

UFO

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A Scholarly Look at UFOs

BY SAM WHITING
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Jon Rock has not yet read the new book "Secret Life: First-hand Accounts of UFO Abductions," but he already knows what's in it.

"What's amazing is the consistency of the details," Rock, 33, a Tenderloin graphic artist says of his fellow UFO travelers. "All the details are the same."

This is corroborated by the author, David Jacobs, Ph.D, a professor of 20th century American history at Temple University, who teaches the only regularly scheduled course on UFOs at an American university.

"This field is loaded with crackpots and idiots. I'm embarrassed to

People who say they were abducted all tell the same story, a professor says.

be around many of these researchers," says the white-haired, circumspect professor, speaking as if before the tenure committee. "But as a historian, you must go where the evidence leads you even though you kick and scream en route."

Jacobs, 49, has spent 20 years examining the abduction phenomenon with methodical and scholarly skepticism. For "Secret Life" (Simon & Schuster, \$21) he interview-

ed 60 subjects under hypnosis. The data finally led him to conclude there is either some truth to their claims or one heck of an intricate practical joke has been foisted upon the good professor.

"Everybody is saying the same thing over and over with monotonous regularity," he says. If it isn't true, he says, "they're all dreaming it up at the same time," an even more implausible explanation.

Jon Rock's first abduction — not chronicled in Jacobs' book, but similar to those that are — occurred 16 years ago, on one of those sweltering summer nights in South Florida, where nothing ever happens, then everything happens at once.

His parents were out, and he



BY CHRIS STEWART/THE CHRONICLE

Jon Rock says he was first abducted by extraterrestrials 16 years ago in South Florida. He says he has been 'overwhelmed' by the stories of other abductees that parallel his own.

was finishing a drawing. He heard an electrical hissing sound, and took it for the water pump gone haywire. When he went outside to investigate, the noise surrounded him, as if every bug in the swamp were being zapped at once. It was a clear night, but hovering above was a low, flat cloud shrouding an illuminated disc the size of a large full moon, pistachio green.

"Of course, I was pretty astounded," he says. "I just stood there staring at it."

Following telepathic orders, he walked toward a clearing on the edge of some trees, and heard a deep voice calling his name. That was enough.

"I wanted no part of it," he says, and was hurrying back toward the house when he felt himself lifted from the earth. His last memory is of floating 20 feet up, looking down at what once was his normal existence.

Sometime later that night he was dropped into some bushes by his house. He made it into his bed in "a real spent state," and slept until the next morning when the mirror reflected a face caked with blood. Then he remembered the BB pellet at the business end of a long needle of light, being inserted up his nostril.

"It was the implant," he says. "That's how my nose got bloody."

The nasal implant, it turns out, is one of the details recalled by most of Jacobs' subjects.

Rock never said a word about it to anyone until 12 years later when he picked up a book by UFO pioneer Bud Hopkins.

"I was so overwhelmed that I was finding my details in other people's stories," he says. "How could 10 other people come up with that detail about the BB on the end of a flashlight put up their noses. It gave me emotional proof that my experience had happened."

Scholarly Approach

What makes Jacobs' book unique is his scholarly approach.

"In my world view," he says, "if somebody says they flew with angels, they have to convince me."

He is now fairly convinced of at least the flying if not the angels,



Professor David Jacobs believes people who claim they were abducted are describing 'objective reality.'

and from what he has heard, he wouldn't be surprised at even that.

The standard hypnotic testimony is of people being nabbed while alone, walking, sleeping or driving a car.

"If you're in the stands of the Super Bowl," he promises, "the chances of being abducted are small."

One man in the book was plucked off his wife while in the course of making love, but this is thankfully the exception.

The aliens are usually described as small, frail, thin beings with huge heads, no hair, ears or noses, and a small slit-like mouth. They are either naked or wearing some kind of sprayed-on Spandex rig.

Violence is not required. People understand that entering the spacecraft is not optional. Nor is stripping naked and getting up on an examination table, where a group of small beings converge for a basic physical, which involves running their fingers over people as if playing a piano, one woman reported. The subjects are flipped over, and thumbs and forefingers are run down and up their spine. Then they are flipped again for sex testing, before the implant is administered. "They all say this," he says, "all of them," and many, like Rock, are returned with the nose-bleeds to prove it.

'I think they know where I am, but I don't think they're interested in me.'

— JON ROCK

Once off the table they are taken to another room for a mental exam where an inspector stands very close and stares into their eyes, then to another room filled with hybrid babies. Each must hold a baby, which are reported to be neither very attractive nor happy with the arrangement.

Then the prisoners are returned home, with several hours not accounted for. "Of all the thousands of cases," says Jacobs, "there is not one incident when a person has been seen when they said an abduction took place."

A Bay Area Visit

Rock was visited several more times that summer, for what he presumes was maintenance on the implant. He then decided relocation might be in order, and moved to Spain, then San Francisco.

Four years ago, the aliens came again, fetching him out to the bunkers at the Marin Headlands, where the implant was removed, he thinks. Or hopes. All he knows for sure is he hasn't had any trouble since.

"I think they know where I am," he says, "but I don't think they're interested in me."

If Rock's story pans out, Jacobs is quite sure they are still watching him.

"There's nothing random about it at this point," he says. "All abductees have experiences in childhood that continue to old age."

Perhaps that's when people will start believing it, though Rock is not entirely convinced himself.

"I won't even say they're extraterrestrials," he says. "I just call it an unknown phenomenon. That's what it is."

"I think these people are describing as best they can objective reality," Jacobs says. "If this is a

mental aberration, then it will revise the way in which we think about how people think."

The big question is what the Temple University faculty makes of Jacobs, 17 years in the department. "They look upon me as a regular fellow," he says, "who also happens to be a devotee of a very strange religion."

Public Invited To Meetings

Local UFO sightings for 1991 were recorded by the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze Mutual UFO (MUFON) chapter at 100. So far, 9 sightings have been documented for 1992; the latest being Feb. 2 and 7. No one knows how many sightings occurred that have not been documented.

The local chapter meets three to four times a week at the Gulf Breeze side of the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze bridge near the boat ramp and/or Shoreline Park. If you are interested in seeing how the professionals work, and maybe see a UFO, come to either of these locations from 6 p.m. on and you might get lucky. As the old fisherman said, "You wanta catch fish, you gotta go where they is."

A daylight sighting, reported in the *Sentinel*, occurred at the K-Mart shopping center off Highway 98. The large UFO was about 64 feet wide and 40 feet long. A smaller one accompanied the larger, and they were seen by an estimated 30 to 40 people. If you saw that UFO, or want to talk about the subject, know someone who saw one, or are just curious, please call the UFO hotline at 436-2700, Joe Barron at 932-5394 or Gary Watson at 433-9492.

We invite everyone to attend our monthly meetings held at the Unity Church between Garden and Cervantes on 9th at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of every month. We welcome everybody and hope that you will make it a date. You are promised a very interesting evening. You will also get a chance to pick up some material, and if you join the chapter, a library full of books, magazines, articles and other materials are available on a loan basis without charge.

Joe Barron

New UFO study group formed in north Arkansas

Ongoing sightings of lights, crafts in six-county area warrant further investigation

By Ray Dean Davis
Editor

Mountain Home, Ark., March 11, 1992, 10:30 p.m.-- A veteran policeman and another witness watch a large, unidentified, lighted craft fly noiselessly across the city's night-time sky.

The officer estimates the object was "bigger than a house" and flying at an altitude of about 800 feet. (Below the FAA's legal minimum for flying above a residential area.)

The craft had four square, unblinking lights on its undercarriage, and went from horizon to horizon in about seven seconds.

Marshall, Ark., 1981 to present-- Dozens of residents continue to report strange

A veteran flier with 7,000 hours in the air, Willett related some of his own experiences with UFOs.

One of his first local sightings involved two large crafts he spotted on the ground near Ozark, Mo. one night while returning to Flippin from the Springfield airport.

Willett was flying at 5,500 feet, yet was able to clearly see the shapes of the large crafts and the bright, "blood-red" lights coming from them.

"The lights lit up the woods for a couple of hundred yards around," he said. "Some people wondered if I saw police or ambulance lights, but from my height they would have been just pinpoints."

Days later, Willett drove back to the area and asked

lights and crafts flying soundlessly over the area. One object, described as "looking like a flying wing with lights lining its front," is said to be as large as an aircraft carrier.

A witness tells of watching a jet-- from which branch of the military is unknown-- apparently try to intercept one of the lights. It was unable to, according to the witness, as the light "kept going off, then reappearing somewhere else. When the jet would go that way, the same thing would happen again."

Harrison, Ark., January, 1992-- A young woman and her daughter are hurrying home after driving the woman's nephew home from a late ballgame. They notice strange lights in the sky near-- and just above-- their car.

some of the residents if they had seen anything out of the ordinary on the night in question.

At least one person told him the crafts had been spotted in the area on numerous occasions, but, before Willett, no one had been by to inquire about them.

That's when he decided someone should try to keep track of local sightings and see if there were common factors that could add up to new information about them.

Since then, Willett says he has "run down UFO reports in several states, as well as the local area" to go along with his own additional experiences.

Although he still doesn't have all the answers he's seeking, Willett's convinced that

They weren't frightened, but upon their arrival home the woman realizes that, though the drive would normally take 15 minutes or less, an hour has passed since they saw the lights. She can't explain why.

Yellville, Ark., 1977 to present-- A former Army helicopter pilot and some of his neighbors see "dancing" lights and a strange craft over the woods near their rural homes, five miles from town.

Appearance of the objects seems to cause a stir among dogs in the vicinity.

When approached, the red, white and pale blue lights back up and maneuver as if to purposely avoid contact. If a strong light is shined on them, they seem to have no substance.

The residents have been

unable to get near the craft, which always takes off in a direction bearing "50 degrees west of north."

Southeast Pennsylvania, 1926-- A six-year-old boy sees a large, flying craft with "flames coming out the back" circling an area near his family's home.

Now a resident of Arkansas, the man recently saw a newspaper story saying there had been reports of such a craft in that same area. Also, hundreds of homes there have been found to contain high levels of radioactivity.

These were just a few of the experiences shared Friday evening, March 13, at the first discussion/meeting of what is tentatively being called the

UFO sightings are not simply figments of people's imaginations, nor are all the stories made up for publicity.

There's something to them, he'll tell you. Just what that something is remains to be discovered.

Friday's meeting was organized by UFO researcher Glenn Eslinger of Harrison. Its purpose was to determine if there's enough public interest in the area to form an on-going study and information group focusing on UFO sightings in Baxter, Marion, Boone, Newton, Searcy and Van Buren Counties.

Judging by the attendance, apparently there is.

"There have been a lot of important sightings reported in this area," Eslinger told the crowd, "and the frequency is increasing, not only here, but world-wide."

"Since the major news media and the government have chosen not to report on this activity, any success in coming up with answers depends largely on individuals sharing their own knowledge."

Eslinger called denial of the existence of UFOs "the biggest cover-up the government has ever been involved in."

He said members of the localgroup will share information and provide an "educational vehicle" for those interested in the subject.

"Our intention will not be to connect UFOs to religion, the occult, outer space or any other theory," he said. "We just want

"Ozark UFO Network," held at NACC in Harrison.

Approximately 100 people of various ages turned out for the meeting. Many of them had personal experiences related to the subject, though some were understandably reluctant to stand before the crowd and tell them.

(Eds. note: Those who did speak gave their names and told where they lived, but, to protect their privacy, that information will not be included here.)

Also addressing the group was Lawrence Willett of Mountain Home, former pilot and one-time Flippin Airport manager, now State Section Director/Investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

to study them scientifically, to prove their existence. Each individual can then decide what that means to him or her."

He said thousands of sightings are reported around the world each year.

"There's no doubt something is going on, and we need to know about it," Eslinger said, looking out over the large audience. "If everyone here is interested, we have the beginnings of a healthy education project."

Those interested in learning more about the group and its future meetings, or who have personal UFO stories to tell, may contact Glenn Eslinger at 424 North Spring Street, Harrison, AR 72601, or call him at 741-7278.

DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - Feb. 25, 1992

Green fireball illuminates sky

Meteor fragments, makes sonic boom

By AP and the Daily Courier

Deputy Gary DeKorte was driving down Redwood Highway on a routine paper transfer early Monday when a fireball arced across the Illinois Valley and turned the night to day.

"I noticed a light, it looked like it was a set of headlights," said DeKorte, who was on Saur's Flat near the Kerbyville Ghost Town at the time. "It started to come out of the field and cross the roadway."

By the time he turned to look over his shoulder, "it was bright as daylight as far as I could see. It was incredible."

People from Reedsport to Eureka, Calif., and as far inland as Klamath Falls reported seeing what was probably a meteor fall out of the sky at 12:15 a.m. Monday, said Dick Pugh, chairman of the science department at Cleveland High School in Portland. He is a member of a Smithsonian Institution network that reports fireballs.

"It was bright," said Pugh. "It cast shadows. It lit things up like broad daylight."

The brilliant green light zipped across the sky, wavered and seemed to split into a couple of pieces near the horizon before fading.

"It was a good three seconds from the beginning of the light until it went out," DeKorte said.

"It's real hard to tell just where it came down," he said. "I know it was definitely south of Cave Junction, how far south and how far west, it's hard to say. It could have been over the ocean."

Other eyewitness reports indicate it may have fallen over land south of Coos Bay. Pugh said if he gets enough eyewitness reports to plot a possible position, he may go to Coos Bay this weekend to try to locate a fragment of the object.

A Josephine County sheriff's deputy for three years, DeKorte has seen meteors and meteor showers, but none with the heavenly pyrotechnics of Monday's display.

"When it lights everything as far as you can see as bright as daylight, it's eerie," DeKorte said.

At least one sonic boom was reported by a Coos Bay woman. Several ships at sea radioed to the Coast Guard that they thought they were seeing a distress flare.

Coos Bay Police officer Mike Riensche saw the fireball and figured it might have fallen in the Bunker Hill area south of the city, but he couldn't find it, said dispatcher Michelle Kirby.

Pugh said there are generally one or two reports a year of fireballs producing sonic booms, and this was the first he'd heard of this year.

The object would have hit the atmosphere at perhaps 40 times the speed of sound, Pugh said. The force would cause it to break up like a dirt clod hitting a wall. As the speeding debris moved through the atmosphere, it would have created a sonic boom.

DAILY JOURNAL, Stevens Point, WI - Nov. 18, 1991

UFO sighting reported in Linwood

A UFO was reported sighted about 3.5 miles west of Highway C early Sunday morning, according to reports from the Portage County Sheriff's Department.

A department dispatcher said she received a call around 3 p.m. Sunday from a man who said he and three other people had witnessed a large fireball hovering just above tree level around 2 a.m. Sunday. The object was moon-shaped and oval, the dispatcher said.

The four witnesses said they were traveling on Highway C in the town of Linwood when the sighting occurred. The object hovered and then flew away quickly, the man said. The incident lasted about three minutes.

"I remember back as far as 20-some years ago there were lights out there I checked into," said Capt. Mark Hemmrich of the Sheriff's Department. "We get those strange

sightings. It could be Northern Lights. It could be anything."

Meteorology officials at Weather Service Inc. in Wausau were unable to be reached this morning to determine if there was some unusual atmospheric activity in the Highway C area late Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

Brian Tierce, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Madison, said it is difficult to pinpoint what weather activity could have caused the sighting.

"It could have been almost anything," he said. "It could have been clouds, the moon shining on clouds. It's really hard to say."

Hemmrich said the Sheriff's Department has received calls about alleged UFO sightings in the Highway C area before. Sunday's incident is not under intense investigation, he said.

STAR, Kansas City, MO - Feb. 29, 1992 CR: V. White

Panel upholds dismissal of Russell teacher

The Associated Press

RUSSELL, Kan. — An appeals panel has upheld the dismissal of a teacher whose disappearance last fall was linked to her reported belief in UFOs.

A three-member committee unanimously upheld the firing of Marcia Brock, 46, as a teacher at Russell High School. She disappeared without advance notice Sept. 10 and was fired after she returned Oct. 17.

Brock refused to comment after her hearing Wednesday. Her attorney, David Schauer of the National Education Association in Topeka, said Thursday it was

too soon to say if an appeal would be filed in state court.

Brock testified at the hearing that her disappearance had nothing to do with unidentified flying objects, despite news reports linking her to other Russell residents who believe in UFOs. However, she testified that she believes in the possibility of UFOs and agrees with a book by other Kansans that says UFOs may be linked to the second coming of Christ.

She testified she left town Sept. 9 with her two college-age daughters after receiving a call from a "trusted personal friend"

CR: M. Anderson/R. Heiden

UFOria reigns: Lights baffle earthlings

● Something flew over Greensboro this week.

BY JIM SCHLOSSER
Staff Writer

Before dismissing Corey Lefkof as a weirdo, consider this. He's a meteorologist and knows the heavens.

He says he may have seen a UFO. Several people in the Greensboro area think they did, too.

Lefkof, of the Greenville-Spartanburg airport's weather station, was at home last week when he saw what he first thought was an airplane.

