

# UFO

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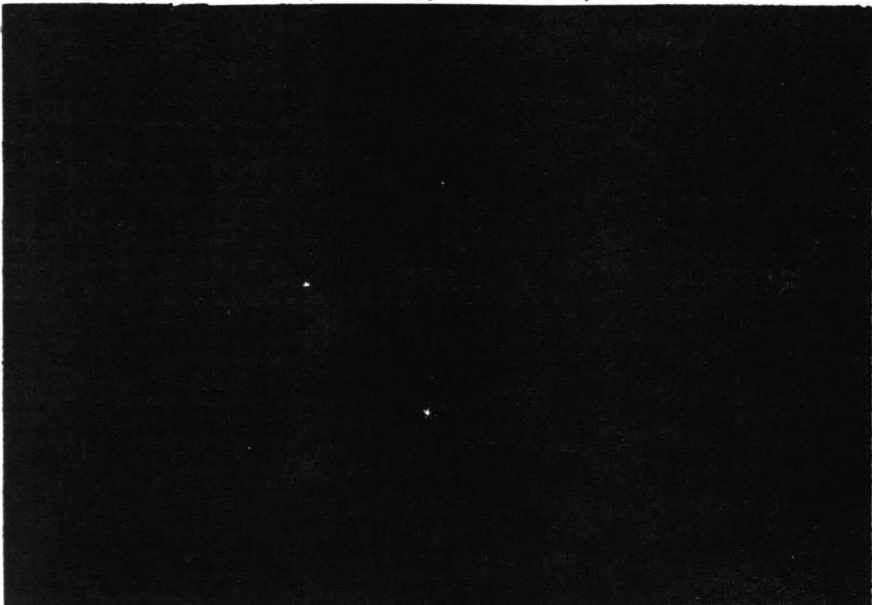
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Jane Matthews of Victoria, below, took the above picture which she says shows an alien spacecraft. She describes the object, seen in the right center of the photograph, as "a metallic turquoise color ... oblong, with touches of orange."



## Victoria woman says extraterrestrials exist

TIM DELANEY  
Advocate Staff Writer

There is a life force above us, watching with great concern as we heap abuse on our environment, according to a Victoria woman who says she has photographed their ships and had contact with them.

Jane Matthews says they are not from Earth, but since this planet's environmental health is tied to that of the rest of the uni-

verse, they have an interest in us.

For years, she says, she kept secret her repeated sightings of alien spacecraft, only occasionally sharing an experience with a friend or family member. "I had always thought it was a personal thing and kept it to myself because of the type reaction it would get."

But now, she says, "I've come forth." Why?

Because she says somehow these beings have impressed upon her a crucial message for the world. "I am convinced that what we do as individuals affects the total population of the world and that what we do on the planet Earth affects the entire solar system."

She says the presence of these ships "indicates to me there is some need to either monitor our environment or to communicate a need to be conscious of other life greater than planet Earth."

Jane Matthews begins her story five years ago, when she was living with her family in Seguin. She says that was when an unexplainable "awareness" of this life force began. She says it gave her a hunger for knowledge, and she began to study the sky.

Often, she would take pre-dawn walks to photograph the beautiful colors of the Central Texas sunrise.

And it was in 1988, while studying one such photo, that she says a "ship" first appeared on her film.

She had not observed the ship with her naked eye while taking the photo. "The object was a metallic turquoise color and it was oblong, with touches of orange."

From that point on, Matthews says she began to look for the object in the sky, and successfully photographed it numerous times. "As time went by, I found that it was more visible at night. The ship I photographed was not the only ship in the sky. At one time I sighted as many as eight."

Matthews says she has over a thousand photographs of various objects in the sky taken with different cameras since that first sighting.

Sightings — that's all there was to it for a time. But then, later in 1988, that all changed dramatically.

Matthews says her contact with these entities was taken to a new level one day as she was photographing a ship from inside her home in Seguin.

She describes an "abnormal" light filling the room and a radiant warmth all around her.

"I felt as though an electrical current was running through my body, and I can only speculate as to what it was. It was as though the object I was filming wished to communicate something to me."

Since then, Matthews says, she has had similar feelings of communication from the beings. It is not something easily explained, she says. It is not telepathic, but more a sense that she begins to understand new things after the contacts.

And she says she has no clear recollection of the beings themselves.

But because of the repeated contacts, she says she is now convinced that the environment is the central concern.

She says the experiences with these beings have enriched her writing and her art. It has come through especially in her poetry, which often pleads with mankind to place greater concern on the ecology.

And Jane Matthews is not alone in what she says she has seen.

Not long after her initial contacts, Matthews left Seguin on a trip with her daughter, Diana Kipfer of Austin, and friend, Jean Barrera of Springfield, Mo.

And near Albuquerque, N.M., they all say they saw something they will never forget. In separate interviews, Matthews and the other two women gave identical accounts of the incident and identical descriptions of what they saw.

It began just after midnight as they were driving along an interstate highway in the mountains overlooking Albuquerque. "There appeared to be a lot of traffic out and I realized that all the cars and trucks were pulled over by the side of the road," said Barrera, who is a medical lab technician.

Matthews' daughter Diana said, "I remember all the trucks pulling off the road. We were in the left lane and couldn't see what was on the other side."

But when they got beyond the parked convoy, they saw it. "It looked like a huge plane or ship hovering over the city," Kipfer said. "It was bigger than anything I've ever seen."

Barrera added, "Hovering above Albuquerque, all you could see were the lights on the bottom. It made no sound. Then, just like a flash, it dipped down and lights coming off the top could be seen."

"It moved as if it were going down into Albuquerque, and vanished. I feel it turned its lights off."

Barrera said they continued on and "found a motel that was kind of in the area where it had dipped."

The three women began carrying their luggage into the room. Then, as they looked back up toward the interstate highway, "Those wild lights were back," Barrera said. "We waited until morning to see the area where the lights were coming from. It was totally open sky there where we had seen the lights."

They got in the car and "drove to where we felt like it could have been," Barrera said.

"There was a huge flattened area of grass."

The periodic contacts between Jane Matthews and the watchful beings continue to this day, she says.

She has begun to speak to groups of people about her experiences, despite her fears about how some people would react.

But she says early efforts have been well received. And she will continue to speak out, hoping to spread what she sees as an all-important message: "The ecology is the area we need to address."

Matthews says others who want to see the ship she describes need only face the western horizon and look upward about 40 to 60 degrees. Then, the viewer should look about 35 degrees toward the south. She says the ship is up there most nights.

Matthews expresses a contentment that has grown in her through repeated contacts with the life force. It has become very important to her, and is the subject of much of her recent writings.

"The ship is always near ..."

ISLANDER, Pensacola, FL - Dec. 20, 1991 CR: E. Walters

## Researchers Continue To Document UFO

By GARY WATSON

Each night a team of Mutual UFO Network investigators set up equipment and scan the skies over Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach in search of the now famous "Gulf Breeze" UFO.

Scientist and military experts have joined in the research trying to identify the elusive UFO. "There is no longer any question that something is there," said a retired Navy pilot. "The only question is 'what is it?' I have flown our military's most high tech jets and this UFO can do things that are unbelievable. In fact I wouldn't have believed it if I had not seen the UFO for myself."

The Research Team gathers nightly at the south end of the Bay Bridge and sometimes at Shoreline Park. The most recent sighting was December 10, 1991 when the UFO suddenly appeared over

Gulf Breeze at 7:01 p.m. and again at 7:50 p.m. Video and 35mm cameras were used to record both sightings, each lasting for over three minutes. Typically, as was the case on this night, the UFO suddenly appears and often seems to be streaking into the atmosphere getting brighter and larger as it appears.

A special parabolic microphone is used by the investigators to record any sound that the UFO might give off. Even though the microphone can easily pick up the sound from helicopters and airplanes over two miles away, to date, no sound has ever been recorded during the over one hundred UFO sightings since January this year.

Art Hufford, a scientist who works at Monsanto, has volunteered to help with the investigation. Ray Pollock, an optical expert, also has agreed to help and

after a year of study and on location sightings, they both agree that the Gulf Breeze UFO is real, but have no conclusion as to what it is or where it is from.

One of the latest photographs taken of the UFO shows the outline of an object that the researchers agree is remarkably similar to the UFO so often photographed by Ed Walters when the local sightings began in 1987.



Left, an artist's drawing of an alien based on description provided by Betty Andreasson Luca, the subject of Raymond E. Fowler's latest

## Hey, E.T., phone your students!

By TOM DALTON  
Item Staff

DANVERS — A middle-aged woman in the back of the college classroom raised her hand to ask a question.

"Yes," said teacher Raymond E. Fowler, nodding in the woman's direction.

"What about the skin?" she asked.

"The skin, for the most part, of the small beings is a grayish color," replied Fowler as the woman scribbled the answer in her notebook.

During the course of a two-hour class, Fowler fields many such questions: What do they look like? How tall are they? How do they communicate? What are they doing here?

"They" are alien beings, creatures from some distant

universe who have come to Planet Earth for some as yet undetermined purpose. They travel here in unidentified flying objects — UFOs — and sometimes abduct human beings in order to conduct scientific experiments.

The class that meets Tuesday nights at Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute is not a course in science fiction. It is, according to Fowler, about real life.

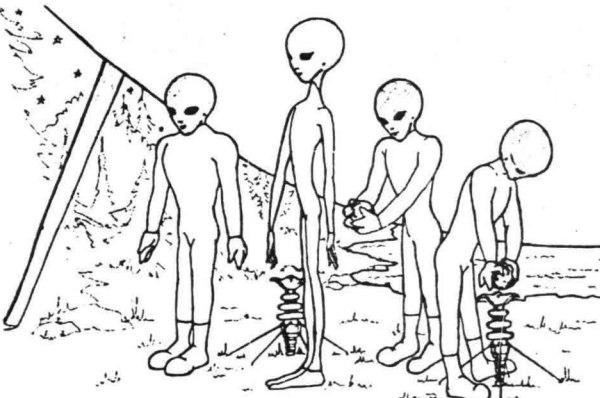
Real UFOs. Real aliens. Real abductions.

The class is not sponsored by some pseudo-scientific outfit like "North Shore Friends of Aliens." It is offered as a fall semester course by the Community Services Office of North Shore Community College.

"The Watchers," the title of the course and Fowler's latest book, is one of several classes on



book, "The Watchers," the text used in Fowler's course at North Shore Community College. Right, Fowler in his Wenham observatory.



Aliens conduct experiments on Earth in an illustration taken from Raymond E. Fowler's book "The Watchers."

psychic phenomena available this fall from NSCC. Other subjects include "Reincarnation And Your Past Lives," "Teaching From Spirit Guides: Changes And Transformations," "The Tarot," and "Armchair Travel To Mysterious Places."

Fowler, 58, a retired manager with GTE Strategic Systems Division, has taught courses on UFOs for several years at several North Shore colleges. The Salem native and Danvers High (1951) alumnus is a magna cum laude graduate of Gordon College who formerly served with the U.S. Air Force security service.

His first sighting of a UFO occurred on July 4, 1947. As a 14-year-old working on the former Wrest Farm in Danvers, located at the future site of Liberty Tree Mall, he says he spotted a "flying disc" in the sky. Just three days later the Salem News ran a banner front-page headline, "Flying Saucers Reported Seen in Beverly, Wenham," apparently based on other similar sightings.

In the 1980s, Fowler underwent several hypnosis sessions centering on experiences he had as a boy in his Danvers home. The sessions convinced him that he had some sort of contact with aliens as a child. He says he had an "abduction experience," but stops short of saying categorically that he was abducted. Whatever, he certainly is a believer in UFOs.

"There are machine-like objects violating our air space and we can do nothing about it," he said during an interview last week before his evening class. Asked if abductions are real, Fowler said emphatically: "I know they are..."

At the same time, however, he admitted these are difficult subjects to discuss with anyone who is unfamiliar with the U.S. government's long history of UFO research and the available studies and investigations on the subject.

Fowler, a Wenham resident and father of four children, has spent 25 years studying UFOs. He is national director of investigations for the Mutual UFO Network, a private organization which follows up UFO sightings, and has appeared on more than 100 radio and television shows including "Dick Cavett" and "Good Morning, America."

He is the author of several books on UFOs including "The Andreasson Affair," the story of what UFO proponents claim is the landmark abduction of Betty Andreasson Luca from her bedroom in Ashburnham, Mass. Universal Studios has bought the movie rights to the book. His books have been translated into German and Polish.

His current course through NSCC is based on his latest book "The Watchers," published last year by Bantam Books. Based on Mrs. Luca's alleged abduction, the book suggests that aliens are here to conduct genetic experiments as a result of the threatened extinction of the human race due to pollution of the environment.

"I'm not saying I buy that," Fowler said of the genetic theory reportedly revealed in the many hypnosis sessions with Mrs. Luca. "I'm a reporter..."

Fowler prepared for class last week like a typical teacher. He wrote key words on the blackboard, set up the slide projector and tape recorder, and placed a small sculpture on his desk. The only difference is that the tape was a dramatic recording of an interview under hypnosis with a man who claims he was abducted, and the sculpture was of a typical alien with an inverted pear-shaped head and gray skin. As the class of 10 adults settled into their seats, Fowler said: "This evening we're going to move from the Andreasson Affair to the Andreasson Affair phase two..."

After he spoke for a few minutes, he turned out the lights and began playing the tape and showing slides of an artist's depiction of the abduction.

Down the hall at Essex Aggie, noises came from another evening class. In Fowler's room, the students sat in rapt silence.



Marina Popovich, conference attendee, is an ex-Soviet test pilot.

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - Dec. 8, 1991 CR: J. Laurino

## Dauntless UFO buffs keep the faith

UC symposium tackles crop circles, abductions and the medical uses of landing sites

By Keay Davidson  
EXAMINER SCIENCE WRITER

BERKELEY — Although scorned by the scientific community, rejected by the U.S. government and embarrassed by hoaxers, flying saucer fans haven't lost hope.

In fact, they're looking more and more like a bustling subsidiary of the New Age movement, judging by the starry-eyed chatter at a UC-Berkeley conference on UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

At the Soviet-American UFO/E.T. (extraterrestrial) Symposium on Saturday, hundreds of saucer buffs heard about the religious meaning of "crop circles," the medical uses of UFO landing sites, and the psychiatric importance of coming to grips with saucer "abductions."

Colin Andrews, a perky Englishman, described his religious experience at a "crop circle" — one of numerous circular depressions in fields that saucer buffs blame on UFOs.

Andrews recalled praying, "God, if you could only give me a clue what this is about." Then the air briefly filled with a "noise of tremendous power."

Now Andrews travels the globe investigating crop circles, which come in bewildering varieties — "more than 100 patterns" — and seeking guidance from "aboriginal" peoples such as Hopi Indians, who tell him the circles have something to do with ecological woes: "The Earth is crying. ... The ozone problem is only one problem you're being told about."

He scoffs at two Englishmen's admission, widely reported in September, that they had faked many

"circles" by flattening the crops with planks and ropes: "After (my) 10 years of intensive work, to have the media write it off so quickly is quite a blow."

Also at the conference, ex-Soviet test pilot Marina Popovich claimed Soviet scientists had placed a blood sample inside a purported saucer landing site; the blood underwent chemical changes. Perhaps crop circles could be used for medical purposes, she said.

Vendors sold UFO literature, including a magazine (\$6.95 apiece) that showed a color photo of an alleged dead saucer occupant with a "somewhat Oriental appearance."

The first "flying saucers" were reported 44 years ago, and the fad's evolution has mirrored larger trends in society, politics and culture. In the 1940s and 1950s, psychologists attributed UFO sightings to Cold War jitters. Some feared aliens might be more dangerous than the "Commies," and a few Air Force jets fired at UFOs.

But as the Cold War wanes, environmentalism waxes and the New Age movement invades shopping malls and Yuppie-dom, UFO-o-gists haven't ignored which way the wind is blowing.

One could almost hear the crystals tinkling as conference official Rose Cerovski said UFOs somehow symbolize the need for "ex-

panding your humanness — respecting the universe. This means an Earth without violence ... an Earth whose natural resources are respected."

A flyer distributed at the conference claimed "many people report having been abducted and harmed by ... beings from other places in the universe." Result: they suffer "enormous anxiety, immobilizing depression and disorientation."

But for a mere \$150, they can overcome their grim memories by attending a Sunnyvale workshop where counselors armed with dowsing rods will help you "view yourself as a person who lives in an infinite universe filled with infinite possibilities."



# CRASH AT ROSWELL: UFO COVER-UP?

## Locals shed light on 1947 mystery

**F**or former Project Blue Book officer Col. William Coleman, the bizarre allegations are old and familiar: a flying saucer torn to shreds over a New Mexico desert, the recovery of its non-human occupants, a government cover-up. Until now, the plotline has evaporated harmlessly into the mists of unsubstantiated folklore and tabloid grist.

But this year, the release of an exhaustively researched book called *UFO Crash at Roswell* (Avon Books, \$4.95) has pushed the 68-year-old Indian Harbour Beach resident into a defensive posture. If accurate, the account would render Project Blue Book — for which Coleman was public information officer from 1961 to 1964 — incomplete, if not irrelevant.

Blue Book, the official Air Force study of unidentified flying objects, ended its 17-year-old investigation in 1969 after concluding the phenomenon was too ambiguous to warrant further government scrutiny. It contains no mention of what is now widely known as the Roswell Incident.

But after gathering testimony from more than 200 people, authors Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle have reconstructed a scenario which contradicts the military's longstanding contention that its investigators mistook a weather balloon for a flying saucer in July 1947.

Coleman is skeptical of the book's conclusions and critical of its loosely structured style. But he has no explanation for why the Roswell case was omitted from the Blue Book files; when asked if it should've been included, he replies: "Absolutely."

"The thing is so smoky now, and so cold," Coleman says, "it's like trying to solve a 40-year-old murder mystery. But if it's true, you've still got enough living witnesses to open a congressional investigation. If it's true, this is obviously the story of the century, the millennium."

At least two key players live in Florida. One is former counter-intelligence agent Lewis Rickett, who resides in a St. Petersburg-area retirement complex. He claims to have personally handled the controversial debris.

The other is a retired general who says he helped deliberately mislead the news media at a press conference in 1947.

"We didn't know what the hell it was. Nobody knew," he says from his home in Winter Park. "But I can tell you this — it damn sure wasn't a weather balloon."

His name is Thomas Jefferson DuBose, the former commander of the old Orlando Air Force Base; he spent World War II as director of the Army Air Corps' training command for the thousands of young pilots who bombed the Axis powers into oblivion.

Thanks to *UFO Crash at Roswell*, however, DuBose is better known for his whereabouts in 1947, when he held a colonel's rank as chief of staff to Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, commandant of the Eighth Air Force at Fort Worth, Texas.

Now 90 years old, cane poised by the side of his easy chair, DuBose is frail, but his mind retains a nimble command of arcane details.

He can trace his military lineage back to the Carolina roots of his great grandfather Col. John Cameron, chief of staff for Confederate cavalry marauder Jeb Stuart. He talks as if the embers are still smoldering, hurling passionate expletives at Union commander William Sherman for directing the federal army to burn the Cameron estate to the ground.

DuBose talks with pride about how his uprooted ancestors surfaced in what is now Cameron

County, Texas, and how he attempted to join the Navy to fight the Germans in 1917, only to be barred for being under age. He can describe the perils of flying rickety DeHavilland planes, the clandestine B-29 rehearsals for the nuking of Japan, informal banter with U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, an explosive parking-space squabble with military nemesis Drew Pearson, the syndicated columnist.

### Stories by Billy Cox

But lately, the only thing his unsolicited visitors want to hear about is July 8, 1947. And DuBose is talking, with combative conviction.

"You have to understand what was happening in this country at the time, things that had never happened before in the history of man," DuBose begins. "We had just gone through a world war. We had seen the firebombing of great cities, atomic bombs, destruction on an unprecedented scale."

"Then came this flying saucer business. It was just too much for the public to have to deal with."

DuBose said a containment strategy was ordered by Strategic Air Command Chief of Staff Gen. Clements McMullen.

"Knowing Gen. (Clements) McMullen, (the cover-up) was an effort to get it off the front pages, to keep people from thinking about it. I couldn't blame him for that."

### Incident investigated

It was the summer of 1947. Americans coast to coast were reporting waves of strange lights and objects performing astounding maneuvers in the skies. The term "flying saucer" was coined that June. And something happened the following month which, for at least a day or two, triggered an international clamor.

In 1989, NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" exhumed the story with eyewitnesses who traced the shipment and storage of the alleged spacecraft — and perhaps even spindly, non-human, insect-like bodies — to analysis labs at what is now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

But *UFO Crash at Roswell* contains the most intriguing testimony to date — from Brig. Gen. Arthur Exon, former commander at Wright-Patterson.

According to his Air Force biography, Exon is a highly decorated World War II veteran who spent a year inside a German prison camp. Among other things, he established NATO's Jupiter ballistic missiles system for Italy and Turkey, and served as Deputy for Operations for the Far East Logistics Force in Japan.

From 1964 to 1965, Exon was assigned to the top post at Wright-Patterson. He had been stationed there earlier, from 1946 to 1948, when the base was simply known as Wright Field.

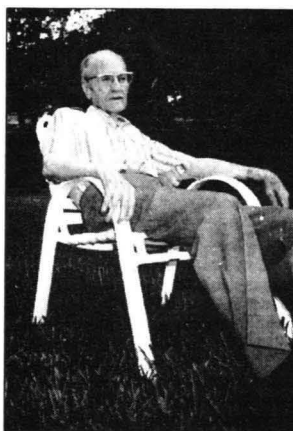
In two taped interviews with Schmitt and Randle, Exon said the peculiar fragments from New Mexico were secretly flown into the base, and that the lab chiefs established a special projects unit to study the stuff. Exon also said that he personally flew over two crash sites in the high, rolling desert.

Furthermore, Exon added, tiny cadavers — the presumed occupants of the obliterated machine — were also recovered from one of the scenes. "They were all found, apparently, outside the craft itself but in fairly good condition. In other words, they weren't broken up a lot." Exon surmised that some of the remnants were probably still stored at Wright-Patterson, most likely at the Foreign Technology Division.

After discounting the possibility that the wreckage was an artifact of Soviet technology, Exon said investigators could reach only one conclusion: "The metal and material was unknown to anyone I talked to... Roswell was the recovery of a craft from space."

Since the book was published, however, Exon has not returned phone calls from Randle and Schmitt. The authors refuse to disclose Exon's West Coast residence, hoping to personally persuade him to talk to the media.

"I think we caught him flat-footed," says Randle, a captain in the Air Force reserves, by phone from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "He obviously didn't realize the significance of what he told us until the book went to press."



Billy Cox, FLORIDA TODAY

**RETIRED GEN.** Thomas DuBose was one of the investigators on Project Blue Book.

"Then came this flying saucer business. It was just too much for the public to have to deal with. Knowing Gen. (Clements) McMullen, (the cover-up) was an effort to get it off the front pages, to keep people from thinking about it. I couldn't blame him for that."

Gen. Thomas DuBose

Future commentary from Exon notwithstanding, eyewitnesses have been telling the same story over the years:

### Exotic metal discovered

On July 3, 1947 — a full 10 years before mankind launched its first satellite — a rancher named Mac Brazel discovered exotic metallic material scattered over a quarter-mile area in his isolated range in southeastern New Mexico. It was foil-thin, silvery, unrippable, unbreakable, lying about in tiny shards and huge sheets. Some of it resembled small I-beams of balsa wood, except that it was durable, inscribed with abstruse symbols not unlike hieroglyphics.

