded message that can be heard by calling 1-800-882-Mary (6279) says that "in recent times the Virgin Mary has been appearing at the sacred grounds of Bayside, New York, with an urgent message for the world."

Messages from the Virgin Mary reportedly received by parishioners of a church in Lubbock, Texas, in 1988, also were dismissed.

"Some of the messages ... portray an angry God in language that is strident, affected and makes one

question the claim to divine inspiration," said a report from a study, detailed in the Nov. 3, 1988, *Origins* magazine, published by Catholic News Service.

Among things studied were reports that the sun was spinning and pulsating, that people could look at the sun for a considerable amount of time without damaging their eyes, that rosaries changed color and that people were healed of illnesses, said the article, "Statement on 'Rosary Messages' in Lubbock."

"The limited phenomena we have been able to examine with sufficient analysis admit of natural explanations," the report says.

In Hillside, Ill., outside Chicago, the Archdiocese of Chicago says it has no evidence about Marian apparitions believed to have occurred at a cemetery.

"The Catholic Church proceeds very cautiously in matters concerning purported apparitions or visions," the archdiocese said in a July 26 statement. "The Church remains open to the possibility of supernatural occurrences; however, it would first presume natural causes to explain such reports."

Even if reported apparitions aren't authenticated, the claims still might prove positive, said the Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, who helped review the Lubbock apparitions.

"It can lead to a deepening of faith," he said.

At the same time, the influence of even authenticated apparitions is considered limited, said Jelly, professor of systematic theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland.

Even when considering a place such as Lourdes, where healings have occurred, "that does not become a dogma, which, strictly speaking, is a part of our divine Catholic faith," Jelly said. "These do not add anything new to Scripture or teachings which the Church is based upon."

Holy sightings

Since 1830, apparitions of the Virgin Mary reported at seven sites have been authenticated by Roman Catholic Church representatives.

RUE DU BAC (PARIS, 1830-31)
A woman studying to be a nun reports several visits by Mary.

LA SALETTE (1846)
Two shepherds, ages 11 and 15, claim Mary visited them.

LOURDES (1858)
A girl, 14, claims to see Mary 18 times.

PONTMAIN (1871)
Several children, ages 10 to 12, report seeing Mary in the sky.

FATIMA (1917)
Three children report six apparitions, including a solar phenomenon witnessed by thousands.

BEAURAING (1932-33)
Five children, ages 9 to 15, see Mary 33 times.

BANNEUX (1933)
A 12-year-old girl claims she saw Mary several times.

Sources: *Mother of Jesus*, *Mary in Faith and Life in the New Age of the Church*, *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.

Dispatch graphic



'Philadelphia Experiment': hoax or a scientific breakthrough

In the late 1980s, a movie was made about a U.S. ship and her crew that were mysteriously transported from one stateside port to another during a bizarre experiment involving magnetic teleportation.

Few people realized that "The Philadelphia Experiment," which went on to become a smash hit that year and remains a favorite on the videocassette market, was based on a real-life experiment conducted by the navy during World War II.

Knowledge about the strange event first came to light in 1956 when Maurice K. Jessup, astronomer and noted researcher of unidentified flying objects, received a letter from a man identifying himself as Carlos M. Allende. Allende claimed to have witnessed the astonishing experiment that supposedly sent the USS Andrew Fursenth from its dock in Philadelphia to the Norfolk-Newport News area in a matter of seconds.

Lost men

Allende also indicated that some of the crewmen aboard the ship had been lost along the way — that is, all or part of their bodies had failed to materialize upon completion of the experiment. Even some of those who survived were "mad as hatters," according to Allende.



E. Randall Floyd
Southern Mysteries

Allende also indicated that some of the crewmen aboard the ship had been lost along the way — that is, all or part of their bodies had failed to materialize upon completion of the experiment. Even some of those who survived were "mad as hatters," according to Allende.

Apparently the crewmen's ordeal didn't end with the experiment. In his letter, Allende indicated that months and even years after the event, men would "go blank" or occasionally fade

out only to reappear elsewhere.

After reading the letter, Jessup did what any good scientific investigator would have — he went straight to the Office of Naval Research to get to the bottom of the report. The Navy promptly denied knowledge of the story and insisted it had never conducted experiments in teleportation.

Cryptic references

Unknown to Jessup at the time, the government had also received a letter from the man purporting to be Allende. Among other things, the letter contained cryptic references to space research, UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence. It made rambling charges that the government was deliberately covering up its own investigation in those areas.

With the letter was sent a copy of Jessup's newest book, "The Case for the UFO," and the bizarre story of the Philadelphia Experiment. According to Allende, Jessup had some sort of "special or secret knowledge of UFOs and life beyond the Earth."

In all likelihood, Allende would have been dismissed as a crackpot and the mystery of the Philadelphia Experiment would have ended there had not a single tragic event occurred on April 29, 1959. That was when a Florida highway patrolman discovered Jessup's body slumped over his car's steering wheel in a Dade County park.