"It had a red and orange glow, and it wasn't in the regular flight pattern," he said Wednesday. It was 2,000 to 3,000 feet up, noise-

less, moving slowly without flashing beacon lights. At one point, it almost stopped.

He dismissed it until he asked an airport guard whether he had seen anything. Yes! Others also reported seeing weird lights.

Near Pleasant Garden, sheet-metal worker Robert Benson and his girlfriend, Cathy Kenny, saw a humming object moving slowly in the sky Tuesday night.

"It blinked on all sides and seemed to rotate," but it wasn't a chopper, Benson said Wednesday.

Guilford College astronomer Sheridan Simon said he's skeptical. "I have seen things moving through the sky I can't readily identify. That doesn't mean they're flying saucers."

UP THE CREEK, Denver, CO - March 27-April 2, 1992 CR: P. Noonan

Beings from Star Arcturus Present Plan to Save Earth

Bad vibes are killing the planet, says New Mexico woman, who claims Arcturians directed her to build pyramid in Crestone



By David Iler

You are about to embark on a journey—a journey complete with celestial beings, sacred places (in Colorado, no less) and apocalyptic planetary astrophysics. This is a journey into the heart of the deep New Age. Upon return, your perception and convictions will return to normal—maybe. In the meantime, strap into your cosmic armchair.

The planet Earth is in trouble. This, of course, is not news. Crime, drugs, jealousy, greed, environmental degradation are all around us. Dr. Norma Milanovich, president of a training and organizational development company in Albuquerque, says she's the bearer of a bleak message about the current state of the planet—and a message of hope for the future. The source of the message, she claims, is a race of celestial beings—the Arcturians.

Arcturus is the brightest star in the Bootes Constellation, approximately 36 light years from Earth. Arcturus is called the "Guardian of the Bear" because of its position behind the tail of Ursa Major.

For the past six years, Milanovich claims to have received transmissions from several Arcturians, including

Ascended Master Kuthumi (or Koot Humi). She says she receives Arcturian messages through automatic writing while seated at her home computer. Messages transmitted from the beings, often in response to her questions, are contained in a book she has published, *We, the Arcturians*.

Koot Humi has appeared in the writings of other 20th century mystical writers, notably Madame H.P. Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society. According to writer Robert Anton Wilson, about 90 percent of today's occult groups in the Western world are wholly or partially derived from Blavatsky, Aleister Crowley or George I. Gurdjieff.

We, the Arcturians reads like very good science fiction, recalling the later works of Philip K. Dick, who, before his death, wrote three strange novels dealing with the Second Coming of Christ and the nature of God. What makes Milanovich's book different is her claim that it's non-fiction.

Essentially, the Arcturian message is that Earthlings must cease the flow of negative energy being produced on the planet—or be faced with dire consequences.

Arcturians express a deep belief in God and the happiness and peace that most religions yearn for.

Milanovich says she's no Shirley MacLaine, yet she brings to Colorado a bizarre proposal, based on a strong suggestion from the Arcturians. To assist the Earth in "increasing its vibrational frequency as it undergoes a birthing process into the Fifth Dimension," Arcturians have directed Milanovich to build a large pyramid, the Templar, in the San Luis Valley town of Crestone.

The planned structure is huge, measuring approximately 500 feet square at the base and towering 450 feet high. It is to be built of pink granite with a capstone of obsidian.

Milanovich and others have already purchased property in Crestone for the Templar, which is "absolutely" essential to assist the planet as it enters the new millennium. Milanovich says Kuthumi warns the edifice must be built by the year 2000 in the southwest United States to help lead the rest of the world in love and harmony.

She refers to the Templar as the "rebuilt Solomon's Temple." While she is unclear about the actual purpose of the structure, she stresses it will not be a place of worship associated with establishment of a new religion.

Milanovich will be delivering a lecture to the Crestone community on March 30 describing the Arcturians, the Templar and her writings, but rumors about the project have been circulating for some time.

The selection of Crestone as home for the Templar is interesting, given the makeup of the tiny town. Crestone, notes Kizzen Dennett, editor of the *Crestone Eagle*, is home to a wide diversity of individuals. Ranchers, cowboys, military retirees, and on the flip side, Tibetan Buddhists, Carmelite monks, Hindus, ex-hippies—and average, everyday folks—all reside there.

It is to the consternation of some residents that the town has become stuck with the "New Age" label.

Understandably, "there is a certain amount of skepticism" about the project, says Dennett. She says, in general, Crestone residents are "a real sarcastic bunch of folks, but also open to new ideas."

Passages in *We, the Arcturians* describe the beings' appearance, home, starship and mission. They have told Milanovich that they are in a starship, in another dimension, southeast of Albuquerque. They describe themselves as a race that has achieved a higher state of existence and consciousness. In this higher state, "we manage to find more more enlightenment in our everyday affairs" than do humans.

They have been called to Earth by "Ascended Masters, Angels, and Celestial Beings, to come to this part of the galaxy to help our brothers and sisters of Earth to move through the window of space and into the fifth dimension." This is an opportunity for the planet, which, if missed, will not be possible again for another 26,000 years.

In addition to Kuthumi, the "World Teacher," Milanovich claims to have communicated with other Arcturians, including Monka, "The Communicator of the Technical and Head of the Tribunal

Council;" Herdonitic, an Elder from Arcturus; and Juluionno, the Commander of the Starship Athena and the mission leader for all the Arcturians on or near the planet Earth.

The crisis facing the planet is this: Earth's inhabitants are emitting negative energy in such quantity that the gravitational field of the planet is threatened. Negative energy is thick and heavy; if enough people fail to change their behaviors and turn to love and light, the critical mass of negative energy could cause the planet to tilt on its axis.

The situation will change if Earthlings embrace God, love and light.

The task at hand is to develop a higher consciousness in Earthlings. The Arcturians "are the transmitters of higher consciousness ..."

Higher consciousness is achieved by increasing one's "vibrational frequency." And the Arcturians say their mission is to raise the entire vibrational frequency of the planet.

Interestingly, Herdonitic and Juluionno, via Milanovich, say several other celestial beings are here to assist the planet's birthing into the New Age. They include Orions, Alpha Centurians, Beings from Sirius (who, according to lore, aided the ancient civilizations of Egypt), Lyra, Hydra and the Pleidians.

To survive in the New Age, Arcturians call on Earthlings to "adorn themselves with the robes of this higher frequency." This, it is stressed throughout Milanovich's book, is a matter of each individual's free will and involves a change of behavior. Yet, "those who do not choose to raise their vibrations must exit the Earth plane. Many souls will be exiting before the year 2000, as the decade of the 90s has been reserved for the cleansing."

"It is not a negative statement we are making. IT IS WHAT IS. IT IS THE LAW."

The Arcturian message, as described by Milanovich, has a strong Christian component—Jesus Christ is "Head of the awakening of this planet for the dawning of the New Age. He is the glorious ray from the Great Central Sun that is the link between the souls on Earth and their destinies back to the All."

Towards the end of Milanovich's book, the Arcturians note, "A message sent to you centuries ago is still one of the most powerful tools you have to use for seeking guidance for this new day that is fast approaching." That tool is the Twenty-third Psalm.

Predictably, Dr. Carl Raschke, professor of religion at the University of Denver, long a student of the New Age movement, expresses cynicism at Milanovich's writings. Arcturians, he suspects, have been spending a lot of time in Denver's metaphysical book stores.

Raschke sees a re-editing of much of the "deeper New Age lore" in the book, which is typical of channeled UFO communications. These communications are often characterized by a belief that a great crisis on Earth is imminent, and great beings are here to help us through. The concept of Jesus as an extraterrestrial being, part of a higher mystical brotherhood, is common in the lore of the deep New Age.

(continued on page 4)

This concept of Jesus, Raschke points out, is not the one with which most Christians are familiar, in that it incorporates elements of Eastern mysticism.

Raschke says Milanovich's message, and the suggestion that the Templar be built in Crestone, "is typical of the kind of thing going on in the Baca" (Crestone and its environs were originally part of a huge land grant the Spanish made to the Baca family), which is probably not what the good folks in Crestone are longing to hear.

Dennett says the community's reaction, so far, is mixed. Several Arcturian jokes are making the rounds in the valley, cowboys down the valley are shaking their heads at the notion of a pink pyramid, some residents are excited and others are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Milanovich's book has had an effect on Crestone residents who have read it, says Dennett, because it definitely contains "food for thought." However, some are "not in favor of having the pyramid built." Dennett herself is remaining neutral.

This is not the first time an unusual proposal has been brought forth for Crestone, Dennett points out. Several years ago, Shirley MacLaine proposed building a New Age complex that would have attracted several hundred people to the town. That did not sit well with residents, and MacLaine has since backed off.

Crestone is viewed as a center of high

energy by Native Americans and modern-day spiritualists alike. Milanovich says Kuthumi refers to Crestone as having "the vibration of the Crown Chakra of the Universe." Arcturians consider Crestone one of the purest places and holiest sites on Earth, untrampled by the masses. Milanovich says it's important not to have tourists around during building of the Templar, nor does she seek them after its construction.

Milanovich stresses she is merely the messenger for the Arcturians, that she has no intention of being a preacher and competing with traditional religions. "This is weird shit, to put it bluntly," she acknowledges.

She adds that it took a certain amount of courage for her to publish the book.

Milanovich graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in home economics education. In the early 1970s, she was awarded a teaching fellowship at the University of Houston while working on her master's and doctoral degrees. After receiving a doctor of education degree, she and her husband moved to Albuquerque where she worked in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. She then became director of the New Mexico Consortium for Research and Development in Occupational Education before forming her own business.

Milanovich stresses she is not a scientist or physicist. And, prior to receiving

her first Arcturian transmission, she says she was not a reader of occult and mystical works.

Like Raschke, Michael Corbin, director of ParaNet and M.I.C.A.P. (Mutinational Investigations Cooperative on Aerial Phenomena), recognizes bits and pieces from other sources in *We, the Arcturians*. Corbin says the "contactee movement" is gaining a lot of momentum, with tens of thousands of reports in recent years from all over the world. He cites the exploitive nature of some in the movement, particularly Elizabeth Claire Prophet, who asks her followers to give away all their earthly goods and go live in a quonset hut.

All contactee scenarios include predictions of an imminent calamity on Earth. Everyone, says Corbin, is "playing a millennial endgame." The fact that the Mayan calendar ends around the year 2000, coupled with warnings from Eastern and Christian fundamentalists that the year 2000 is the end, contributes to the calamity theory.

A shifting of the Earth's axis has been suggested by several groups, says Corbin. There is some speculation within the scientific community, he says, that a shift occurred in ancient history. For instance, a mastodon was found frozen in a glacier with fresh flowers in its mouth, indicating a sudden, planetary occurrence. But most scientists pooh-pooh the notion of a shift.

"We would have major signs," says Corbin. The angular momentum of the

earth is so critical, and measured so accurately, that any slight movement would be noticed by astrophysicists.

"My attitude is extremely objective," says Corbin. "There could be some truth to some of this (Milanovich's work)," he acknowledges. At the same time, any conclusions must be made on observable, measurable scientific data.

Echoing Raschke, Corbin says too many people, particularly contactees, have concluded that intervention of celestial beings is crucial to solving the Earth's problems. A common trait of contactee groups is to throw away traditional science and buy into an ethereal prophecy.

Before expending the money to build an edifice like the Templar, Corbin asks why scientists have not been invited to sit down and analyze the axial shift.

Corbin says all contactees declare, "I'm only the messenger." A charming, or disarming, messenger "is all part of the package."

Milanovich insists she is not trying to sway opinion or force the Arcturian message down anybody's throat. She prefers to let readers of her book decide for themselves.

On one level, she seems overwhelmed by her claims. "Part of me feels stupid talking about it," she says.

But "if it is the truth, people have the right to know."

"I think I know what Noah felt like," says Milanovich. "You want me to build what?"

Whatever it was, it amazed the cat and tailed the car

● This man's not a nut, but what he saw is driving him nuts.

BY JIM SCHLOSSER
Staff Writer

Robert Benson's first reaction was typical of people who believe they've seen a UFO.

He thought not about Martians, but about earthlings in white coats coming for him with a straitjacket.

"They might lock me up in a loony bin," he said.

Fortunately, he had witnesses, and there was at least one other report of a strange object in the Greensboro sky Tuesday. Benson also has a photograph. Not a great one, but tiny specks of light, amid cigarette smoke, show up.

"I ain't much of a photographer," the chain-smoking Benson said.

He and his girlfriend, Cathy Kenny, and another friend, Melvin Ferguson, were in the yard of Kenny's mobile home in Woodlake Mobile Home Park off Randleman Road about 8:40 p.m. Tuesday when they spotted an object encircled with strobelike lights flying low, making a humming noise and going slow.

"It looked about the size of a DC-9," Benson said. "My first thought was, 'That plane is awful low.' It was about 250 feet off the ground. I thought it was going to crash."

Kenny's cat, Meryl, was mesmerized.

"She was on the steps and wouldn't move a muscle," Kenny said.

"I grabbed my cat and threw her under the trailer."

The object disappeared over a nearby hill, then turned around and came back. Kenny and Benson jumped into a car and drove along Creekridge Road.

"It seemed like it was following us down the road," Benson said. "No plane in the world can go only 35 mph."

He jumped out and snapped his point-and-shoot camera.

Ⓢ They might lock me up in a loony bin. Ⓢ

Robert Benson, UFO sighter

He later called the News & Record. At about the same time, an anonymous person called and reported seeing a loud and brightly lighted object hovering near Lees Chapel Road and Church Street in north Greensboro.

Guilford College astronomer Sheridan Simon doubts this report but wishes there would be a genuine UFO sighting.

"I would love to find some. If there is one thing that would bring interest in astronomy, it would be the discovery of alien spaceships out there."

A check of the weather station at Piedmont Triad International Airport turned up no unusual meteorologic activity in the area.

Dave Short, tower chief at the airport, warned that Hollywood spotlights often fool people into thinking they're seeing UFOs. Scores of people reported strange objects in 1991 after Blockbuster Video stores filled the Triad sky with spotlights.

But Blockbuster, based in Spartanburg, S.C. (ah-ha, the site of UFO sightings last week), says it hasn't used spotlights lately.

Dave Schnider, a flight instructor at Southeast Greensboro Airport, which is not far from where Benson and Kenny were Tuesday night, said he was at the airport until about 8 p.m. Tuesday and observed nothing unusual. He said military helicopters were in the area Tuesday, but they were gone by the afternoon.

Benson, who at first was reluctant to reveal his name, hopes people don't think he's a nut.

"I'm not saying it was a UFO," he says.

But he's darn sure it wasn't a plane.

Staff writer Bernie Woodall contributed to this report.

UFOs in the Belfry

By Brad Tyer

Stanton T. Friedman
Lloyd Center Red Lion Hotel
Sunday, Feb. 2

UFOs, FLYING SAUCERS, flying disks—they go by many names. Something seen by someone unable to put a tag on it. Just what unidentified flying objects do seems to depend on the witness. Some hover over late-night desert roads, some zip through the sky in blatant disregard of modern aeronautic technology and some throw Space Age Tupperware

PSEUDO SCIENCE

parties for their unwitting earthbound guests. Others are accused of inflicting unspeakable atrocities on cows. The galactic GM behind this vehicular free-for-all deploys quite a product line: boomerangs, top hats and cucumbers, along with the plain jane saucer-style saucers, have all been reported.

Aside from the more sensational effects UFOs reportedly have on humans—poor radio reception, impregnation, Swahili language instruction—they divide us into two neat categories: the kooks (those who have seen) and the skeptics (those who have not).

The interesting lesson of Stanton T. Friedman's lecture "Flying Saucers Are Real" is that the kooks, like so many other groups burdened with the "minority" label, are probably in the majority. Close to 2,000 citizens paid eight bucks a pop to watch Friedman present the evidence at the Lloyd Center Red Lion.

True, Friedman was preaching to the converted, but who knew there were this many believers? A random sampling of those standing in the two-block line outside the Holladay Room revealed a substantial number of apparently stable adults who claim to have seen a UFO. Another chunk of the crowd was composed of indiscriminate freethinkers who seemed perfectly willing to entertain not only the idea that earth receives regular visits from interstellar tour groups but also the notion that they themselves might indeed be alien transplants in this

overgrown biosphere. Who's to say they're wrong?

Friedman's argument has three prongs. His first conviction is that some—and he stresses the some—unidentified flying objects are intelligently controlled vehicles originating in other solar systems. Others, of course, are simply misinterpreted Wiffle balls, but these do not concern Friedman. Conviction No. 2 holds that none of the skeptical arguments of those Friedman calls the "noisy negativists" hold water when subjected to scientific scrutiny. For conviction No. 3 Friedman takes a cue from Oliver Stone and concludes that the governments of the United States and other nations have actively covered up this "cosmic Watergate." Surprisingly enough, it is Friedman's third argument that is most persuasive to that indecisive "not sure" segment of the audience.