Brazel showed the material to neighbors and family before hauling a boxload of the stuff into the sheriff's office in Roswell — some 60 miles from his ranch — on July 6. The sheriff notified nearby Roswell Army Air Field, headquarters of the 509th Bomb Group, then home to the world's only warplanes armed with nuclear weapons.

Later that day, RAAF base commander Col. William Blanchard led two intelligence agents — Maj. Jesse Marcel and Capt. Sheridan Cavitt — to interview Brazel in Roswell. Blanchard confiscated Brazel's debris, returned to the air base, and alerted Gen. Ramey in Fort Worth. Ramey in turn rang the Pentagon, then ordered Blanchard to send the material to Fort Worth immediately.

On the evening of July 6, after a stopover in Fort Worth and by order of McMullen, the material was flown to Washington, according to DuBose.

"This stuff, this junk, this whatever you want to call it, came in a mail pouch," says DuBose. "I didn't look at it, I wasn't supposed to. McMullen told me to send it to him immediately, and for me not to say anything about it to anyone, to forget about it, and that was an order. I sealed it personally with a lead seal and handcuffed it to the wrist of (Col.) Al Clark, which is a rather unusual step, and he delivered it to McMullen."

"Later, after the whole thing was over, I asked Clements what hap-

pened to it, and he said he sent it out to Wright Field so they could analyze it. But whoever got it there, I haven't a clue."

Meanwhile, back at the Brazel ranch, troops under Blanchard's command began sealing the area and sweeping the debris field. Curious neighbors reported being intimidated and turned away by armed guards. One of the most unusual stories is told by former mortician Glenn Dennis, 66. His employer, Ballard Funeral Home, held the RAAF base contract.

During the early afternoon of July 8, Dennis received a series of phone calls from a base doctor. The doctor wanted to know about embalming techniques, whether the introduction of preservative chemicals would influence the autopsy report. Dennis also was asked about the availability of 3½-foot caskets, and how to ship cadavers that had been exposed to the desert elements for three to four days.

"I assumed something big had happened, a crash or something," says Dennis from his home in Roswell. "I said 'What have you got? Do you want me to come out and take a look?' And he said no, this is only for future reference."

Later that afternoon, however, Dennis treated an airman who sustained superficial injuries in a motorcycle wreck in town. Dennis put the man in his ambulance and drove to the base infirmary. He saw three military field ambulances, under guard, backed up against the ramp where he normally parked. Two of the vehicles had their rear doors open. Dennis peered inside as he walked past.

"I figured there had been a plane crash because I saw some metallic looking wreckage behind the door," he said. "Only, it looked bluish, or purplish, and it had curved edges, like a canoe. And two of the largest pieces had three-inch borders around it, with what looked to me like Egyptian inscriptions. I could see that very clearly."

After checking the airman into the infirmary, Dennis strolled to the canteen, where he was stopped by a captain he'd never seen before. The officer demanded Dennis' identification. Dennis complied and asked if he should return to the funeral home to prepare to receive bodies. The captain told Dennis not to move, then returned with two MPs to escort Dennis out.

Puzzled and flanked by security, Dennis was on his way out when a second captain yelled, "Bring that SOB back, we haven't finished with him yet."

The second captain led Dennis into a room, closed the door, and told him, "Let me tell you something, mister. You didn't see any crash, and you will not go into town spreading any wild rumors."

Angered, Dennis argued that he was a civilian and that the military couldn't do anything to him. "The guy says to me, 'The hell we can't. Keep it up and somebody'll be picking your bones out of the sand.'"

Dennis was escorted to his ambulance, and followed off base by the MPs. (Base records report no fatalities occurred during this time period.) What Dennis didn't know was that at 11 a.m. on the morning of July 8, RAAF commander Blanchard made a move that shook the world, at least for several hours. He dictated a stunning press release to Lt. Walter Haut, the base public information officer.

### Report: UFO found

The brief statement began: "The many rumors regarding flying discs became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the cooperation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's Office of Chaves County."

It concluded: "(The disc) was inspected at Roswell Army Air Field and subsequently loaned by Maj. (Jesse) Marcel to higher headquarters" — meaning Fort Worth.

Haut had hand-delivered the press releases to the town's two newspapers and radio station KGFL. By noon, the statement was clattering across the Associated (continued on page 4)

Press wires. Incoming phone calls jammed the lines at both media outlets; the base was deluged with calls. Attention swiveled to Fort Worth.

"It was getting ridiculous," DuBose says. "There was a host of people descending on our headquarters seeking information from Ramey, badgering him for information we didn't have. I didn't know what it was. Blanchard didn't know. Ramey didn't know — we were in a real bind."

"McMullen said, look, why don't you come up with something, anything you can use to get the press off our back? So we came up with this weather balloon story, which I thought was a hell of a good idea. Somebody got one and ran it up a couple of hundred feet and dropped it to make it look like it crashed, and that's what we used."

"Now I imagine, privately, some people felt bad about doing things that way. But it worked. The story stuck."

Among those embittered by the media show was Maj. Marcel, who went to his grave in 1986 insisting Ramey's press conference set him up as the scapegoat for a political decision. As the lead on-site investigator at the debris field, Marcel was ordered to pose with the balloon wreckage, a move that made his initial assessment look like the work of an unskilled amateur.

Though more than 30 afternoon papers printed the contents of the original press release that evening, morning papers the following day gave full coverage to Ramey's revised story that experienced field investigators had been unable to identify a weather balloon.

Just as abruptly as it began, the media storm subsided. Reporters went home. The phones stopped ringing. The flying saucer story was dead.

Now 69 and still living in Roswell, ex-RAAF press officer Haut says he believed the weather balloon story until he met Marcel again in 1980.

"At that point, Jesse probably felt like he didn't have anything to lose," says Haut by phone. "He said something to the effect that he felt like he'd been walked over, that he acted in good faith, and that Blanchard dumped on him."

"Jesse was very adamant, and I don't know why he'd lie about it. He said the stuff was incredible. It was thin, like the foil in a pack of cigarettes. He took a piece of it, put it on a concrete car stop, and whacked it with a 16-pound sledgehammer, but it wouldn't break. It seemed to have a memory. He said you could crumple it up in your hands, and that it would straighten back out, smooth and flat, just like a puddle of water."

"He told me it was nothing of this planet."

During his retirement years, Marcel attempted to break the silence, but mainstream media outlets apparently decided it was too far-fetched to publish. In 1978, he talked to the only publication that would print his claims — the *National Enquirer*. It has remained in the almost exclusive domain of the tabloid world ever since.

DuBose never found out what the controversial debris was. He never saw it. But he thinks it had to have a prosaic explanation. "Otherwise," he says, "McMullen would've had the courtesy to call and tell me what it was."

On the other hand, DuBose concedes that his duties would not have placed him in a need-to-know position if the material had national security ramifications.

## Investigator remembers

But at least one surviving member of the recovery-team operation who actually handled the material remains in awe of what he saw — 82-year-old Lewis Rickett.

In 1947, Rickett was an Army master sergeant and counterintelligence agent stationed at Roswell Army Air Field. On July 8, as Ramey and DuBose were trying to figure out how to mollify the press in Fort Worth, Rickett and fellow agent Capt. Sheridan Cavitt drove to the isolated site, making their way through several checkpoints.

"Cavitt had been there the day before, but he wouldn't tell me what was going on until we got there," Rickett recalls by phone from his home in Seminole. "I said, 'OK, I give up, why am I here?' Cavitt said, 'Go look.'"

With armed troops standing guard, Rickett wandered through the security phalanx and saw metallic debris, scattered in what he called an "outer circle with a diameter of 25, 30, maybe 40 feet."

The fragments were small, the largest measuring no more than 6 to 7 inches wide and 8 to 10 inches long. The lusterless grey shards were curved, not jagged as one might anticipate with a conventional crash. Rickett could flex them slightly in his hand, only to see them conform back to their original contours. He put one on his knee and tried to break it, to no avail.

"I had been in the military long enough, I'd seen weather balloons," Rickett says. "I'd seen them blow up, I'd seen them catch fire. This was no weather balloon. This was entirely different. In fact, looking at the way the stuff was just lying there, I couldn't say for sure there had even been an explosion. It looked like, whatever this thing was, it had just vaporized. The middle was gone, but the outer edges hadn't been quite consumed."

Rickett says he and Cavitt collected some 40 pieces of the material — perhaps a bushel's worth,

weighing no more than three pounds — and took them back to the base.

"When we got back, this weather balloon story was all over the radio," Rickett says. "I looked at Cavitt. He looked at me. He just shook his head and said, 'Let's forget this ever happened.' I said, 'Right. We were never there.'"

Rickett says the material was flown to Washington and classified top secret. He adds that his involvement in the case continued into the autumn of 1947, when the newly-formed Air Force contracted Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, a University of New Mexico professor of mathematics and astronomy, to reconstruct the descent and trajectory of the UFO. LaPaz, who died in 1985, held a security clearance from his work in the development of the atomic bomb.

Rickett says he accompanied LaPaz through the New Mexican countryside for six weeks to find eyewitness accounts of lights in the sky in late June and early July. They had no problem finding people who saw things.

"Basically, we were able to determine that the thing came in from the northwest, on a long, swooping, shallow curve," Rickett says. "And the farther away we got from the crash site, the more people we found who said there were three lights in the sky. Two of them were hanging back, like they

were observing, but the third seemed to be in trouble and dropping at a high rate of speed."

"We found one old boy who pointed out where he swore he thought it landed, or bounced, and we found the place. There was a streak, or a flat place, as if something had been dragged across the hill. It was on direct course with the crash site."

Rickett's partner Cavitt lives in Washington. While he confirmed Rickett's debris-field account in the recent book, Cavitt has since acquired an unlisted phone number.

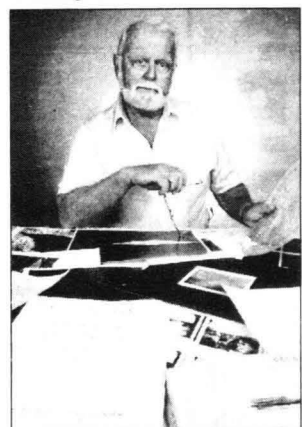
Coleman, the USAF's former chief of public affairs, finds the Roswell story troubling on a number of levels, not the least of which are its blows to the credibility of Blue Book.

"The argument that Blue Book was a cover-up for a real investigation is sheer poppycock," Coleman says. "We were given a carte blanche credit card to get everything we needed — access to NORAD records, advice, opinion, laboratory testing. We literally had hundreds of people around the world; every intelligence officer was tasked to become a potential investigator."

Furthermore, Coleman says, the media manipulation at Fort Worth — "if true," he stresses — was "totally opposed to what our policy was when I was in the public information office. Whatever you

told the press had to be truthful. Maybe you couldn't comment on one matter or another, but you could not lie."

Media queries directed at Wright-Patterson concerning former commander Exon's sensational allegations about the crashed-saucer program elicit a generic reply — a one-page USAF fact sheet summarizing the Project Blue Book archives, now stored in Washington.



Pat Jarrell, FLORIDA TODAY

**RETIRED AIR FORCE** Col. William Coleman reviews documents from Project Blue Book.

# Is it a bird, a plane or a flying saucer?

The enigma blurred forth in the Gulf of Mexico, May 20, 1989.

Ten Thousand Islands, the mangrove archipelago between Everglades City and Marco Island. Torpid, high-noon heat. Trolling with mirror lures, slow action, catfish mostly. Fellow high adventurer and ex-newspaper colleague David Dickerson was at the helm of a motorboat.

A violent jolt jerked my line; Dave scrambled for his camera: a 35mm Canon Eos autofocus, a 27mm lens, 100 ASA film, 36-frame roll, trifling details that loomed large in retrospect.

He struck the shutter four times during the struggle with the only photo-worthy bite of the day. A decent fight, a yellow-tail jack, a minor event. Or so it seemed.

A week later, the photos arrived in the mail. I stared at the strange image Dave had called to my attention over the phone — elliptical, domed, vaguely metallic, elusive, the classical signature of a flying saucer.

If I accepted the image for what it looked like, I'd have plenty of company. A year-old Gallup Poll indicates 47 percent of Americans think UFOs are real. But at first, I was content with the novelty-item aspect of the photo, my very own five-legged calf. I entertained friends at work, inciting arguments — a *flaw in the film, dirt on the lens, it's a bird, it's a plane...*

But I wanted more. I wanted it analyzed.

I took the photo to retired Air Force colonel William Coleman, the former Project Blue Book media liaison who lives in Indian Harbour Beach.

Coleman studied the image. He smiled, not in wonder, but in recognition, as if contemplating a still-life

of a Taco Bell. "Looks like your run-of-the-mill flying disc," he declared.

Coleman offered to send prints to a connected friend in Washington. Coleman's contact sent it to an acquaintance in New York City, a man named Colman VonKeviczky.

VonKeviczky wrote that he was impressed, that he couldn't detect evidence of tampering. He also claimed UFOs had been known to zip into pictures so quickly the photographer never knew it until they showed up on the negatives.

His conclusion: the object had "no earthly origin."

Unfortunately, the letterhead on VonKeviczky's stationery was loaded. It read: "Intercontinental U.F.O. Galactic Spacecraft Research and Analytic Network." Not exactly an impartial referee.

So I sent the photo to prominent UFO skeptic/author Jim Oberg, a mission-control specialist at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Months later, Oberg returned it, along with a note.

"As you know by now, (VonKeviczky) is as nutty as a bowl from Battle Creek. Nice guy, though." Per the images: "Some pictures! If object was blurred by motion, it wouldn't have been around long enough to be snapped twice. But what small objects might be able to suspend themselves in front of lens so long? Good mystery."

Oberg suggested sending the photo to NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif. Which is what I did — straight to the facility's expert photo analyst, Dr. Robert Nathan.

"It definitely isn't a flaw in the film, it's a solid object. You can tell by the shading from the sun," Nathan said by phone. "I don't think it's a bird, though; there's too much distortion. It could be a local insect



David Dickerson, for FLORIDA TODAY

**A UFO** appears in the sky behind Billy Cox while he holds a fish he caught in the Gulf of Mexico on May 20, 1989.

between the lens and the subject. That would explain why it's out of focus.

"I'd need a lot more information about the camera. Then we'd need to set up a model to try to duplicate the same conditions."

But I couldn't squeeze this rock any more, and maybe that was the point. Life had served up its own little Rorschach test; demanding absolutes from a timeless mystery is an easy way to flunk the exam.

## Close encounters

Have you had a close encounter? Write us, and send photos to: UFOs, Florida Today/Space and Technology, Gannett Plaza, Box 363000, Melbourne, 32936. We'll share some of the experiences in a follow-up.

RECORD, [City & State Unknown] - Dec. 10, 1991

# Space object 'winks,' astronomers find

Special from Newsday

Curiouser and curiouser is the best way to describe the strange object in space that came cruising close to Earth on Dec. 5.

Although dismissed recently as probably just another asteroid, new observations suggest that it winks, becoming three times brighter, then dark again every 7.5 minutes.

"I'm pretty convinced by this observation that it's an artificial object," astronomer Brian Mars-

den said Monday. "I find it hard to believe a natural object would behave in this way." Unlike some other astronomers, Marsden has always thought the object was probably artificial.

The object, first detected with a small telescope at Kitt Peak, Ariz., Nov. 6, is called 1991 VG. It passed 288,000 miles from Earth on Dec. 5, and is now drifting away. Astronomers hope to bounce radar waves off it Thursday to plot its orbit accurately and, perhaps, see exactly what it is.

Marsden, director of the International Astronomical Union's central telegram bureau, in Cambridge, Mass., said that more than one hour of observations with a 60-inch telescope at the European Southern Observatory, in La Silla, Chile, on Dec. 2 measured the pulsations of reflected light. Astronomers Richard West, Olivier Hainaut, and Alain Smette reported the pulsations.

Such changes in brightness, Marsden said, are "reminiscent of a rapidly rotating satellite with

highly reflective side panels."

Research astronomer Donald Yeomans at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., announced last week the 30-foot-wide object is probably an asteroid, and said Monday, "I still think that's the case. But there's still a chance it's a spacecraft, and we're looking into it."

Neither Marsden nor Yeomans has determined exactly when, or by whom, the object was launched, if it really is a spacecraft.



# UFO BUFFS:

## STALKING A MYSTERY

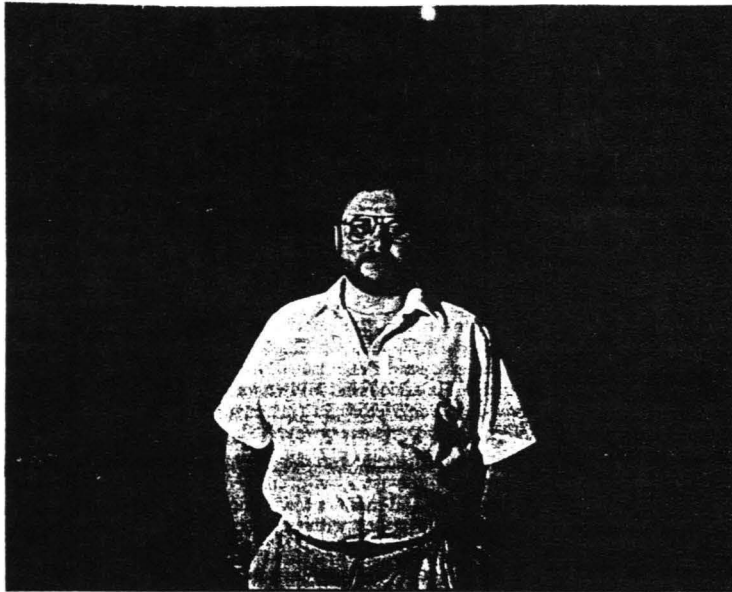
By REBECCA TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

In November, Northern California UFO enthusiasts plan to mull over a Merced farmer's cornfield that mysteriously flattened.

Not that they believe extraterrestrials landed. They do believe it's worth a look, though.

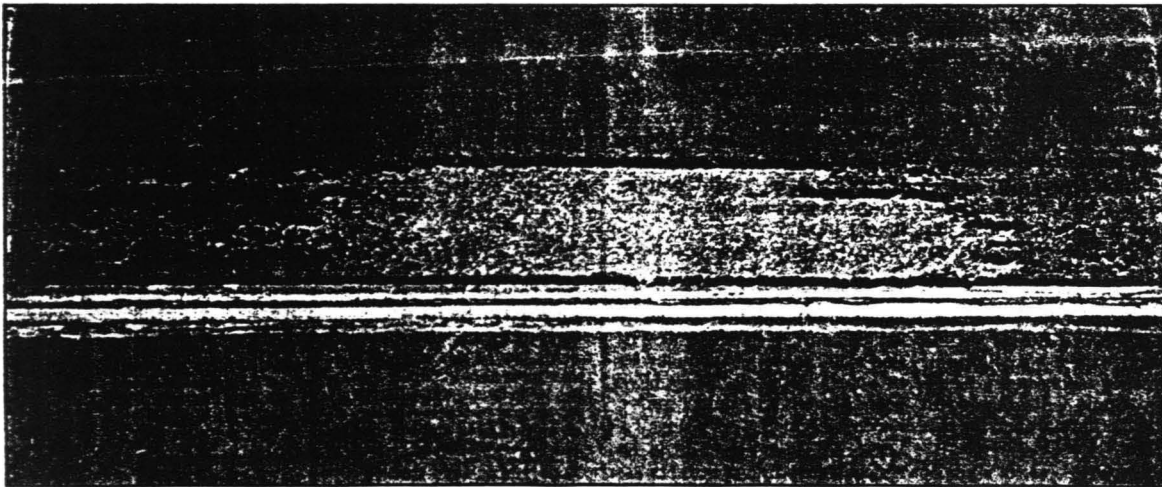
"Personally, I just think it was overwatered," said 36-year-old Mike Lovell of Merced, a field investigator trainee for the Mutual UFO Network, a worldwide organization with 3,000 members. It has 800 investigators in the United States.

An agricultural biologist said the damage to the cornfield Aug. 15 came from wind, rain and



Sun-Star photo by Roger J. Wyan

UFO investigator Mike Lovell of Merced stands in a field of flattened corn.



Sun-Star photo by Roger J. Wyan

UFO investigators will be checking to see what flattened this Merced area cornfield.

over-irrigation, not a flying saucer landing.

But members of the UFO network want to decide for themselves.

Lovell, along with three other UFO network members, investigated the potential "crop circle" about two weeks ago.

After measuring the area, taking soil samples and corn samples, and studying weather reports and insect life, they will share their findings at the next regional UFO network meeting in San Francisco.

They didn't find a crop circle.

Earlier this month in London, two men claimed they were responsible for the appearance of mysterious circles and shapes across southern England. However, believers in paranormal forces at work tried to discredit the two.

Two miles outside of Merced off East Olive Avenue, thousands of stalks of corn lay on their sides, pointing northwest.

Lovell said the stalks hadn't fallen in a clockwise manner as with most crop circles, and he said the area was not as symmetrical either.

A member of the UFO network for the past year, Lovell said his interests in UFOs began 11 years ago when he saw "something I couldn't explain" near the dredges at La Grange.

Lovell said crop circles are just one of many findings his organization investigates.

Others include abductions, spaceship sightings and cattle mutilations. "There have been cattle mutilations within the past 15 years in this area," Lovell said, adding that UFO claims began as far back as the late 1800s.

Most of the network's members are amateurs who investigate in their spare time, according to Allen Dunkin, 35, a state section director in Riverbank for the UFO network.

Lovell is an full-time employment training counselor. He received his bachelor's degree in psycholo-

gy from San Jose State.

Dunkin and wife Darleen, 35, a special education teacher and fellow state section director, investigate UFO sightings in the Central Valley.

"We're not a bunch of crazies...we're into scientific research," Dunkin said.

"I don't like to take the stand that we're being visited by another planet; most UFOs can be explained," he said, adding that oftentimes people mistake a meteor or space debris that re-enters the atmosphere.

"I've taken reports on the phone, at pizza parlors, at home. A lot of the things people see really upset them. Our society looks at people who see things like that as crazies. We offer an alternative."

While Dunkin believes there is life on other planets, he said it's "hard to say what kind of creature it is."

"As many planets and stars as there are, there's got to be one or two with life."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL  
Nov. 14, 1991 CR: R. Reid

### UFOs Want To Be Seen

I am one of the many people living outside of your community who subscribe to the Gulf Breeze Sentinel because of its excellent record on reporting the significant local UFO activity. I am concerned about the lack of such reporting since the paper was purchased over a month ago. Significant sightings continue to be witnessed by many people in Gulf Breeze and photographed on film and video. I believe 10 November was the 103rd sighting recorded there in the past year.

As a primary investigator on the Gulf Breeze, FL UFO encounters, I am convinced Ed and Frances and others were *allowed* such good photographic opportunities four years ago because the occupants wanted people to see the pictures. Now, I think they want the people with a desire to do so to see their vehicles. The recent photographic evidence indicates the UFOs frequenting Gulf Breeze now are Gulf Breeze type-2 craft as photographed most clearly by Frances Walters on 26 Jan. 88.