The authorities ruled it a suicide.

Friends of Jessup thought otherwise. Some insisted he had been murdered because he knew too much about governmental secrets — including the ill-fated Philadelphia Experiment.

Even today, more than three decades later, there are those who claim Jessup's information was correct and that he was about to go public when he died.

Governmental secret

Was the scientist on the verge of exposing some dark governmental secret when he died? If so, was he murdered?

These questions occasionally pop up in books, documentaries and lectures about UFOs and alleged government conspiracies to suppress information about the subject. The Allende letters are referred to often, as is the Air Force's abrupt decision to suspend its investigation of UFOs in 1969.

Several years after Jessup's death, a man claiming to be the real Carlos Allende confessed he had made the whole story up. In a speech in Tucson, Ariz., the man said he had only wanted to teach Jessup a lesson because the scientist's writings about UFOs "scared me."

Later, the man claiming to be Allende tried to retract his confession. Those who heard the speech later described him as a harmless eccentric, perhaps an impostor, whose wild theories could not be taken seriously.

Was this man the real Carlos

Allende? Or was he a government "fill-in" as some investigators of the Philadelphia Experiment maintain?

Other pieces of the puzzle remain missing as well. In his original letter to Jessup, Allende said that at least one newspaper had run a story on the Philadelphia Experiment. However, efforts to locate the missing story have been unsuccessful.

EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio,

TX - Dec. 3, 1991

CR: E. Martin



The Denver Post / Jerry Cleveland

HOLY VISION? Theresa Lopez claims to have seen apparitions of the Virgin Mary at the Mother Cabrini Shrine west of Denver. Hearing the report, many people have been going to the shrine.

Vision claim draws crowd to shrine

By Virginia Culver
Denver Post Religion Writer

A Douglas County woman's claim to have seen two apparitions of the Virgin Mary on a hillside west of Denver has reportedly prompted thousands of believers to visit the site.

Theresa Lopez said she saw Mary near the Mother Cabrini shrine on Oct. 13 and again on Nov. 10, when Mary offered her a verbal message for the world. At the end of the five-to-10-minute appearance, the Virgin opened her arms, walked toward Lopez and kissed her on the forehead, Lopez said in an interview yesterday.

Lopez said she replied, "I love you." A light then enclosed Mary and she disappeared, the woman said.

Officials at the Denver Archdiocese said they have only heard rumors of the apparitions and have not investigated the authenticity of Lopez's claims. At least two Denver-area priests have warned their congregations from the pulpit not to believe the reported sightings.

Lopez, a mother of three, said other mothers have since told her they have also seen Mary. She produced photos she said friends had taken of the apparition. The Denver Post decided not to publish those photos pending verification by experts. Editor Gil Spencer said yesterday.

Lopez, a longtime devout Catholic whose home is filled with religious memorabilia, said Mary was life-sized and standing on a gold pedestal. She was wearing a pink gown and a gold rosary dangled from her arm to the ground. On her head, Mary wore a veil and a gold crown, covered with sparkling lights.

"I first saw a very bright light, then the light opened and she appeared. I went to my knees," recalled Lopez. "She was so beautiful, with rosy cheeks and very, very deep blue eyes that just draw you in."

In both of Lopez's visions, Mary appeared down a small incline from the statue of Jesus at the Cabrini shrine. The statue is visible for miles to drivers eastbound on Interstate 70. Lopez said she often visits the shrine with her husband and three sons, ages 7 to 15.

On the Nov. 10 visit, Lopez said Mary gave her the following message: "Dear Children, you are chosen by God to encourage others, to be a light for people in darkness. Keep the faith, fast and pray. I come to save the world through you, dear children. Carry my Jesus in your heart. Great favors shall be rained upon you on my feast day. Gather in my presence for you, my children, are my angels."

She said she wrote the words down as soon as Mary vanished.

Lopez's husband, Jeff, and their children, were with her. Jeff Lopez said he didn't see Mary but believes his wife. Theresa Lopez was totally oblivious to those around her during the time she said Mary was there, Jeff Lopez said.

Lopez said it was the eighth time Mary has appeared to her in the past 18 months. In addition to the apparitions at the shrine, Mary has appeared at her home and in church while Lopez was saying the rosary, she said. She believes Mary's message is "that people need to come back to God, that Satan has a rein on the world and people need to return to the basic virtues. We need to give up materialism and striving for success."

Lopez, 31, is a former manager of a Wendy's restaurant. She said she will return to the Cabrini shrine on Dec. 8, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception. She said Mary told her to visit the shrine on the second Sunday of each month.

Word of the sightings has spread through the Catholic community and huge crowds have gathered at the shrine on alternate Sundays, recent visitors said. Many have arrived in wheelchairs, hoping for healings, one visitor said.

Lopez said she has no idea why Mary appeared to her. "I'm a nobody. For me to receive messages from her is overwhelming."