The fact is, when it comes to UFOs, we're a nation of Missourians; show me a stalk-necked, sunken-eared alien and, when I confirm that it's not a Wiffle ball, I'll believe. Short of that, no amount of deductive logic or circumstantial evidence will convince beyond a doubt.

Friedman is certain that we, or at least the more unaccountable branches of our elected government, have seen and even captured such aliens. In 1947, near Roswell, N.M., to be exact, Friedman dropped a successful career as a nuclear physicist and has dedicated the past 20 years to interviewing the people involved in that case and others and searching for documentation that would either prove or disprove the existence of intelligently controlled UFOs.

Among the intriguing (and only minimally sensationalist) evidence gathered by Friedman—amid the seemingly inexplicable case studies, statistics and photographs—stands the most convincing clue that Friedman just might be onto something worth investigating: page after page of U.S. government documents relating to UFO studies, obtained after great delay through Freedom of Information Act requests, blacked out with the censor's pen from margin to margin. Friedman thinks the government's not telling us something.

Who's to say he's wrong?

DAILY ITEM, Sunbury, PA
Feb. 7, 1992 CR: LIUFON

Professor: Space station, jets may have spurred UFO reports

By Karen Blackledge
Staff reporter

LEWISBURG — A Bucknell University professor has two explanations for what some described as a UFO flying overhead Wednesday evening.

David Lien said Thursday that the Soviet Space Station Mir would have been visible in the area at the time at least a dozen people reported sightings.

Also, Lewisburg residents reported seeing four jets flying over in a tight formation at about the same time, he said.

The jets would account for the rumbling and the pattern seen in the sky, he said.

Upon checking the space station's orbit, Lien said he found it would have been visible in this area from 6:47 to 6:50 p.m. The jets flew over Lewisburg at about 6:20 p.m., he said.

He said the space station is "as big as a house and reflects a lot of light." At a maximum height of 16 degrees above the horizon, "It would have looked like it had come out of the ground from the southeast, risen up into the sky and faded out all in about three minutes." Lien, who is Bucknell's observatory director and an assistant physics professor, said no noise would have been associated with the space station sighting.

There was a good chance a Sunbury man saw the space station because he reported a heading toward Selinsgrove, Lien said.

Haines City police officer may have encountered a UFO

By Jeff Osterkamp
The Ledger

HAINES CITY — Luis Delgado let a speeder get away Thursday morning, but it wasn't his fault — Haines City police cars are not equipped to catch UFO's.

Before Thursday, Delgado was unsure whether extraterrestrial craft existed. But after watching a large green disc-shaped ship light up and shut down his patrol car, he is a skeptic no more.

"I consider it a UFO, because as far as I know, we don't have the technology for anything like that," Delgado said. "It was a heck of a night. I'll tell you that. Everything was routine up to that point."

Delgado said he was driving a police car north on 30th Street in southeastern Haines City at 3:52 Thursday morning when a bright green light came up behind his car. The vessel

hovered around his car, about 10 feet above the ground, for about one minute before speeding away, he said.

Delgado said that after he pulled onto the side of the road to avoid crashing into the object, his car mysteriously shut off and his walkie-talkie stopped working.

"I grabbed the radio to talk, but everything went out. The (car) lights went out," he said. "After that I just stood there and it was really cold. I could see the breath coming out of my mouth."

Haines City Lt. Frank Caterino said Delgado passed physical and psychological tests police administered to him after his sighting.

Other officers who were later on the scene speculated that Delgado's UFO might have been a large green trashbag they found nearby. But Delgado said the trashbag could not have explained his sighting.

Officials from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, the Fed-

eral Aviation Administration and the National Weather Service said they knew of no weather balloons, military projects or other phenomena that could explain what Delgado saw.

Joseph Carr, the former director of the University of South Florida Planetarium, said he knew of no astronomical explanation for Delgado's sighting.

Diane Green, the chief of community relations for MacDill Air Force Base, said the Air Force stopped investigating UFO sightings in 1979 when it concluded that claims of flying saucers were never accurate.

"They found out that every sighting was explainable," she said. "The investigations were proving that there is a logical, rational explanation for all of them."

But Fearon Hicks, an Auburndale resident who is a field investigator for a national UFO organization, disagreed. He investigated Delgado's sighting and believes the story.

"It sounds like a bonafide UFO sighting," Hicks said. "It didn't display flight characteristics of anything we know so far that the U.S. military has."

Gary Posner, the founder of Tampa Bay Skeptics, said he thinks that if Delgado's story is true, Haines City was definitely visited by a spaceship. But Posner doubted that Delgado's story was accurate.

"It's a pretty wild conclusion to make from one person reporting one incident," Posner said. "I'm highly skeptical that what he reported as having happened is exactly what happened."

Hicks said he found no indications a spaceship had been at the area, between Robinson Drive and Roe Road on 30th Street, but said he would continue to investigate the sighting.

"We're waiting two to three days to see if the tops of the trees start to die," he said.

Delgado said he is both glad and unhappy about what he saw. The experience was very stressful — he was found by another officer shaking and crying in his car after the incident — but exciting, he said.

"We're trained to deal with stuff that you know, but what do you do when you encounter something you don't know?" he asked.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - March 27, 1992 CR: E. Walters

Five UFO's Hover, Glow, Blink In Area Skies

Residents, Tourists Report Unusual Sighting

by Patti Weatherford

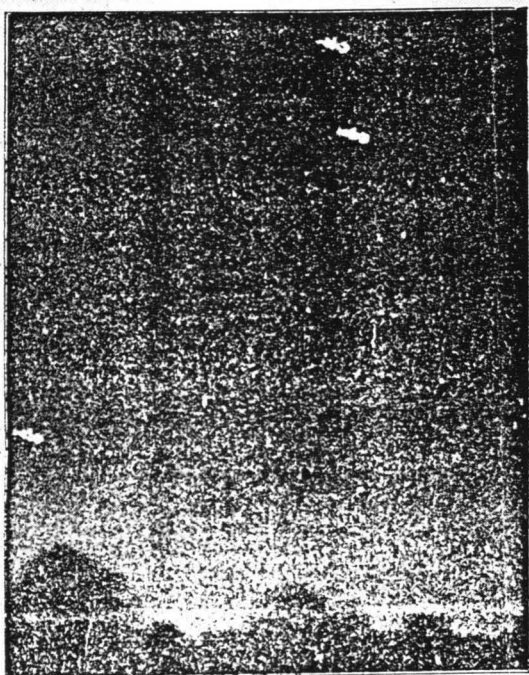
UFO's do not exist! The only problem is nobody has told them. If they have, the UFO's have simply not been listening.

Saturday night, March 14, ended a 12 day "dry spell" for the citizens of Gulf Breeze. After 8 p.m. residents and Spring Breakers reported seeing as many as 5 red glowing UFO's in the air at the same time. Reports of the sighting were received from witnesses at 6 locations. These included Santa Rosa Island, Shoreline Park, Hwy. 98 near Delchamps (east of Gulf Breeze), Pensacola Bay Bridge Fishing Pier, the Tom Thumb Food Store near Naval Live Oaks, and Aquamarine Dr.

From his vantage point on Santa Rosa Island, Andy Abercrombie from Houston, Texas, described the sky as "cloudless, perfectly clear with unlimited visibility. Suddenly a white light appeared about 50 degrees above the horizon, then turned bright red. It was followed by a second, third and fourth, then finally a fifth red light in roughly the 4, 5, 8, and 9 o'clock positions."

"They didn't fly in, they just kind of 'blinked in' from nowhere", said George Crumblley of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "There were so many at one time that it looked like the sky was blooming with them."

The sightings lasted about 10



UFO's responded to signal lights beamed at them in the skies over Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach in one of the most spectacular sightings ever reported in the Panhandle.

Photo by Sue Jones

minutes and were confirmed by over 30 witnesses including members of the Gulf Breeze Research Team and others conducting a skywatch from Santa Rosa Island. The group reported seeing a total of 5 UFO's and said that unlike some sightings, these lights were not stationary.

"In fact, two started moving directly toward us", said Art Hufford, GBRT member. "As an experiment using a 500,000 candle power spot light, we had been directing a repetitive sequence of high intensity flashes at the uppermost UFO. The movement toward our location began after the object appeared to respond to our signals by repeating our sequence of flashes. The approach lasted about 30 seconds, then the two lights stopped and 'winked' out.

Through the use of triangulation, the GBRT was able to determine the approximate location to be just south of the Gulf Breeze peninsula, between Villa Venyce and the Delchamps Food Store, how ever this sighting is still under investigation as reports continue to come in.

"This was a first", exclaimed Bruce Morrison, Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON member and GBRT member. "We've never seen this many UFO's appear together at the same time".

The sighting is still being investigated. If you were a witness and have not contacted MUFON, please do so at 438-3261.

UFO Sighted Here Thursday Night!

BLUE RIDGE SUN, Sparta, NC - Feb. 26, 1992 CR: G. Fawcett

There were 14 UFO sightings in North Carolina during 1991, according to George Fawcett of Lincolnton, spokesman for the N.C. Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network.

Thus far, there has been two sightings in Alleghany during 1992. Actually, two residents reported seeing the same UFO at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20th. I say these are the only sightings for 1992, they are the only ones reported to The Sun. Both folks who saw Thursday's strange lights asked their names not be used. They are, however, sane, sober reputable people! What they saw Thursday night were two large lights, close together resembling a set of car headlights. The lights were moving silently across the sky. The lights were not brilliant, colored or flashing. They were just white lights coming from the north toward the Peach Bottom Mountain range that crosses the lower southwestern quadrant of Alleghany. The lights passed over the mountains and disappeared.

We certainly don't want to sound like the National Enquirer here, but,

too many UFO sightings have been documented over the years, to laugh this off. We plan to report the sightings to Mr. Fawcett. We'd like to know if any other Alleghany residents saw the lights Thursday night. They were visible from the Stratford - New Hope and Whitehead Communities. They may have been visible from other points as well. If you saw the lights Thursday night, please call The Blue Ridge Sun at 372-5490. Your names will be kept confidential. Some believe UFO's are laughable - we do not. In the interest of science, we need to know if other people saw the lights.

There may be another explanation for the lights. We will also try to research this angle. In the meantime, we need to know if others saw the lights.

If you too believe that UFO's are not something to laugh off, watch the sky! The lights may reappear.

Next week we'll hopefully have an update on this UFO sighting. Watch The Sun for all the news of Alleghany and outer space!

MBR

UFO 'expert' settles lawsuit with sheriff

Belief in extraterrestrials cost him a promotion, plaintiff maintains

COURIER, Prescott, AZ - March 18, 1992 CR: A. Magee

TUCSON (AP) — A self-professed UFO expert who claims his belief in extraterrestrial life helped cost him a promotion has settled a lawsuit against Pima County's sheriff.

Robert O. Dean, who says age discrimination also figured in his being turned down for promotion to the county's emergency services director, said Monday he settled the lawsuit for \$100,000 plus two years' back pay.

Sheriff Clarence Dupnik, the defendant in the suit, declined to comment Tuesday on the settlement.

He referred all questions to Deputy County Attorney Beverly Anderson, who was in court Tuesday and unavailable for comment.

Dean, then 61 and the county's emergency services coordinator, was turned down for the promotion in February 1990.

He retired from the Army as a command sergeant major after a 28-year career.

Dean said he considers himself a professional researcher of UFOs and had "cosmic top-secret clearance" while he was in the military.

He said he developed his interest in UFOs while serving in Europe in the 1960s and part of his Army job dealt with reports of UFO sightings.

According to records filed with the suit, Dupnik told County Manager Enrique G. Serna he didn't want to hire Dean because of his beliefs about UFOs.

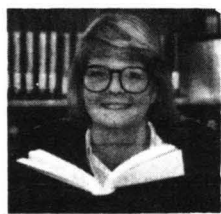
Dean's attorney, Ronald J. Stolkin, said the settlement includes a "no-fault finding" in which the county does not admit to wrongdoing.

Stolkin said the back pay will amount to \$16,000, covering the difference between Dean's current county salary and what he would have made in the higher job for the last two years.

Juneau's strange history of UFOs, sea serpents

SHERRY SIMPSON

Reports of UFO sightings in 1916 are intriguing because they occurred nearly four years before the first airplane flew over Juneau.



Three weeks ago, several residents of Anchorage and Valdez reported seeing something strange in the sky. Observers described the unusual sightings as four bright-green objects flying overhead in formation, each followed by a long tail. The objects suddenly accelerated and disappeared, leading the watchers to think they weren't comets or airplanes or anything else easily explained.

Over the years there have been quite a few Alaska sightings of unidentified flying objects. The hard part is determining that such sightings couldn't possibly have been falling space junk, satellites, military aircraft, meteors, weather balloons, hoaxes, planets, mass hysteria, natural phenomena, a flock of geese with the sun shining on their wings, odd clouds or any other more mundane explanation.

But a 1916 rash of UFO reports in Juneau are intriguing because they occurred nearly four years before the first airplane flew over Juneau — though the first airplane flights in Alaska had occurred in Fairbanks in 1913.

The puzzling Juneau sightings were first recounted in the Feb. 22, 1916, edition of the Daily Alaska Dispatch. Headlined "Strange Craft Seen Soaring Through Air," the account reports that First Officer Steve York and two deckhands were on the steamer Georgia headed to Skagway when they spotted something odd.

The ship was passing near the north end of Douglas Island when the witnesses first noticed lights overhead. This is what the Dispatch reporter copied from the ship's logbook:

"At 2:15 a.m., Feb. 20, 1916, strange lights appeared in the sky about three points on the port bow. The lights changed from white to red to green every few minutes, at a perpendicular angle of about 45 degrees on the starboard bow, then disappeared about 2:30 o'clock, almost two points on the starboard beam. The steamer was heading west southwest.

"At 4 the light again appeared about two miles northwest of Sentinel Island at an angle of about 30 degrees and disappeared while the Georgia was at Eagle River."

The crew members weren't the only people who reported seeing strange things that night. P.R. McGuire and other workers at Jualin Mine, at Berners Bay about 45 miles north of Juneau, said that at about 5 a.m. they spotted a "long, black object passing from one cloud to another high up in the air," the newspaper said. They were sure they heard an engine, as did the Georgia crew. The miners also thought the object

looked more like an airship (or dirigible) than an aeroplane, but it was too far away to see clearly — especially in that light.

The newspaper speculated that the aircraft could have been a Canadian aircraft scouting the coast to see if Germans or other invaders were building a base in Alaska — which, the paper pointed out, wouldn't be too difficult to do among the many hidden coves and inlets of Southeast's lesser-known islands. (Remember that at this time World War I was raging in Europe, though the United States had not yet entered the fray.) But why an airplane would be flitting through the skies at 2:30 in the morning is anybody's guess.

The article concluded, "At first, there was an indication to make light of the subject and treat it as a joke or as a 'sailor's yarn,' but such things are not placed in the official log books of steamers, and when so many different persons at different points see the same object, there must be something to it."

Two more sightings occurred that spring. In an April 16 article headlined "Queer looking star seen over Juneau," the newspaper reported that several reputable citizens of Douglas and Juneau claimed to have seen "something in the heavens which looked first like a star, but which seemed to move up and down somewhat and grow dimmer, finally, and flash out red ..."

The paper wryly added, "This taken in connection with the reported aircraft in other nearby points lately seen, suggests many things about which a story could be built. However, a detailed description might hamper the imagination of the reader."

Just two weeks later, the newspaper carried a paragraph reporting that the night operator at the wireless station saw at 10 p.m. over Gastineau Channel a strange white light that was much bigger and brighter than a star. The object moved behind the mountains up the channel.

Later there were other UFO reports by Alaskans, some of the most spectacular occurring in recent

years. Mind you, not every strange object was spotted in the skies. On Aug. 24, 1928, Stroller's Weekly reported "Sea Serpent Killed in Chatham Straits." This story had a seemingly impeccable source: Territorial Fish Commissioner A. J. Sprague, whom the article referred to as both "temperate and reliable."

The account said that Sprague was on official business on the vessel Yakobi with its captain, Tom Smith, near Morris Reef at the junction of Chatham and Peril straits. Then, not more than 100 yards away, they saw a "monster of the deep" that they estimated at 300 feet long. They described it as greenish-blue and about four feet in diameter. The creature glided slowly side to side, the report said, "swimming very much like a snake."

Sprague grabbed a rifle and fired shots at it. He said he was sure one or more of the pellets struck the serpent in its vitals because it seemed to writhe, finally rearing its head several feet high before disappearing.

The boat remained nearby in case the creature floated to the surface. If it was dead, the men planned to tow the monster to where they could take a closer look. Alas, even a later visit to the spot failed to find it.

"Mr. Sprague is certain it was unable to digest the bullets by which it was hit and that its dead body now reposes with other mysteries of the deep," the account concluded.

Whether the men were consummate pranksters or genuinely saw something few of us would like to hook, we'll probably never know for sure. So much time has passed — and details are so few — that we'll have to file these UFO and sea monster reports under the "strange things done under the midnight sun" category. But keep your eyes open.