I have studied all I could find about these alien vehicles since I saw seven over Washington, D.C. in 1952. I know well 60 people who have been on board. I know several credible people in our area who report frequent telepathic contact with the supposed occupants. For those who seek the truth, many answers to what puzzles us are there to be found. I hope the new owners of the Sentinel hold the same level of journalistic morality that we appreciated so much from the past editor, Duane Cook.

Donald M. Ware  
Lt.Colonel, USAF(Ret)  
Ft. Walton Beach

## Group explores UFO phenomena

### Kinds of sightings:

■ **Close encounter of the first kind:** A unidentified flying object (UFO) is observed nearby, but there appears to be no interaction between the craft and the ground or any other object.

■ **Close encounter of the second kind:** This includes interaction between the UFO and the environment, which may vary from interference with a car's ignition system and electronic components to imprints or burned areas on the ground and physical effects on plants, animals and people.

■ **Close encounters of the third kind:** Sighting inhabitants of UFOs. There usually is no direct contact or communication with the witnesses, but reports of incidents involving very close contact and even detainment of witnesses have increased in recent years.

By STEVE NEWBORN  
Tribune Staff Writer

WINTER HAVEN — It began with a close encounter of the first kind.

Fearon Hicks was 4, playing in the front yard of his Lake Shipp Heights home, when something drew his gaze to the western sky. There he saw a yellowish, disc-shaped object with a blue-green ring along the outer edge.

That was two close encounters ago.

Since then, Hicks has devoted much of his life to investigating reports of unidentified flying objects. Today, the Auburndale man is state section director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), dedicated to researching reports of strange aerial objects.

"You see things," he said, "when you least expect it."

Anyone interested in unexplained flying phenomenon is invited to MUFON's free seminar at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Winter Haven Public Library.

The film "UFOs: The Best Evidence" features interviews with service-

men who took part in an alleged recovery of a crashed disc near Los Alamos, N.M., and a top-secret government attempt to research the disc and its inhabitants.

Hicks and MUFON's assistant state section director will conduct a question-and-answer session after the film.

Hicks said one of the group's missions is to weed out hoaxes from genuine reports. He estimated at least 5 percent of the reports he has investigated in his 27 years of UFO research were from people trying to draw attention to themselves.

MUFON, he said, is a grass-roots group of people who try to solve reports of flying enigmas in a scientific way.

"I try to expose fraud where fraud is perpetrated," said the 42-year-old.

Hoaxes, he said, represent about 2 percent of the reports he receives.

"The UFO community has trouble enough with its credibility because of

(continued on page 6)



Tribune photograph by JAY NOLAN

Fearon Hicks displays photographs and a newspaper with a UFO-related headline.

## UFO Investigators Photograph Unidentified Object Over Beach

By Gary Watson

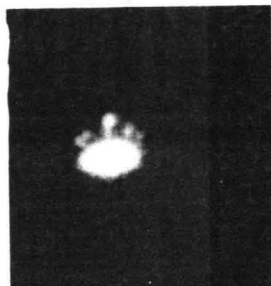
On November 5, an unidentified object was seen and photographed as it hovered over Gulf Breeze. A dozen witnesses and several MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) investigators saw the UFO from the south end of the Bay Bridge.

Photographs were taken by Patti Weatherford and Anne Morrison who used a 440mm lens and fast action 3200 ASA film to capture the image of the "crown" shaped object.

The object seen on this night is believed to be the same type UFO first reported by Ed Walters and scores of other witnesses in 1987. The configuration of "portholes" and the very bright bottom "power" light resembles the outline

of the UFO that Ed Walters described in his best selling book "The Gulf Breeze Sightings."

The UFO sightings in Gulf Breeze have been occurring at a record pace since the first of the year, but recently the UFOs have displayed a variety of effects. Before the eyes of scores of people who gather nightly at the Bay Bridge, spectacular rings of lights have appeared from "out of thin air." These rings of light are made up of separate points of light that often hover making no sound and then suddenly vanish in a clear sky. Often the witnesses can see the structural shape of the object as it travels across the sky and blocks out the stars as it passes. This was the case with



Patti Weatherford snapped this photo of the latest UFO to appear in the skies above Gulf Breeze.

this latest sighting when one very skeptical witness looked through his binoculars and said, "Hold on here, I can see something black around it." Another witness, Bland Pugh said, "I could see a definite curved structural shape above the blazing red light at its bottom."

has about 15 members, although 35 people showed up at the chapter's first meeting in October. At that meeting, Hicks said, two people related sightings of craft with strange lights, including one over State Road 60 nearly 10 years ago.

Hick's second close encounter happened when he was 15 while fishing with his father and another man on Lake Eloise.

Clouds of blind mosquitoes on the lake mysteriously disappeared when they saw a blinking white light in the northern sky, he said. When Hicks shined the boat's light at the object, it sped over the lake doing 90-degree turns that "would have killed a normal pilot," he said.

Six years later, his next encounter came at an isolated naval communications station in Morocco. He said he was riding his motorcycle one night when he saw a light that at first glance looked like the moon. But it was in the northern sky, where the moon does not travel.

Hicks described the light as a whitish-yellowish disc on the horizon that sped away faster than anything he had ever seen.

the enigma of being labeled a lunatic," he said.

When someone accuses his group of being a bunch of crackpots, Hicks said his response is: "If you sit down for one hour and examine the evidence, you'll change your way of thinking."

The majority of sightings are usually natural phenomena such as meteors, clouds, stars and man-made objects, such as balloons, airplanes and satellites. MUFON literature states that 6 to 10 percent of UFO reports are puzzling enough to investigators to be considered true UFOs.

MUFON reports a worldwide membership exceeding 3,000, including 300 in Florida. The state director lives near Gulf Breeze, where a series of unusual sightings have been reported in recent years. "Some of us have seen UFOs," he said, "and some are just interested."

The new Polk/Osceola chapter

## Honoring a saucer celebrity

### Gathering recalls famed UFO ride

By Gary Ghioto  
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. - Sporting "Welcome Aliens" buttons, nearly 200 UFO enthusiasts and a panel of specialists gathered here yesterday to commemorate Betty and Barney Hill's 30-year-old tale of a close encounter of the third kind.

The state chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, sponsored the all-day session at a conference center here to celebrate the headline-making claim by Betty and her late husband of a ride aboard a flying saucer and to provide a forum for Betty Hill's "retirement" from public appearances.

The story of the Hills' eerie abduction by an 11-humanoid crew, while the couple were traveling by car through the White Mountains on Sept. 19, 1961, burst upon the national scene five years later in a Look magazine article and a best-selling book, "The Interrupted Journey" by the late John G. Fuller.

Massive media coverage and a television movie later, the Hills ascended the UFO pantheon.

But yesterday Hill, dressed in a smart blue suit and puffing on an ever-present cigarette, said that the UFO scene was getting too "flaky" for her.

"To me, UFOs are nuts and bolts," she said. "They are real-life machines with real-life people aboard. There's nothing mystical about them. There's a dangerous situation developing. You have all these fringe groups coming out with horrendous stories... and a lot of people are believing it and it's scaring the life out of them."

Hill was referring to the schism dividing the "nuts and bolts" UFO believers and those who warn of grisly abductions by white- or gray-skinned aliens intent on stealing human genetic material. Further complicating the scene are disciples of a so-called New Age philosophy who see UFOs as channels of divine knowledge who bear a message of healing and inner peace. There are also devotees of the mysterious crop-circle phenomenon and stone ruins said to exist on Mars.

#### Saucer crashes

There is a faction that believes the federal government has recovered crashed saucers and is hold-



GLOBE PHOTO / PAM BERRY

Betty Hill, who says she was abducted by a flying saucer 30 years ago, tells her story in Portsmouth, N.H., yesterday.

ing them under lock and key in Southwestern military bases. Others think the government allows aliens to kidnap people in exchange for technology. "It's a unified field theory of paranoia," said one conference speaker.

All camps were represented at the Portsmouth conference and were coexisting peacefully, some said, because of their admiration for Hill.

"Betty and Barney's experience was a watershed for human history - not because it was the first abduction, but because it was the first one to be thoroughly investigated and brought to the public's attention," said Budd Hopkins, a Wellfleet, Mass., painter and sculptor who has authored two best-selling books outlining a cosmic plot by huge-eyed aliens who beam people out of their homes and plunder their bodies for genetic material.

Hopkins' research, which includes thousands of hours of taped interviews with purported abductees recounting harrowing journeys with the help of hypnosis, has led him to a depressing conclusion.

#### Unfriendly visitors

Aliens are not "here to map our waterways or give us advice on how to love our neighbors. There is a nonhuman intelligence interested in human beings: our sexuality, DNA, family life, our emotions. All those things they don't have."

The conference was attended by New Age partisans as well as serious men wearing dark busi-

ness suits. Some shopped well-stocked tables of UFO merchandise ranging from books and newsletters to quilts embroidered with flying saucers.

Some of the believers had their photographs taken with Hill's plaster bust of an alien she called Junior.

"Oh, UFOs are the foundation of my existence. I was abducted when I was a little girl. ... Their message was to be in service to people and the planet. And that's what I believe in," said Stephanie Ann Lane, a masseuse from Hampton.

Joining her was Star Batakis, who wore an earring of golden stars that flowed down the right side of her face. "Everyone should keep an open mind about this," said Batakis.

Hill still vividly recalls the night 30 years ago when she and Barney stopped on the side of Route 3 and looked at the brilliant white star they said followed them.

The couple soon found themselves aboard a "huge spaceship with two red lights" with a crew of 11 small humanoid creatures, one of whom spoke English.

Hill, who now plans to spend time taking care of her 94-year-old mother, said that she still sees flying saucers in New Hampshire.

"They are attracted here because of our coastline and our rivers," she said. "They travel down the Piscataqua River here in Portsmouth all the time. People see them so much, they don't even notice anymore."

GLOBE, Boston, MA - Sept. 30, 1991

## Tremors continue in area

### Jokester blames Gulf Breeze UFOs

By John Fritz  
News Journal

The ground in Pensacola continued to shake Saturday, but for the second straight day, no one could explain the tremors.

Police and local military bases were swamped with calls Saturday from people wanting to know what caused the ground to shake about 4 p.m.

"It really was scary, it honestly was," said Cheryl Swanson, who felt her house in the 7500 block of Southpointe Place rattle.

The tremor was strong enough to break windows and knocked the lamps off a table at one man's Ensley home, a sheriff's dispatcher said. She said operators answered more than 100 calls from people asking about the shake.

What caused the ground to move is still a mystery. Similar tremors were reported at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Local military bases deny responsibility and the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo., reported no tremors in the area. Russ Needham, a geophysicist with the center, said he was stumped. "I can't say it isn't an earthquake, but if it was, it was too small for us to detect," Needham said.

He speculated that the tremor could have been caused by an aircraft traveling at supersonic speeds.

But officials at Eglin Air Force Base and Pensacola Naval Air Station said the military is not responsible.

"We don't have anything to do with it, but we're trying to find out," said NAS Operation Specialist 2nd Class Harold Brown. "We felt it over here, also. We're getting one call after the other."

"It's not coming from us," Eglin spokeswoman Capt. Susan Brown said. "It shook my back door, too, so I know what you're talking about."

Air Force Sgt. Ronald Smith said he started receiving calls about 3:50 p.m. from Orange Beach, Ala., to Destin.

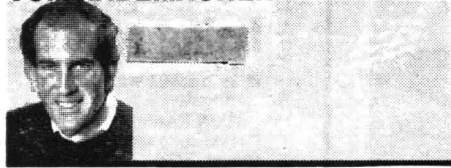
Dozens of people contacted the News Journal, trying to figure out what was causing their homes to jiggle.

Matt Carter, 17, of Gulf Breeze said the kitchen windows rattled.

Al Rappuhn, 66, who lives about three miles from NAS, said his windows rattled and his house shook for about 10 seconds. "I wonder if it's that gang out in Gulf Breeze moving those UFOs on us?"



## TOM RADEMACHER



## Is it crazy? Maybe only aliens know

Virginia Tilly, with whom I recently shared breakfast at a restaurant (she had french toast; I opted for one egg and American fries) is a school teacher, a researcher and an avid reader. She also believes she may have been abducted twice by aliens.

Now, I could use the rest of this column to tell you about her teaching career or her appetite for books or the research she does.

But my guess is you would like to know more about her *breakfast*; you know — how many slices of french toast. That sort of thing.

Just kidding.

You might have discerned that I am a little uncomfortable getting to the point here. Forgive me; it was my first interview with someone who remembers conversing with "little men" as she calls them, with someone who may have been aboard a craft from another place.

Tilly is no publicity hound. I sought her out, not the other way around. She was, in fact, somewhat reluctant to divulge her story.

She's not embarrassed. She simply doesn't want to jeopardize her status or credibility as an investigator with MUFON, the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network Inc., an international scientific organization composed of people studying UFOs.

Since 1984, Tilly has been a field researcher for MUFON, seeking out and interviewing hundreds of witnesses to strange phenomena in the skies.

She has spoken with dozens of people who claim to have been abducted by aliens. About 20, she says, hail from lower West Michigan. She figures "there are lots more."

### Alien encounters down on the farm

Tilly, 49, taught English some two decades in the Benton Harbor area before moving to Plainfield Township nearly two years ago. Single, she works here in a fabric store and as a substitute teacher.

Her first experience with UFOs goes back to the summer of 1947, when she was 5. Standing in an orchard adjacent to the Berrien County farmhouse in which her family was living, Tilly says she heard a voice calling over and over: "Virginia, come here. Virginia, come here."

She moved forward and encountered "this little guy. I don't remember being afraid, which is odd," she recalls.

"I remember him telling me things like I should study hard, that I should be a good student."

Tilly says the man reached out with his right hand and touched her forehead, producing in her mind "the most incredible images... it was like a panorama of history."

Six years later, at the age of 11 and living by then on a different farm, Tilly remembers being visited again, this time by several aliens. She was "lifted" through the night and taken aboard a craft and subjected to a physical exam, the details of which remain hazy.

Tilly has questioned many Michigan residents about their own alleged abductions, including one man who reported being abducted while still in his fishing boat, plucked from a lake near Big Rapids.

Apart from abductions, Tilly has investigated all kinds of UFOs. She believes "thousands" of sightings go unreported, venturing that 10 percent of the general population has witnessed one or more.

She does not hide her distrust of the American government, going so far as to wonder if some UFOs and even some reported abductions are actually the secret work of government researchers.

And she questions whether reported malfunctions with the Hubble telescope were manufactured in order to hide the real truth: that through the lens, something or someone was detected hurtling toward earth. She claims, in fact, to be an acquaintance of someone who worked intimately with the Hubble project, and who told her that whatever's en route is expected to arrive here in 1997.

### Shirking from a possible third encounter

Tilly does not so much insist — as she does suspect — that she's been in alien hands. At the very least, she allows that "something" happened to her, and she talks at length about abductees whose skin reveal "scoop" marks, and others found to have small BB-like implants in their foreheads.

"I'm not convinced we're dealing with a number of races from a number of galaxies or planets, but I feel there is some other phenomenon involved."

Tilly tells of a night three years ago in Stevensville when, after fielding a call from a woman who thought she'd seen something in the night sky, Tilly found herself unable to sleep.

Sensing something in store, she whispered aloud, "Let's have an open communication," an invitation to aliens who might be paying a third visit.

She was drawn to a sliding glass door which led to the concrete patio. The only thing separating her from a view of whomever might be outside was a set of pumpkin-orange drapes.

Three times she stepped forward, and three times she stopped herself. In the end, she was unable to part the drapes.

## SCIENCE &amp; MYTH

## An offbeat look at the UFO debate

## ANGELS AND ALIENS

*UFOs and the Mythic Imagination.* By Keith Thompson. Addison-Wesley. 283 pp. \$19.95.

By Michael Blumenthal

"Are we two or am I all alone?" is, according to scholar and journalist Keith Thompson's fascinating and somewhat perplexing new study of the UFO phenomenon, not merely a question the French poet Paul Eluard once asked a lover. It is also a question we humans, in our so-called "mythic imagination," are perpetually addressing to the universe, seeking both the solace of companionship in an increasingly mysterious, yet demystified, cosmos, and the possibility of encountering what the scholar Rudolph Otto, in his "The Idea of the Holy," called the "mysterium tremendum."

Up to now, as Thompson suggests — in what is part scientific detective story, part psychological myth-taking — the debate over UFOs (though clearly more heated and more elaborately documented) has

resembled that over the Loch Ness Monster: consisting mainly of questions as to their physical existence, with an ever-enlarging cast of zealous partisans on both sides. But, as Thompson goes to great lengths to illustrate, there may be more at stake here — namely, a debate between two radically different conceptions of consciousness and reality, between the relatively closed, rationalist, Cartesian, Freudian view of the world, and the more open, "mystical," Jungian, archetypal, nonlinear vision of psyche and reality, which, in recent decades, has been conveniently (and all too often dismissively) classified under the rubric "New Age."

Between these two "camps," to say the least, there is not much traffic, although an increasingly large handful of formerly "mainstream" investigators, such as Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, have had their initial skepticism called into question by the large numbers of independent corroborating "witnesses" to the UFO phenomenon. It remains, however, a convenient and often-used lynching post of the rationalist camp to dismiss the persuasions of so-called ufologists as "a bunch of hooey."

It is this sparsely populated terrain — between the ufologists and their adversaries — that Thompson is trying to navigate here, with a kind of mytho-journalistic argument that maintains that — at least insofar as UFOs are concerned, to paraphrase Woody Allen — 90 percent of life may not just be showing up.

The typical scenario, as Thompson admits, seems conventional by now: "In UFO case after case, something remarkable is seen. Witnesses offer testimony. 'Experts' dismiss this testimony. Witnesses and public at large reach for explanations; these, too, are dismissed. Pro-UFO researchers identify new patterns, reach definitive conclusions. Debunkers dismiss each new pattern, reach opposing definitive conclusions."

But Thompson argues, there is more to the debate than saucer-like objects or 4-foot creatures with mango-shaped heads: The old gods and mythic archetypes are present here as well. For the UFO debate, according to Thompson, centers upon a Protean question — Proteus, in Greek myth, possessed the capacity to change himself into a multitude of shapes and forms such as lion, panther, swine, serpent or, when desperate, the contour of water or fire.

The varied descriptions of UFOs, Thompson contends, offer "similar aesthetic riches" — undulating celestial objects; saucers skipping over water; torpedo-shaped wingless

crafts trailing a massive flame over Alabama; spacecrafts in the shape of stars, cigars, spheres, diamonds, dumbbells and washtubs. And, along with Proteus, other actors from the timeless world of mythology abound in Thompson's theory: notably Hermes, Trickster and Dionysus, whose mythic collaboration lend to the accounts of UFO sightings and abductions an element of what Freud called *das Unheimliche* — the uncanny.

Thompson argues, as he tries to walk a tightrope between the roles of advocate and impartial investigator (insisting that he has never seen anything resembling a UFO), that the important issue vis-a-vis UFOs is not whether they exist in the physical sense, but rather what they reveal about the collective, mythic imagination in action — those "hidden mythic underpinnings" that mirror what Jung felt were important changes in the soul.

This book's turf is somewhere between what Thompson calls "the formal unbelievability" of most sightings and the compelling, though more abstract, mythic need they seem to testify to. Thompson advocates, above all, a shift in focus: from a debate about reality or nonreality to a study of belief. "There is no place that is not looking at you," the witnesses, abductees and investigators seem to be singing along with the poet Rilke: "You must change your life." According to Thompson, if we really want to understand the UFO phenomenon, we must more fully become, as Yeats said of Blake (paraphrased by Marianne Moore), "literalists of the imagination," able to contemplate "imaginary gardens with real toads in them."

Thompson's thesis will probably be slow to attract converts: Most readers will either buy it or consider it a bunch of hooey. As a writer, Thompson doesn't help his fundamentally interesting cause with his awkward, disorienting, haphazard and seemingly improvised presentation: journalistic narrative interwoven with mythic theorizing, stories of "insider" feuds, expert testimony, dabs of literary and poetic allusion — arranged in chapters whose only semblance of coherence seems to be Thompson's having placed a new heading before and after them. All of which renders this book, in the end, while often fascinating, somewhat like a UFO landing itself: elusive, difficult to agree on, seemingly improvised — asking you to take it or leave it on its own terms.

Poet Michael Blumenthal is director of creative writing at Harvard University and the author, most recently, of "Against Romance."

NEWS PRESS, Stillwater, OK  
Dec. 6, 1991 CR: R. Seifried

## UFO Is Spotted By Cushing Man

A Cushing man reported seeing an unidentified flying object last week, and the Mutual UFO Network is looking for other witnesses.

Lori Theis, a Payne County investigator for the network, said the man, whose name was withheld, stepped out from his home west of Cushing and saw a bright light about two to three times the size of a star, hovering in the northwest sky.

It was 4:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27. Due to cloud cover, no other lights were visible, the man reported.

The light descended then moved rapidly east, paused, then zipped in another direction, paused, and zipped again, she said. After a few times, it flew north out of sight.

Ms. Theis asked any person who might have seen the light to call her at 848-8988.

## If you've seen a UFO, call him

Dear Editor,

On Oct. 8 at 9:35 p.m., I was driving on the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze Bridge, heading south, when I saw something I had never seen before. I had just left one of our monthly MUFON meetings, after looking at an hour or so of tapes that Bruce Morrison had shot over the last year of UFOs. As I reached the top of the crest on the bridge, I glanced over

my left shoulder and saw about 10 or 15 very bright yellow lights arranged in a wide oval. I first thought that it was a large commercial aircraft. However, it did not fit the pattern. The lights were pulsating and were randomly formed without any symmetry. I tried to concentrate on the lights; but, that proved difficult as I had to devote some attention to my driving. Suddenly, the lights started to go out

and within two seconds there was nothing but blackness. The whole sighting lasted about 10 seconds. My conclusion is that the lights were either very close to the bridge or very big if not. They were in a north/easterly direction about 45 degrees on the horizon. This night sighting corresponds, very closely, to the daylight sighting at College Parkway and Highway 98 on Sept. 15. At least that was the impression that occurred to me.

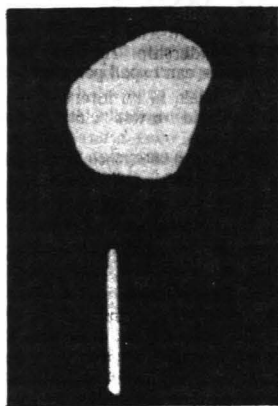
If you have seen a UFO, or are just interested, come to the end of the bridge, between 7 and 10 p.m., and join us in sky watching. In any case, please call me at 932-5394 or 436 2700 (our hotline), if you want to talk about the subject.

"It's crazy, isn't it?" says Tilly, and in her allowing for that, I began to ponder that perhaps it wasn't and she's not.

Questions about — and sightings of — UFOs can be reported to Tilly at P.O. Box 3173, Grand Rapids, 49501.

Joe Barron  
Gulf Breeze

# Soviet Photo of a UFO Near Mars



PHOTOS BY FREDERIC LARSON/THE CHRONICLE  
A mystery Soviet space photo (above) was displayed by test pilot Marina Popovich (right)



By Jack Viets  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A photo of a mysterious object in space taken by an unmanned Soviet spacecraft that inexplicably disappeared shortly afterward was displayed yesterday by one of Russia's top women test pilots on the eve of a UFO convention here.