But some people are skeptical.

One priest, who asked not to be named, said such visions are "a self-centered kind of thing. It's like a spiritual form of winning the lottery. People grab at these kinds of things hoping they will have answers to all their problems."

Archdiocese spokesman Robert Feeney said only a few reported sightings worldwide have ever been believed by the church.

CR: E. Rager

Rural animal deaths feared work of cult

By Julie Lyons

OF THE TIMES HERALD STAFF

Fresh remains of a calf and several dismembered deer found in Parker County may be results of cult rituals, authorities said Friday.

They were among remains of at least 800 animals discovered in three secluded rural sites between Weatherford and Azle, said Reed Young, an investigator for the Tarrant County Humane Society.

Most of the animals were young goats and sheep, he said. Chickens and turkeys also were found.

The most bizarre find was a freshly killed calf — its sexual organs, tongue and an eye neatly removed — lying submerged in a shallow creek near the partial remains of several deer, Young said.

One deer "had been gutted but almost all the meat was left," said Young, who was called by the landowner on Wednesday to examine the sites. "Its heart was gone, and the stomach had been removed and set up on a hill with several deer legs around it."

The sexual organs also had been removed from the deer carcass, he added.

Also found at the site were several beer cans — in good shape and still with a bit of beer in them — and a paint bucket containing less than a pint of

blood. Young estimated the remains had been there no longer than 48 hours.

At two other sites in culverts, Young found animal carcasses in various states of decomposition. He estimated some goat skulls had been there about a month, while other remains were as much as a year old. On the fresher carcasses, he saw nothing obvious to indicate the animal's cause of death.

"It's real mysterious," he said. "I don't know what killed them."

Young said sheep, calves and young goats are significant in cult rituals, but no other signs of cult activity were found.

The landowner, who doesn't live on the property, found the sites Wednesday and is "very upset," Young said.

Authorities, worried about possible water contamination, are trying to determine where the creek leads. "With dead animals in the water, you're talking about disease," Young said. "There's no doubt other animals drink out of the creek."

Police said tests will be conducted to determine how some of the animals died. Until the results are known or the investigation turns up new information, the carcasses remain a mystery.

"We don't know if they were diseased and dumped there or if somebody was moving and wanted to get rid of their animals, or if there were satanic cults," said Parker County Sheriff Ben Whiteman. "We'll look into all of that."

"We don't know what's going on," Deputy Sheriff Allen Beadle added. "It's all very strange."

Kris Mullen of the Times Herald staff contributed to this report.

MORNING NEWS, Dallas, TX

Nov. 23, 1991 CR: E. Rager

Animal remains may be related to cult

■ AZLE — The remains of at least 800 animals, mostly sheep and fowl, have been found in Parker County and may have been the result of cult activities, authorities said Friday. Sex organs, hearts and other internal organs were cut out of some of the animals, said Humane Society investigator Reed Young. The remains of a deer and a calf also were found. Mr. Young said the animals appear to have been killed from Thursday to six months ago. He said he suspects the site is a dumping ground for the dead animals.

You beast, you!

This Big Foot fan is hot on the trail of his hairy, hidden hero

By BILL DONAHUE
Special writer, The Oregonian

Meticulously displayed in a large glass showcase, the thin lock of hair is dull black, the color of asphalt. To the untrained eye, it is not dramatic. To Ray Crowe, however, it is a strand of magic from the forest; it is evidence.

Crowe believes that this hair, which he plucked from a lofty snag in the Oregon woods, belongs to nothing less than a Big Foot.

And then he paces through the basement of his North Portland bookstore, Ray's Used Books, and points to several more scraps of evidence — a 20-inch hunk of feces, a few mangled sticks, and a plaster cast of a footprint that clearly was made by a large fellow not wearing Nikes.

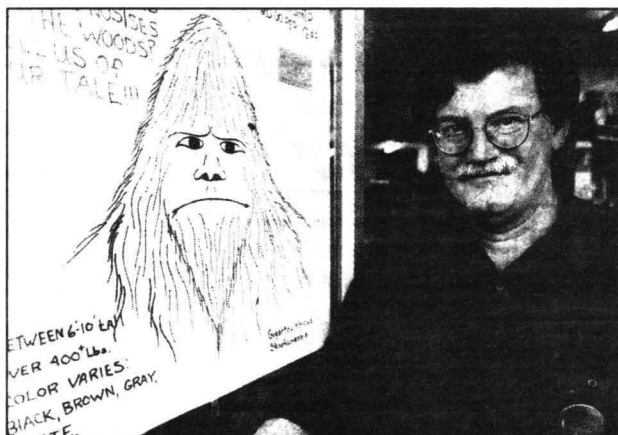
The basement collection constitutes a sort of Big Foot shrine — and it is only one testament to Crowe's fixation on his favorite primate. Early this year, the hulking merchant acted on his burgeoning obsession with Sasquatch, and founded the Western Bigfoot Society.