Sherry Simpson is a Juneau Empire reporter with an interest in Alaska history. She researched and wrote the Alaska Geographic book "Juneau."

DAILY TIMES, Harrison, AR - April 3, 1992

Eureka to Host UFO Conference

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — For years, Karla Turner thought a terrifying childhood memory was a dream.

But now, she said she believes creatures like the one she saw as a little girl have returned to visit her several times.

Ms. Turner, 44, is a guest speaker at this weekend's Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs. Other lecturers will discuss unexplained animal mutilations, mysterious circles formed in crops in Britain and reported UFO activity in the United States and other countries.

Ms. Turner said she is not sure whether the "beings" she reports seeing are from other planets.

"One thing I do believe: These things actually exist," Ms. Turner said in a telephone interview.

The former college English teacher said other members of her family, including her husband, have encountered the insect-like creatures, which render them helpless and sometimes abduct them for hours at a time.

Ms. Turner, fearing possible harassment of her family, will say only that she lives in the "general Little Rock area." She also refused to provide her husband's first name or identify where he works.

Ms. Turner said her encounters were buried in her subconscious for decades. She said memories began flooding when she underwent psychological counseling for stress-related problems in the late 1980s.

She said her earliest encounter was at age five or six. She said she found herself outdoors at night, looking up at "what looked like a giant grasshopper. And it was telling me it was my mother. And I screamed back, 'No, you're not!'"

Her husband also began recalling past encounters, she said.

"The nature of our experiences include sightings of UFOs, missing time episodes in which we have either had conscious, partially conscious or totally unconscious episodes with whatever these beings are," she said. "We didn't tell anybody, our closest friends or family, anything."

She began to do research and found reports of similar experiences, she said.

"There seems to be a general pattern," she said. "People have abduction encounters throughout their lives. It doesn't seem to be a random thing, that they pick up this person at age 35."

The encounters often "cluster" in families, Ms. Turner said.

The first encounter usually comes in early childhood, she said, followed by another at puberty and again in young adulthood. In most cases, the creatures conduct some kind of physical examination. Sometimes, sperm and ovum are taken, she said.

Ms. Turner said several types of creatures have been reported. The most frequent reports, she said, involve smooth, gray, hairless creatures about 3 1/2 feet tall, with thin bodies, no ears and "extremely large black eyes."

Others have reported encounters with creatures resembling either insects or reptiles.

Large and small aircraft have been reported, she said. Most are disc-shaped, but some are described as triangular, cigar-shaped, or bright red-and-orange

balls of fire.

The creatures can be "benevolent or evil," she said. Her experiences have been fearful.

"I do not think what they are doing this with us is for our own benefit," she said.

Some researchers theorize that the creatures are taking human genetic material to further their own survival, she said.

According to the "salvation theory," the creatures are gathering genetic samples to propagate the human race if Earth becomes uninhabitable because of nuclear war or another ecological disaster.

Ms. Turner hopes more people will come forward with similar encounters, and believes conventions such as the one in Eureka Springs provide them a sympathetic ear.

"We may get more answers when more people are able to talk about this without fear," she said.

Ms. Turner has written a book about her family's experiences. "Into the Fringe" is scheduled to be published in November by the Berkley Publishing Group in New York, according to Andrew Zack, her editor at Berkley.

"I think she makes a good case, and she certainly gives you a lot of food for thought," Zack said.

We are not alone, says journalist

By CHRIS WOLF
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

Although "the public might not be aware," it's only a matter of time before alien visitations to planet Earth are confirmed beyond doubt or government cover-up, according to journalist Linda Moulton-Howe.

"We're probably building up to realizing that we are not alone in the universe," Moulton-Howe said in a recent telephone interview. "Major professionals in all kinds of sciences are taking this very seriously."

A former news director at KMGH-TV in Denver, Moulton-Howe has written two books and produced award-winning TV documentaries on alien visitations. She will present a multi-media compilation of 40 years of sittings and encounters at 7 p.m. Wednesday at CU's Fiske Planetarium.

Moulton-Howe said the U.S. government has been investigating visitations from other universes, or other dimensions, for decades. But the investigations have been kept top secret because widespread awareness of the phenomenon would challenge fundamental beliefs, she said, and thereby threaten existing institutional structure and control.

Ridicule is the accepted and encouraged social response to claims of sittings of alien crafts or beings, Moulton-Howe said, "because it doesn't fit our accepted social paradigm of the way things work."

It makes me think there is something about this period of time that is like the time of Galileo," she said. Galileo was the Italian astronomer and physicist who in the Seventeenth century was convicted by a Roman inquisition for demonstrating that the Earth revolved around the sun.

In addition to discussing testimonies of eye-witnesses to visitations, crop circles, and a world-wide phenomenon known as "cattle mutilation," in which farm animals have been killed and their vital organs removed, Moulton-Howe said she'll tell the story of a man who claims to have worked inside a secret laboratory inside a mountain in Nevada taking apart flying saucers that crashed and were recovered by the government.

"What does the government know that the rest of us don't?" she asked rhetorically.

The talk will be sponsored by the Denver chapter of the Multi-National Investigations Cooperative on Aerial Phenomena. Ticket prices are \$8 for MICAP members, \$10 in advance, and \$12.50 at the door.



File Photo

1977 SENSATION — William McCarthy stands beside a hole cut in the ice of his pond on Jan. 10, 1977 in this file photo. State officials cut the hole in search of a mysterious object that people speculated had fallen from the sky and melted through.

Did Secrecy Turn Natural Occurrence Into UFO Folklore?

By NANCY WEST
Sunday News Staff

WAKEFIELD — Fifteen years after scores of police, reporters and curiosity seekers converged on William McCarthy's pond in search of an unidentified flying object, a retired physics professor says the state probably was right all along — the unusual melting was natural.

The state's theory was similar to that of retired University of New Hampshire physics professor Robert E. Houston, who never made a report to the state.

Houston scoured the scene a few months later at McCarthy's request and also concluded the melting was the result of a natural phenomenon.

Given the circumstances and the secrecy that surrounded McCarthy's discovery that his pond was melting in 5-degree weather after a huge snowfall, he understands why McCarthy, to this day, believes there was a radioactive black box that fell from the sky into his ice-covered pond.

"All you have to do is jump at one wrong conclusion — and it

seemed logical from his perspective — and it makes everything else fall into place," Houston said.

Houston said he always has had trouble with the way some officials keep secrets, especially in matters relating to space.

"For some reason, there are a bunch of people in this country who are paranoid about this sort of thing and feel it is in the best interest of the country to make statements that are not correct," Houston said.

While investigating the incident for McCarthy, Houston and another University of New Hampshire professor concluded that a rotting leaf easily might have caused the melting, even in such cold weather.

He said Thursday he remembered finding no unusual radiation levels at the pond, although high levels detected by the local police chief had prompted the huge investigation that followed.

Had there been high radioactivity in January as reported, some elevated levels still would have remained, or investigators would have found a "hot spot," Houston said.

The incident could have been explained by a well-known physical principle in which a rotting

leaf caught in the ice absorbs radiation or energy from the sun better than shiny objects, which reflect.

As the leaf gains more heat, it would melt ice even in 5 degrees, Houston said. The leaf gradually would sink down into the ice and "can generate a real hole, kind of a plug in which it is possible for water to come up through," he said.

The water, being cold, but warmer than the ice, in turn can cause more melting, Houston said. A pond in southern Massachusetts has water spouts coming up 10 inches when there is no pressure to cause the spouting, he said.

The spouting causes what appear to be chicken-foot tracks, making it look like something has splashed into the ice. Houston said drawings by McCarthy at the time showed the same unusual track patterns, but Houston doesn't recall McCarthy saying he had seen a portion of the box on the surface.

McCarthy said he had just finished plowing his driveway on Jan. 10, 1977 when he spotted something black on the pond about 100 feet from his house.

McCarthy, 67, who moved across the street where he can still look out at the small horse pond he dug, still insists he saw a 12-inch by 12-inch black radioactive box half submerged in the pond that day.

But he says by the time he went to get a rake and returned to poke around, the box sank, leaving a square hole that continued to melt even though the temperature was so cold.

"It was about half above the water, the other half was in the water, in a sort of like a bowl-shaped depression in the ice. . . . My theory is I should have had a camera. I let it get away from me. Something was there and it was quite warm. It landed when nobody was looking," said McCarthy, a retired brick layer whose first sighting of the box before it sank is never mentioned in official reports.

The bizarre affair quickly became known as the "Wakefield incident," as word spread quickly because of the scores of news reports, even though police clamped a lid of secrecy on the case and at first shooed people away.

"Seeing is believing as far as I'm concerned. I don't think it was a UFO. I think it was a piece of somebody's space hardware, not just ours, maybe the Chinese or the Russians. I figured it was a nuclear battery or generator," he said.

The reports by police and state officials, stored in the state archives, consistently say McCarthy saw a submerged box through a hole in the ice where he believed the object had fallen, but McCarthy recalls telling some people at the time that he saw it briefly while part of it was still above the surface.

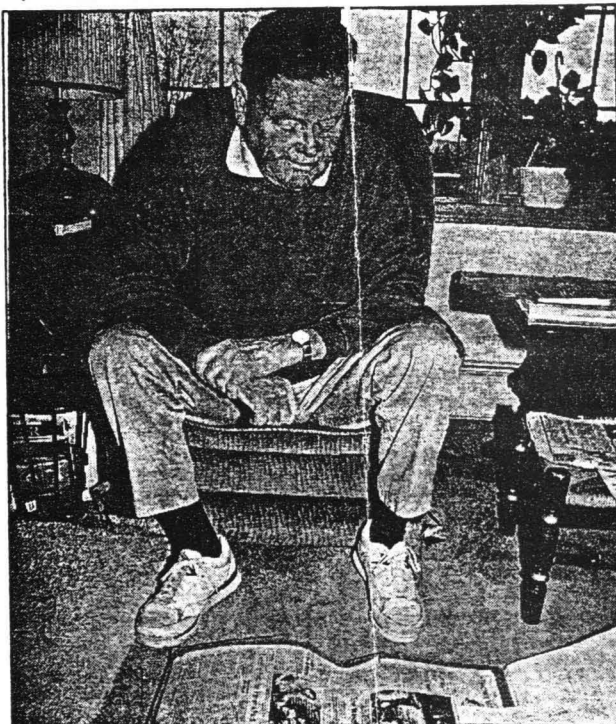
"There was a lot of chaos. It happened a little bit at a time. There were many, many people trying to get me to answer questions all at once. I don't think anyone got the whole picture. It sort of evolved," McCarthy said.

The official reports never mention McCarthy's contention that his German Shepherd dog died a few days later from what he believes was radiation poisoning.

The reports also showed the deep concern by state officials until the investigation was concluded. A memo from George E. McAvoy, former director of the Civil Defense in New Hampshire to former Gov. Meldrim Thomson, said if the incident wasn't an "outlandish hoax," then it could be dangerous radiation and could be space debris.

"All agencies have agreed to no publicity," McAvoy wrote, an indication that officials were trying to keep details quiet, which undoubtedly fueled speculation.

McCarthy believes officials have succeeded in keeping what



Dick Casselberry Photo

WILLIAM MCCARTHY of Wakefield looks at some of the old newspaper clippings from the Jan. 10, 1977 incident that garnered national headlines when his pond began melting. McCarthy still insists it was caused by a black radioactive box dropping from the sky, but authorities and a retired physics professor from the University of New Hampshire found the melt was from natural causes.

he believes is the the truth quiet all these years. He is convinced that someone spirited the black box away — perhaps military investigators — when the crowd of onlookers was temporarily distracted by state officials hauling away a bag of mud retrieved from the bottom of the three-foot deep pond.

In fact, McCarthy has a photograph of them, but it doesn't show what's inside the bag, nor are the people identifiable, he said.

Former Police Chief Dana M. Senecal, the first to be called, found high levels of radiation, the reports note. His findings spawned more tests using six different instruments. Although some tested high levels of radiation, some fluctuated, but the most sophisticated instruments later found no radiation at all, according to the official reports.

No radioactive black box ever was found, even though the pond was drained and the bottom probed, the reports concluded. Even when the pond dried up one summer, nothing was found.

Three days after the melting, Thomson issued a news release saying there was no radiation found at the site or in the water, blaming the readings on faulty equipment and insisting that the melting occurred as a result of a natural phenomenon, the same conclusion reached independently by Houston a few months later.

"... The hole in the ice was the result of natural movement of the ice on the pond caused by action of water currents on the layers of the ice. This kind of natural action of the pond water often results in shifting and cracking of very heavy ice layers on the surface. The early reports of radioactivity have been attributed to the inherent unreliability of the less accurate instruments when they are used in the cold weather."

Thomson went on to say, "Regrettably this incident has spawned a large number of false rumors. There is no evidence of any unidentified flying object involved in this incident, nor was there any military plane crash at the site. . . . The investigators did not carry a small black box from the site although the officer from the Department of Public Health carried a plastic bag containing soil samples from the pond."

State Police Commander Lynn M. Presby was a sergeant when he was assigned to the case and he remembers it as the one that generated the most public interest over the years.

Instinct told him right away the ice was melting naturally, Presby remembered.

The local chief had grabbed a Geiger counter that "looked like a lunchbox. It was outmoded and outdated. He started getting readings that were unsubstantiated later," Presby said.

"It generated a tremendous amount of curiosity. The news media showed up in large influxes — television reporters, print media — all of a sudden people were rolling in from everywhere," he said.

At the time there was speculation that a natural spring caused the melting, but McCarthy said the pond is fed by a culvert under the road.

People still drive by McCarthy's Pond, but not as much as in the old days when they would come at all hours of the day and night.

"We heard from all kinds of people on this, one who had been to Mars and back. It is a fascinating subject. We've heard stories from other people who have been through something similar," said McCarthy.

McCarthy is doubtful he will ever find out what happened to the black box he insists he discovered 15 years ago.

"We'll never hear the ultimate conclusion. We're left hanging. That's the way this is," he said.

Susquehanna Valley residents report seeing low-flying lights

By Karen Blackledge
Staff reporter

Was it a plane or something from the "Twilight Zone"?

At least a dozen people reported seeing something flying low in the sky Wednesday evening. Some swore it was a UFO passing over the Sunbury, Milton and Shamokin areas. One caller said it was headed toward Selinsgrove and another saw it flying in the

direction of Trevorton.

John Reitz of 241 Lenker Ave., Sunbury, said the craft made noise that was so loud it drowned out the "People's Court" show he had taped. As he was lying down watching television, he could "feel the vibration through the wall" at 6:30 p.m.

"I ran out of the house and I saw this thing shaped like a boomerang with three bright lights. It was about two or three times the width of a football field. It looked like a search light at the tip and there were other

lights about three-quarters towards the center point," Reitz said.

"The thing was at a controlled speed. Then picked up speed and went over Kerchner's Hill. As it disappeared, it illuminated the entire top of the hill. You could see the outline of the trees. It looked like it was heading toward Selinsgrove."

By the time his grandmother, Louella, got outside, the craft was out of sight. However, she too heard the noise, saying, "she thought it was big old trucks coming," Reitz

said.

Tom Aiello, who works at Roadway Express at 320 Lenker Ave., was on the trucking terminal's dock when he heard what he thought were three low-flying fighter planes overhead. The supervisor there said the craft had three lights that weren't blinking. He talked to two truckers who also heard the noise. The truckers also thought the noise was generated from planes. Aiello said.

Airports at Montoursville, Selinsgrove and Harrisburg got calls about similar sightings.

"Somebody reported four F-14 military-type jets going overhead," said a spokesman at the Penn Valley Airport, Selinsgrove, who wouldn't give his name.

The Montoursville-Williamsport-Lycoming County Airport received several calls. "We don't normally investigate things like this. The Air Force used to investigate an actual UFO sighting," said Federal Aviation Administration Supervisor Mike Walker. He said reports of such sightings are rare.

At Fort Indiantown Gap, Capt. Joaquin Reis said, "It's very possible C-130s were flying out there. There's really no way to tell where they would have been from."

His fort had no planes flying Wednesday evening. Helicopters are usually flown from the Gap and none were flying at that time, according to Reis, the airfield safety officer at Muir Army Airfield.

Reitz asked if it had been a plane, why weren't its lights blinking. "There would have been multiple lights on planes. It was just one enormous piece of slow-moving structure," he said of the craft he tracked flying overhead for 10 to 15 seconds.

He has ruled out the possibility that it was a plane because it had no tail section. "This thing was roaring as it was slowly approaching. It was getting quieter as it was overtop and fading as it was going away," he said.

Another Sunbury man, who didn't want to be identified, reported seeing up to eight lights all of the same color and "kind of a washed-out yellow," Reitz said. That man, whom Reitz talked to shortly after the incident, described the noise as "10 locomotives running at the same time in the same direction and coming right at you." The other man reported seeing the craft over Fifth Street in Sunbury.

A spokeswoman at the Union County Emergency Communications Center said she got one call in which the caller described it as "Air Force planes doing a maneuver" at about 7 p.m.