The strange, missile-like object — which could have been anything from a dying spacecraft's last transmission of an electrical malfunction to an alien spacecraft — was photographed in deep space in the area of the Martian moon, Phobos, by the Soviet space probe Phobos 2 on March 25, 1989, said the pilot, Marina Popovich.

The speaker, a retired Soviet Air Force colonel, test pilot, aerodynamicist and cosmonaut trainee, said she had been given the photo by a high official in the Soviet space program.

The unidentified object, a long, faintly aerodynamic shape with rounded ends, appears in

the photograph beneath an irregularly shaped blob of light that is apparently the Martian moon Phobos.

Three days after it transmitted the photo to Earth, "the spacecraft disappeared," Popovich told a press conference at the Soviet consulate in San Francisco.

"The reasons for its disappearance are unknown," she said.

She suggested that it is possible

that a radiation flash from the object the spacecraft photographed "turned it off" and caused it to disappear in space. "The photo is only information for thinking ... information for all kinds of decisions."

"No one can answer precisely what it is," said Professor Emeritus James Harder of the University of California at Berkeley, the former director of research for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Possibilities for the origin of the object in the photo will be discussed at a Soviet-American UFO/Extraterrestrial Intelligence symposium from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. today at Wheeler Auditorium on the UC Berkeley campus.

Other speakers will include Colin Andrews, a British researcher in the phenomenon of crop circles and the mystery shafts and beams of light seen at Stonehenge, and Steven Greer, M.D.

## UFO sightings being reported

By ROMONA WASHINGTON  
The News-Sun

AVON PARK — Thomas Hawn, a Florida state sectional director with Mutual UFO (unidentified flying object) Network, Inc. (MUFON) and a local investigator for the organization, said Thursday he is investigating three unexplained sightings in the Avon Park area.

In fact, the sightings have warranted being turned into MUFON, an international scientific organization that seriously studies and researches UFOs. Common elements were noted in the three reports.

Hawn said the first sighting was Oct. 2 at about 8:30 p.m. The person was driving down Stryker Road near the intersection of Berkley Road when he saw lights making a circle. The lights were only visible for a second and then blinked out.

The second sighting was Oct. 14 in the northeast corner of Highlands County near U.S. 27. Hawn said the person reported seeing multi-colored lights turn white and then orange. The lights moved and blinked out after approximately 10 minutes.

The third unexplained sighting was in the River Ridge area near Riverdale and Roberts roads. Hawn said that incident happened less than two weeks ago. The person who witnessed that sighting said he thought it was a star until it moved. Like the first sighting, it only lasted a short time.

The sightings have been reported to MUFON. Hawn is hoping anyone who may have seen similar incidents or who may have an explanation for the sightings will contact him by writing P.O. Box 648, Avon Park.

As a state sectional director, Hawn covers Highlands and Hardee counties.

# New Video Has the Latest on UFOs

By John Stanley  
Chronicle Staff Writer

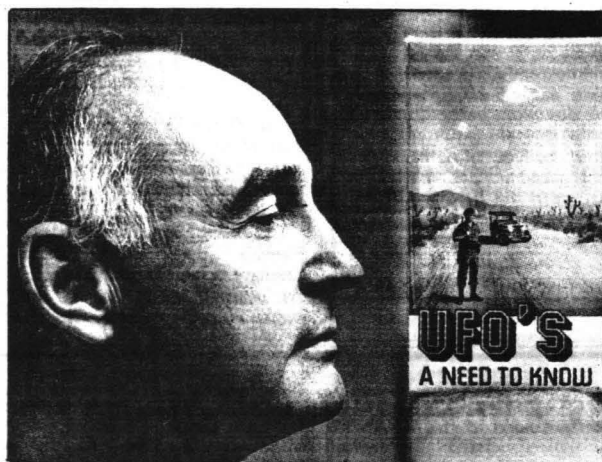
"UFOs ... A Need to Know," a new 90-minute video released earlier this month by Video City in Oakland, is so low-key in examining current phenomena in the field of unidentified flying objects and related mysteries that it emerges as a persuasive and intriguing report. These are not lunatic-fringe flying-saucer hysterics but convincing reports from the field.

"UFOs" is the work of Bob Brown, who owns and operates five Video City cassette rental stores in the East Bay. Since 1980, from his Oakland-based headquarters, Brown has licensed and distributed 75 feature films under the Video City label, as well as 110 documentaries and special-interest tapes. Thirty of these have been direct-to-video aviation documentaries that he produced himself by attending air shows and other aviation activities around the world.

Brown made "UFOs" during the past year with the help of Ted Oliphant, a onetime audio/visual specialist with the U.S. Air Force and an award-winning documentary producer.

## Hundreds of Sightings

"UFOs" reveals that during the past two years hundreds of new sightings have been reported in the Soviet Union, Africa, Europe and Canada. In the United States an uncommon number of sightings (at least 200) have been reported in the region of Fayette, Ala. On-camera testimony is given not only by ordinary citizens and church



Bob Brown and the videocassette 'UFOs ... A Need to Know,' being distributed by his Oakland Video City business

leaders but also by county sheriff Charles Jr. Garmany and his assistant chief Fred Works, who claim that one night, while responding to a UFO call in their county, they observed an object "the size of a football field" that hovered soundlessly above them. Fayette's newspaper publisher, Carey Baker, says he's convinced that the sightings are genuine, even if he can't explain what the objects are.

According to Brown, his partner Oliphant was so intrigued with "the genuineness of the testimony" that he has moved to Fayette where he is now a full-time deputy specializing in UFO investigations.

Another fascinating segment spotlights Linda Mouton Howe, a film maker who has specialized in investigating cattle mutilations ("Strange Harvest") throughout North America. Despite all her investigations and the work of law enforcement and scientists, Howe points out, no one has ever been able to solve a single mutilation or directly link the slaughter to alleged UFO activity.

## Report From Scientist

One of the strangest of the segments concerns Bob Lazar, a theoretical physicist (once employed at Los Alamos National Labs) who

claims he was hired in 1989 through atomic-bomb pioneer Dr. Edward Teller to work for the government on a top-secret project (S-4) in the New Mexico desert. He asserts that his job was to examine a recovered flying saucer and the advanced propulsion techniques that powered it.

Another segment features a retired Air Force officer, Lieutenant Colonel Wendelle C. Stevens, who reports that during his tour of duty in the Arctic in the early 1950s he was aware of special airborne equipment that photographed formations of flying saucers.

One of the most exciting developments in UFO study this past year was the publication of "UFO Crash at Roswell," a book by Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle that minutely documents the once-legendary story that in 1947 a flying saucer crashed in the New Mexico desert and that the bodies of aliens were recovered by the government. More than 300 surviving witnesses (ranging from ranchers to Air Force personnel to newsmen to law officials) have now told their parts in the chain of events.

Brown and Oliphant visited Roswell and questioned numerous witnesses, adding to the fascinating body of evidence by Schmitt and Randle that indicates the government was engaged in covering up something in the New Mexico desert.

## 'Something Out There'

"I'm not fanatical about UFOs," says Brown, who plans to produce a second UFO report. "But I do

believe there's something out there. Back in the mid-'60s my girlfriend and I spotted a strange light in the sky during a vacation in Baja. I couldn't begin to explain the weird things it did.

"It's only been in the last couple of years," he continues, "that I've come to realize that we're entering a critical time for this planet and ourselves as a race. I honestly believe that these strange visitations and contacts are a message for us to wake up, to stop our tribal warfare, to control our population — or pay the consequences. UFOs and the future are inexorably tied together."

Brown is also producing The First Annual International UFO Congress, which will be held December 8-13 at Las Vegas' Riviera Hotel. Among the scores of guest speakers will be Lazar, who has promised to reveal additional details of his desert experiences. Brown also promises new information about the Roswell crash.



# UFO abductions to be discussed

by James Van Avery

Since 1985 when a Bellevue business man had a very unusual close encounter at Crystal Mountain, UFO abductions have become more prolific.

Joseph Cook (psuedonym), a 59-year-old Bellevue man, claims he saw a UFO on July 14, 1985 and was taken aboard.

"I was abducted," said Cook. The incident, he said, happened while he and a friend, Cassandra Wright, were at Crystal Mountain, just east of Mount Rainier.

The two had planned to ride two chair lifts to the Summit House and take photographs. But Wright had sprained her ankle and decided to stay at Crystal Mountain Lodge while Cook went on up.

It was 2:30 p.m. on a warm, clear Sunday. The Miners Basin chair lift, which goes from the base to midway up the moun-

tain, wasn't running. So Cook, wearing slacks, a long-sleeve shirt and dress shoes, decided to hike up the mountain and get on the Iceberg Ridge lift, which goes to the top. At this time he and Wright parted.

The next thing Cook remembers is lying face-down on rocky Powder Pass, 2,000 feet above the point where he had started to climb and about a quarter mile east of the Summit House. "I was panting like a steam engine," he said. "I was petrified. I had no recollection of how I had gotten there." Emotionally drained, he vaguely remembers stumbling back down to the lodge, his back and his ribs aching. He arrived there at 4:30 p.m. "I don't know how I got there," Cook told Wright, "but I was up there on those rocks."

In the two weeks that followed, Cook was incoherent, according to Wright. "He would

jump at every little noise, like the telephone ringing. He has never shed more tears. He didn't leave the apartment for two days. He didn't want to be alone."

"It was the first time in my life," said Cook, "that I didn't have control over an event."

Adding to the mystery were five puncture wounds on Cook's back, wounds which Wright said looked like needle marks. Though they have faded now, the marks were photographed by Wright.

On August 8, hydrotherapist Fred Rantz of Kirkland, whom Cook sought out after a recommendation from a friend, placed Cook under hypnosis while Wright observed. The session revealed that Cook had been taken aboard a disc-shaped spaceship.

"It was about 200 to 300 feet in diameter and was blue — the undersurface was," said Cook. "It had no lights on it. It hovered

above me," he said, "close to the ground."

"I don't remember how I got into the ship; I understand they can levitate you. But anyhow, the next thing I remember — the only other thing I remember — was I was on a white hospital bed and there were about 25 or 30 figures around me and they were diffused. You couldn't see their features but they were humanoids. It wasn't like an extraterrestrial. They were blurry."

Cook doesn't remember whether he was clothed, whether any of the "grayish-green humanoids" bent over him or whether any instruments touched him. But he is convinced he was being examined!

And he's convinced that he has seen two disc-shaped UFOs since the incident.

"On August 11," said Cook, "I was hanging up the phone in my downtown Bellevue apartment

about 7 p.m. when I saw a blue disc hovering above the Seattle Trust Building. Then, in two seconds, it shot straight up and disappeared."

"On August 21, at about 5:30 p.m. Cooks said he was turning on the evening news when a disc shot by his window, heading east, "like a bomb."

Cook, who has an engineering background and is now in sales, says for weeks after the hypnotic session he denied the abduction story. But he and Wright ventured back to Crystal Mountain afterwards. He double-checked to make sure there wasn't some way he could have gotten up to the rocks on Powder Pass and back to the lodge in two hours. It's a four-mile trip that would take an avid hiker about two and a half hours, according to a Crystal Mountain spokesperson.

Impossible for him, Cook decided, particularly since he was wearing street clothes, hasn't hiked in years and is admittedly in poor physical condition. He said he hadn't been drinking or taking drugs. He denied he fell and hit his head, mistook something else for Powder Pass, is mentally off-balance or is plain lying.

"There's no doubt," he said, "that this happened."

A one-day event will be held in Seattle that may shed light on the local abduction case described above. The two people who will describe local and intercontinental sightings are Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens and Dr. Valery Uvarov.

Recently Wendelle Stevens, author of *UFO Contact from the Pleiades*, and many other "contact" books, was requested by the mayor of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico to come to Puerto Rico and investigate the many abductions and sightings taking place during broad daylight.

Wendelle Stevens enlisted the aid of the equivalent to CNN in Mexico, to accompany him and record interviews with eye witnesses. One of the cases investigated may explain the crop circle phenomenon.

A man was abducted while in route to his place of work, then transported 160 miles away to end up in the middle of a "crop circle" made at the time he was set down. This was observed by a couple training a horse in a nearby field.

Another case Stevens investigated was the observance of 80 people watching a huge triangular-shaped craft "sucking" up two air force jets. Nothing has ever been found of the planes or the pilots.

Dr. Valery Uvarov, St. Petersburg, U.S.S.R., head of the UFO International Network in Russia, is coming to Seattle especially for this one-day conference. He will be speaking on recent events in Russia. Many abductions are taking place in Russia; information we rarely hear about in the U.S. Dr. Uvarov will share his own experiences with E.T.s when he speaks in Seattle.

These cases, as well as many others investigated personally by Wendelle Stevens and Valery Uvarov will be discussed at a one-day conference sponsored by the UFO Contact Center International on December 21, 1991 from 10 to 4 p.m. at the Mountaineer's Auditorium, 300 3rd Avenue West. Advanced tickets for \$15 may be purchased by calling (206) 946-2248. Price of admission at the door will be \$20.

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - Oct. 27, 1991

## The Roswell Incident

"UFO Crash at Roswell"

By Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt

Avon Books, \$4.95, 327 pp.

Review by Fritz Thompson

When New Mexico rancher Mac Brazel rode out to check his livestock on the morning of July 3, 1947, what he found instead was wreckage oddly strewn across a pasture and a mystery that was destined to remain dormant for more than 40 years.

Resurrected, it is today being called man's first hands-on encounter with an alien spacecraft and the beings who rode in it.

Preposterous? Perhaps.

But the incident cannot be summarily dismissed as just another crackpot story about "how I spent my weekend visiting Venus."

This book and the two men who wrote it have raised questions about what really happened that summer, and they have found the official answers wanting.

This much is certain: In late June or early July of that year, something crashed in Brazel's remote pasture, leaving a trail of metallic debris 200 to 300 feet wide and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile long. At one end of the trail, a 500-foot-long gouge had been scraped in the soil. U.S. military officers, after issuing a news release saying an actual "flying disc" had been found for the first time in history, soon retracted that story, sent scores of men to the site, picked up every scrap and subsequently declared the debris the remnants of a crashed weather balloon. Some people who are still living and who were in some way associated with the incident now say they were sworn to secrecy and refuse to reveal — 40 years later — what they saw or heard.

As a point of reference: The crash occurred in rugged rangeland inhabited by little else than cattle, sheep, rocks, grass, coyotes and rabbits. Brazel's nearest neighbor was more than 10 miles away. The site, surrounded by this vast and silent emptiness, is about 75 miles northwest of Roswell.

The authors' credentials are respectable, but not extraordinary. Kevin Randle is described as a former helicopter pilot and Air Force intelligence officer. Donald Schmitt is identified as a special investigator for the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

Their book is maddeningly redundant, occasionally tedious and often confusing. The best part will be the 10 pages of their conclusions.

That aside, Randle and Schmitt have done a lot of legwork. More than 180 persons, many of



DRAWING COURTESY DONALD R. SCHMITT

One of the few witnesses to see the impact point provided eyewitness testimony to the authors. He had shredded his original drawing.

them identified, were interviewed, a number of them more than once. Scores of pages of government documents, some with blacked-out, censored sentences, were obtained and are quoted. Libraries and archives were combed, diaries and personal papers examined and reports and articles referenced.

If there is any part of the book that strains credibility, it is the assertion that four alien bodies were found July 8 on the ground near a crashed escape pod, about two or three miles from the debris site. The beings were described as a about 4 feet tall with large, pear-shaped heads, skinny arms and legs, hands without thumbs and clad in gray-colored flight suits.

The authors allege that the military swiftly and surreptitiously took the bodies to then-Roswell Air Field, packed them in ice and flew them to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Presumably, the authors indicate, the bodies are still there.

The mostly second-hand accounts of witnesses to this episode are not convincing. A man who claimed to have found the bodies, for instance, was 300 miles away on that day; the authors suggest he may have only said he was that far removed because the military had badly frightened and intimidated him when the military police arrived and threw him off the site.

Still, the book raises legitimate questions.



Drawing by Roswell mortician Glenn Dennis, based on autopsy drawings

If the crashed object was truly a weather balloon, as the military insists, why did the wreckage consist almost entirely of hundreds of scraps of paper-thin metal that could not be bent? Would a balloon strike the earth with such force as to scatter debris for nearly a mile and gouge a 500-foot scar in the soil? If it was simply a weather balloon, why did the military swear people to silence, and why are those people still afraid to speak about the incident more than 40 years later?

Why did the Army post two rings of MPs around the crashed "weather balloon" and then send about 60 soldiers out to the site to pick up every last piece? Why did they box up these pieces and place them on a nighttime military flight to then-Fort Worth Army Air Field?

Why did everybody who tinkered with the scraps describe the material as "nothing found on Earth?"

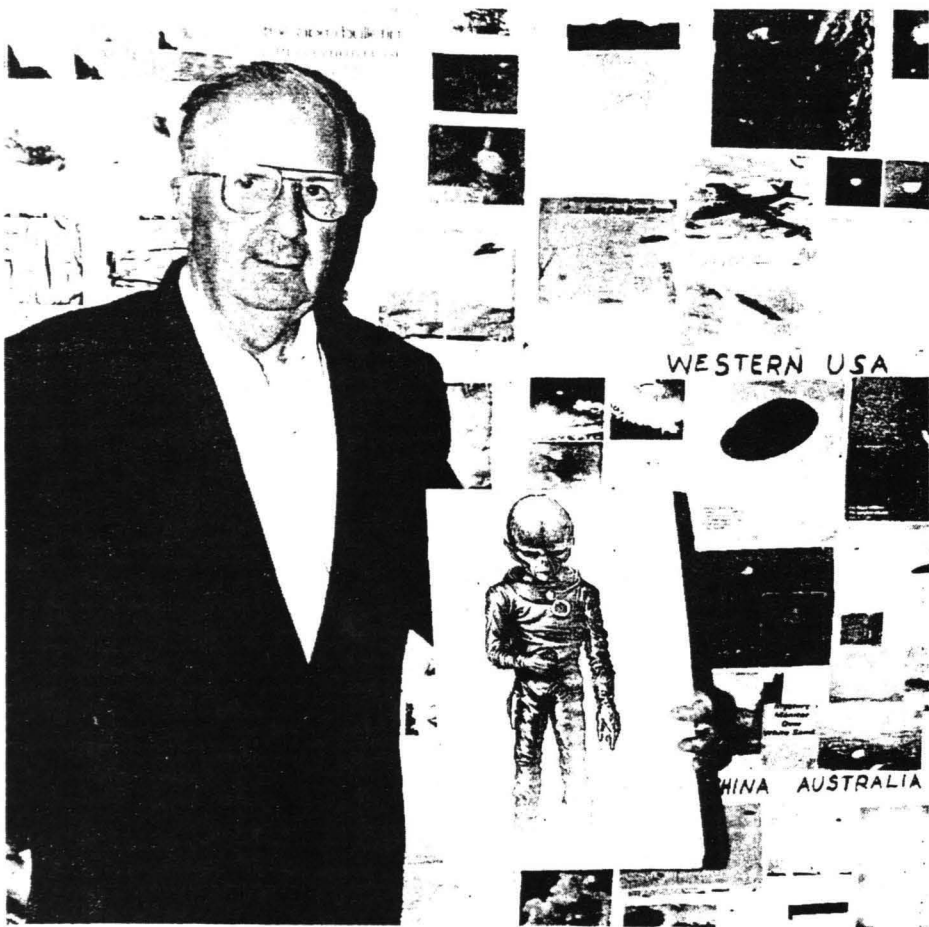
After that incredible first news release, describing the capture of a flying saucer, why did the military change its story and send men out to retrieve all news accounts from radio stations, including some that had been hidden by longtime New Mexico newscaster Frank Joyce? Why would another Roswell radio executive claim that the late U.S. Sen. Dennis Chavez, D-N.M., had called from Washington and "suggested" the station not air an interview with Brazel?

In the early days of the discovery, Brazel described the wreckage as unlike any weather balloon he had ever seen. But after several days in the "custody" of the military, he made an about-face and said it was a balloon. He refused to speak further. When his son quizzed him on the matter, Brazel replied, "You are better off not knowing."

Indeed.

Fritz Thompson is a staff writer for the Journal's state desk.

# UFO investigator: Sightings are common



Don Worley, Connersville, displays evidence from his 26 years as a UFO investigator. Worley specializes in working with victims who have been abducted by UFO's. Worley is seen here with a drawing which shows what most people describe as a typical UFO entity. Described as three to four feet tall with large eyes, white skin, no nose, a slit for a mouth and a pointed chin. (Karen Fry photo)

Display

By KAREN FRY  
Staff Writer

Have you ever seen a bright orange light or domed disc in the sky? After waking up in the morning have you ever found unexplained scars or lumps that have healed? Have you ever been suddenly afflicted with sinus, urinary or reproductive problems?

Have you ever removed a tiny object from your body? Had unusual dreams? Been hit with a light beam? Feel like you have lost time or find yourself someplace and you don't know how you got there? Developed an unexplained fear of phobia?

Phenomena of this kind are a lot more prevalent in Rush County than you might think, so if you answered yes to any of the above questions you may have been in contact with an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) and UFO Investigator Don Worley would like you to contact him.

Worley, a Connersville resident, has been a UFO investigator covering south eastern Indiana for the last 26 years and has investigated more than 350 cases involving UFO's and other strange phenomenon. Worley says that reports of UFO encounters are always kept confidential.

Worley is retired from the U.S. Coast Guard. He got involved researching and investigating UFO's 26 years ago. Worley says he knew some things about UFO's, but a UFO citing in Circleville, here in Rush County in 1966 convinced him. "I was a skeptic at first but there were some things about that case in Circleville that I just couldn't explain away," Worley said.

Worley said after investigating the case in Circleville where a domed disc hovered low over trees above some children who were playing was seen by witnesses from a side porch and at the Dairy Delight Drive-In that used to be down the road from Circleville in Rushville. An article concerning Worley's findings on the Circleville sighting was published in the Connersville newspaper.

After the article was published in 1966, people started calling Worley whenever they experienced 'sightings' of UFO's. There was a wave of activity in 1966 and 1967 in Rush and surrounding counties," Worley said.

In an editorial Worley wrote to the Connersville News Examiner on October 2, 1991, he said that in 1966 and 1967 Rush County saw a lot of UFO activity. "In 1966 a herd of cattle in the field across from the Little Charm Motel went into a panic. Patrons of the motel gazed up at the glowing blue dome of a space craft. The next day the motel sign said 'Saucer Pilots Welcome.'"

A member of the Mutual UFO Network Worley says he works closely with persons who claim they have been abducted by the occupants of UFO's. Worley works closely with six to eight victims of UFO abductions, he transcribes taped versions of their encounters and sends his findings to a professor at Indiana University who specializes in abduction phenomenon.

Worley's most recent case involves a Centerville man who says he was abducted on June 11, 1991. "He (the abduction victim) was in his trailer and he thought he heard a tractor outside. He thought something was wrong so he went outside and saw lights over by the fence," Worley said.

Worley said the victim went toward the lights because he thought something had happened to the farmer on the tractor. "As he approached this thing, he saw that the lights were up off of the ground. Then he saw the UFO."

"As the craft came toward him he decided to go but when he looked down he saw the white floor of the craft. There was physical evidence at the site of the abduction, there are two round spots on the ground

where the grass is dead on either side of where he was abducted," Worley said.

Worley said the creatures the Centerville victim encountered were about seven feet tall with milky white skin, a big head, large eyes that went part-way around its head, no nose, a small mouth and a pointed chin.