The group, which has about 25 members, meets once a month in Crowe's basement. Experts address the group from a lectern bearing the image of Sasquatch and intone about topics ranging from Big Foot's nesting habits to the elusive primates of the Himalayas.

But the bustling part of each session always comes after the talk. At a recent meeting, for instance, Datus Perry, a white-bearded farmer from Carson, Wash., turned on a tape. Out came the awful, muffled, roar of a Sasquatch on the rampage. He slouched nonchalantly through the worse-than-punk-rock recording, and then assured that he'd seen the mammoth primates lurking near his farm, again.

"Yeah," he said, "they dropped by my place and scooped up a couple of my mallard ducks. Those creatures come by so often that I get tired of crawling out of bed to chase them away."

Society members sometimes trek into the woods to study such claims. After all, says Crowe, their ultimate goal is to garner evidence; to bring their hairy hero back from the forest, alive. They haven't seen much except a few footprints. But that,



The Oregonian/DOUG BEGHTEL

Ray Crowe hopes to have a Big Foot all his own some day.

Crowe says, is to be expected.

"When you go with a group," he says, "you're distracted. When you go by yourself, however, that is when you find the stuff."

Crowe has spent the last 10 years making obscure discoveries in the bush. One time near Burns he found what he swears is the world's only existing fossil of a hazelnut. Another time he found the jawbone of an oreodon, an ancient creature which

is, more or less, the precursor of the pig.

The prized and yellowing piece of bone sits on Crowe's mantle. But it's a token of past glory, and Crowe has larger things on his mind now. Like Big Foot.

"I'm sure that that creature is out there, and I want to find him," he says. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could display an actual Big Foot specimen right there in the basement?"

Bigfoot in Magalia? Professor wants solid evidence

By Randy S. Foster
Staff Writer

Bigfoot's come out of 20 years of hibernation in Butte County. Locals in the Magalia-Stirling City area said they spotted Bigfoot this past summer running across a road in Magalia.

"I will be easily convinced," says Chico State University Professor and Bigfoot expert Turhon Murad, who incidentally doesn't believe Bigfoot exists. "All you have to do is bring me one."

No, not a photograph of Bigfoot, not a plaster cast of a footprint. Not even an eyewitness account.

Nope, Murad will be swayed only by the genuine article, a living (or dead) specimen of Bigfoot.

Now, Murad seems to be a sensible, educated man. He's chairman of Chico State's anthropology department and is an expert in forensic anthropology — a sleuthy field in which animal remains, usually human, are examined to determine identity and cause of death.

He's respectable enough for Northern California law enforcement agencies, which have called on him to help solve some of their trickier homicide cases.

Up to 1979, he also taught a summer-session class about Bigfoot, a class that drew attention from the press.

Murad researched Bigfoot,

compiled photographs and "evidence," and assembled other information in preparation for the class — not to sanction Bigfoot academically but "to debunk poor science."

Murad's expertise is called on from time to time as Bigfoot sightings occur.

As it happens, Bigfoot's sighting this past summer has, as a corollary, caused Murad to become a little more visible.

He was the guest of radio station KPAY's lunchtime talk show answering Bigfoot questions from callers.

On Sept. 12, he gave a talk at Chico State called, "Bigfoot: Alive and Well in Butte County?"

His conclusion to the self-questioning title was, well, no.

A faculty member went to the area of one summer Bigfoot sighting to seek footprints, but found none (granted, it had been a few days since the sighting, and weather could have erased the evidence).

It's been awhile since Bigfoot was big news in Butte County.

"1969 Was 'Year of the Sasquatch' in Butte County," bannered an Enterprise-Record headline in June 1970.

Butte County Bigfoots were sighted seven times in 1969, mostly in the Oroville area. The sightings came shortly after a new movie, "Bigfoot: Fact or Fraud" was screened in Chico.

Coincidence?

In 1969, a man in the Butte Creek Canyon area claimed to have shot a Bigfoot. A few days later a cow wandered out of the hills with a bullet in its rump.

Another sighting was recorded in 1975 by a 20-year-old man attempting to explain why he drove into a tree on Cherokee Road near Thompson Flat Road.

Folks are curious about Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch, Yeti, MoMo.

The clipping file of E-R Bigfoot stories is of average thickness, with most stories dating back before 1975.

One story, quoting a Bigfoot hunter, proclaimed Bigfoot would be captured alive within two years. That would be fine with Murad, but the prediction was made in 1969, and Bigfoot has still not been captured, alive or dead.

Sightings of similar creatures have come from Eastern Europe, Africa, Southern Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri (MoMo stands for Missouri Monster) — just about everywhere in the world.

"Wherever we find people we get reports of bipedal hairy man-like monsters," Murad said. "Heaven knows we see bipedal hairy man-like monsters every day in Butte County."

(Murad lumps all these creatures into a single category he calls "bipedal hairy man-like monsters.")

Northern California is a hotbed of Bigfoot sightings, especially in Trinity and Humboldt counties along Highway 299.