Three other callers from Sunbury, Milton and Shamokin reported seeing a boomerang-shaped object with three very bright lights. A Seven Points man, reporting a similar sighting, said it looked like the craft was headed toward Trevorton.

TIMES, Pekin, IL - March 12, 1992 CR: P. Russell

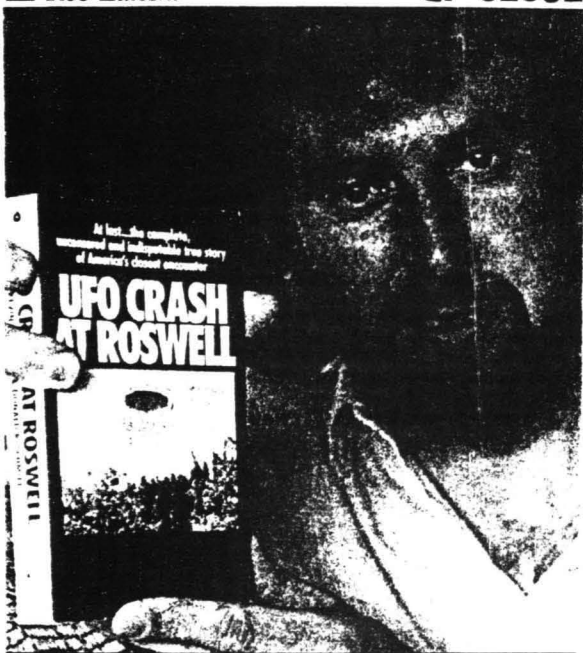
UFO reported

PEKIN — A UFO allegedly was sighted Wednesday morning by a woman who refused to give Tazewell County deputies her name.

She told deputies that she was driving on Illinois Route 122 about 10:30 a.m. between Delavan and Illinois Route 29 when her car radio turned to static and her car started "stuttering as if it were going to die." About 30 to 40 feet above her car, she said she saw a round silver object, reports said.

Rob Zaleski

UP CLOSE



Donald Schmitt probes the supposed crash and military cover-up of a UFO in the New Mexico desert in 1947 in his new book.

Did UFO crash in N.M. desert?



Zaleski

HUBERTUS — As UFO fanatics go, Donald Schmitt seems surprisingly rational, even articulate.

Which raises an intriguing question: Is Schmitt the director of special investigations at the Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, to be lumped with many of the "kooks" — as he himself calls them — who often are involved in UFO sightings?

Or, rather, is he a serious investigator whose new soft-cover book, "UFO Crash at Roswell," will cause many people to re-evaluate the strange happenings in the high desert region of southeast New Mexico in the summer of 1947?

Whatever the case, many U.S. military officials undoubtedly wish that Schmitt and his co-author, Kevin Randle, a former Air Force intelligence officer, were themselves abducted by aliens.

The book, which came out in July and is already in its eighth printing, charges the U.S. military with a massive cover-up involving the alleged crash of a unidentified flying object and, several days later, the alleged recovery of four alien creatures.

And while it's not a new charge, Schmitt contends during an interview at his country home 25 miles northwest of Milwaukee that he and Randle are the first to thoroughly document what happened and — more important — the first to name witnesses.

"We're convinced it's the biggest story in the last 2,000 years," he says — which may raise eyebrows among those who were present at Woodstock.

Still, whatever one may think of UFOs, there's no denying that something crashed in the desert near Roswell, N.M., in early July 1947.

In fact, it was the Air Force that announced on July 8, 1947, that it had "captured a flying saucer" — a report that was carried on the front pages of newspapers throughout the country.

Less than 24 hours later, however, the Air Force retracted its story and said the object was nothing more than a weather balloon.

"Absolutely ridiculous," says Schmitt.

Nonetheless, 44 years later the military stands by its story.

...

Schmitt, a 37-year-old bachelor who works as a free-lance medical illustrator when he's not involved in his volunteer UFO job, began researching the issue in 1988.

He says he and Randle have interviewed more than 300 people, including numerous ex-military personnel who were in New Mexico at the time of the alleged crash.

And while the investigation still isn't complete, Schmitt believes they've uncovered enough evidence to justify a congressional hearing on the case.

To be sure, there are those who think Schmitt is a crackpot

and who question why a UFO would be flying over New Mexico, of all places.

Schmitt says he can only speculate, but that New Mexico would have been a logical spot for alien forces to be exploring in the late '40s.

After all, the United States was conducting atomic bomb tests in the desert. The state was a hot spot for military research. And Roswell was home to the 509th Bomb Group.

What's more, it's hardly surprising that the military would want to cover up such an incident, he maintains.

"You have a crash, an accident, and it's not your proverbial 'Take me to your leader' confrontation," he says. "You have no explanations, no answers. You have nothing but questions."

"You're faced with the possibility of an invasion... from a fleet of spaceships. And you have no idea whether they're malevolent or benevolent. So all you can do is close down the lid as tight as you can until you get answers."

...

But why would the military still want to cover it up 44 years later?

That's the question, Schmitt says.

Actually, the Air Force did make public its UFO files in 1976. But the file on Roswell contained a single clipping.

Again, absolutely ridiculous, Schmitt says.

While he's encouraged by the reception his book has received, Schmitt admits one disappointment: Mainstream media have all but ignored the story, just as they've done all along.

In 1978, for instance, Jesse Marcel, a former intelligence officer at Roswell, revealed publicly that he was involved in the original investigation and that pieces of a UFO had been recovered. The pieces, he says, were of a wafer-thin, metal-like substance unlike anything found on Earth.

Despite Marcel's credentials, his story went all but unnoticed, Schmitt says — though it did, naturally, get top billing in the National Enquirer.

It's frustrating, Schmitt says. But he believes it also shows just how successful the military has been in discrediting anyone involved with the issue.

"We're so cynical about the government in so many other areas," he says. "Yet we're so quick to accept what it says about UFOs."

Whether or not that's true, Schmitt does have his supporters.

Jerry McCormack, editor of the Roswell Daily Record, said in a phone interview that much of what appears in Schmitt's book is factual and that "the man's reputation as an investigator speaks for itself."

However, McCormack, a lifetime resident of the area, seemed almost paranoid in discussing the alleged crash and declined to disclose his own feelings about it.

Fritz Thompson, a veteran reporter for the Albuquerque Journal, wrote a review of the book. And while he finds it hard to believe that aliens were found, he said there's no question that something crashed in the desert in 1947 — and it wasn't a weather balloon.

In any event, Schmitt says there's been one other positive development: a major film company wants to do a movie about the incident — a factual movie, he emphasizes.

He says he can't provide any other details, other than that the company is talking to several major stars, including Robert Duvall, Martin Sheen and James Earl Jones.

Whatever happens, Schmitt says he and Randle will continue to crisscross the country pursuing witnesses — and that they won't stop until Congress addresses the issue.

And while some have charged that he's out to make a name for himself, Schmitt says the last few years haven't exactly been a picnic.

He claims he's been followed by government agents and that his phone has been tapped. And, frankly, there are days when he'd just as soon sit back and enjoy his 45-acre farm or hang out with his softball buddies.

But there's still work to be done, he says. There are 15 key witnesses out there, all ex-military people, who claim they're sworn to secrecy — unless, of course, they're given permission to talk by the government.

However, "we're in a race with the undertaker," he says. Most of the witnesses are in their 70s and 80s, and some are in poor health.

At the very least, Schmitt says, he hopes his book will pro-

'We're so cynical about the government in so many other areas yet we're so quick to accept what it says about UFOs.'

DON SCHMITT

voke public debate of the issue — and perhaps even change the minds of a few skeptics.

Did a UFO really crash near Roswell, N.M.?

If so, what happened to it — and the bodies?

"And if it really was just a weather balloon, as the military contends," Schmitt says, "then why not reopen the files?"

"What do they have to lose?"

CAPITAL TIMES, Madison,

WI - Nov. 8, 1991

CR: M. Anderson

We are not alone

Network of UFO spotters tries to identify the unidentified

By CLIFTON DANIEL

Staff Writer

Juanita Sherod was on her way home to Whiteville from a PTA meeting in Clarkton Sept. 23, heading south on U.S. 701. It was about 8:45 p.m. when she glided through a little crossroads called Wooten's Corner.

"I was just driving along slow, taking my time, about 45 mph, when I just happened to glance to my right and I saw these huge lights," she said.

They hovered over the trees, bright as a pair of high beams, and filled the interior of her car with white light.

At first, Mrs. Sherod thought she was looking at a radio station tower in Chadbourn. But an instant later, she realized she was facing the wrong direction — and that realization piqued her curiosity.

"I am by nature a curious person and I stopped the car and I got out and looked," she said.

The lights winked on and off, she said, as if whoever was behind them was looking for something. She had taken no more than a couple of steps when a chill jumped along her spine.

"I just got a funny feeling and I got in the car and hit the gas," she said.

The rest of the way home, Mrs. Sherod couldn't shake the feeling that the lights would suddenly drop down in front of her car. She studiously avoided looking in the rear-view mirror, afraid she might see them floating behind her.

When she pulled up in front of her house, her boyfriend, Harry Best, stepped out to greet her. He'd been waiting for her, as she'd asked, because she doesn't like coming home alone at night.

They talked for a few minutes outside until Mr. Best suddenly looked past her and said: "My goodness, just look at those lights just going along."

"I whirled around and there were those lights, just a little over the

tops of the pine trees," Mrs. Sherod said. "They weren't moving at all and it seemed like there was a tall, dark shadow above where the lights were. I didn't believe in UFOs, but I thought, 'This has got to be something strange.'"

"They blinked on and off and then they just went straight up. Didn't go sideways. Just went straight on up and into the stars."

UFOs are normally the stuff of tabloids. In fact, the *National Examiner* picked up Mrs. Sherod's story. In tabloids, stories like hers usually find space beside reports on the various states of Elvis Presley (alive, dead or living as a woman) and Fidel Castro's ownership of John F. Kennedy's brain.

But there are people in North Carolina who take stories of UFOs seriously — seriously enough to interview witnesses, debunk frauds and mistakes, and catalog the information in a computer data base.

Since it was founded in 1969 in Texas, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has been poking into the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects. The organization has 6,000 members worldwide, many of them professional people — engineers, teachers, medical researchers, chemists.

"We feel that seriously concentrated, scientific study will ultimately provide the answer to the UFO enigma," said George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton, MUFON of North Carolina Inc.'s public relations director.

MUFON of North Carolina has more than 200 members in 65 cities. Members range from those who only subscribe to the organization's monthly journal to those who investigate possible UFO sightings.

And there have been quite a few sightings.

"We know that there are maybe 5,000 UFO reports in a year," said MUFON investigator Henry H. Morton Jr., a Wadesboro electrical engineer. "We know that a good number of those are mistakes —

aircraft, meteorites, temperature inversions, clouds. Some, very few, are hoaxes, emotional situations, hallucinations."

"But when you take away all those, there are some left that fit into the 'unexplainable by earthly means' category."

Those have included flying saucers and huge, football field-sized, cigar-shaped ships, bright lights and flying objects that made 90-degree turns while moving at what appeared to be thousands of miles per hour.

According to MUFON of North Carolina, there were 14 UFO sightings in North Carolina in 1991, making the state fourth in the nation in UFO sightings. Among them:

■ On Jan. 12 in Winston-Salem, Cecily Murray and her 13-year-old daughter, Ellen, reported that their car was paced by a large object covered with two "great white lights and a series of 40 to 50 smaller lights."

■ At 11:45 a.m. on March 24 in Ellenboro, former Army engineer Douglas Dyers reported seeing a half-globe-shaped UFO hovering about 500 feet away. The UFO entered an orange fog and disappeared. Mr. Dyers said the object was about "two times the size of the full moon" and that it had white lights all over it.

■ On Aug. 2 in Lincolnton, Teresa Yode and her brother, David Hodge, spent 30 to 45 minutes watching a brilliant, ball-shaped UFO give off red, white, blue and green colors, like the end of a sparkler.

■ At 11:45 a.m. on Dec. 10 in Iron Station, Wayne Johnson stepped outside the plant where he worked and heard a friend comment on how blue the sky was. Mr. Johnson looked up and saw a silver, triangular UFO hovering about 2,000 feet above the plant. After hovering about three seconds, the UFO gave off a brilliant flash of light and disappeared.

MUFON investigators have also documented saucer-shaped depressions in back yards and on farms in

Mount Airy and Salisbury where the soil was packed down like concrete, Mr. Fawcett said. They've found burned areas, supposedly created when UFO thrusters scorched the ground.

In one sandy area, heat had apparently baked the sand to silicone 14 inches beneath the surface, Mr. Fawcett said. In Banner Elk, MUFON investigators found a series of three depressions placed as if they were made by a giant tripod.

Both Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Morton have not only seen evidence of UFOs; each says he has seen a UFO himself.

Mr. Morton saw his close to home, in Wadesboro, in 1986.

"I was called by the local police department," he said. "They said a lady had called in frantic. Something was over her house."

When Mr. Morton reached the house, he saw a "huge object emitting monochromatic green light." The UFO paced him as he approached, drawing away as his car neared it and following him when he backed away. The cat-and-mouse game went on for a minute and a half before the UFO flew away.

Mr. Fawcett, who has collected reports of UFOs since World War II (he's amassed volumes of clippings, photos and written reports), saw his one and only UFO while attending Lynchburg College in Virginia.

"I saw what looked like a large tractor tire," he said.

The object was about 300 feet away and a brilliant orange against the blue sky. It hovered for nearly five minutes, then moved up and down like a yo-yo and took off at a 45-degree angle.

Mr. Fawcett later learned that other people described the same object landing in a woman's yard, setting the grass on fire. It was also seen following a formation of bombers on maneuvers.

But it wasn't just their own sightings that convinced Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Morton that UFOs exist. Both are more impressed with the

(continued on page 10)



Juanita Sherod of Whiteville says she saw a UFO last September on her way home from a PTA meeting.

(continued from page 9 -
SUNDAY STAR-NEWS,
Wilmington, NC
- March 1, 1992)

astounding number of annual sightings, which they said is bringing them more and more credible witnesses.

Add to that what they say is the mathematical probability that mankind isn't the only form of intelligent life in the universe.

"Our solar system is 15 billion years old," Mr. Morton said. "Man has been alive for 4 million years. That's like comparing a second to a year. There are billions of stars out in space. Some are too hot (to support life), some are too cold. But there's got to be some in between."

It's not hard to imagine that some of those stars might support societies much more advanced than our own, Mr. Morton said. "If we accomplished controlled flight to landing on the moon in 66 years, give us another 100 years and where will we be?"

So what do these intelligent visitors want?

"Did they come here to eat our brains? Get our women?" Mr. Morton joked. "We're probably nothing more than an archaeological curiosity to them. We may provide interesting insights into their own origins. Or we may just be another organism, floating in the universe, that poses some scientific curiosity."

On a darker note, UFO pilots may be tampering with human genetics, he said. More than 3,500 people claim to have been abducted and examined and "there's real positive evidence" that they're not just saying that to get their names in the tabloids, Mr. Morton said.

Evidence collected by MUFON includes surgical scars, physical changes, unexplained implants and knowledge of things that happened in other times and places, as if the abductees traveled through a time warp.

MUFON members don't think aliens have been studying humans with an eye to taking over Earth, as has been the scenario in countless science fiction stories.

"What have we got to offer?" Mr. Morton asked. "If they've mastered getting across the universe, what can we possibly have that they need?"

The Air Force apparently came to the conclusion that UFOs posed no threat to national security. In 1969, the year MUFON was founded, the Air Force closed Project Blue Book, its own UFO investigation effort.

"After 22 years of study, we found that there was no basis for any of the observations," said Capt. Betsy Freeman of the Air Force press office in the Pentagon.

Of the 12,000 sightings the Air Force investigated, 95 percent were explainable phenomena like meteors, satellites or weather balloons, Capt. Freeman added.

Mr. Fawcett put the Air Force's unexplained rate at 25 percent, which he said correlates with his own findings. Of the 1,200 sightings he's investigated, about 22 percent have proved inexplicable.

Most sightings may be intentional, Mr. Morton said. A UFO was seen by thousands of people in the early 1970s when it flew over a crowded soccer stadium in Peru.

More recently, there were 1,500 sightings over a period of several months in 1988 reported in the town of Woodville, Va., an event that was reported on the NBC-TV's *Unsolved Mysteries* Feb. 19.

Events like that seem intended to provoke a response, "kind of like running into a flock of geese to see if they'll fly," Mr. Morton said.

For UFO spotters, there's no limit to the possibilities. "We may be nothing more than an ant farm for a teen-ager on a distant planet," said Mr. Morton.



Orson Welles' realistic radio presentation, "War of the Worlds," thrilled and frightened New Yorkers in 1938.

UFO believers abound

The Capital Times

We're being watched.

That, at least, is the opinion of all but two of the nearly two dozen readers who responded to a LifeStyle poll on the existence of UFOs.

The poll ran in conjunction with an Up Close column by Rob Zaleski on Donald Schmitt, a UFO expert from rural Washington County. Schmitt contends in a new book, "UFO Crash at Roswell," that four aliens were killed when a UFO crashed in the New Mexico desert in 1947 — and that the incident has been covered up by the U.S. military.