"One of them approached him (the victim) with its hands out, and the victim thought it wanted something so he reached in his pocket and pulled out a \$20 bill that he happened to have, he handed it to the creature and it took the money," Worley said.

Worley said the creatures (or entities) then produced a black instrument, blunt on the end and shaped like a pen the creatures ran the instrument over the victims arm. "There were black marks on his arm just underneath the skin that looked like heavy veins except they were small and fairly straight. He still had the marks two weeks later when I interviewed him," Worley said.

Worley said the creatures held a small black box up to the victim's temple and that is the last thing he remembers before waking up in his own bed 13 hours later.

Worley says typical abduction victims complain of unexplained scars, women may have reproductive problems, men may have urinary problems, they may have strange vivid dreams about their encounters or sudden unexplained phobias. Some victims may find small implants in their bodies with no clue as to how they got there. "Most victims are abducted as children and then again as adults. Some people are abducted several times throughout their lives," Worley said.

In addition to abductions Worley has researched ape-like or "Big Foot" entities and has investigated what he calls surgical cow mutilations where reproductive organs are removed from cattle. "The killings are bloodless and the cuts are made with serrated edges like a laser would make. They leave circular cavities and animals that normally would feast on a cow won't do it."

"People may ask why I am in this (the field of investigating UFO's.) I'm in it because to me it's more important than anything. It's the most astounding thing that will affect civilization. Also, I am in it because of fate, I am supposed to be in it," Worley said.

"The government says these things don't exist but I have 190 photographs, I don't think that many people are going around faking photographs."

"A person just can't conceive of the advanced state of these things. They can manipulate matter, space and time in a way that is beyond our comprehension," Worley said.

"The government has kept this information (concerning UFO's) hidden so people can't get any information on the subject. The UFO phenomenon is just the tip of the iceberg, what's going on down on the ground (concerning reports of abductions) is the important thing. These beings are exceedingly cunning and it looks like they are more powerful and more in control of us than we realize."

"If the government starts spilling the beans on all of this (UFO activity and reports of abductions) it could knock out the foundations of civilized society for a while because we are powerless to defend ourselves against them," Worley said.

Worley said that most people think UFO's fly in from another planet. "They don't fly in from another planet, they appear here from some place else. I don't know if it's another planet or a different state of being. These things (UFO's) disappear in mid-air," he said.

Worley says he can help victims on UFO abductions and encourages anyone who has experienced any of the abduction symptoms to contact him.

## Bright object lights up northern sky

By CHARLES WOHLFORTH  
Daily News reporter

A bright sphere of light with a long tail streaked across the sky from Anchorage to Bethel Sunday at 5 p.m., prompting startled observers to call equally startled aviation and military authorities.

A Federal Aviation Administration duty officer was flooded with calls for hours after the event, but could offer little insight into what it was. He suggested it could have been some kind of flare set off by the military, or a falling satellite or meteorite from space.

A U.S. Air Force spokesman said the military had no operations at the time of the sightings, and suggested a reporter call the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado. But no one answered the phone there.

Laurita Hefner saw the lights near Indian while driving north to Anchorage from Girdwood. She described it as a huge blue sphere with a long tail that was heading toward the Earth at a 30-degree angle at very rapid speed.

"It would be 20 times as large as a normal star," she said. "If it was as close as it could possibly be behind that mountain, it would be as big as three 747s. So it was huge."

Andrew Steiner saw it while driving on the Seward Highway at Huffman Road. He saw the object flying west across the sky for five to seven seconds, beginning like a shooting star but then turning bright green with sparkles and a trail coming off of it.

"It wasn't a flash," Steiner said. "It was cruising along."

Patrick Roache, an astronomer with the United Kingdom Infrared Observatory in Hawaii, said the descriptions of the object

suggest it may have been a bolide, an especially large and explosive meteor.

"They're interesting things," Roache said, but not terribly unusual.

Meteors are interplanetary rocks headed for the Earth, which usually burn up in the atmosphere, producing shooting stars. About 500 a year reach the ground, although only a handful are found.

Roache said bolides usually explode or break up in the air. He said the only way to find out for sure what the light was would be to gather a lot of visual sightings, figure out exactly where the object fell, and then go find it.

Both Steiner and Hefner said the object seemed to head toward the Earth northwest of Anchorage, and the FAA officer said others thought it came down in the Beluga area, across Cook Inlet from the city. But he said it must have started from a great height, since it was also seen from Bethel, 400 miles west of Anchorage.

"We have a 24-foot cathedral ceiling, all glass, and I didn't see a thing," said Christel Van Huff, of Fat Albert's Tavern in Tyonek, on the west side of Cook Inlet.

Hefner was planning to fly today in the direction she saw the light come down, in hopes of finding whatever it was on the ground.

"If there is snow there, it must have dug a hell of a hole," she said.





## FOREIGN NEWS

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England

Nov. 27, 1991 CR: T. Good

### OFF THE BOOKSHELF

## Things that go bump...

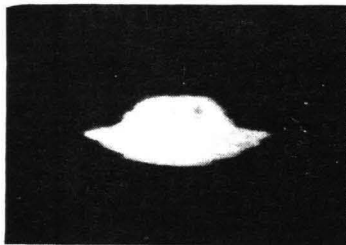
Encounters with the Unknown, by Colin Parsons (Robert Hale, £6.95)

SO many people claim to have encountered aliens, ghosts, phantom black dogs or other paranormal phenomena these days, some of us who have never even seen a half-convincing UFO are beginning to wonder if we're missing out.

Books on the unexplained aren't exactly in short supply, as the most fleeting visit to a bookshop will show. So what makes Colin Parsons' contribution a worthwhile addition to the welter of material already available?

First he has done all his own research, at first hand. Secondly, few if any of the incidents described have appeared in print before. Certainly I recognised none of them, and I have read quite a few books in this vein.

Thirdly he has succeeded in avoiding the relatively humdrum to bulk out his.



UFO photographed in the skies over Iran

Instead he concentrates on experiences that are particularly weird or spectacular, or which really do make you question our understanding of the world around us.

Finally, he has tried to restrict himself to reports where there is other evidence, either internal or external, to support their veracity. That way, he at least minimises the danger of subjects who over-embellish their tales of mystery.

Verdict — a good stocking filler for those interested in such matters.

John Teague

## Mystery on 'show' in the sky

A HOLIDAY stroll proved to be really out of this world for two visitors who are convinced they saw UFOs flying over cliffs near Filey.

Friends Roger Soffe and Jim Deal could hardly believe their eyes when they saw orange lights darting in and out of the clouds.

They called the police in the hopes of getting to the bottom of the mystery.

Roger, 44, an insurance broker from Petts Wood in Kent, described what they saw as they took a stroll near the Blue Dolphin, Grinstead.

Round shapes with bright orange centres darted in and out of the clouds, he said.

"I've never seen anything like it before. It was just as though they were putting a show on for us.

The two men were out walking their dog at 1.45am on Wednesday when they spotted the lights and say they saw at least 10.

Their sighting has baffled experts. A coastguard spokesman said that there was an unusual cloud formation on the night. One explanation may have been that military aircraft were using afterburners in the area.

"Observed from a distance, that does look eerie."



UFO RIDDLE: Holidaymaker Roger Soffe with his dog Sally.

CITIZEN, Gloucester, England - Dec. 10, 1991 CR: T. Good

## County UFO sighting

A GROUP of pensioners claim they saw a UFO while waiting for a bus at Whitminster, near Gloucester last night.

The four elderly ladies saw huge bright lights coming towards the village and then skim over the village hall. And the flying saucer was reported elsewhere across the south west.

One of the group said: "It looked

like a big car in the sky, with two main beams in the front surrounded by smaller light around them. And I could hear the hum of an engine.

"I could not see any wings at all. And I have never seen an aeroplane lit up so bright."

It came from the direction of Bristol, passed straight over Whitminster, and before reaching Gloucester swerved off to the left.

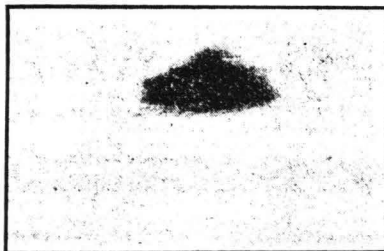
NEWS, Crawley, England - Aug. 28, 1991 CR: T. Good

# U.F.O.



\* Room with a view... what Graham "shot" from upstairs at his Pound Hill home.

## Student snaps his 'close encounter'



\* Blow up... the mysterious object enlarged from one of the frames taken by Graham.

A SPOOKY UFO stunned a teenage student when he saw it hovering above a nearby house in broad daylight.

Graham Sawyer, 17, knew he was having a close encounter on the peaceful Sunday afternoon when a flying saucer floated less than 200 yards away from his Pound Hill home.

He quickly grabbed his camera and got two snaps of it before it flew off leaving Graham convinced of extra-terrestrial life.

BY DAVID FRYETT

Graham, of Shetlands Close, a 6th form student at Hazelwick School, got the surprise of his life when he looked out the front door for his parents and saw the mysterious silent saucer hover to and fro and then move off.

But he did believe his eyes.

"I'm convinced it was a flying saucer, I've always thought they existed. I've no idea what it might have been otherwise," he said.

"My mum and dad didn't believe me — they thought I was winding them up. My girlfriend didn't believe me either. It was met with general disbelief."

Graham said the UFO moved off slowly towards Crawley town centre and is amazed there have been no other reports of the incident.

"But just the other day a friend told me she had seen something similar very recently."

Now every time there's a clear night I look out, but I haven't seen anything else yet."

Philip Mantle, a UFO British Research Association investigator, said he thought the report sounded authentic.

"Normally people take photographs and then notice something on the photo when it's developed. But in this case a photo was taken of a sighting. So that rules out what usually turns out to be a balloon or a bird."

Around 90 to 95 per cent turn out to be easily explained, but these are interesting circumstances."

## I saw UFO too, claims walker

A TEENAGER says she believes she also saw the UFO reported in the Faversham Times last week.

The 18-year-old from Sittingbourne, who did not want to give her name, was walking with a friend in fields near Quinton village at about 7.45pm on 6 December.

The girls were on their way to visit friends at Kemley and were commenting on the clear sky when they saw what they thought was a brilliant star.

But, she said, it moved on and appeared to fly dangerously near a plane. "With the two so close, it was easy

to see only one was a plane," she said.

She described the shape of the UFO as rounded — judging by the four bright white lights on it.

She said: "It was not like the sort of pictures of flying saucers you see in the paper. It was like nothing I had seen before."

The girl said she had dismissed the sighting, until she had read the report in our newspaper about the UFO seen by two families at Conyer and Teynham.

One woman reported seeing the object hovering a few dozen feet above Teynham Church.

FAVERSHAM TIMES, Kent, England  
Dec. 18, 1991 CR: T. Good

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - Sept. 20, 1991 CR: T. Good

# Another UFO seen

by Hamish Macdonell

NATIONAL UFO trackers have dismissed the recent flurry of sightings of unexplained flying objects in North Yorkshire.

There have been four recorded sightings in the county in less than a month.

All have appeared at night and all have been silent floating objects with an array of lights, some of them coloured.

Philip Mantle, chairman of the Independent UFO Network said 95 per cent of all sightings can be explained.

He said that the recent mysterious close encounters were probably aircraft.

But all four witnesses said the objects were silent and therefore could not have been planes.

However, Mr Mantle said planes could well appear to be

## Four sightings within a month

silent if the wind was blowing in the wrong direction or they were high enough up.

The Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force said they had no planes flying over North Yorkshire on the nights in question.

A spokesman for the Royal Air Force said British military aircraft did not operate at that time of night.

The latest witness to come forward is Barry Bellamy, North Yorkshire's official UFO recorder for the UFO Network who saw something mysterious late at night.

Mr Bellamy said: "It was about 16 ft in depth and 20 ft across with an fluorescent light in the centre and a greenish surround which was floating to the ground."

"I thought it was a flare or something and I was so concerned I reported it to the military police at the RAF but they had no knowledge of it."

He added: "Everybody has seen airplanes so they know what they look like but this was different."

A woman in Malton who gave her name to the Evening Press but did not want to be iden-

tified has also had a close encounter.

She said: "It was about 1.45am when it came over. It wasn't a plane because it was too slow and there was no sound."

"There were a lot of deep pink lights on it and it stayed still for a few minutes."

A farmer at Langtoft near Driffield said he was "mesmerised" by the object which passed over his farm like the wind.

He said it had between ten and 12 lights of different colours with red ones at the back.

His whole family witnessed the extraordinary event and they are eager to contact anybody else who saw it that night, August 8.

On the same date a similar object was reported near Pickering.

The woman who saw it said: "There was no noise from it at all."

She added that it was coloured with red, green and white light.

Mr Mantle said there were other theories to explain lights in the night sky.

They could have been Earth lights which are multicoloured luminations which dart around from faults and tectonic strains in the Earth's surface.

He said North Yorkshire was heavily faulted and the lights could also have been released by mining or quarrying.

"Ninety-five per cent of UFO sightings have an explanation at the end of the day," he said, "You start from that premise not from the other end."

"People want to believe they have seen something but we tend to try and question everything."

# MAGIC CIRCLES

With mystery circles now cropping up in fields across the area, chief feature writer Tony Smith examines the growing phenomenon which still baffles the experts.

FIFTEEN years ago a series of strange swirling formations in his fields confounded a farmer in Winchester and sparked off massive media interest in a freak phenomenon which still exists today.

In recent weeks the mystery of the ever-increasing circles has spread to Northamptonshire, with rings of flattened crops suddenly appearing near Finedon, Wellingborough, and Corby.

Hurricanes or whirlwinds (pretty rare in Britain) can make circles in the corn. So can crows, helicopters, and even courting couples. But their circles are crude and clumsy compared with the geometric precision of some of the shapes investigated by the experts.

Cynics cite the so-called "silly season" for the plethora of reports, which seem to increase at an alarming rate each summer. The percentage of practical jokes exposed by the popular press has only fuelled suspicion they must all be the work of hoaxers.

But since the intense tabloid attention of recent years, many pensioners are now coming forward claiming to have remembered playing in similar circles as children back in the 1920s.

One man keeping an open mind is local fireman Gary Rose, who has been the butt of much ribbing from his Kettering colleagues since deciding to investigate the mystery circles two years ago.

Gary's fascination was first fired by a Sunday magazine article. After a TV appeal on Daytime

Live, he agreed to become a local member of Crop Watch, a national monitoring group run by Circles Phenomenon Research.

Gary, 22, who has studied about 20 over the last year, is convinced the recent rings in this area are genuine. But he still cannot offer a plausible explanation.

He said: "If trampled down by foot, the corn is usually damaged, the stems are broken, and the crop dies quite quickly but this wasn't the case here."

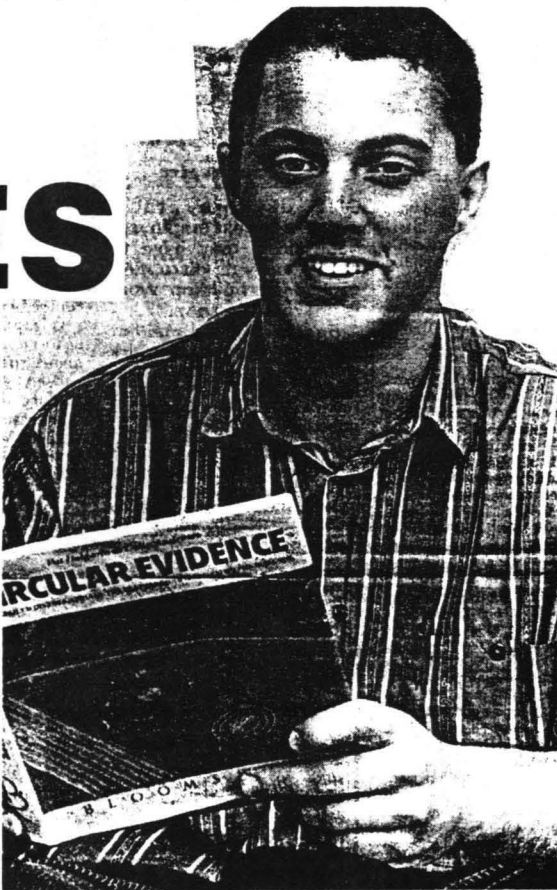
"Because we have had a lot of hot summers in the past 10 years, many people have tended to associate it with the weather or the effect of the ozone layer but so far there has been no information to back this up."

Last weekend Gary examined seven or eight so-called "pictograms" in Wiltshire (paying local farmers £1 a time to enter their damaged fields) and was amazed at the complex pyramids and equilateral triangles.

He plans to record the various vibrations and sounds within the local circles by planting metal probes in the ground, wired up to a tape recorder. The rings are thought to give off energy waves which have made dogs (and some humans) sick when standing inside.

Gary believes the simple circles seen so far could be the start of a build-up of energy which may gradually result in more intricate patterns developing.

"I've taken a lot of stick over this but I'm not deterred," he said, "All I am doing is collating information in the hope of one day finding an answer."



■ INVESTIGATOR... Gary Rose is still probing the mystery of the strange formations

ET picture: JL12582.6A

There are those, of course, who claim the circles are ground traces left by landing or hovering spacecraft from another planet. But this fanciful explanation does not fully convince Corby man Ernest Still, an investigator with the county's UFO Research Group.

"Some experts even reckon they are caused by a fungus in the ground but I'm still not sure," said Ernest. "I think it could be a phenomenon we don't know about yet. Maybe we will never know."

Ernest investigated the only previous local circle at Manor

Farm, Twywell, in 1977 — a 25ft ring in a field of grass used for grazing. At the time he was sure it was caused by a UFO as there were several reports of strange lights in the skies both before and after the incident.

"There are far too many reports for the UFO theory to be ruled out," he said, "but I doubt if they could account for the hundreds of circles which now appear in Britain every year. If they are all caused by aliens from another world, then there must be an invasion on, that's all I can say!"

## Some of the explanations given so far

CEREAL circles have a habit of appearing overnight during the summer months, usually between May and August and until recent years, mainly in Wiltshire and Hampshire.

Sometimes they consist of a large central circle with either two or four smaller circles arranged geometrically around it, as on a dice. Others are key-shaped or pierced by straight horizontal lines.

Wheat wheels can span up to 60ft in diameter while some formations stretch up to 120ft from corner to corner. In 1980 there were fewer than 20 a

year, yet by last year the number had jumped to more than 300.

Farmers complain that crops worth hundreds of pounds can be ruined for each circle, not to mention the extra damage caused by curious sightseers. The most popular theory — flying saucers apart — is that they are the work of practical jokers. Other explanations include:

**Helicopter Damage.** Some claim the swirled effect is caused by the downwash of a hovering helicopter's rotors. Military experts insist the downwash is not spiral but spreads out-

wards and cannot end abruptly.

**Military Probes.** These are remote-controlled vehicles (RPVs) known as 'drones', invisible to radar, and used to undertake electronic and photographic surveillance of enemy bases. Little is known about how they operate and the Ministry of Defence denies they exist.

**Ley Lines.** It was claimed some of the circle sets lay on prehistoric 'ley lines' which somehow emit some ill-defined natural force which cause the rings. Difficult to prove as no device exists to measure ley lines, which exist only

as lines on a map.

**Chemical Warfare.** It has been suggested the Government may be testing chemicals on ordinary crops by dropping small amounts from above, which then spread out. The substance would cause the stems to weaken, thereby wilting under their own weight.

**Parallel Universe.** Highly hypothetical theory from sci-fi buffs (and some scientists) that the circles are caused by parallel universes interacting with each other in the same way that adjacent radio stations 'drift' in and out of fre-

quency.

**Force Fields.** Complicated idea blaming some poorly understood 'natural' phenomena such as 'earthlights' whereby blades of grass or corn respond to a strong electromagnetic force.

**Weather Conditions.** The much-touted theory of "plasma wind vortices" or "fair-weather stationary whirlwinds." Cold, weak microfronts are said to disrupt the stability of the air, triggering a spinning invisible vortex which accumulates highly-charged matter and descends spinning

## Five mysterious corn circles appear in field

IT may sound a little corny but Maple Cross has acquired a mysterious tourist attraction.

Five corn circles — similar to those spotted in Dorset and more recently across the county border in Buckinghamshire — have appeared in fields straddling the North Orbital Road near junction 17 of the M25.

The field is at ground level with the road and it is impossible to see the circles except for on a short stretch approaching the motorway roundabout.

The largest circle, perfectly formed, is surrounded by four identically proportioned smaller circles. They are joined by narrow passages and the whole pattern is 33 metres across.

There are several explanations for the corn circles. Some say they are impressions made by huge UFOs landing, while others argue they may well be caused by mating badgers.

Another popular belief is that they are caused by electrical whirlwinds.

The circles were first reported by Keith and Su Tysoe as they drove towards the M25 on Monday. Since then word has spread and a number of other people have travelled to Maple Cross to inspect them.

Mr Tysoe explained: "We heard about the corn circles appearing in Amersham and were on our way to see them when we found our own."

"We couldn't believe it. We got out and had a look to see if it was a hoax but there is no way anyone could have made such neat circles with just one break in every stalk."

While theories about their creation abound, there are no doubts as far as the local farmer is concerned.

"It's nothing but a childish prank," he said.

He said there were holes in the centre of each flattened area in which posts had been stuck. It was obvious something had been attached to the posts and swung around to create the perfect circles.

## Second UFO sighting

TWO OTHER Lewesians spotted the 'UFO' described by bookseller Alan Shelley in last week's Express.

Alan saw a silver rugby ball-shaped object pass over Lewes High Street.

Malcolm French and Douglas Gibbs, both groundsmen at Northsea Manor School, saw the same object at 6.15am in the darkness, passing at some height to the south-west.

They trained a powerful telescope on it — and the results were spectacular, they say.

"We could see the silver rugby ball shape with a bright light coming from it," said Malcolm. "Surrounding it was a brilliant blue aura. Surrounding that was a halo of yellow and then another of red."

"It was quite a sight. I believe in UFOs but I couldn't swear this was one. It was not a plane or a balloon though."

Douglas, who doesn't believe in UFOs, said: "It took about an hour to pass from our sight. I couldn't tell you what it was, but it was pretty strange."

## UFO men discuss sightings

UFO hunters are coming to Dulwich to pass on reports of strange sightings in Southwark and Lambeth over the past 10 years.

Senior members of London UFO Studies also hope that the meeting will encourage people who have seen flying saucers to come forward.

The group says that in the past 10 years:

\*A 32-year-old housewife in Clapham saw a mysterious object flying hovering over her home for five to eight minutes before it suddenly vanished.

\*A Dulwich driver heading towards Crystal Palace saw a hexagonal craft flying 75ft off the ground with flashing lights for 20 seconds.

Roy Lake, chairman of London UFO Studies, said: "We have had a lot of sightings in the boroughs."

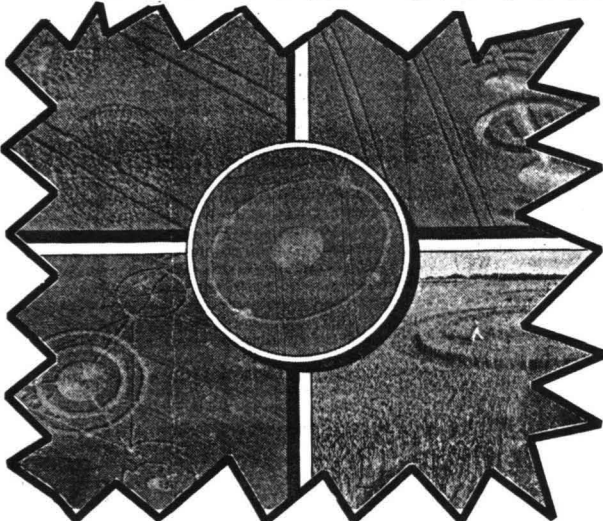
"But a lot of people see things and don't know who to report them too. Once we have been in the area, I am sure we will get more reports."