Willow Creek, on Highway 299 in Humboldt County not far from the Trinity County line, is rich — or thick, depending on your perspective — with Bigfoot heritage. Willow Creek has an annual "Bigfoot Daze" (yep, that's how they spell it). Sculptures abound, as do plaster casts of Bigfoot footprints, which local merchants will be glad to sell you.

But Bigfoot has even been seen in Ventura.

Those who've seen a Bigfoot say it smells awful. Footprints have ranged from 22-inches long to 13-inches by 6-inches (the first Yeti footprint photographed, in 1951 by a mountain climber).

Murad has an evolutionary theory about where Bigfoot would come from, if it existed: Gigantopithecus, an 8-foot-tall, 450-pound ape-like creature whose fossils have been found in northern India and southern China, the same area where Yeti, or the Abominable Snowman, is said to exist.

But Murad tends more to side with other explanations.

Some of these creatures may have been invented by parents as a tool to scare young children out of undesirable behavior — to stay, for example, out of the woods 'cause the bogymen's

gonna gitcha.

A "hairy one" is mentioned in the Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament.

Homer's Greek epics are littered with monsters, many of which actually existed but which are not considered monsters anymore, creatures that include elephants, giraffes, tigers and apes.

It wasn't until 1847 that the gorilla was scientifically classified, Murad said. The chimpanzee wasn't scientifically classified until 1916.

Bigfoots might simply be bears, which are fairly common in Northern California and which are quite big and hairy.

Bears trampling along at a certain rate have been known to leave footprints that combine front and rear feet, leaving a print that looks remarkably Bigfoot-like.

Murad speculates Bigfoot, which West Coast native Americans called Sasquatch, actually may have been Russian traders foraging, adventuring and marauding.

Draw your own conclusions.

A problem for people like Murad is that scientists can prove something exists but cannot prove something does not exist.

But to Murad, blood, hair, bone, guts and fecal matter do not a Bigfoot make.

"Upon examination of things like that, you can't say what it is, but you can say what it isn't," he said.

"In order to prove hair is hair from Bigfoot, you have to prove Bigfoot exists in the first place."

Likewise, plaster casts of footprints, photographs, videotapes and eyewitness accounts are also suspicious evidence.

People can be pretty clever these days, what with trick photography and all.

"I've seen 'Harry and the Hendersons,' too," Murad said.

The hardest evidence to refute is eyewitness sightings. Murad groups them according to three possibilities:

- Bigfoot is real, and the witness really saw it.
- Bigfoot is not real, and the "witness" is a fraud.
- Bigfoot is not real, and the witness is the victim of fraud.

"Of the three explanations, two make the witness look bad," Murad said. "I don't feel comfortable calling people liars or poor observers, but given the alternative, I'm forced to."

And, he adds, while testimonials are accepted in courts of law, they're not accepted in science.

He's not closed his mind, mind you. Wildlife biologists are discovering lots of new species and life forms around the globe, but they usually amount to a new fungus, or a different kind of damselfly — not new major mammals, especially apes.

BEACH BEE, Largo, FL - Oct. 10, 1991

PSYCHIC JOURNAL

by Judith Richardson Haimes



Pentacle Publications, 1991

Life on other planets

At last count there were some 100 billion stars in the Milky Way. Suppose only one star in a thousand had planets temperate enough to create the conditions for life. That means there could be 100 million solar systems in the Milky Way like our own ... capable of supporting some form of life.

Let's assume that only one in 1,000 of those one hundred billion stars have planets in their ecosphere or life-supporting orbit. And let's assume that in those 100 million solar systems only one in 1,000 are inhabited with some form of life. That leaves 100,000 solar systems in our Milky Way containing life in some form. Suppose only one in 1,000 of those contained human-like forms of life like ours. Even against those tremendous odds, 100 billion stars could produce 1,000 solar systems like our own, with suns like our own ... 1,000 civilizations. And many, or all of those 1,000 earths may have civilizations far more advanced than our own.

Let's say only one in 1,000 have

discovered earth. That's enough for some people who point to unexplained twists in our evolutionary process and mysterious traces of a super civilization which they claim are the handiwork of visitors from outer space.

Let's examine a smattering of the evidence. The earth's crust formed more than four billion years ago, yet science knows that man has existed only millions of years and only 7,000 years of our history has been recorded. A million years destroys every trace of metal, glass, plastic or paper. Yet even so, there remains stone ruins which defy explanation.

The Terrace of Baalbek, north of Damascus, is a platform built of stone blocks up to 65 feet long and weighing 2,000 tons each. Archaeologists have not been able to explain how or why it was constructed, but a Russian professor believes it is the remains of a gigantic airfield.

Ancient cave drawings depict man-like figures with helmets and suits resembling modern

astronauts. Photographs taken by Apollo 8 match ancient maps which show an aerial view of the earth. The accuracy of the Piri Reis maps, named for the Turkish admiral whose library preserved them, startled U.S. Navy cartologists.