Most respondents said they believe not only in UFOs, but that aliens have visited Earth.

Typical of the responses was that of Russ Carney of Madison.

Carney, who says he once spotted a UFO, contends the U.S. military has lied about the existence of UFOs to avoid an Orson Welles-like panic.

He was referring to the chaos that occurred in New York City in 1938 when Welles reported in a fictionalized radio broadcast that Martians were invading Earth. Many listeners thought the report was authentic and took to the streets in panic.

Interestingly enough, almost all of the poll respondents

cited public fear as the chief reason for the alleged military cover-up.

But they cited other reasons as well.

Perhaps the government itself "can't totally explain" the UFO mystery, suggested Jeff Wittchow of Columbus.

"They don't want people to think there is something the government can't control," wrote J.S. Ong of the town of Dunn.

Robert L. Walker of Oregon was even more critical.

The government has suppressed the information, he wrote, because "they think we're stupid and blind."

David L. Klement of Monona was one of the two respondents who doesn't believe in UFOs.

He cited a variety of reasons to explain the thousands of alleged UFO sightings over the last several decades:

hoaxes, mistakes, lies, natural phenomena, and experimental rockets, balloons and aircraft.

Also, Klement said, "It is more fun to believe in UFOs than not to believe in them."

True or not, eight of the respondents said they have spotted a UFO, though only five gave a location. Three were in Wisconsin — two in northern Wisconsin in the mid-'60s and the other near Watertown.

For all the ridicule the subject evokes, only one respondent, Lloyd Bethke of Richland Center, took it lightly.

Bethke wrote that UFOs rarely are spotted in Wisconsin because Gov. Tommy Thompson has used his veto power to keep them away.

He also suggested that if they ever do show up, they'll be after our "drugs and cranberries."

Get a grip, Lloyd.

Perhaps the best example of just how controversial the subject remains was the response of a 40-year-old Madison woman, who requested anonymity.

The woman, a college graduate and career professional, said she spotted a UFO in central Indiana in 1965.

"I'm a closet believer," she wrote. "Please don't blow my cover!"

Almost all of the poll respondents cited public fear as the chief reason for the alleged military cover-up.



GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR - April 11, 1992 CR: J. Deardorff

OSU scientist witnesses mystery circle

Oregon State University crop scientist Russ Karow was excited about his sabbatic leave to study wheat farming in England. But the last thing he expected was to have a strange experience in an English wheat field.

Karow, a cereals specialist with the OSU Extension Service, went out to see a fresh crop circle, one of the thousands of mysterious patterns that have appeared in southern England grain fields over the last 12 years. Last July, he and two British extension agents were among the first people to examine a new circle that had appeared overnight near Cambridge.

Before them lay a huge circle of flattened wheat, bent and spirally braided. The three scientists were absolutely stumped.

"We'd all seen lodged grain before, but nothing like this," said Karow in an OSU press release. "We couldn't explain it."

What shocked Karow was not the almost perfect circle, 115 feet across. Rather, it was the pattern of the flattened wheat that was fascinating. The grain was interwoven into a spiral pattern, almost like braiding, with a definite center and sharp edges.

Explanations for crop circles vary, explained Karow. Some are known to be made by prankster humans, while others are mysteries. To some people, the more

complex circles represent the work of extraterrestrial beings. Others theorize that balls of lightning, whirlwinds, or other atmospheric phenomena create strange patterns. A few even blame mating hedgehogs.

"The amazing thing was how distinct the edge of the circle was. The plants were either completely up or down," he said. "Not a plant stem stood erect in the entire area. The grain seemed to be braided together, laid flat in a clockwise pattern. A lone plant stem appeared to be at the very center of the circle and was twisted clockwise like the circle as a whole."

Karow spoke with the grower, who lived in a house about 500 yards from the circle, the day after the circle appeared.

"He told me he awoke one morning and there was the circle. There were no noises, no lights the night before," said Karow.

Karow said he and the two British agronomists don't understand how someone could have created something so intricate and symmetrical overnight.

"The three of us couldn't figure out how in the world you might do it, especially overnight in the dark," he said. "We thought about the lawn mower on a chain trick or a stake or rope. But it didn't seem reasonable. How you'd get the braiding? We didn't know."

Karow discovered later that the circle he

saw was a "classic" crop circle — a simple circle. In more recent years, however, many crop circles have become more elaborate, sometimes coined "pictograms." Some even portray complex mathematical relationships. Most have been in southern England, but sightings have occurred in Europe, North America, Russia, New Zealand and elsewhere, he said.

"It is hard to imagine why more hoaxers have not been caught in the act of creating circles or why circles have appeared in inaccessible places," said Karow. "And why has the hoax persisted for a decade or more?"

Scientists have been hesitant to investigate these strange formations, he said, probably because they don't want to be associated with something so bizarre.

"They all want to tread lightly at this point," he said. "But they are starting to investigate. We may see some hard data yet."

Though Karow is a scientist, he enjoys the enigmatic aspects of the problem.

"In this day and age when we seem to have an explanation for everything, it is hard to find good mysteries," said Karow. "And crop circles appear to be just that. Someday I'm sure a cause will be found, but until then, they are a mystery."

Close encounter in Bath County



Herald-Leader/Janet Worne

Mutual UFO Network will record Billy Goldy's story for the network's computer data base.

UFO vanishes, leaving farmer baffled

By Andy Mead

Herald-Leader staff writer

EAST FORK — Billy Goldy hasn't had a beer in 15 years, but some friends have kidded him about being drunk since he saw the UFO.

Goldy doesn't mind the kidding. He probably would have doubted anyone else who claimed to have seen what he saw.

It was the morning of Feb. 25, a Tuesday.

Goldy and James Carpenter, who works for him, were in Goldy's 1978 Ford pickup, climbing a steep, rocky hill on the back of Goldy's 87-acre farm in northern Bath County.

Carpenter, 44, spotted something that looked . . . well, it looked like a flying saucer.

It was moving through the air, coming in from the northeast about 100 feet above the ground.

He pointed it out to Goldy, who recalls making a joke about it.

"I said that looked like to me that might be one of those spaceships. There might be little green men in it."

Billy Goldy is not a man given to flights of fantasy. He's lived in Bath County all his 69 years, farmed for most of it, run a small country store in the East Fork Community for the last 38 years.

He watched the small object move toward trees in a hollow. It landed in the trees, then turned on its side or unfolded or something until it looked like a very bright aluminum circle that was flashing the brightest blue, green and yellow lights he has ever seen.

Then he went on over the hill to feed his 32 cattle.

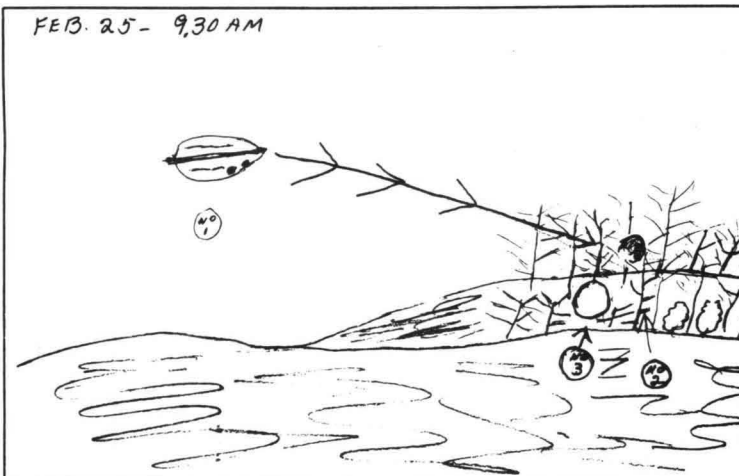
After the cattle were taken care of, he came back to find out just what that strange object was. He got out of the truck and headed for the hollow.

Carpenter got out too, then got back in.

"I was afraid if I went down in that hollow to look for that thing Bill might get in his truck and leave me," he said.

Well, Goldy climbed over barbed wire fence and walked down into the hollow. And he found nothing. Not a thing. No flying saucer. No little green men. No scorch marks or depressions in the ground. No smashed trees or broken limbs.

FEB. 25 - 9:30 AM



This is Billy Goldy's drawing of what he saw on his Bath County farm. The object landed in the trees, turned on its side or unfolded until it looked like an aluminum circle with flashing lights.

He went away and came back later to spend three hours searching the hollow up the ridge. Nothing.

He knew he had seen something, but what? It was hazy that morning, so it couldn't have been sunlight playing some trick. There are no power lines in the area, no factories, no airports.

At first, Goldy and Carpenter kept quiet. They hoped someone else would report seeing something. No one did.

It bothered Goldy that he saw something he can't begin to explain.

He has seen pictures of UFOs in magazines and on television, but he never believed in that sort of thing.

"They've got all this stuff up in the air going to the moon and everywhere. It looks like they would find something. But I guess they've never found life on any other planet, not even vegetation."

His wife, Leona, could tell that whatever her husband saw was bothering him.

"That just done something more to him that anything I've ever seen," she said. "I don't know what it was because I wasn't with him, but what he tells you is true. I've lived with him 52 years and what he tells you is just exactly true."

Finally, Goldy reported whatever it was he saw to the county sheriff and the local radio station. And he wrote to the Herald-Leader,

describing what happened and including a drawing of the object in the air and in the trees.

It turns out that something like what happened to Goldy and Carpenter happens to someone in the country almost every day.

There are at least two or three sightings by reliable people in Kentucky every year, said Burt L. Monroe, chairman of the biology department at the University of Louisville and state coordinator for something called the Mutual UFO Network.

The international network is made up of scientists, pilots and others who try to gather information to "resolve the enigma of unidentified flying objects."

Monroe has never seen a UFO. He doesn't go in for a lot of theories on what they may be. But he does know that for thousands of years, and especially the last 50, plenty of people have reported seeing things that can't be explained.

"There's something strange going on," Monroe said. "These people are not crazy."

On the other side is Joe Nickell, who teaches English at the University of Kentucky and turns a professionally skeptical eye on UFOs.

"I think there are UFOs if we identify them just as unidentified flying objects," he said. "There are many cases that were unidentified

that later became identified.

"I think that it's important to realize that just because you don't immediately know what it is, one shouldn't immediately jump to the conclusion that what we have is a flying saucer."

Monroe said he would send a network investigator from Stanton to talk with Goldy and Carpenter. Their story will become part of a computer data base that contains hundreds of thousands of similar stories.

And Goldy, who describes himself as the kind of person who likes to figure things out, will remain perplexed and probably continue to be kidded by the people who gather at Goldy's Grocery.

"I don't know what it was, where it came from or where it went or nothing," he said.

"I would like to know myself. I don't want publicity. I wouldn't tell you a lie to get my name in the paper. I just saw the object and that's all I can tell you."

"It's kind of a mystery."

DAILY TRIBUNE, Columbia, MO

Feb. 7, 1992

UFO group investigating sightings

Strange lights seen in southwest Missouri sky.

NORTHVIEW (AP) — People gathering nightly on Interstate 44 outside this southwest Missouri town say strange lights have been appearing in the sky, and a national UFO group has arrived to investigate.

But, the county sheriff and nearby air traffic controllers say they've seen nothing unusual since the reports of alleged sightings began in November.

Nevertheless, the stories are spreading. On many recent nights, cars have jammed the shoulders of one exit off I-44 as people stop to scan the horizon after dark.

"Everybody's been up here," said Doug Myers of Northview. "My grandma said she saw it last week. I just want to see it — whatever it is — before I die."

"If they're around, I'd sure like to see them," said Larry Dorris of nearby Marshfield, who has brought his family to the spot for three nights. "So far, though, it's just been dull."

But Duane Bedell, an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas, says he saw an orange or amber ball of light blink on, dance around for seven minutes, and then blink off.

"All we could see was a light source, no discernible craft," Bedell said. "We're not saying it was a UFO. It's just something anomalous."

The group has been checking into the Webster County sightings.

The area is in a flight path for the Springfield airport, about 20 miles to the west. But those who have seen the lights say they don't look like those of a conventional aircraft.

"It's not like a little plane that's puttering in there and making a nice circle," said John Carpenter, a member of the UFO group. "If it was something natural, I don't think it would be zipping around and stopping on a dime like it appears to be doing."

Webster County sheriff Bill John said he has received a few calls about the lights, but is not convinced anything is out there.

Officials at the Springfield Regional Airport control tower said they have not seen anything unusual.

UFO Skywatch Generates International Interest

The following article was submitted to the Gulf Breeze/Pensacola MUFON chapter for publication in our bi-monthly news bulletin "The Blue Beam", by a gentleman that we all enjoyed meeting.

As we fast approach spring/break, and if the trends of the past few years continue; we can expect more and more visitors to our area, not only to enjoy our wonderful beaches, but the excitement of being on a "Skywatch" in search of the elusive "Gulf Breeze UFO". During the spring/breaks, and the summer months, it is very common to have, not only individuals, but whole family's from virtually every state in the union, and many foreign lands, Japan, Germany, England, etc. come to the "Skywatches". Many have planned their entire vacation around their hopes of seeing the "UFO", and most are not disappointed. Read Davis's story as I feel it's worth sharing with the readers of the "Islander", and I think you'll see just what I mean.

Sun, Fun, Sand and UFO's
By Dave Holcomb

A seaside vacation was just what I needed. As a Psychologist living in Wisconsin, I decided to take some of my own advice: "If you can't stand where you are then get away, do something different." Many of my associates travel to Gulf Shores, Alabama for the typical sun, fun and sand diversion, but my "get-away-from-it-all-vacation" all but turned into a trip to the Twilight Zone.

Here is what happened. My flight from Wisconsin left on the fifth of February and I arrived in Pensacola in mid afternoon. With a rental car and map in hand, I managed to check into a hotel on Gulf Shores by five. That night I had visions of sunny warm weather but the next day, no such luck. Overcast and cold.

CR: E. Walters

HERALD-JOURNAL, Spartanburg, SC - March 3, 1992

Upstate residents see hovering lights in Southern skies

By STEVE PRADARELLI
Staff Writer

At least three people — including a National Weather Service meteorologist — reported seeing unusual lights and objects flying or hovering in Spartanburg area skies last week.

Each of the people who told about the sightings stopped short of saying they witnessed unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, but said they could not readily explain the phenomena.

Corey Lefkof, a meteorologist with the weather service in Greer, said he was on the second-floor balcony of his Pelham Road apartment in east Greenville County about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday when he saw a glowing orange and red light. He said the light was traveling west to east about 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the ground near the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport.

"I've seen lots of planes come overhead, but usually they have a white flashing light. But there was no flashing to this whatsoever — just a glow," said Lefkof, who stressed that he was speaking personally and not as a representative of the weather service.

"Planes come in for a landing at the airport and come across where I live," the 23-year-old added. "But this came in from a different direction and came across the airport . . . It was moving at a constant rate but it seemed slower than a normal jet coming in for a landing. It almost appeared to be hovering for a minute, then made some sort of drifting motions."

He said he lost sight of the lights behind some trees after about 15 seconds. He said the next day, a security guard at the Greer weather station told him he had also seen unusual lights Wednesday, but the man did not return phone calls Monday.

Lydia Kaplan, a secretary at the *Herald-Journal*, said she woke up about 4:30 a.m. Saturday and saw a disk above the tree line in the western sky. It was equal the size of a quarter held at arm's length, she said.

"I just looked out the (bedroom) window and saw this round object in the sky," said Mrs. Kaplan, 50, who lives off of Fernwood-Glendale Road on the city of Spartanburg's east side. "There was something sparkly on it, like a bunch of lights, like it had Christmas glitter all over it."

Mrs. Kaplan said she woke her husband, but neither was able to explain the object. She said the disk was still there before the couple fell back asleep about 15 minutes later but was gone when they woke later that morning.

"I've never seen a UFO and it didn't have those three little lights like they have on TV," she said. "It was just really weird."

Ann Sellers, a Spartanburg bookkeeper, said she and her husband were driving on Interstate 26 near the Landrum exit when she noticed a bright, white pulsing light — similar in size to the one the Kaplans saw — moving erratically in the eastern sky, not far from what she believed was an airplane.

"I thought at first they were both planes, and they might have been," said the 48-year-old Sellers, an employee at the Bargain Center Department Store on East Main Street. "But I've never seen a plane with one light on it. And it didn't move like the plane was moving."

She said the light moved laterally and horizontally and was difficult to track because it was blinking. She lost sight of it after about five minutes.

Officials with the Federal Aviation Administration said radar and air traffic controllers at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport detected

Scientist says many UFOs really 'earthquake lights'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Some UFO sightings may be caused by "earthquake lights," mysterious balls of electricity that float in the air near the epicenters of impending tremors, a scientist said Tuesday.

"The Earth is much stranger than we give it credit for," said U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist John S. Derr. He presented his findings at the Seismological Society of America's annual meeting in Santa Fe, N.M.