"Many people are afraid of being ridiculed but we do take it very seriously indeed."

The lecture takes place at The Crypt, Rosendale Road, Dulwich, on August 30, starting at 7.30pm.

Mr Lake will be talking about international sightings.

## Paddock circles are 'no hoax'



The Victorian UFO Research Society is convinced that hoaxers were not responsible for circular patterns found in a West Turriff paddock in 1989.

Society investigator Paul Norman said the 12 patterns discovered on the property of Max and Nancee Jolly were created by the same type of phenomenon responsible for similar patterns found in England.

Mr Norman said two men who claimed to be responsible for creating the patterns in England had been proven to be hoaxers.

"I would like to set the record straight on the circles in England," he said.

Mr Norman said the two men could not repeat the patterns they claimed to have made by trampling grass with boards attached to their feet.

He said grass trodden down by the pair had sprung up after being trampled, whereas the grass in the 'genuine' patterns had remained bent over and soil beneath had been hard-packed.

"An erratic change in the magnetic field also occurs during a genuine case," he said.

"It's like a static charge."

Mr Norman said the change could be detected using a magnetometer.

He said investigators could not be positively sure of what actually caused the circles until more evidence was collected.

"We've never seen a UFO sitting at the spot where these circles have been formed," he said.

"The ones with discoloration or marks are where they may have been sitting," he said.

● Grass patterns similar to these were discovered at West Turriff, and, claims and expert, are no hoax.

OBSERVER, Watford, England - Aug. 9, 1991 CR: T. Good

SUSSEX EXPRESS, Lewes, England Dec. 6, 1991 CR: T. Good

STREATHAM & CLAPHAM GUARDIAN, England - Aug. 15, 1991 CR: T. Good



NEW BOOK CHRONICLES SOME STRANGE HAPPENINGS AROUND CROFT HILL

# Tales of the unexpected

by Peter Heap

ONE NIGHT in May 1971, a woman driving near Croft Hill was surprised by a brilliant object in the sky.

Described as "about the size of a double-decker bus", it "buzzed" her, lit up the countryside and affected electrical equipment in her car.

Four years earlier, in September 1967, several people standing on the hill saw a series of UFOs.

And on March 19, 1975, a bright light was seen shooting across the sky above the village. It stopped, then descended out of sight "as if landing".

## Mystical centre

These three strange events are all recorded in a new booklet published by a small Leicestershire company.

It gives evidence that Croft Hill — threatened with destruction by mining company ECC Quarries Ltd — may be a centre for UFO activity in the county.

And it suggests that the peak may be the ancient mystical centre — or omphalos, from an ancient Greek word — of England.

The Quest for the Omphalos, by



**'It may be UFOs today but if ECC Quarries have their way it will be a black hole tomorrow.'**

Councillor Bill Law

Messrs Bob Trubshaw and John Walbridge, says that although there is no single piece of convincing evidence, "the site is associated with a surprising richness of significant events and anecdotes".

It adds: "Being the only eminence for some distance it was almost certainly the local 'holy hill' or regional omphalos; its claim to be at one time the national omphalos is at least as

good as some of the better known contenders."

Mr Trubshaw also lists other evidence to back up the suggestion, including the use of the site as a meeting place.

Local Councillor Bill Law, one of the leading campaigners in the fight to save the hill, was surprised by the UFO claims — he had not heard of them before.

But he warned: "It may be UFOs today but if ECC Quarries have their way it will be a black hole tomorrow."

Mr Trubshaw's book, which also examines other possible sites for the omphalos, is available from Heart of Albion Press, 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, LE12 6UJ, price £1.50 plus 25p p&p.

## Quest to find new spirits

CROFT Hill is not the only Leicestershire site named in *The Quest for the Omphalos*. The book-let says:

■ High Cross, at the crossing of Watling Street and Fosse Way, also has a claim to be the English omphalos. It appears to have been important until at least the 18th century and is still marked by a monument. Two probable ley lines intersect at High Cross.

■ An ancient crossroads in the centre of Leicester is listed. Known as a car-fax, it was where north-south and east-west roads crossed.

■ No Man's Heath, where Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire meet, may have been a sacred place.



ABOVE: A mystic view of Croft Hill LEFT: High Cross, showing the outline of the Roman camp.

PULMAN'S WEEKLY NEWS, Yeovil, England - Aug. 19, 1991 CR: T. Good

# DID A UFO VISIT IN THE NIGHT?

FRIGHTENED hotel workers think a UFO may have landed in their garden after mysterious markings appeared overnight.

One family say they may quit their home because they are worried about the threat of radiation.

Police suspect an elaborate practical joke but a UFO expert is going to inspect the marks.

The drama began when resident employees at the Bovey House Hotel, Branscombe, woke to find a large burnt circle surrounded by three deep holes imprinted on their lawn.

Hotel chef Eric Coulon said what had looked like a practical joke was now taking its toll on the two households who were desperate to know the truth.

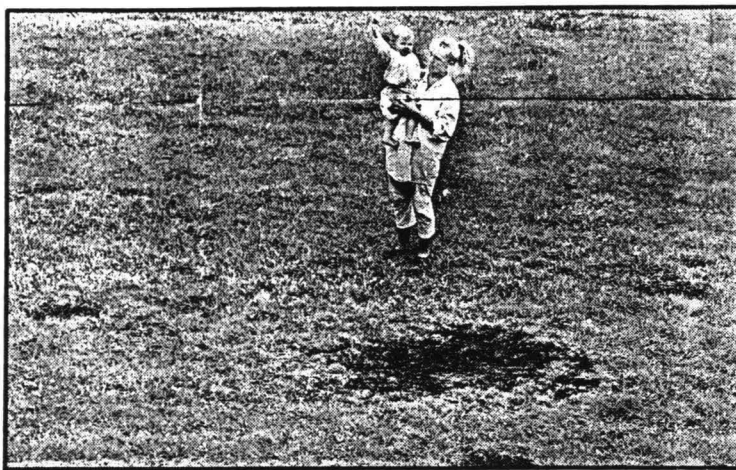
"We don't want to say the word UFO but there is no explanation for the marks. There was somebody in all through the night they appeared," he said.

Practical jokers would have needed heavy-duty machinery to make such deep indentations and nobody heard a thing.

"The dimensions are the same as a triangle — all perfectly laid out," said Mr Coulon. "But quite honestly we are all scared stiff now."

Employee Lawrence Gauld and his fiancée Catherine Webb say they are concerned for the safety of their 16-month-old child.

Catherine said: "You feel stupid talking about UFOs but we have been through every other explanation. I don't like being in the



● SCARED to be on her own — Catherine Webb with daughter Danielle. Picture by Colin Bowerman.

by Sarah Conlon

cottage on my own and I don't let my daughter Danielle play in the back garden — there could be radiation.

"I don't want to run the risk of her contracting cancer simply because I

didn't want to look stupid. I am very concerned about this."

Mr Coulon had reported the incident to the police who were sceptical about the mystery. A spokesman said "We have never seen anything like this. The nearest thing would be the corn circles but we cannot really do anything."

The householders have also contacted Somerset UFO expert Robert Moore who will be making a special site visit.

Meanwhile the grass surrounding the scorched circle at the centre of the tracks is continuing to discolour.

Mr Gauld said: "Unless we get some explanation we will be looking to move out — it's too weird."

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Aug. 16, 1991 CR: T. Good

## UFO spotters keep a vigil

Determined UFO watchers are investigating two strange sightings.

Members of the Borderland UFO Research Group, based in Swindon, will keep watch at Fox Hill, on the Ridgeway near Wanborough, tomorrow after the reported incidents.

The first is said to have happened on July 23, at 11.30pm.

Two people, whose names group leader Paul Horwood, of Windmill Piece, Chiseldon, refuses to reveal, say they saw a collection of lights which wobbled from side to side before disappearing.

The second was reported by a group of teenagers camping at Broad Hinton on August 5.

One of them said they witnessed a gathering of seven-foot-tall figures, with human-shaped heads,

black eyes three inches in diameter, and no noses. They had broad shoulders, long arms and thin waists.

"One figure moved towards the eyewitness, getting as close as two or three feet," said Paul.

He is sure that both reports were genuine.

"If anyone else has seen anything strange before or after these events I would like them to contact me," he added.

Paul believes some strange objects in the sky cannot be explained away as figments of the imagination.

At their regular sky watching sessions they hope to make sightings that they can later verify.

Paul and his friends will be at Fox Hill from 9.30pm, and he can be contacted on Swindon 740978.

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England Nov. 6, 1991 CR: T. Good

## UFO mystery deepens

THE MYSTERY into the sighting of strange lights, featured in the News and Journal on October 16, has deepened, with reports of similar phenomena in North Avon.

Two women from King's Stanley claimed they saw a UFO in the sky above Cheltenham.

Mrs Pat Schofield, who heard of the sighting through a relative in Minchinhampton, told the News and Journal that she and several of her colleagues had also seen unexplained lights close to their homes in Thornbury.

School teacher Mrs Schofield explained that the first sighting occurred on October 3.

"We were returning late at night from a meeting," she said, "when we saw a huge white light moving low across the sky."

"There was no noise and it was moving too slow to be a plane. We watched it for around five minutes and then it suddenly disappeared."

She added that some colleagues and their children saw something similar on October 12, except this time the light was moving up and down.

This second incident happened only the night after Ann Barnes and Trudy Edgeworth from King's Stanley said they saw a triangle of 'weird' bright lights in the sky on their way home from a party.

# ALIENS SNATCH

**A YOUNG Queensland opera singer claims he was kidnapped by white, glowing aliens — who seem to have implanted a tracking device in his brain.**

Baritone Peter Pasini, of Bundamba, told me: "I was abducted in July, 1988, when I was 15.

"Since then, my family and I have had no peace. We've moved house three times — but the beings keep following us."

Mrs Deslie Pasini confirmed her son's story. "We get a visit every few months and it's becoming a terrible strain," she said.

Peter Pasini says he was snatched when the family was living at Rosewood, west of Ipswich.

"I was sitting in the house at about 9pm when I felt a sudden compulsion to go outside," he recalls.

"Looking down the street, I saw a golden ball of light hanging above the railway line. It seemed like some kind of aircraft, but it was totally silent. I started walking toward the light. The next thing I remember, it was all around me.

"What surprised me was the peaceful, relaxing feeling the light produced. Although it was brilliantly bright, it didn't hurt my eyes at all.

"As I stood there, a human-like figure appeared. He was silky-

white and glowing and had a huge head, with teardrop eyes and a slit for a mouth.

"He looked at me, then everything vanished. The next I knew I was standing, shivering, in the front garden, with the worst headache I've ever had in my life.

"I felt something wet and freezing on my face. When I touched it, I found there was a clear, gel-like material clinging to my cheeks.

"Then, for the first time, I noticed that my older brother Gary was with me. He said he'd seen the light, too. All he could remember after that was someone massaging his feet.

"We went into the house to tell Mum — and were amazed to find she was fast asleep.

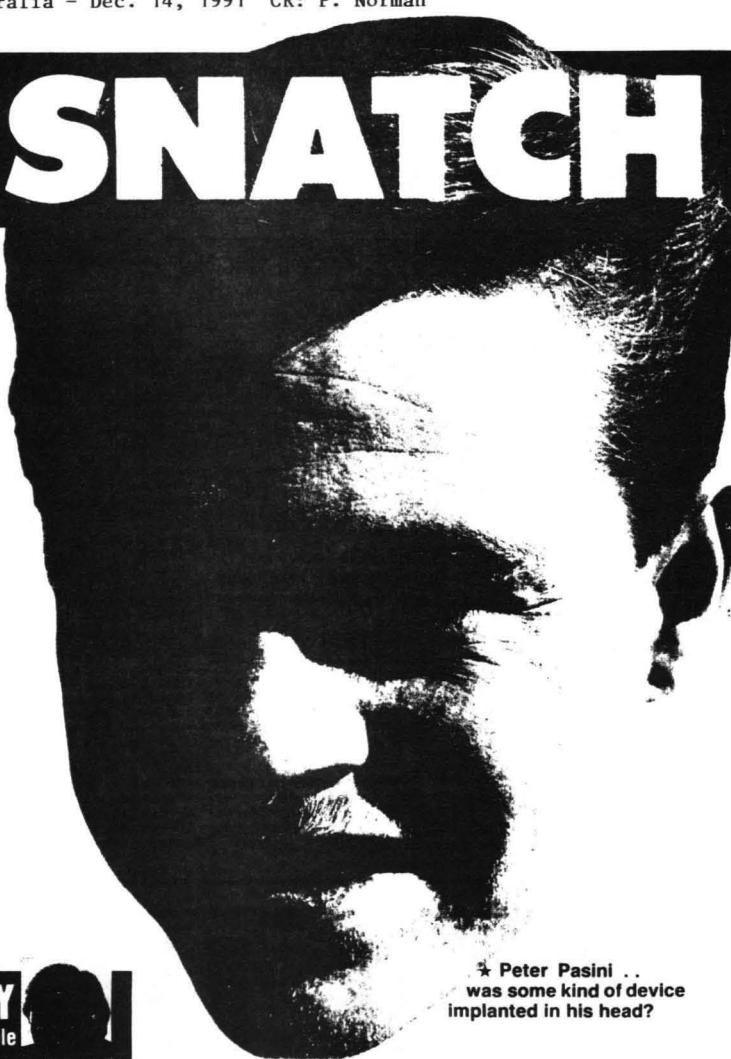
"It was about 3am, six hours after I (and apparently Gary) had gone outside.

"We didn't have the faintest memory of what had happened to us during those hours.

"When I looked in the bathroom mirror, I saw a red, circular mark in the middle of my forehead — and it was hurting like hell. I also had tender lumps behind both my ears.

**He ... had a huge head with teardrop eyes ...**

**John PINKNEY**  
Investigating the incredible



★ Peter Pasini ... was some kind of device implanted in his head?

WIGAN EVENING POST, Lancashire, England - Nov. 27, 1991

# Object in sky was out of this world!

**RON Bird and his daughter Louise are seeing stars after an extra terrestrial experience.**

The pair were at home in Ashton-in-Makerfield when they spotted a strange object hovering in the sky above them.

Terrified, they went out to have a

"If Louise had not been there then I think I might have gone mad."

The pair were at Ron's home in Wigan Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield watching TV when the phenomenon occurred.

A large bright red spherical object appeared in the sky over the house across the road.

A burning yellow halo surrounded it and silver sparks shot out from all angles.

## Sceptical

Despite its beauty the object certainly gave the pair a fright.

Now, still sceptical about beings from outer space, they would like an explanation for what they saw.

According to local UFO expert Steve Balon, their experience was not an isolated one.

Steve, who has researched strange phenomena for 25 years, revealed that the Ashton, Bickershaw, Golborne and Hindley side of town has been the subject of UFO sightings for years.

Within the last seven days he has received more than 30 letters from people claiming similar sightings in the area.

He confirmed everything Ron and Louise had to say.

He added: "Air traffic controllers in Manchester have confirmed that there were no aircraft in the area at the time, nor any similar activities.

"I sincerely believe that

By BEVERLY PARKINSON

closer look and the object went away.

Now, the pair are worried that what they saw was a UFO — and if it wasn't they want an explanation.

Said Ron: "It was absolutely amazing. I have never seen anything like that in my life.

the object Mr Bird saw is not of this world.

"Similar objects have been seen in this area for many years and I believe that for some reason it is of special interest to beings from other planets.

"It could have something to do with the great deal of water and marshland in the area."

Hindley was recently the centre of attention when corn circles appeared in a farmer's field.

Steve wants to hear from anyone who has experienced similar incidents anywhere in Wigan.

UFO watchers should write to him at 10 Woodland Avenue, Pennington, Leigh, WN7 3HL.

CR: T. Good

# SINGER' Amazing claim

"Those lumps are still there — and they're still sore."

For more than a year, Peter told no one outside the family about his baffling experience.

But finally, haunted by curiosity about the "lost" six hours, he acted on a friend's advice and contacted Queensland's UFO research society.

"They recommended me to a hypnotist, who back-tracked me to that evening," he said.

"In the sessions, I learned some of what happened, but not all. There was always a point where I started screaming and was too scared to keep looking at it."

Under hypnosis, Peter remembered lying on a sloping metal bed.

"A bright, white light was shining down on me. It was just like an operating theatre, except that this light was tremendously relaxing.

"Suddenly, a white figure was looming over me. He had the same slit mouth and slant eyes as the little man I'd seen in the street.

"He picked up a dark grey cylinder and pointed it at me.

"I asked him if it would hurt. His lips didn't move, but I heard him replying, in my mind, that it would be OK.

"Then he stuck the cylinder in my left ear and I blanked out.

"When I woke up, I was looking out of a round porthole at a black sky full of stars.

"At that moment of the regression, I always started panicking — and the hypnotist had to snap me out of the trance.

"Something very scary must have happened to me after I looked out of the porthole."

Peter is particularly puzzled by the scar on his forehead.

"I don't have a clue what it means," he told me.

"But I've spoken to UFO investigators who say I might have had some kind of device implanted in my head."

Mrs Deslie Pasini believes the entire family has been singled out for alien attention.

"Six months before Peter had his experience, I saw three flashing lights forming a triangle in the sky above our house in Thagoona," she said.

"I watched them for about 20 minutes — then, just as I was going inside, I noticed something really weird over the back fence.

"The palings were about seven feet high, but I could see two grey, tremendously tall beings standing behind them.

"I don't know what these creatures want with us, but we all have the feeling they're about to tell us something important."

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.



# Expert leads UFO team in scorch marks probe

by Julian Lukins

SUNDAY MAIL, Glasgow, Scotland  
Nov. 17, 1991 CR: T. Good



## LOOK OUT! THE UFOs ARE ON THE WAY

**EXCLUSIVE** By ROB ROBERTSON

**KEEP** an eye on the skies - for a new wave of UFO sightings is sweeping Scotland.

That's the claim from the people who spend their nights investigating mysterious movements in the heavens.

Scottish Research into UFOs, who have been operating for more than three years, have had a rush of reported sightings over the past four months.

Among them have been:

- A BUSINESSMAN from near Stirling who saw bright lights above his home.

- A HOUSEWIFE at Polbeth, Midlothian, confronted by an object hovering outside her bedroom window.

- THE ROSS family, of Blackridge, West Lothian, shocked by a bright beam of light shooting into their house from a pyramid shape in the sky.

In fact, the central belt seems to be the UFOs' favourite area. Forty out of the 50 calls to the research group have come from there.

And group secretary Ken Higgins admitted: "We don't know why."

There have also been reports of sightings from as far afield as Ullapool and Aberdeen.

SOMERSET flying saucer expert Robert Moore was called in to probe mysterious markings in a couple's garden.

He says it's too early to tell if ET has landed but scientific tests were being carried out this week.

The couple woke to find a large circle burned into the lawn surrounded by three deep holes.

Hotel employee Lawrence Gauld and fiancée Catherine Webb fear for the safety of their 16-month-old daughter Danielle.

They may quit their home because they are worried about the threat of radiation.

Catherine said: "You feel stupid talking about UFOs but we have been through every other explanation."

"I don't like being in the cottage on my own and I don't let my daughter play in the back garden because there could be radiation."

The couple believe space travellers may have landed in the garden near Bovey House Hotel in Branscombe, Devon.

Hotel chef Eric Coulon admitted: "There is no explanation for the marks. There was someone in all through the night they appeared."

Police believe the scorch marks are an elaborate hoax but UFO buffs confirmed tests were being conducted.

"We have sent an expert to make an examination of the site," said Robert of UFO group Azimuth.

"Our investigator will carry out tests by taking photographs, measurements and soil samples."

"It's like a police murder investigation. We do everything thoroughly."

"We're not excited about it. We stay calm, cool and intellectually interested."

Meanwhile, worried Lawrence said the family would move unless the weird mystery was solved.



NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England  
Nov. 20, 1991 CR: T. Good

## Stroud's UFO sitings linked to Belgium?

RESEARCHERS in Bristol are investigating the strange sitings of bright lights - alleged UFOs - seen by members of the Stroud public.

Apparently the description - a triangular shape of green and red lights - reported by viewers is exactly the same as those received from residents in Belgium and in Ohio, America.

Paranormal Research, based in Clifton, Bristol, which also investigates the mystery surrounding Corn Circles, is currently looking into the local UFO sitings in a bid to throw light on the behaviour patterns.

"We have received recent reports that this same craft was seen in Belgium and last year in and around Ohio in America. It appears to keep appearing and could be connected to crop circles," said Mr Ian Harling, co-ordinator at Paranormal Research.

"We are trying to find out how much hoaxing is going on. We are not exactly sceptical but we like to keep an open mind on how people see things. If anyone else thinks they have seen something like it they can write to us," he said.

Two women from King's Stanley first reported weird bright lights in the sky when travelling back from a Cheltenham night club.

And the night before Ann Barnes and Trudy Edgeworth's strange encounter, school teacher Mrs Pat Schofield and several of her colleagues also claimed to see a huge white light moving low across the sky near their homes in Thornbury.

Last week police ruled out the theory that the sightings were the result of activities of one of their helicopters.

Researcher George Wingfield, founder member of the centre for crop circles will be presenting an evening of slides and information on Saturday, November 23 at 7pm in the Trinity Rooms, Stroud.

# UFO MYSTERY AS HOUSE IS BATHED IN LIGHT

SOMETHING strange is happening to West Lothian...and it's thrilling UFO enthusiasts from all over Scotland.

by Dave Cowan

For the second time this year, reports have been made of mysterious objects appearing in the skies above countryside near West Calder.

And now experts are saying that the area is becoming a rival to Scotland's current capital for UFO sightings - Blairgowrie in Perthshire!

The latest report of visitors from outer space came from a middle-aged couple who live in Harburn.

### OBJECT

They say that one night last month, a beam of light swept through their house.

It was so bright, according to the couple, that it lit up their bedroom like daylight before disappearing.

Suitably baffled by that, the pair couldn't believe their eyes when they saw a strange object in the sky the next night.

Shaped like a pyramid with a bright light at the apex, the object hovered and rotated in the air for around 25 minutes until it went the same way as the beam from the night before.

The couple say they watched the object through binoculars and have no idea what it was.

Stirling-based UFO expert Ron Halliday looked into their story and completed his investigation this week.

Edinburgh airport told him there were no planes in the

area at the time and nothing had shown on radar.

Ron also discounted the possibility of the beam of light coming from something as down to earth as a passing car.

"Basically, we haven't been able to explain what the pyramid was so it's been verified as an unidentified flying object," he said.

### FAMOUS

Earlier this year, another West Calder family claimed that they had been visited no less than three times by UFOs.

Ron suggested that if the trend continues, the Livingston/West Calder area

could become busier for weird goings-on than Blairgowrie, where numerous UFOs and crop circles have been reported recently.

He pondered: "There seems to be something developing and I don't really know why it should be happening in that area."

"One of the most famous UFO sightings ever took place in Livingston when Bob Taylor claimed to have encountered a flying saucer."