Part of a belt made of aluminum was found in an ancient grave in China. Aluminum must be extracted from bauxite with tremendous technical difficulty.

There are hundreds of such mysteries which can be interpreted as being traces of visitors from another planet. UFOs are being sighted more than ever. Perhaps we can't say the ancient astronauts have returned, but I hardly believe we can claim that we're the most advanced civilization in the universe.

In November of 1961, 11 distinguished scientists met at an observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia to develop a mathematical formula, now known as the Green Bank Formula, to estimate the odds of life existing elsewhere in the universe. According to the formula, there are at any given moment as many as 50 million different civilizations trying to get in touch with us, or waiting, like we are on earth, for a sign from another planet.

Biological advancement also means psychic advancement. If communication with other planets is made, it may be first transmitted and received telepathically, from their minds to ours. Are you listening?

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Dec. 4, 1991

Shocking truth! They made it up!

By James Cox
USA TODAY

So Elvis never rode a UFO?

Apparently not. Lawyers for the Sun ("36 Pound Mom Has 24 Pound Baby") say the supermarket tabloid makes up most of its stories.

The shocking admission came in an Arkansas courtroom where the tabloid is being sued for libel by a 90-year-old woman the Sun identified as being pregnant. "Most reasonable people recognize that the stories are essentially fiction," Sun lawyer Philip Anderson told the court.

What about the other tabs?

"There's no way we'd make up sto-

ries" at The Globe and The National Examiner, says Phil Bunton, editorial director of Globe Communications Inc., which also publishes the Sun.

The Globe ("Tony Curtis' Sexy Gal is a Guy!") and The National Examiner ("Wanna get pregnant? Swim with a dolphin") are "definitely factual," Bunton says.

The National Enquirer ("LBJ killed Kennedy!") says it is mistakenly lumped with tabloids such as the Sun. "Time after time, we're proven accurate," says Iain Calder, editor in chief. "Five years later, (celebrities) come out and say, 'I did do drugs, and I did beat my wife.' We tell people when it's actually happening."

Same goes for Star magazine ("MacGyver Hunk Desperately Seeking Woman To Have His Baby"), says Editor Dick Kaplan.

"Look at a year's Stars and find one thing on UFOs, one thing on alien midgets giving birth, one thing on 8-year-old brides," says Kaplan. "You can't do it."

Kaplan and Calder aren't so quick to defend Weekly World News, also published by Enquirer/Star Inc.

Neither is Editor Eddie Clontz. Does Weekly World News ("Columbus Was Gay: Sneering sailors called the limp-wristed explorer 'Chrissy'") make up stories?

"No comment," he says.



THE TRUTH OUTS: 'Sun' stories are 'essentially fiction,' its lawyer says.

Family says Big Foot lives

By GREG SEUBERT

Of the News-Herald
TOWN OF FRANKFORT—Klaus and Rita Massman walked behind their home here earlier this week and pointed to an area of packed-down brush.

"Nothing was really on the ground but everything was flat," Klaus said in his thick German accent.

The Massmans were looking at an area on their property where they believe Bigfoot has been and recently stood.

Yes, Bigfoot. You know, Bigfoot, the huge, hairy, ape-like creature that dozens of people have claimed to see over the years, particularly in the Pacific Northwest.

However, there's no solid scientific proof that such a creature exists.

But don't tell that to the Massmans.

According to Rita, family members have seen the creature no less than four times since July 11.

The Massmans report seeing the creature roaming their 80 acres of wooded and swamp property along the Big Eau Pleine River, about three miles southeast of Cherokee County Park.

Rita said her family's encounters with what they are convinced is Bigfoot date back to July 9 or 10.

On that day, she said, her 10-year-old son, Raimund, asked her to come outside and see a "monkey's footprint."

Rita said she was skeptical.

"I said, 'I'm not going to go outside and look at a monkey's footprint. Now where are monkeys going to come from in the middle of Wisconsin?'" she said.

"Then, it started on July 11, with the first sighting," she added. "My son took his bike and parked it right there where the swings are. I wasn't home and my other kids weren't home, only my son and my husband."

"My son got scared," Rita added. "He let the bike go and he ran toward the shed way back there, and there was that thing standing, as tall as our shed."

The creature had "a big ape-like face," Raimund had told his parents that day.

"Like any curious kid, he decided to follow it," Rita said. "This thing ran off, and then he (Raimund) saw this piece of gray fur on the ground."

Rita said she came home from work and Raimund told her what had happened.

"I said, 'This is some joke, you know. This kid's thinking up some good fantasy,'" she added.

The creature returned the following day, she said.

Rita said she was resting down before work.

"All of a sudden, all of the dogs were barking," she said. "My son ran out with my daughter and he saw this thing stick its head out and he saw the whole face. It was a different color now, brown. He got so scared, they both ran in the house and told me and I got upset."