Most reports of unidentified flying objects turn out to be sightings of real objects such as planets, satellites, meteorites and planes. Derr said by phone from Santa Fe that his new study suggests that many of the remaining UFO sightings also have a natural explanation.

Derr's theory was met by skepticism but wasn't dismissed.

"There is not a lot of hard evidence to support it, but I would definitely not rule it out," said Jim Mori, a Geological Survey seismologist in Pasadena, Calif.

There is growing evidence that underground stress generates radio signals before some quakes, and a similar phenomenon may explain reports of quake lights, Mori said.

Derr's study "is interesting and I'm cautiously supportive," said Kendrick Frazier, editor of *Skeptical Inquirer*

magazine, which frequently debunks UFO reports.

The study found that dozens of UFO sightings in New Mexico during 1951 and 1952 were clustered within 60 miles of the epicenters of three quakes that measured 4 to 5 on the Richter scale and happened less than a year after the sightings.

Derr believes the UFOs really were earthquake lights — basketball-sized, glowing spheres of electricity that are identical to ball lightning but are generated by crushing of rock or changes in groundwater flow as underground stress accumulates in the months before an earthquake.

"The typical report is an orange ball of light, although some are blue-white and some tend toward greenish," said Derr, who works in Albuquerque, N.M. "They just float along through the air. . . . Some people feel spooked. Some people feel awed."

The study used a computerized list of UFO sightings reported throughout New Mexico during 1951 and 1952. Derr eliminated sightings with obvious explanations such as satellites and planets. He also eliminated outlandish reports, such as people claiming close encounters with aliens or spaceships.

That left about 150 reports of UFOs resembling ball lightning. Derr found about 80 of the 150 sightings clustered in time and location around the

epicenters of quakes that were centered east of Tucumcari on June 20, 1951, northwest of Carlsbad on May 22, 1952, and near Los Alamos on Aug. 17, 1952.

"The sightings tended to get closer to the future epicenters as the time of the quakes approached," he said.

Martha Savage, a research seismologist at the University of Nevada, Reno, said she was skeptical that Derr's correlation between UFO sightings and impending earthquakes was anything more than coincidence.

Derr said quake lights have been reported for years in Washington state's Cascade Range, in Missouri and other states near the New Madrid fault zone, and near oil fields in Texas.

He said he favors a theory that changes in groundwater flow before and during quakes generate electrical charges, creating quake lights in places where rock layers let electricity escape to the surface.

Many seismologists believe pumping water into the ground can generate quakes. Derr said his earlier studies found UFO sightings in Utah's Uinta Basin in the mid-1960s correlated with the pumping of water into oil wells in the area, and reports of odd lights near Denver in the 1960s were associated with pumping of wastes into underground wells at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Jan. 23, 1992 CR: R. Reid

Voice of the People

Bill Gilbert is to be complimented for his excellent "Retrospective" of significant happenings in the Gulf Breeze area during the year 1991.

I've watched with interest as the frequency of Mr. Gilbert's by-line has grown over time. In my experience, his journalistic ability, range of interests and perceptivity are but rarely equaled anywhere. The *Sentinel* and her readers are most fortunate to have a writer of such exceptional capacity.

But, getting back to the "Retrospective," I'm more than a little mystified by Mr. Gilbert's failure to mention one of the most significant aspects of the "Gulf Breeze experience" during the past year.

Anyone who has read the *Sentinel* regularly during recent years knows about the UFO story. It began in late 1987 when Duane Cook published Ed Walter's first photos and the story is

still going on. Unexplained aerial phenomena are seen on a regular basis in and around Gulf Breeze. Mr. Gilbert must certainly be aware of this.

No, the sightings these days (nights) are not the detailed closeup views of apparent "craft" as photographed by Ed. But the things seen do defy logical explanation in conventional terms. I visited Gulf Breeze during 1991. I personally witnessed these things on a number of occasions, and as a retired Air Force officer with some six thousand flying hours I can attest to their non-conventional nature.

The fact that these things exist and appeared in Gulf Breeze skies at least 103 times during 1991 (as recorded in first hand sighting reports by MUFON watchers) should be a matter of high interest to *Sentinel* readers.

Robert E. Reid
Colonel, USAF (ret.)

nothing unusual in Spartanburg's airspace last week.

"I checked with our folks up in Spartanburg. No one has heard any reports," said Kathleen Bergen, manager of public affairs for the FAA's regional office in Atlanta. She declined to offer possible explanations for the sightings but said the agency does not "endorse the concept that there are UFOs."

A spokesman with the U.S. Space Command in Colorado said none of the sightings correlated with any of the 7,000 man-made objects — mostly space junk — tracked by the agency around the clock.

"That doesn't mean it wasn't man-made. It just means we weren't tracking it," said Maj. David Griffard of the Space Command's

public information office.

Eb Barnes, who teaches physics and astronomy at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, said some of the lights might have been caused by the annual Leonid meteor shower, which occurs in late February, or by Jupiter and Venus, which are particularly bright this time of year.

Lefkof said the moon was barely visible last week. And he said it was unlikely he or the Kaplans saw weather balloons, which are launched at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily from Charleston and Athens, Ga.

"It might have been a UFO, but I'm not too sure," Lefkof said. "I've learned that it's impossible, but nothing's impossible in my book."



AGE, Melbourne, Australia - Dec. 31, 1991 CR: M. Strainic



Mr Price in one of the puzzling circles: "I assure you it's fair dinkum. No person could re-create them, or flatten a crop like that."

Reluctant recruit to the circle of crop-circle watchers

By SHEENA MacLEAN,
rural reporter

"If anyone calls me a prankster, I'll punch them in the nose," says Ken Price. It must be said at the outset that Mr Price, a Mallee wheatgrower for 50 of his 64 years, is not a violent person.

Nor is he a ratbag or a hoaxer. He does, however, have some unexplained circles in his wheat paddock that are attracting the attention of international crop-circle watchers and, yes, UFO enthusiasts.

Mr Price first stumbled upon the circles earlier this month when he and his son Noel were harvesting their wheat. There are six circles varying from two to 3.5 metres in diameter, and another larger oval 6.5 metres across in another paddock.

On seeing the first circle, Mr Price put the flattened crop down to foxes and thought nothing more about it. When he came upon another, then another, and then a few days later the large oval 1.5 kilometres away, he called in neighbors to take a closer look. They, like him, had never

seen anything like it and were fascinated.

It was then that he contacted another farmer, Mrs Nancy Jolly, who put him in touch with a group led by Colin Andrews, the British crop-circle researcher who gave up his job as an electrical engineer 18 months ago to go on the crop-circle detective trail full-time.

In 1989, a number of crop circles had appeared at Mrs Jolly's Turriff farm, about 20 kilometres from the Price farm near Hope-toun. A third, unconfirmed sighting has also been reported at

nearby Beulah.

Mr Andrews visited Australia recently and last month spent some time on the Jolly property.

Mr Price does not believe the circles are the handiwork of a practical joker. "I assure you it's fair dinkum," he says. "No person could re-create them, or flatten a crop like that." He is taking the Great Mallee Mystery in his stride, although he was reported to be slightly alarmed at a suggestion by a UFO "expert" that the field might be radioactive. It isn't.

One eager crop-circle watcher,

Mr David Clay, of Melbourne, has a vast library on the subject and keeps an eye on sightings in southern Australia for Mr Andrews.

Mr Clay says there are 101 explanations for the circles, the three most popular being UFO landing sites, ball lightning and miniature whirlwinds. The circles, some of which are complex patterns, have been found in grain crops, rice, sugar cane, pine trees and snow, and reports have come from Japan, Russia, the United States, Germany and France.

Well, do YOU believe in flying saucers?

DO YOU BELIEVE in UFO's? Many people who hear of someone sighting one, think he or she is ready for the "funny farm" or had too much to drink.

A "ufologist" is the scientific title for UFO spotter although David Oliver, an electrician, of Brighton Avenue, Reddish is a self-confessed sceptic, with reservations about many so-called sightings.

He admits that a large majority are natural phenomena, hoaxes or practical jokes.

He believes that he and David Frost of Edgeley are the only two ufologists in Stockport who belong to the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA). He regularly attends their meetings in London.

David has long been interested in space travel and before he joined BUFORA he belonged to the Direct Investigation Group of Aerial Phenomena in Manchester.

David has experienced a possible UFO sighting when he was walking on Winter Hill with two friends. He looked through his binoculars and saw a bright object in the sky.

"It was turning and rolling and heading straight for us. I shone my torch at it and it veered off. It was quite frightening, as it could not have been an aeroplane. Manchester Airport was closed at the time."

There has, however been a far more significant and puzzling sighting which has had two Universities agog.

In 1987 an amateur photographer,

by
PAT READ

who was an ex policeman, was taking photographs on Ilkley Moor at 8.15 in the morning in the middle of December. As he was walking back down towards the town of Ilkley, he says, he saw a little green man who stared at him and then scuttled off.

Being a photographer, his first thought was to get a photograph - which he did. The photograph was sent to Manchester University for analysis and they have concluded that it is not faked.

Since 1979 when David first joined BUFORA, he has been on investigations with well-known ufologist, Arthur Tomlinson.

It was Arthur who, hearing of the policeman's experience on Ilkley Moor, contacted him and interviewed him under hypnosis.

From that interview he learned that the policeman had lost two hours in which said he was dragged inside the flying saucer, put on a table and experimented on. Once he came out of the hypnotic trance he did not remember any of it.

This man's strange experiences were never really publicised in this country nor was the photograph which was sent to Tokyo University. The story and the photograph received a great deal of publicity there, in the States and in Australia.

"The policeman did not want to be ridiculed. He felt his story was so



David Oliver, ufologist

strange that no-one would believe it. I am also very sceptical about the abduction story but the photograph is a different matter," said David.

"I also went to the site on Ilkley Moor where the man said the flying saucer had been parked. There was a crater of about 40 feet in diameter which would easily accommodate the machine described."

There have been many hoaxes in the past but with modern technology it is not so easy for the practical jokers to deceive the gullible. David Oliver is a level headed person whose curiosity has led him into ufology.

Do you believe in flying saucers? Have you seen one. Have you had an encounter with any unidentified object, flying or otherwise? If so, write and let us know.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - March 13, 1992

MYSTERIES

Confounded crop circles keep baffling researchers

TOM BLACKWELL
Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — From Arizona to Alberta to Nova Scotia, those confounding crop circles showed up by the scores again last year.

A new report says 87 sets of circles, rings and other shapes were discovered in 1991, flattened or dug into fields across North America.

And despite an embarrassing hoax in England last year, the Winnipeg researcher who compiled the report insists there's still lots of mystery surrounding what he and his colleagues like to call "UGMs" — unidentified ground markings.

"People have suggested everything from aliens to some sort of government secret weapons testing as theories," says Chris Rutkowski, who founded the group he calls the North American Institute for Crop Circle Research.

"We're not ruling anything out." But he admits that most of the crop circles are likely fakes.

Rutkowski, a University of Manitoba employee who designs school science courses, set up the institute after requests for information from British researchers of the crop-circle phenomenon.

He gathered data for his report from UGM enthusiasts throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The incidents include a 10-metre-wide ring discovered in a grassy field at Fort Lawrence, N.S. A compass needle was said to spin rapidly outside the ring but was unaffected inside it.

In Granum, Alta., witnesses reported a UFO landing in front of a firehall. After it left, an area of "bleached" soil was found.

A perfectly circular ring of mowed grass was sighted in Dandridge, Tenn. Cattle appeared to shy away and those that ventured near were said to have become sick. A police officer says he filmed a UFO in the sky not far from the site two months earlier.

Crop circles first gained notoriety in England, where numerous rings have materialized over the last few years.

But a celebrated incident last year left many convinced they were all a hoax. Two painters who claimed they were responsible for making many of the circles crafted a new one and invited expert Pat Delgado to investigate.

Delgado confidently declared that no human could have had a hand in its creation.

CR: G. Conway

Listening in as flying saucer captures a jet

AFTER supper on a warm Thursday in July, Gene Ruegg finally did what he had wanted to do all day. He went into the back bedroom of his apartment in a suburb of Memphis, Tennessee, and firmly shut the door behind him.

His wife shrugged at the sound of the closing door and busied herself with washing up. Her husband's consuming interest in radio-telegraphy had long been a matter of indifference to Nancy Ruegg, as it was to most people in the small apartment block.

Occasionally there were requests that "Gene should turn down that awful noise" but usually he could pursue his hobby — which he did most evenings and weekends. He spoke to other radio hams as far away as Chicago and Florida on the sophisticated equipment that had cost him over 5,000 dollars to buy and assemble.

But much of the time Gene Ruegg did something that he knew was technically against the law. He eavesdropped on radio transmissions from the nearby top-secret air force base at Southlands, Tennessee, and the squadrons of Phantom jet fighters which operated from the airfield.

For over two years, Ruegg had listened in on routine transmissions between pilots and ground control, fascinated by a world which, as a maintenance manager of a haulage firm, he was never likely to share.

But all that changed on the evening of July 9, 1968, when Gene Ruegg became central to a mystery which still baffles both scientists and psychic investigators.

For that was the evening when he heard the capture of a jet plane by a flying saucer... and made a tape-recording to prove it! Today, the tape is in the possession of the US Air Defence Command. Gene Ruegg's repeated requests for its return are courteously refused. He doubts if he will ever see it again.

Flying saucer research groups who have studied the incident are convinced that



HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT: Feverishly, Ruegg connected a tape recorder to his receiver which crackled into life again.

Ruegg's story is true. And after continual pressure from researchers, an Air Force spokesman admitted that a Phantom jet did go missing from the Southlands base in July 1968 in circumstances which remain a mystery.

Today, Gene Ruegg has only a copy of the tape and a typed transcript as proof of the 15 minutes when he listened incredulously to what seemed to be a real-life drama more incredible than anything in space fiction.

When I interviewed Gene Ruegg in Cleveland, Ohio, where he had been addressing an extra-terrestrial study conference, he gave a vivid account of the events of that July evening.

"I had a call to make to an operator in Montgomery, Alabama, but I was a bit early, so I tuned into the Southlands base.

At first it was just routine transmissions between the tower and aircraft on training flights and I was just about to switch over and call up Montgomery when I realised

something pretty dramatic was happening. An aircraft coded Delta four-zero had disappeared."

For five minutes Ruegg listened fascinated as the operator called vainly to the aircraft without reply. Then, through the crackling static came a voice, "I am being attacked by unidentified objects. I think I... The transmission went dead.

Ruegg realised he was listening into something highly significant. Feverishly, he connected a tape recorder to his receiver. Seconds after he had finished, the set once again crackled into life.

He told me: "It was the voice of the pilot. This time he was near-hysterical and shouting: 'They're closing in on me. I am unable to steer a course. Something is happening to the plane... I am being taken along by this thing. I require assistance. I require assistance...'"

Then the voice of the controller came in and told him to pull himself together. Seconds later, he said that they had got him on

6 It was the voice of the pilot. This time he was near-hysterical and shouting: 'They're closing in on me. I am unable to steer a course. Something is happening to the plane. I am being taken along by this thing. I require assistance. I require assistance... 9

Radio ham Gene Ruegg.

the radar scanner and that they could see objects clustered round the plane.

"Someone else came on the radio then and told the pilot that other Phantoms in the area had been alerted and would stand by.

"Then I heard a strange, searing noise like scraping metal and the pilot shouted something I couldn't make out. Control tried repeatedly to re-establish contact, but they couldn't."

The tape on which Ruegg had recorded the drama was scrutinised by experts of the American Society for Unidentified Object Research, who claimed that it had not been tampered with and appeared to be 100 per cent genuine.

The Society contacted the Air Force authorities on Ruegg's behalf and asked for details of the incident. But for the next six years the authorities denied there had been any mishap that day. Finally it was admitted: An aircraft had gone missing.

OVER the years Ruegg has had visits from security men. He has been told to say nothing further about the incident and to hand over the copy-tape and transcript, but has refused.

"I am convinced that what I heard was a genuine encounter with a flying saucer," he told me. "I believe the plane was destroyed or captured by some alien spaceship."

"One good thing is that it's made my wife take an interest in my hobby. She sometimes listens for a while — in case I pick up another spaceship on the radio."



UFO mystery: Readers call the Reporter

WE'VE been inundated with calls from readers following our front page story last week about a UFO mystery in Bickershaw.

People from across the Borough have rushed to contact us to tell the Reporter about their sighting of the mystery object spotted by a group of pub regulars at the Queens, Bickershaw.

And the conclusion most of you reached who contacted us, left little doubt... it WAS from Outer Space!

Our story instigated an electric response from the public with readers writing and phoning in thick and fast with details of similar mysterious sightings on the same evening.

We revealed how the group of regulars poured out of the Queens Arms Hotel in Bickershaw to watch a strange grey light going back and fourth on a Tuesday night, two weeks ago.

And according to the response we have had they were not alone with people reporting similar sightings on the same night all over the Borough.

Descriptions of what was seen vary with some people claiming to have seen one light, others two or three. Some say it lasted for seconds others an hour. It was surrounded by a heavenly glow... it had a fiery trail... it dashed... it hovered... it rotated at great speed... it moved slowly!