"And now there's all these new sightings not so far away in the West Calder area."

"I'd like local people to get in touch if they see anything unusual or know of past UFO incidents."

"My colleagues and I would like to take a closer look at the whole thing."

Anyone who can help the UFO experts should contact Ron's associate Kenny Higgins - Scottish representative of the British UFO Society - on East Calder 881218.

COURIER, Lothian, Scotland - Oct. 4, 1991 CR: T. Good

GAZETTE NEWSFILE

## Was this humming object a UFO?

ANNE and Fred Hickox claim a UFO flew over Taunton at 10 am on Wednesday and then headed for the Quantocks.

Mrs Hickox said: "We clearly saw a round thing going across the sky with two 'legs' hanging out. There was a rectangular bit at the top. It was humming and it moved quickly across the sky."

The couple, who live in Whitmore Road, called a neighbour who saw a light disappearing towards Kingston St Mary.

"It was like a huge jellyfish," said Mr Hickox. "It was dark grey and my wife made a drawing of it. It just suddenly appeared in the sky from the direction of Taunton School."

A spokesman for RNAS Yeovilton said there were no aircraft from the naval base in the area at the time.

He said: "There are no records of what flies over Taunton because it's open air space. But it's not unusual for people to mistake helicopters with under-slung loads for UFOs."

He added that most 'sightings' were at night, but the weather was pretty murky at the time of the unusual flying visit.

But Mrs Hickox is unmoved. "I'm sure it wasn't anything normal like a helicopter or microlight," she said. "And we hadn't been drinking - it was too early in the morning."

SUTTON COLDFIELD NEWS, Warwickshire,  
England - Nov. 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

## 'Flaming' UFO hits Four Oaks

MYSTERY surrounds a fireball in the night sky seen hovering 3-400ft in the air over the Blake Street area of Four Oaks.

The flaming UFO, emitting orange bursts of flame and the size of a car, stayed still for three minutes, moved very slowly away and then 'took off' in the direction of the Parson & Clerk Hotel, Banners Gate.

One witness, who asked not to be named, said it was in the sky for five to six minutes.

"The orange fire was spectacular. I kept waiting for it to crash but it didn't," she said.

The mystery object was seen 'zooming' through the air just after 10pm on Tuesday night.

### Reports

Reports said it was seen over Blake Street or Rosemary Hill Road before eventually heading off towards Lichfield.

Sutton Coldfield police said they had not received any similar reports.

ADVERTISER, Poole, England - Aug. 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

# Close encounters of the shadowy kind

WHEN a psychic friend told musician Mark Williams she'd been taken aboard a UFO he thought she'd flipped.

And after she told him she'd get her alien contacts to show him their spacecraft, 22-year-old Mark decided it was time to end the friendship.

"I thought she was right over the top," said Mark, but he does admit to keeping a nervous eye on the sky at night over his home in Singleton Drive, Slades Farm, Bournemouth.

For weeks nothing happened but then in broad daylight a UFO did a spectacular flypast in broad daylight - seemingly just for Mark. It even gave him time to grab

his camera and take a couple of photos - one printed here.

Mark's mother Ursula saw it too - in fact she spotted it first, from the front bedroom window.

"Mark was downstairs and I shouted for him to come up quickly with his camera," she said.

The mystery object seemed to be triangular and veered towards them.

Then it slowly moved sideways and back again before zooming off at the speed of a fighter jet.

Said Mark: "I've been to many air shows and know my planes. We watched it in total for about 90 seconds. It was certainly not a helicopter or any other kind of aircraft because it was completely silent."

"There was a sort of shadowy haze around it as if it wasn't quite solid. This may account for the



● Mark Williams points to the UFO in his snapshot

REPORTER, Wigan, England - Nov. 14, 1991 CR: T. Good

# Steve's plea to UFO spotters in Wigan

A UFO researcher wants to hear from Reporter readers who say they have seen strange flying saucer like objects.

Steve Balon, from Leigh, is the North West Investigator for the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena and he is 'very excited' at the massive response we have had to our recent revelations about a UFO mystery in Bickershaw.

In the October 24 edition of the Wigan Reporter we revealed how regulars at the

Queens Arms pub claimed to have seen a UFO, and people have been writing and ringing in supporting the bizarre claims ever since.

Now Steve wants these people to contact him and anyone else who has had an encounter of the third kind at any other time so he can record their sightings.

"People who have

seen this thing, I would like them to get in touch with me so I can send them a sighting form. Some I'd like to interview personally. I would like people to let me know about any UFO

### 'There are a lot of weird things going on'

sightings they have experienced at any time."

Steve, who has been studying UFO activity in the North West for over twenty years, does not accept the

explanation that the Bickershaw sightings were due to spot lights beaming over from Blackpool Pleasure Beach, a theory put forward in the Wigan Reporter two weeks ago by the fair

ground's own publicity department.

"Those lights just would not reach that far. They have a very limited range," said Steve.

Neither does he accept such logical explanations as aeroplanes.

"People know what planes sound and look like in the day and at night. Here we are

talking about objects that move without noise, at great speed up and down and move from side to side."

He says there has been increasing UFO activity in the Bickershaw area and other parts of Wigan and he has collected masses of information from a variety of sources dating back to the 1960's.

"There has been so much happening these days. There are a lot of weird things going on. UFO activity is building up all the time and there have been high concentrations of UFO sightings in the Bickershaw area."

Steve firmly believes that alien life forms exist and says he has documents proving

that successive governments have attempted to conceal information about flying saucers and aliens.

He also supports an old Indian tribe's theory that the corn circles mystery symbolises that the planet is undergoing some kind of ecological, psychological and sociology break down.

"These circles have appeared before at times of great change," said Steve.

Anyone who would like to contact Steve about their UFO sightings should write to him at 10 Woodlands Avenue, Leigh, for a sighting form.

All information he says will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Bill spots a flying saucer down The Nook in Appley Bridge!

BILL RILEY is the sought of man many would describe as down to earth and that's not just because he works for a Tarmac company. Yet Bill like many other readers who have contacted the Wigan Reporter over the last couple of weeks believes he has had an encounter of a third kind.

It was about four weeks before the sightings reported in the Wigan Reporter on October 24, when Bill claims he saw a flying saucer... but he has only just plucked up the courage to speak about it spurred by the tremendous response we had to our story from our readers all claiming to have seen 'strange things.'

Bill, 46, who says he spotted the saucer outside his home in The Nook, Appley Bridge, said: "It was about 8.15pm. I was washing down the drive then I just looked up and saw it. It was massive. It was orange like the moon and was behind the trees. It disappeared within seconds."

Although it was a brief encounter Bill noticed that the round shape measuring about 16 feet across appeared to be lit from underneath and had a blue vapour coming from it. Bill, who is manager of Tarmac Roofing Systems, Appley Bridge, is convinced that what he has seen is something out of this world. "It definitely was not lights coming from Blackpool. We are in a valley here in Appley Bridge and there's no way beams could get across."

● Bill's UFO experience is one of scores of similar accounts that have poured into our Library Street offices. Many thanks to all our readers who have contacted us.

DAILY MIRROR, London, England

Dec. 14, 1991 CR: T. Good

## KIRK'S DUNE IT BEFORE

JUST in time for the release of his last Trekkie movie, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, Captain Kirk, alias William Shatner, reveals he had a close encounter of an unreal kind in the late 60s while motorcycling through the Mojave Desert.

Shatner claims he was separated from his biker mates and lost his way among the dunes. Suddenly a UFO appeared and guided him back to his companions. Says Shatner: "It was a really odd experience. I mean, I didn't even have to ask Scotty to locate me and beam me up!"

Well, as they say about the 60s - if you remember them, you weren't there.

## Return trip of visitors from space

A SECOND sighting of a UFO in Newham within a fortnight has caused excitement among experts.

Lee Kane, 21, of Philip Street, Plaistow, got a shock as he lay in bed during the early hours of Friday when a light shone through his bedroom window.

In a gap between the curtains he saw a white light surrounded by "misty green" objects. It was accompanied by electronic noises.

The experience lasted about an hour-and-a-half, with the noises stopping and starting as he sat up to take a closer look.

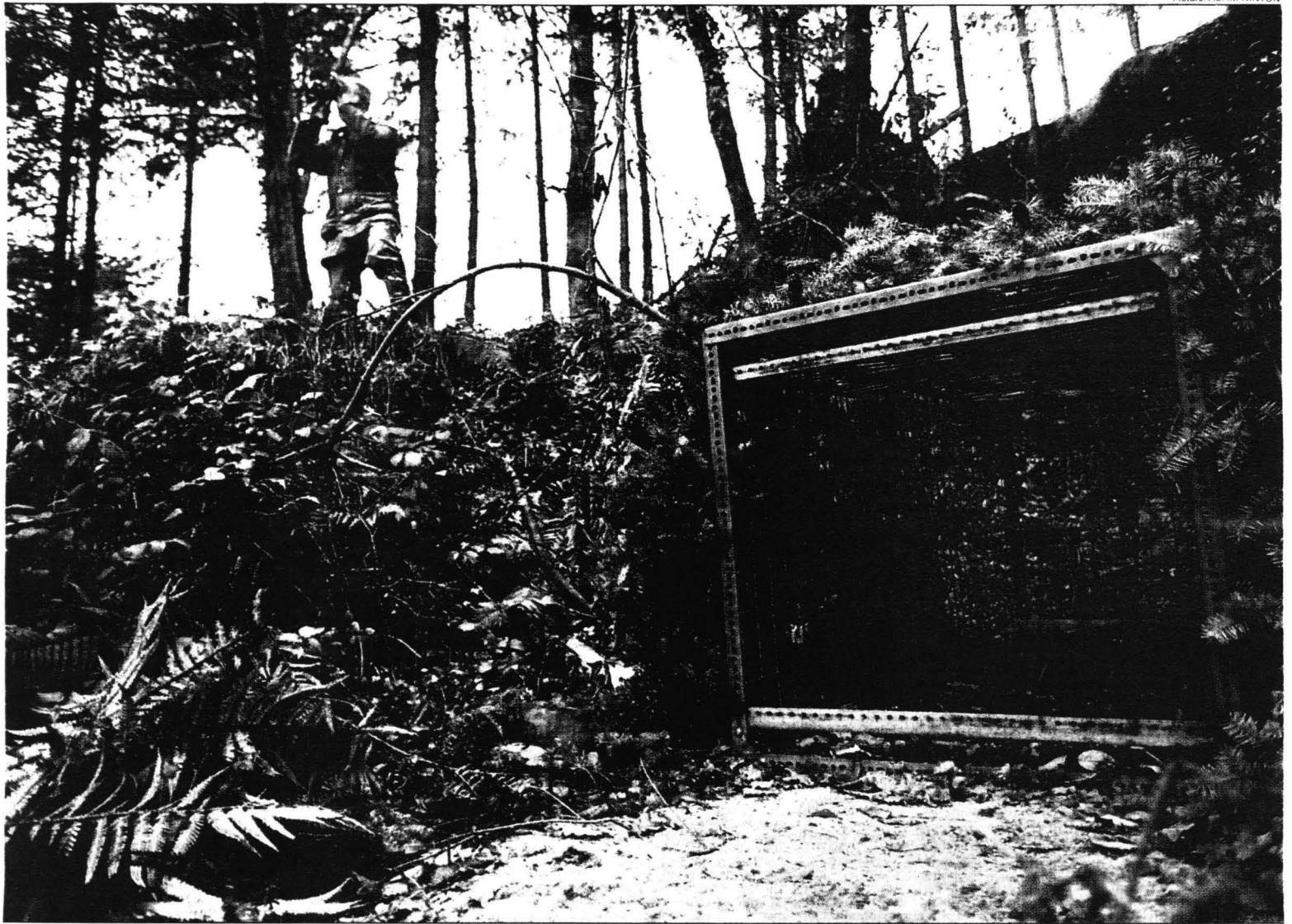
Said Mr Kane: "I was scared but then I felt strangely comforted and fell asleep."

The incident follows the sighting by four people of moving cloud-like objects in East Ham.

Roy Lake of East Anglian UFO Society said he was excited by Mr Kane's account.

DOCKLANDS RECORDER, London, England - Oct. 31, 1991 CR: T. Good





To catch a thief: Nigel Brierly has been baiting traps like this for four years in the hope of snaring the Exmoor 'beast'. This week fresh paw prints were found by the metal cage

# In the grip of the Beast

For the past eight years a mysterious killer has been preying on the sheep of Exmoor. **Andrew Martin** reports on efforts to track it down

**I** FIRST met Nigel Brierly one summer evening at Tiverton Parkway Station in North Devon. We exchanged pleasantries for 10 seconds and then we were off: speeding across the Exmoor foothills to South Molton in his little car and discussing the matters which have dominated his life for eight years.

We talked of the relative sizes of pumas and tigers, of the various synonyms for puma (mountain lion, cougar), and the speed at which a puma can run. As darkness descended, we discussed the way in which a dog or a fox kills a sheep (attacking the hind-quarters) and the contrasting way in which a puma goes about it (biting the neck). Brierly, nervously checking his speedometer, mentioned the puma's habit of ripping its prey open by tugging at the ear, using it as a kind of zip.

Nigel Brierly, a dapper, silver-haired man in his 70s, talks in a cultured, wavering voice and seems perpetually anxious. He has always been a "countryman". He has worked as a horticulturist, a field biologist, and was once head gardener to the

Earl of Bradford. Fifteen years ago he retired to a cottage outside South Molton. Here he divides his time between tending an acre of garden — "it takes a little longer each year," he says sadly — and leading the search for the puma or family of pumas which he believes is roaming the foothills of Exmoor. Brierly never refers to his quarry as "The Beast of Exmoor".

The phrase was coined in the spring of 1983 after Eric Ley of Drewstone Farm, South Molton, woke up to find one of his ewes with its throat cleanly ripped out. Over the next two-and-a-half months he found a hundred of his sheep killed in this distressingly efficient way; as he stared bankrupt in the face, his life began to resemble an Ealing comedy.

The tales of Ley's ordeals are still recounted with unseemly relish in the pubs of Exmoor: the newspaper reporters rapping on his bedroom window at midnight... the beery vigilantes swarming over his land... the Dutchman who turned up with "the best tracking dog in the world" and threw open his car door to reveal a poodle... the widely trumpeted arrival of Sergeant Eddie McGee (who had tracked the multiple murderer Barry Prudom), and his quiet departure... the squad of crackshot marines who camped in Ley's barn and tethered billy goats to a disused railway line as bait for the Beast.

As the summer of 1983 wore on, the tabloids turned their attentions elsewhere, having established the Beast in the popular imagination as a poor relation of the Loch Ness monster or the Lampton Worm. The

Beast has rarely cropped up since in the national media, although it continues to exercise the fervid imaginations of correspondents to the Fortean Times, the "journal of strange phenomena". On Exmoor there were a few cosy spin-offs: Beast T-shirts and mugs and "See the Beast of Exmoor" holidays.

But the bizarre sheep deaths have continued, alongside those obviously attributable to dogs, accident and disease. Most people working on the land in the Exmoor foothills believe that something unusual, something "not British", as one local once put it, is roaming their countryside.

Nigel Brierly has attributed an average of about 30 sheep kills a year since 1983 to what most people call the Beast of Exmoor, and he is sure that the "Beast" is responsible for many more. The nature of these kills, together with evidence found close by, and numerous eye-witness accounts, have persuaded Brierly that the mystery of the Beast is explained by a small, breeding colony of pumas — perhaps half-a-dozen. He believes that the pumas have escaped from domestic captivity from a number of sources over the past few years. It is his opinion that one or more pumas were "almost certainly" at large around Exmoor before the killings at Drewstone.

According to Brierly's theory, the pumas prey on a variety of small creatures including domestic cats. Their main diet consists of rabbits. He believes rabbits are the pumas' staple diet during the winter months when sheep are not usually in the fields, and when the pumas are reluctant to emerge from

the thick cover of the woodland around Exmoor foothills.

Over a cup of tea in his living room, which is dominated by a large and somewhat moth-eaten leopard skin, Brierly showed me two plaster casts of paw prints as big as our saucers. "I've taken these myself from sites of recent sheep kills," he said. "This one was taken from a well-preserved print in stone-dust at the bottom of a quarry near Dulverton, south of Exmoor. You can see they're not dog prints by the pointed tips; a dog's pads are more oblong in shape. I've found pad marks of this sort all over Exmoor, sometimes with and sometimes without claw marks. Dogs can't retract their claws, so a dog print would always show the claws."

Brierly sees no difference between the pad marks he has found and photographs of adult male puma prints. At various sites, he has found smaller, otherwise identical padmarks alongside the large prints. He believes they are the prints of a female — indicating breeding.

Brierly then produced a photograph album filled with pictures of dead sheep — all taken since 1983. "These are classic cat kills," he said, flicking through pages of photographs of sheep without throats, "and these are more puzzling" — he pointed to several pictures showing a picked-clean rib cage on top of what looked like a sheepskin rug. "This can be the product of parents and cubs feeding together — it's well known that pumas don't like wool."

Next Brierly attempted to explain to me the rudiments of trichology, as he clattered slides

of puma, leopard and domestic cat hairs into a microscope. In 1988 he sent hairs found at a sheep-kill site to be analysed by the Wool Institute Research Association in Leeds. They confirmed that the hairs were cat hairs but were unable to say whether they were from a big cat or a domestic one.

Brierly is used to official scepticism about his theories. Ministry investigators have been called in by farmers who have lost sheep on a couple of occasions. Both kills were explained as being the work of "very large dogs".

In the spring of 1988 a farmer known to Brierly lost a valuable foal in a way reminiscent of a typical Beast kill. He called in the Ministry, whose man said the foal had been born dead, and the body attacked by a fox. The farmer insisted that he had seen the foal alive and that something bigger must have killed it before the fox came along. Brierly had a "verbal fight" with the Ministry investigator. He believes that a fox is unlikely to kill anything larger than a lamb.

**T**HIS YEAR Brierly set up a team of "seven or eight above-averagely intelligent people" — including farmers, a local newspaper reporter and a zoologist — who will monitor information about the Beast. They will meet every spring in Devon's Sparkwell Zoo to discuss developments. Each member of the team has been provided by Brierly with a record card to log big-cat sightings in his own area.

(continued on page 18)

Over two days, Brierly and I visited eye-witnesses at nine farms, listening to descriptions of big cats delivered in hypnotic Devon accents. There was a remarkable uniformity to the descriptions: most referred to a dark-coloured, short-muzzled creature about three feet high and eight feet long, including tail. As details recurred, Brierly would nod from the corner of the room, commending points to me. There is no room here for anything but the most resonant highlights.

Rod Brammer, who owns a shooting school at Shillingford, made an impressive witness. He is a highly successful businessman, a life-long countryman, and has a reassuringly solid, mild-eyed presence. With many tension-building sucks on his pipe, he told how — "three weeks ago" — he had seen the Beast sitting directly outside his bedroom window.

"I was lying in bed at around midnight when I suddenly thought 'it's too bloody quiet out there.' Normally you can hear a cow bellowing, or the ducks in our pond splashing around. I shone the torch across out of my window, and there it was, just sitting there. I thought, well I'm blown, so it does exist."

Brammer's wife and son were summoned to the window and the family watched the big cat for a number of minutes. Brammer's son, a very serious 13-year-old, had seen the creature climb a tree weeks earlier. Brammer hadn't believed him until he saw the claw marks in the bark, 25 feet up.

Equally compelling was the testimony of Mervyn Nicholl of Hiltown Farm. A thin, religious, austere man in his mid-40s, he has farmed his family's land since leaving school.

Both he and his brother have seen big cats on their land many times in the past few years. His last sighting took place one afternoon in 1988. "It was a fantastic cat going at a hell of a speed. Every time it moved you could see the lights shine back across its ribs." Nicholl has seen a big cat "jump a hedge, 15 feet from standing, with a fair-sized lamb in its mouth... I know it might hurt people to say there's cats 140-150lbs in weight roaming around out there, but it's true. The local people know what they have seen."

Most people I met over four days in Exmoor had "zeen summat". The sheep kills were everywhere spoken of in the

most matter-of-fact terms. Theories about the cats' origins, though, were told with more relish.

There were rebellious tales of criminals in Barnstaple determined to foist pumas on hard-working country folk, of braggarts and show-offs who kept pumas for pets and then released them into the wild, possibly shortly after the passing of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act of 1976 (which largely outlawed the keeping of wild animals in domestic captivity).

Brierly keeps an open mind on his quarry's origins: a bankrupt zoo, a travelling circus. Or domestic captivity at any time over the past three centuries. He told me about Dr Johnson's pet puma, and about the fashionable woman he'd seen walking one down the King's Road in the '60s. "It's always been fashionable to keep a puma," he said. "In those days they were cheaper than a dog."

Over the two days I spent with Brierly, he relaxed as his confidence grew that I was not a sensationalist. He revealed the more bizarre details of his story with an attractive self-mockery and with many dramatic flourishes; his attempt to obtain photographs of Beast prints by placing a saucer of Kit-E-Kat in an area of wet sand; the many weeks he spent trying vainly to extract a thimbleful of catnip oil (the most effective cat lure) from 500 plants.

He once led me squelching through a field to what turned out to be a kill site. Unfortunately the carcass had been removed, and all that remained was something resembling a burnt stick — the black foreleg of a sheep.

Brierly saved his biggest coup de théâtre until the evening of the second day when we visited Ovis farm (a particularly remote spot at the end of a lane bounded by frighteningly high hedges). Ovis farm is now run as a riding holiday centre. As Stephanie Pettinger, who works at Ovis, cheerfully put it, "This is one of the Beast of Exmoor's favourite places."

Cutting a swathe through waist-high ferns with his stick, Brierly led me to one of the traps he has been setting for four years — a rectangular cage about 10 feet long and four feet high. It would soon be set and baited — "with tripe or something". "The only way we'll ever prove these things exist is by catching one," Brierly said, tapping the metal with his stick.

## Archdiocese to investigate Virgin vision

By J. Sebastian Sinisi  
Denver Post Staff Writer

The Archdiocese of Denver announced yesterday that it will investigate alleged apparitions at the Mother Cabrini Shrine, where Theresa Lopez of Douglas County claims the Virgin Mary has appeared to her nearly a dozen times.

Nearly 6,000 faithful journeyed to the shrine on Sunday as a result of Lopez's claim that Mary would appear to her again on that day.

Archbishop J. Francis Stafford said in a brief statement released yesterday that by "virtue of his doctrinal and pastoral responsibilities," he has "initiated a process of gathering accurate information regarding recent alleged happenings at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden."

The announcement was unexpected because the archdiocese had been maintaining an official policy of not commenting on Lopez's claims.

Archbishop Stafford had left town for a retreat at the St. Malo center near Longs Peak and was unavailable for comment. But Archdiocese spokesman Robert Feehey added that the process would likely be "lengthy."

Fathers Raymond Jones and Ed Buelt — who had been sent by Stafford to observe Sunday's events at the shrine — could not detail what the investigation might involve. "This is something new for all of us in the archdiocese," said Jones, "and we don't know how long it might take."

In a prepared statement, Jones said there would be lengthy consultations "with persons competent in theology, canon law and pastoral ministry, among others."

At Regis University, theology expert David Thomas, a member of the archbishop's theological committee, said there are few hard and fast rules to govern an inquiry of this type, and the procedure isn't spelled out in canon law.