Klaus returned home a short time later.

"He got our neighbor, and they

"My son got scared.

He let the bike go and he ran toward the shed way back there, and there was that thing standing, as tall as our shed."

— Rita Massman

both went into the woods to hunt this thing down and they couldn't find it," Rita said.

After that incident, she said, she called the Marathon County Sheriff's Department. The Department, in turn, notified the state Department of Natural Resources.

"I gave them the sample of fur and asked them to find out what it is," Rita said. "They said it could be a dog, but none of my dogs are really gray, so that's left open."

Rita said the third sighting occurred on July 14.

"I came home from night shift and I went to the shed with the kids because I know this thing was out there and my daughter said she saw it," she said.

She said 12-year-old Monika saw the creature.

The Massman's fourth sighting took place on July 15, Rita said. Her son had burned his finger on a wafflemaker and was soaking his finger in cold water in his bedroom.

"He looked out the window and the thing ran right past the window," she said.

"The thing kept me busy all day," she added. "Everytime the dogs barked, I ran out looking for it."

The creature is sometimes seen in the afternoon and sometimes at night, according to the Massmans.

"We don't know what it is," Rita said. "If it were a human being walking, we could catch that person and say to get off of our property. This thing we can't catch, no matter where we go."

"It's outsmarting us," she added. "And it's strange. If it were a bear, it would have taken my goats and my beehive and it would have destroyed my chicken fence, but there's no destruction."

She added that the family has lived at the same location for eight years.

Klaus said he carries a machete on his belt.

"If it attacks me, at least I have something to fight back," he said.

The Massmans said they'd like to have another possible explanation, but they have none.

"Someone might be harassing us, but would would dress up in a monkey outfit and on stilts?" Rita asked.



Bigfoot as a neighbor?

Klaus and Rita Massman, rural Colby, walk through a pathway near their home that they feel was made by Bigfoot. The Massmans and their children report seeing the creature near their home at least four times since July 11. On July 21, Rita Massman reported the sightings to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department.

"The dogs wouldn't be afraid of it," Klaus added.

Rita said she didn't think the intruder is a bear, and Klaus agreed.

"We've heard bears in the woods before, growling and making noises, but this doesn't make any noise," he said. "It's quiet. That's what makes it unpredictable and in one way funny, because we can't explain it."

Rita admitted that their neighbors have trouble taking them seriously.

"They think we're crazy, but do you think I'm going to joke about this?" she asked.

"I'm from Chicago," Rita said. "I want a peaceful life. I don't want nosy neighbors. I want to do what I want to do. This is my paradise, but something's invading it right now."

She added that the appearance of Bigfoot in the area might have something to do with a reported unidentified flying object seen in the area about a month ago.

Robert Kocian, 17, said he was cultivating corn on his parents' farm in rural Colby at about 2:30 a.m. or 3 a.m. and noticed a large object above him in the sky, about a quarter of a mile away.

"It was kind of like a helicopter, but it had headlights," Kocian said.

"I don't know if it had anything to do with the Massman's reports of seeing Bigfoot," he added. "It was kind of weird."

Rita said she had heard about the incident at about the time when she and her family first began seeing Bigfoot.

"He was on the tractor and he saw this thing with lights hovering over the barn," she said.

"He shut off the engine of the tractor and there was no sound from that aircraft, no motor," she added. "He watched it closely and then it zoomed off."

came running up and bounded into the back seat where it cowered.

The Para-apes: Yes, I know you are never going to believe this. Only those who have smelled the foul odor, heard the bellowing, a baby cry or scream, or have seen the great footprints, or glimpsed the 200-500 pound, 6-12 foot tall, usually red glowing eyed ape-like creature will believe. In 1976 Dr. Hynek, former Air Force consultant, invited me to present a research paper on this type phenomena at the CUFOS International Conference. These creatures, a bio-etheric creation of the intelligence behind UFOs, are global in scope. There are 25 known cases in Indiana. Like ghosts, the para-apes are not known to seriously harm anyone.

Sylvia Scott: Now back to the girl who glowed. A total of 7 persons had seen the apparition before my nephew and I made our attempt. It takes guts to ghost-watch in the silent darkness, even sitting in an auto. Sylvia toyed with us. It was my nephew who first felt her brief gentle touch in his right outside ear canal. Of course I thought he was imagining things. A little later the same thing happened to me. We were disturbed and puzzled but we didn't leave. This unforgettable touch awakens one to how things are in the spirit realm. There she was inside the car in unseeable disembodied form and thankfully, we couldn't see her. Think how it could have been had she not stayed in this state. A glowing spectre suddenly appears next to you in a car. If not fatal it would scare the

Cable-TV host thinks aliens built Sphinx

By Steve Ryle

Glendale News-Press

Recent scientific findings have cast doubt on a long-held theory that the pyramids and the Sphinx of ancient Egypt were built by the pharaohs, and added fuel to a Glendale man's belief that the amazing structures were built with the aid of aliens.

"There are many UFOlogists claiming the Sphinx and the three great pyramids were built by alien beings and are far older than believed, and this information supports that," said Dr. Franklin Ruehl Jr., a nuclear physicist, lecturer, author and host of the public-access cable TV show, "Mysteries from Beyond the Other Dominion."

Reputed Boston University geologist Dr. Robert Schoch announced last week his research had led him to believe the pyramids and Sphinx are 9,000 or more years old, roughly twice the age scientists had previously judged them to be.

Many archaeologists believed they were built roughly 4,500 years ago by the great pharaohs as their own burial monuments, but now must entertain the possibility they were erected for entirely different reasons, including the possibility that the three pyramids were used as a base station for spaceships, Ruehl said.

"This shows there had to be a more advanced society that helped the Egyptians build the great pyramids, or perhaps the aliens themselves did it," he said.

Ruehl's cable TV show began in 1984, and he said he discussed the possibility of alien involvement in building the Egyptian monuments in an August 1984 episode.

Now, armed with new evidence, he plans to revisit the subject in his seventh anniversary show, to be taped this weekend and aired sometime in November.

The Sphinx is thought to bear the face of the pharaoh Khafre. Many scientists believe Khafre built the giant cat-like creature, along with the second of the three pyramids, around 2500 B.C.

Ruehl cautioned that the new information does not constitute proof that extraterrestrials had a hand in the mysteries of ancient Egypt.

"But I think it strengthens that argument, since other archaeologists admit they have no explanation," he said.

very bejabbers out of you. Later, when she appeared on the iron bridge then began to move in our direction. I thought she would glide right by us like she did one other couple. Your pulse shoots up and you go into a frozen awe state. She passed diagonally in front of us and there was that plaid skirt and white blouse that other witnesses had reported. In my later investigation, without knowing what had been seen, an uncle and second suitor, remembered that Sylvia often wore this apparel.

I don't think the apparition or the ghost light, which I believe were one and the same, are in the area anymore. Perhaps Sylvia realized her earth bound error and moved upward toward the eternal light. If all I have written here troubles the mindset of those who would rather not face reality, maybe you will stir from your slumber. In any event if I were you unbelievers out there I would keep whistling in the dark.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Donald Worley, 1051 Beech Street, is well-known for his interest in and investigations of reported sightings of UFO's in this area. He is the author of numerous articles and books on the subject and has been interviewed many times by TV stations and newspapers.

NEWS-EXAMINER, Connersville, IN - Oct. 31, 1991 CR: D. Worley

Some True Local Night Hauntings

By DONALD WORLEY

This article is to those who mistakenly think ghostly phenomena are all tales of fiction.

For some years I was a field reporter for the Psychical Research Foundation of Durham, North Carolina. I speak from both case and personal experience and assure you that this transitory, etheric phenomena is all too real. On the shocking night I beheld the gliding apparition of a girl I'll call Sylvia Scott, the stunning truth was undeniable. Let me briefly mention a few of the better cases and then I'll return to the eerie spectre in the creek valley. I cannot reveal names or exact locations. All facts are from the original witnesses.

The Frightening Lady In Red: It was late and she should not have been walking alone on this isolated county road in southern Wayne County. Anyone would stop to see if there was problem. But her face was not there! It was just a flat plain. Then what would you do?

Attractive Rosalee: At first she could see through him. Then her more solid admirer began to appear across the front room in the evening after her husband had gone to work and the children were in bed. She managed to control her rising fear until the evening he instantly appeared beside her as she sat reading. His cold touch on her neck was too much.

Haunted Ann Adams: She moved to 7 homes in 15 years trying to escape the poltergeist manifestations around her. Once she got doctor-ordered shock treatments to try to remove her certainty that her daughter-in-law would be killed in a car wreck. It happened as she had foreseen. On my last trip to help her she peered out of the window of her spooky rural Preble County home with her strange eyes, and I really would have rather gone back home.

Cry Woman Bridge: This situation involved a bridge not far north of here. A crash at a crossroads and a dying woman lifting her head for a last frantic look for her baby was the

catalyst of all this. Later we have a volleyball-sized ghost light, a moaning robed ghost, and a number of drownings in a small area. One was quite mysterious.

Mrs. Hale's Ghost Light: This brilliant eerie orb could zip at blinding speed and stop on a dime. It inhabited a region not far southwest of this city for a number of years. There were some 22 persons who saw or had encounters with it, and one wonders if it might not just have been lonely. The fiery sphere followed one couple 22 miles one time and 8 another. It had a special attachment for Mrs. Hale. Was it because she regularly drove alone into the area late at night? For several years it often paced her from as close as 50 yards away.

One night as she started to turn off U.S. 52 she foolishly blinked her lights at it. The spook light zipped closer, then sped ahead of her down the road. Mrs. Hale was seized with chills when she saw her iridescent friend waiting for her over her driveway. As she sought the neighbors help, her dog