He said it's likely the inquiry will be conducted locally and would involve the Vatican "only if Rome asks to be involved. And that would depend on how much national publicity these apparitions generate."

tions generate."

He doubted that church officials would subject Theresa Lopez to a psychological examination. Part of the inquiry would consider "whether she appears to be a truthful and spiritual person," but the key questions would be "connections" between Lopez's alleged apparitions and "those that have been part of Catholic life for centuries, such as Guadalupe, Lourdes and Fatima," Thomas said.

Other criteria, he said, "would look into whether these apparitions are genuinely spiritual events, or whether they serve some other purpose of commercial or monetary gain" and whether the messages Lopez allegedly received "are consistent with the basic message of the Catholic church."

"To me," Thomas said, "Lopez's message on Sunday seemed a positive one and consistent with the church's emphasis on the importance of family life. In my judgment, that aspect makes her alleged messages somewhat unique."

Repeated efforts yesterday to reach Theresa Lopez or her husband, Jeff, were unsuccessful.

### CRITERIA

Among the criteria likely to be used in investigating alleged visions of the Virgin Mary at the Mother Cabrini shrine are:

- Is Theresa Lopez a truthful and spiritual person?
  - How closely do Lopez's 'apparitions' — taken from the Latin word 'to appear' — correlate with accepted apparitions such as those dating to the 16th century at Guadalupe, Lourdes and Fatima?
  - Are the events purely spiritual in nature, or do they involve any monetary or commercial gain?
  - Are the messages said to be received by Lopez consistent with basic church doctrine?
- In all likelihood, said Regis University theology expert David Thomas, the inquiry would be conducted locally and would involve the Vatican "only if Rome asks to be involved. And that would depend on how much national publicity these apparitions generate."

# Recalling great Cherokee myth and legend

**T**ANASE BALD — Wherever the ancient Cherokee lived they made their myths and legends.

There they created another world behind the visible world around them, peopling it with gods and half-gods, gnomes and nymphs and animals stranger than those we know.

These included Gigagei the Thunderer and Kanati the greatest of hunters; Awi Usdi the Little Emperor of the Deer; Aganunsti the wizard who slew the great snake Uktena, the greatest ever known; Tlanuwa the Great Mythic Hawk who had his home in a cave in Whiteside Mountain; and White Bear, chief of the bear clan, who kept guard over Atagahi, the Secret Lake in the Smokies where the wounded bears come to be healed.

In the myth-world of the Cherokee the greatest of these was Jutaculla, the slant-eyed giant who held dominion over all the



John Parris

ROAMING THE MOUNTAINS

game. He was the Paul Bunyan of his race.

He ruled the Caney Fork Balsams and the Pisgrahs.

Tanase Bald was his home. He lived inside the mountain.

His farm was on the southwest slope of Richland Balsam. It is called Jutaculla Old Fields. On the map it is listed as Jutaculla Ridge.

He wooed and wed his wife at the old Cherokee town of Kanuga down on the Pigeon River near Bethel.

He left his mark on a giant soapstone boulder above Cowart's

on Caney Fork Creek in Jackson County — a tablet of hieroglyphics that has baffled scientists for years.

There are some who believe the strange markings relate to hunting laws laid down by Jutaculla to conserve the game of the forest.

He left his footprints on a rock at the base of Shining Rock, a 6,000-foot curiosity of white quartz.

A mountain south of Balsam, paralleling Scotts Creek, bears his name but nobody remembers why.

Along the Blue Ridge Parkway northeast of Tanase Bald is Devil's Courthouse where he had his dance-ground and the Nunnehi girls who lived under the hills came to dance and sing for him.

The Nunnehi were the good fairies and they had their own townhouses throughout the Cherokee Country — from Cherokee County to Transylvania.

Like all storytellers, the old Indian tale-spinners of the

Cherokee had their way with Jutaculla.

He was a hero. He was a devil. He was a god.

His mother was a flashing comet and his sire was the thunder.

He was taller than the tallest trees.

He could step from one mountain to another.

The streams dwindled to a trickle in summer when he quenched his thirst.

When he spoke, the heavens rumbled and the creatures of the earth trembled in awe.

His bow was the arc of heaven and his arrows were bolts of lightning.

When the Bible was translated into Cherokee after Sequoyah evolved his syllabary the English word Golith was changed to Jutacullah.

Some of the old tales claim Jutaculla actually lived and walked upon the earth until his ugliness

caused all who looked upon him to turn away their eyes.

When this happened, Jutaculla turned into a will-o'-wisp and roamed the mountains, dedicating his life to protecting the fowl of the air and the animals of the forest.

But the keeper of Cherokee legend, the greatest of their storytellers — old Runaway Swimmer, by name — left no doubt that Jutaculla was anything more than a myth.

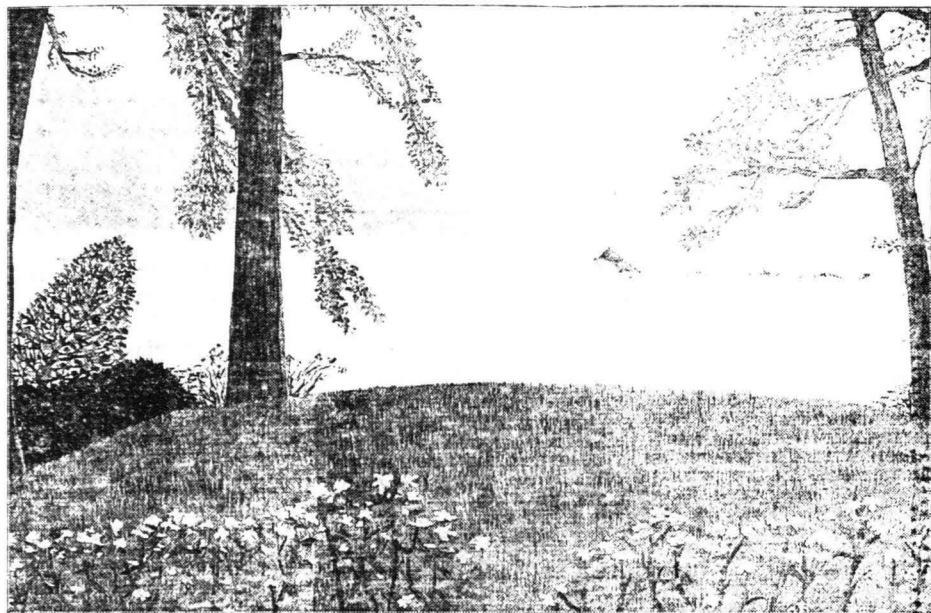
Old Swimmer insisted that Jutaculla was born in the imagination of a highly imaginative people long before the white man set foot on the American continent.

And yet there are those who point out that the Cherokee god of the hunt left his mark upon the earth so that all could see that he really did live.

They call attention to the famed Jutaculla Rock on Caney Fork Creek with its mysterious writings or markings.

But whether he lived or not, the Jutaculla legend lingers on.





"Champ: America's Loch Nessie" by East Glenville native Sheila O. Barrera from her exhibition of 45 paintings of "unexplained lake phenomena" opening Sunday at a gallery in Union, N.J.

## 'Monster' artworks by Barrera to be exhibited in New Jersey

She can't explain them, but she sure can paint them.

Not having the answers to "unexplained lake phenomena" doesn't slow East Glenville native Sheila Orick Barrera one bit when it comes to depicting the creatures who supposedly roam Scotland's Loch Ness, Argentina's Lake Nahuel Huapi, British Columbia's Lake Okanagan and Northeastern New York's Lake Champlain.

Beginning Sunday a gallery in Union, N.J., will exhibit 45 paintings from the series, which was inspired by summer visits to Lake Champlain and which has become, Barrera says, "more or less my trademark."

She began the series in 1985 while visiting in the Lake Champlain area. She has since done extensive research into sightings worldwide, has visited some of lakes involved and has interviewed witnesses.

"In my work I am mostly interested in showing aspects of the natural world that are not immediately noticed in everyday life. I want to give people the opportunity to make up their own minds as to whether these creatures actually exist," said Barrera, a graduate of Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School (1973) and

### BRUSHMARKS



By PEG CHURCHILL WRIGHT

Pratt Institute (1977) who began making art when she was 4, guided by her paternal grandmother, Onna T. Orick.

Barrera said her interest in painting "unexplained lake phenomena" began with a sightseeing trip aboard a sailboat with a friend of her family. Aware of the local hoopla about Champ — northern New York's answer to the Loch Ness monster — Barrera asked the elderly man if he had ever seen the creature. "He said he had seen him, one morning, very early. It was like a magical thing. He described him so clearly I could see

Champ — more or less as he appears in my postcard. But I could never figure out whether he was telling me the truth."

Barrera began painting the purported Lake Champlain creature after her parents bought her Champ champion Joseph Zarzynski's book, "Champ — Beyond the Legend."

"I did about 10 of Champ, little watercolors, many on location, and then people started telling me about other monsters, other lakes," Barrera was to discover that there are some 200 lakes worldwide at which people have reported seeing "something" unexplainable. "I just finished Lake No. 40," she said by phone from her home in Rahway, N.J., this week.

Her "masterpiece" among lake creatures is a 1989 painting, her largest (two by three feet), of Champ, the work reproduced on her color postcard. But why is Champ so small, so far in the background? "That's my style," replied Barrera. "I usually put the creature in as part of the scenery."

In her own investigations of the phenomenon, Barrera said she has seen nothing that couldn't be explained later as "something not unusual like the wake of a boat or weather conditions. I haven't seen anything that I could say with certainty was a 'monster'. An awful lot of evidence says there is something, but I haven't seen it personally."

Her exhibition opens Sunday with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Les Malamut Art Gallery, located in the lower level of Union Public Library, Union, N.J. It continues to Sept. 4.

## Psychic spies? U.N. team envisions firm helping to unveil Iraq arms stashes

TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Nov. 18, 1991

WASHINGTON (AP) — A United Nations team is turning to extrasensory powers to help it ferret out Saddam Hussein's hidden weapons sites.

In the satellite she took to Baghdad, U.S. Army Maj. Karen Jansen carried sketches of two sites where the Iraqi president has supposedly stashed biological weapons, said Edward Darnes, president of a company called PSI Tech.

Darnes, a retired military intelligence major, and an associate drew the sketches

through "remote viewing" — the ability to locate and accurately describe unknown things and events from afar.

Various techniques of psychic or extrasensory viewing, which has supporters in academic circles, have been researched in secret by several military intelligence agencies since the 1950s. But efforts to develop and implement the techniques have generally been met with ridicule or skepticism.

On occasion, they have been used in concert with other intelligence-gathering tools

such as satellite photos and electronic signals monitoring, current and former officials say.

For example, trained and so-called natural psychics were called in during the hunt for U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Dozier, kidnapped by Red Brigade guerrillas in Italy in December 1981. He was finally found, however, through electronic intercepts and an informant's tip.

Psychics have proven "surprisingly helpful" in intelligence gathering, although they

are not relied on as a sole source, said Rep. Norman Dicks, D-Wash., a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

Jansen is on her third mission to Iraq for a special U.N. commission assigned to find and destroy the country's hidden stocks of missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons following the Persian Gulf War.

Darnes and Jansen got in touch after Seal television station KIRO reported on the Maryland-based firm and on the use of psychics in gathering intelligence.

Darnes sent reporter Mark Sauter several sketches of biological weapons sites he and his associates had seen through "remote viewing" in Iraq. KIRO contacted Jansen, who asked to see them.

Darnes said Jansen then called him and told him which suspected biological weapons site she was going to, what she was looking for and whether he could help.

Darnes said in a recent interview that he provided the information to the U.N. team for free but bills his corporate clients \$8,000 to \$8,000 a week.

## Mary, or mirage?

### Catholics divided on reported apparitions

By Virginia Culver  
Denver Post Religion Writer

Catholics were choosing up sides yesterday on two reported recent apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Mother Cabrini Shrine.

"It's too far-fetched," said Mary Keefer, a regular visitor to the shrine, which can be seen from Interstate 70, about 20 miles west of Denver.

"The Blessed Mother just doesn't make grand announcements like this," said Keefer. "This story just doesn't click."

Cliff Strunk, who first heard Lopez's story several days ago, disagreed. "As a practicing Catholic I have to believe this," he said. "Otherwise, what is the sense of my faith?"

In an interview Thursday, Theresa Lopez, 31, said she has seen Mary eight times, including apparitions at the shrine on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10. She said the second time Mary appeared to her near the 33-foot statue of Jesus near the shrine.

She said Mary emerged from a bright light, dressed in pink gown and veil, and told Lopez to pray for peace and bring people back to the church. She said Mary kissed her on the forehead after the second visit.

Lopez did not return repeated telephone calls yesterday. Her husband, Jeff, said he had told his wife to stay home and unplugging the phone, so she could avoid the hubbub that publicity

about her report was bound to generate.

After the initial apparitions at her home, Lopez told friends that Mary would appear at the Shrine on the second Sunday of each month. Word spread through the Catholic community and people flocked to the Shrine on those days. Lopez said some mothers told her their children saw the Virgin on those days.

The shrine administrator, Sister Bernadette Casciano, said a guard working for the shrine counted 1,000 people on Oct. 13 and 2,500 Nov. 10.

The shrine, named for a nun who ministered to orphans in Colorado and later was canon-

ized, received about 75 phone calls yesterday, far above the normal number.

"The regular visitors were concerned that the peace and solitude would be destroyed and the place become a circus," said Casciano. The shrine is operated by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Casciano declined to give her opinion on Lopez's claims.

"We'll just have to see what happens," she said. "I am not going to play God and say the vision happened or didn't happen. Who's to say?"

She and others are expecting huge crowds Dec. 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Con-

ception, a Catholic holy day.

Lopez said Mary told her to gather people "on the mountain" that day. Yesterday, a message to that effect was recorded on her home answering machine. The message, quoting Mary, promises "great favors from me and my son" and says people should gather for prayer at 7:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at St. Thomas More Church in Englewood. A woman who answered the phone at St. Thomas More yesterday declined comment.

# Piasa legend keeps history alive in Illinois riverside community

Monsters possessed tiger beards, red eyes

By Donald Smith  
National Geographic

ALTON, Ill. — They were as large as calves and covered with scales. Deerlike horns sprouted from their heads. Tails wound all around their bodies, passed above their heads and coiled back between their legs.

But the most terrifying aspect of the pair of monsters that French Jesuit priest Jacques Marquette saw mysteriously painted on a bluff high above the Mississippi River 318 years ago were the faces. They were "somewhat like a man's," but had tiger beards and horrible red eyes.

The monsters "made us afraid," wrote the explorer. His party's Indian guides also showed great respect for the creatures, "upon which the boldest savages dare not long rest their eyes."

Although the original rock pictures weathered off long ago, residents of this riverside community have kept alive the legend of the "Piasa," repainting its visage on rocky cliffs each time the previous image has faded.

"Everybody around here knows about the Piasa," says Theresa Tolliver of the Alton-Twin Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Evidence of Alton's favorite demon is everywhere. The local high school football team calls itself the Piasas. So does the Boy Scout troop. There is a subdivision known as Piasa Hills. People buy cars from Piasa Motors. Shops sell T-shirts and postcards emblazoned with fearsome critters.



**INDIAN LEGEND:** The winged monster supposedly greeted onlookers with a malevolent mien.

The monsters glare at onlookers with malevolence in their eyes. Or, it might be just plain hunger.

The name (pronounced PIE-ah-saw) is commonly believed to be an Illini Indian word meaning "the bird that devours men."

The legend varies somewhat depending on the teller. But according to the visitors bureau, it goes like this:

The Piasa inhabited the upper Mississippi River region for many years before the arrival of Europeans, along with such prehistoric creatures as mastodons. Although

large enough to carry off full-grown deer in its talons for dinner, the creature was especially fond of Indians. Naturally, the Indians were appalled. Whole villages were being depopulated.

Finally, one brave chief offered himself as bait and his followers, armed with poison arrows, turned the thing into a pincushion. To commemorate the event, the Indians depicted their vanquished enemy on the bluff.

"Ha," exclaims Natalia Belting, retired University of Illinois history professor, when asked about the

story that does not explain why Marquette saw two monsters on the bluff.

"This is one of those romantic Indian tales dreamed up in the 19th century, probably by a German." So: Is the Alton Piasa merely a great Halloween fable?

Although disputing the ambush story, Belting doesn't doubt that Marquette saw a picture of a fabulous animal. So did his fellow explorer, Louis Joliet.

But Belting's explanation for the paintings is possibly even more remarkable: underwater monsters.

"It was quite common for the Indians of the upper Mississippi Valley and upper Great Lakes to draw monsters on cliffs above dangerous stretches of water, especially whirlpools or rapids," Belting tells National Geographic.

"They believed underwater monsters dwelled there."

"Just to be on the safe side, it was common for them to leave offerings of tobacco and maize for the monster."

Besides honoring the lord of the rapids, such a painting evidently served as a warning to those traversing the waterway, a sort of "Caution: Bump Ahead" sign.

This theory fits in the case of the Piasa. Marquette and Joliet found the picture above turbulent water where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers converge.

Raymond D. Fogelson, University of Chicago anthropologist, links the Piasa with similar underwater monsters found in Indian cultures throughout the eastern woodlands.

Underwater monsters in various Indian cultures are "creatures of the deep, like our sea monsters," says Fogelson.

If each passing Indian did fire off arrows at the Piasas on the cliff, there's little wonder it didn't last forever.

Beginning in 1924, citizens of Alton, working from early descriptions, started repainting the image each time it faded.

At one point it was relocated to its present spot four miles north of Alton after its cliff home was destroyed to build a highway.

About six years ago, the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club, tiring of the constant need to touch up the rock painting, came up with an idea they hope will keep the monster flying, in a manner of speaking, for many years to come.

In its current incarnation, the dreaded Piasa glowers at cars whizzing by on Route 100 from a large enameled steel sign nailed to the bluff.

POST, Denver, CO - Dec. 8, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

## Are they real? Skeptics, believers discuss apparitions

By Virginia Culver  
Denver Post Religion Writer

Like the crowds expected at Mother Cabrini Shrine today, believers for centuries have responded to reports worldwide of apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

They say whoever sees the virgin serves as a conduit for messages Mary wants to impart to the masses — that people must return to God, pray for peace, live holy lives.

Many people expect 31-year-old Theresa Lopez, who claims to have seen Mary eight times, to experience the apparition at the shrine again today, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Theologians, psychologists and church leaders are wary about endorsing such sightings, but most are hesitant to debunk them.

"Obviously, it could be a vision or a hallucination," said the Rev. John Lee, a United Methodist minister and pastoral psychotherapist.

Lee said he can't immediately reject or accept sighting reports. But most people are more afraid to discuss such events than to talk about sex, he said.

"I call it the suppression of the sublime. It's a taboo subject," Lee said. "I'm skeptical about miracles, but we have no idea what is in the depths of the psyche. And God is not limited to speaking to us in the context of theology or the church on Sunday."

David Thomas, director of graduate programs at Regis University, said those who investigate sightings must determine "if anyone is making a gain" from reporting a vision. "The next question people want to know about visionaries is, 'Are they normal like us?'"

"People are generally hungry for something more than this life and want a physical sign."

The Denver Archdiocese has had no contact with Lopez. Until its officials are asked to investigate her reports, they won't.

Lopez said Mary appeared in November in a pink gown and sparkling crown and said: "Great favors shall be rained upon you on my feast day. Gathered in my presence for you, my children, are my angels." Lopez has said Mary kissed her.

The frequent church-goer, who describes herself as a devout Catholic, recently has raised money for Croatian relief, presumably because of her interest in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, where Mary reportedly has appeared to six children for the past 10 years.

Thomas said that though he tends to be a skeptic, "I have a respect for the authenticity of the faith of people, even if I'm not comfortable with it."

Psychologist Ben McCracken said, "You don't have to be crazy to see and hear things other people don't." But such behavior "is one of the signs of a thought disorder. Maybe they see what they want to see."

Thought disorders associated with this behavior, he said, are schizophrenia or manic depression. But McCracken cited three possibilities: The visionary could have a thought disorder, could be seeing what she wants to for personal needs or could be having a genuine vision "generated from the other side — Mary."

People who say they have visions shouldn't be dismissed as "crazy" or "overly pious," he said. McCracken has counseled visionaries, "and they are otherwise normal people."

Charles Milligan, a retired professor at Iliff School of Theology, said he doesn't believe people really see the things they think they do.

"It's not that they're neurotic or psychotic, but that they're so intensely interested they can project the vision."

Bible stories tell of people who had visions and heard God's voice, but those reports aren't very acceptable nowadays, Milligan said.

People may think they see holy leaders because of the "unsettling times and the hope that we can return to more secure and simple times."

More than 300 sightings of Mary have been reported worldwide this century. Last month, parishioners said the virgin appeared to them on the tile mosaic of a church in Santa Ana, Calif.

Only a few apparitions — including

those at Lourdes, France; Guadalupe, Mexico; Fatima, Portugal; and Knock, Ireland — have been endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church.

One of the most recent to gain a strong following is Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, where six children first reported visions of Mary 10 years ago. Now adults, they continue to report visions almost daily.

The church is slow to officially sanction a sighting. After years of investigation, it may approve a site that has become a regular destination for pilgrimages and a place of healings and spiritual inspiration.

The church says belief in visions isn't necessary for religious faith. "It is an adjunct to piety," said the Rev. J. Anthony McDaid, judicial vicar for the Denver Archdiocese.

McDaid cautioned against "a cult of Mary," saying there can be "extremists" who put Mary above God. For some, including many priests, apparitions aren't primary to salvation.

"If we're not seeing the love and compassion of the Virgin here in our own hearts, then it's curious that we would run off to the mountains to try to find her there," said the Rev. Marshall Gourley of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in west Denver.

But many Catholics believe Lopez. "Whatever she says she saw, I believe she saw it," said Zoraide Scordo, founder of the Cabrini Auxiliary, which raises money to maintain the shrine.

Others have reported unusual occurrences at the shrine since October — the sun spinning; gigantic, colorful auras on nearby hillsides; rosaries turning into hues of gold.

"That many people can't be wrong," said a Denver nun, who requested that her name not be used.

She predicted that Denver will become another Medjugorje.

JoAnn Langfield, who has known Lopez about a year, believes Lopez's reports and said she herself has seen the "sun spinning" at Cabrini.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Cabrini became a world-famous place for spirituality and healing."

## Mystery shakes rattle windows along coast

The earth shook in Northwest Florida and southern Alabama Friday and Saturday, but officials are stumped as to why.

Local law enforcement and news agencies from Mobile, Ala., to Destin were swamped with phone calls from people wondering what caused the jolts.

And officials Saturday were also wondering.

Geologist Russ Needham from the National Earthquake Center in Golden, Colo., said Saturday night that there was no evidence the jolts were from an earthquake. He said instruments would have picked up any seismic activity that occurred over such a large stretch of land.

He suggested the shaking came from sonic booms or other military activity.

A spokesman from the Air National Guard training site in Gulfport, Miss., said Saturday night a large number of aircraft from the base have been involved in exercises over the Gulf since Wednesday. He said they expect to conclude today.

There have also been reports of drilling or seismic testing in the Gulf, however, none of the reports have been substantiated.

Officials at Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field said Saturday there has been no supersonic flights or other military operations that could explain the tremors.

Some of the jolts lasted up to 10 seconds, reports said. Needham said it is possible for sonic booms to last that long.

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