But the one thing everyone agreed on was that it was unlike anything they had ever seen in their lives before and all dismissed such down to earth explanations as aircraft etc.

So what do the experts think? There was no convincing workers at the Manchester Weather Centre who dismissed the flying saucer theory as "A load of rubbish."

Scientific staff at Jodrell Bank based in Cheshire were also sceptical but neither could they confirm an astrological explanation for the time and night in question.

Astronomer, Ian Morrison, said: "It is unlikely to be a meteor shower, it was too early in the evening."

"We do not believe there are any space ships flying around the earth. There has never been any hard evidence to suggest there is. You'd think if there was they would contact people like us."

A possible explanation he put forward was that it could be a satellite breaking up.

A worker at the MET Office in Aughton, believes he has solved the mystery.

He said he had seen the lights himself and discovered they were due to lighting displays beaming over from Blackpool.

"It really is a quite spectacular sight. The shapes are oval and they really do look like flying saucers. I can understand people thinking that."

Blackpool Illuminations have not had any lasers this year but the Pleasure Beach have search lights attached to a number of buildings.

WILTSHIRE TIMES, Trowbridge, England - Jan. 24, 1992 CR: T. Good

New £1m probe into crop circles

Scientists from five countries are to combine in a £1m operation to investigate crop circles this summer, according to one circle observer.

Mr Colin Andrews, a former local government officer who now writes and lectures full-time about the phenomenon, says that the investigation by scientists from this country, the USA, Australia, Japan and Germany will be the most thorough ever held.

It will cover an area including Upton Scudamore, near Warminster — traditionally the home of a range of mysterious happenings ranging from corn rings to unidentified flying objects — Andover, Whiteparish, near Salisbury, and Corehampton, near Winchester.

Mr Andrews said the probe would be more ambitious than the Japanese-backed Operation Blackbird he organised at Westbury White Horse two years ago.

He added: "We shall have the latest equipment to measure changes in magnetic fields, and back-up from laboratories to examine the effects of circles on crops."

"There may even be some involvement from the United Nations, who are showing an increasing interest in the environmental aspects."

He said the investigation would last from June until the middle of July.

Mr Andrews' own theory is that the planet is suffering from abuse and that a power from space could be trying to save it. Some scientists believe that the crop patterns could be formed by electrically-charged air.

Last year two Southampton men claimed to have carried out a massive hoax by creating nearly all the patterns.

But Mr Andrews says he has just returned from Australia where 17 circles appeared in a virtually uninhabited area.

A Public Relations officer for the Pleasure Beach said it was not uncommon for the lights to be spotted for miles around and that sightings similar to those reported in Wigan had occurred in Liverpool and had been tracked back to the search lights.

Helen O'Neill said: "These lights are extremely powerful. They have been seen as far away as Morecambe and Liverpool."

She said at a distance the lights would appear as "white spots moving around." They operated on a pre-computerised programme and if you look for long enough you will see they follow a repeated pattern."

The search lights which have been operating since July this year, are switched on as soon as it goes dark and are switched off around 11pm. Most of the sightings from Wigan were between 9pm and 10pm.

Helen added: "We hope we have not caused anyone any undue concern. We are just glad that people in the North West can see we are here."

She said the sightings were more likely when there is low cloud but the contact with MET offices at Aughton and Manchester Airport confirmed there was no low cloud on the night in question.

So is this really the explanation or will the mystery shapes seen hovering around Wigan remain the unexplained?

Below, we have printed just a very, very small selection of the letters we received to our UFO mystery story. Unfortunately, space does not allow us to print a wider selection, but many thanks for all your calls and letters.

Light shone on Wigan's 'strange happenings'

Dear Sir
Having read the 'strange happenings' in Bickershaw I am not surprised.

My husband and myself have watched a strange light over our bungalow.

It looked like someone had a torch with a strong beam but when we looked close there was no beam just like a torch end going around in a circle. It would disappear and then appear from nowhere.

We saw it over a week ago, but we have both been away for a week. Since I have been home though I haven't seen it.

There is no explanation to this, but I think it is very weird.

From
Mrs E Pritchard, Broadriding Road, Shevington.

Information that supports sky at night story

Dear Editor
Just to say I have read your write up, about the strange lights which were seen last Tuesday night.

Well I can back the story up. It was about 9.30 p.m. as I took my dog into the back garden I looked up into the sky, the clouds were very low, and I saw a strange light appear.

It was moving through the clouds very quickly backwards and forwards across the sky. As it moved across it would disappear then a second or so later it would reappear. It just kept going backwards and forwards.

I shouted for my son to come and have a look. His remark was "it could be someone with a strong spotlight shining up to the sky." But that would be impossible because I couldn't see a beam of any kind.

There were no planes or helicopters, it was a very quiet and calm night. There is another reason I have for this. I previously experienced something about nine years ago.

I never reported it at the time because I didn't think anyone would believe me I did tell a few friends but I think they thought I was barmy. So now with this sighting I have had a chance to tell you. If you are interested in what I saw nine years ago just let me know.

From
Ms Carol Brown Gantley Avenue, Billinge

Call for investigation into Bickershaw's phenomenon

Dear Sir,
With reference to your front page report about the 'UFO' mystery in Bickershaw, may I say that there were sightings in Wigan and New Springs lasting about an hour and at the same time as those at Bickershaw.

My son first spotted them on his way home about 9p.m. and phoned me. I went into the back garden and was breathless at the speed of these UFOs (I counted 8). No sound at all. I then continued to watch them with my daughter's boyfriend for almost an hour and

noticed that some of my neighbours were also caught up in the fascinating sight.

I was a sceptic about such things before now, but really do not know if I will be so doubting in future. I would have written before but people are inclined to disbelieve such things and I was a bit embarrassed but I was not alone when I saw them and I am so glad that now maybe someone will investigate this phenomenon.

Ann Murphy
Botany Close
New Springs

Seeing is believing – or is it? UFO investigator reveals facts behind close encounters of the flying saucer kind

Kidnapped by seven ft blond alien

THE idea of another life form apart from Man has intrigued people throughout history. More recently it has obsessed film makers and novelists. But are those who claim to have seen UFOs just deluded cranks or genuine witnesses to a phenomena earth-bound beings refuse to accept? Reporter DAVID NATH investigates.



UFO investigator Mike Perryman sat opposite me clutching a tape recorder. For the next 30 minutes I listened to a middle-aged family woman recount, in vivid detail, how she was abducted from her Thurrock home by aliens.

A seven foot Nordic-looking man with long blond hair took her under his wing. A conversation took place but no words were spoken. Telepathy, she suggested. She could not explain how she was enticed into his shining craft but at no time felt threatened.

It took Mike some little time to persuade her to go 'on the record.' And it was only after some cajoling that she agreed to share the experience.

Like many people who have similar stories to tell, the fear of ridicule and non belief deters them reporting the incident and forces them to cling to their anonymity.

Arrogance is the basis for the sceptic's standpoint, claims Mike. The arrogance that God created earth and one life form only... Man.

In January last year he, along with 25 other UFO researchers, formed London UFO Studies, operating and investigating sightings in and around the capital. It was a spin-off from the Rayleigh-based East Anglian UFO Research Organisation. Each investigator was assigned his own patch and as a Thurrock man, Mike was lucky enough to have been given Essex. Lucky because the Thames Estuary, from Tilbury to Shoebury, has become a hotbed of UFO activity.



Mike said: "We had 24 major sightings in that area last year but that's only the tip of the iceberg. We obviously only get reports from those people who come forward and contact us. There are others who do not know who to go to talk about what they've seen."

"If your car breaks down you go to a mechanic. If you're ill you go to the doctor. Where do you go if you've seen a UFO? Some people have been held to ridicule. It's like a person talking to a sympathetic stranger about their problems when they come to see us."

Several of the observations in the Thames Estuary have been at the Ministry of Defence sites at Shoebury and Foulness Island while another sphere of activity is the area occupied by the oil refineries and power stations from Canvey over to West Thurrock.

Mike added: "Many researchers believe there's a window or entry point where these objects enter from and it's supposed to be down there in the Thames."

He explained that as they were areas of industrial and technological advancement, it was reasonable to assume visiting aliens were on a knowledge-building reconnaissance mission.

Aliens? Crafts? Missions? Suddenly it's time to put the sceptics hat back on.

Sensing the embers of disbelief are beginning to glow, Mike retorts: "I am looking for a rational scientific answer to all of this."

"What people are seeing is real, it's not imaginary. It's something solid. Some people turn around and say you are talking a load of rubbish. I am sure if more members of the public were to delve deeper into the evidence they would change their opinions."

In London UFO Studies' (LUFO) inaugural members magazine, Skylink, the team writes: "According to past records of local UFO reports the relatively quiet mid 1980s period came to an end and the latter half of the decade saw many reports emanate from South East Essex, particularly around the coastal town of Southend."

Among the highlights scooped by Mike Perryman include a 20-minute Shoebury

sighting back in 1983, of a long cigar-shaped silver craft, witnessed by a man driving along the seafront with his sons. The parent ship, heading along the Thames towards London, was observed to have stopped and emitted three saucer-shaped scout crafts.

The mother-ship then reversed and rapidly disappeared in the direction from whence it came.

Mike added: "He was a level-headed family man who wanted to retain his anonymity. There is no reason to distrust what he says he saw and he is fully prepared to undertake a lie detector test."

The band of activity identified by Mike Perryman stretches from Southend through Castle Point, Basildon, Thurrock and East London, especially the Leytonstone/Romford/Ilford areas.

He went on: "We are not fanatics. We are not crazy. The problem in convincing people is in obtaining evidence. UFOs are often only witnessed for about five or 10 minutes. People are usually so astonished or captivated that they do not take pictures or write down details."



Citing evidence of the credence attached to UFOs, Mike referred to the 1985 Reagan/Gorbachev peace summit when the two world leaders had talks on a joint response to an alien invasion.

That, in itself, indicated the UFO phenomena was something to take seriously even if cynics would rather mock.

As a long-standing and keen UFO buff himself, Mike has inevitably witnessed sightings of his own.

On November 7 1990 he saw two objects in the sky over Tilbury which at first he believed to be either American RAF fighter planes engaged in a simulated dog-fight.

He watched a plane tracked by a small round object for around 15 minutes before a jet fighter swooped onto the scene across the Thames for the direction of East Anglia. The small, strange looking craft then shot off at 'an alarming speed' while the jet hovered at around 1,000 ft. Mike claims its shape and movement, particularly the pace with which it raced off, points to the object being a UFO.



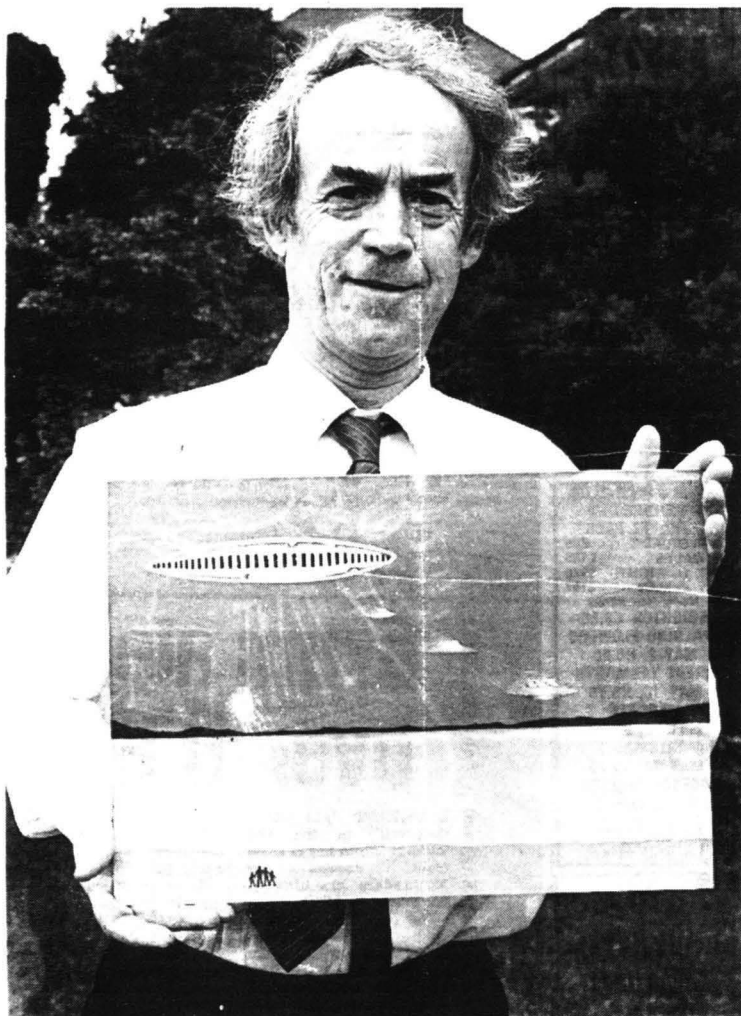
Though many UFO spotters decide to remain silent for fear of ridicule, some celebrities have made no bones about putting their experiences on the record.

World heavyweight boxing champ Muhammad Ali was on a training run in New York's Central Park in 1972 when he encountered a huge electric light bulb in the sky.

American president Jimmy Carter was sat out on a veranda with around 20 other people after an official dinner when he witnessed a UFO which 'looked as big as the moon and changed colour several times from red to green'.

He launched a £20m study into UFOs after becoming president.

To date LUFO has staged public meetings in the capital but is now planning to bring the gospel to Essex with a series of lectures in Southend. Mike and his team urge anyone who believes they may have witnessed a UFO to contact them on Thurrock (0375) 377280 — all calls will be treated in confidence.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Mike Perryman with an artist's impression of a UFO sighting at Shoebury

Where is Mr Circle X?

RECORDED, Bridgend, England
Feb. 28, 1992 CR: T. Good

PSYCHIC expert Tina Laurent, who is currently investigating UFO sightings in the Caerau and Cymmer area, is eager to trace a mystery man who says he witnessed the sightings.

The man has remained anonymous but has told Mrs Laurent he will mark his letters with a circle with a cross inside.

Mrs Laurent says the evidence of "Mr Circle-X", as she calls him, will be treated in strictest confidence.

Night Denise spotted spaceship over Canvey



MYSTERY: An American took this picture which he claimed to be of an alien

DENISE Radley's instincts had always told her Man was not alone in this world.

One May evening two years ago, a whirling black and grey craft hovering above the rooftops along a Canvey road, confirmed those long-held suspicions.

"I thought it was marvellous, I'd always wanted to see a UFO because I knew there was something out there and wanted to prove it to myself. My husband was a non-believer as well but the experience has even changed him now," she said.



Two brightly coloured lights provided the first clue there was something in the air over Canvey that night. Denise stepped out of her Link Road home to take a closer look.

Hovering above the rooftops on the opposite side of the road was a dull grey craft with a black base, square at the front and round at the back, she recalled.

"It moved along one row of houses and then stood still hovering for a few seconds as

though it was searching for something. It went round the side and the back of the houses. I can remember there was this man walking his dog but nothing was said. It must have given him such a fright."



The spell which had fixed Denise's full attention on this strange event suddenly broke, leaving her free to call her husband, 13-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter.

"It just stopped dead still making no noise and we all watched, there was no time to take pictures we just stood there and watched it."

Shortly after, the mystery craft made off. Its bright tail-light disappeared into the night sky.

Denise added: "No-one else mentioned seeing it, perhaps because they thought it may make them feel foolish. I told the police but they weren't interested."

"I have always believed there was life elsewhere. Surely we are not the only planet with life. All I needed was something to confirm that."

Spaceships over Merseyside

HAVE you ever wondered what it would be like to enter the Twilight Zone where nothing is quite what it seems?

Well one Liverpool man did and he has written a book about his encounters with UFOs and the experiences of fellow observers.

In 1964 the sixties were swinging with the likes of Carnaby Street, the Beatles and the seeds of Flower Power.

But for one former security guard and the author of "An Experiment With Alien Intelligence," this was the year that Larry Kingston had a close encounter with "Kirkby's great flying-saucer mystery."

The story goes that Larry and his colleague, Fred, were patrolling the grounds of the town's industrial estate when they spotted a huge star rotating in the sky.

Fred, being something of a cynic, did not at first believe that he had seen anything out of the ordinary but Larry's brain ran into overdrive.

Did the spaceship (which is what he had called the star) have a crew or was it robot controlled?

The author was not given the chance to find out as the spaceship disappeared.

For Mr Kingston this was the start of something big.

"Here was something that does not happen in this safe little world of ours, where there is no place for the impossible, and yet my feelings at this moment were of excitement and wonder."

"A fascination that grips one when facing the unknown. Our rational senses reject and try to deny what we have seen, but you cannot blot out the picture."

Gripping stuff and indeed Mr Kingston's forthcoming brushes with mystery voices, memory lapses and even more flying saucers make this book readable and very funny.

But I could not help wondering why when

you have seen one spaceship it sparks off a series of meetings with more extra terrestrials.

Does your mind prepare you for these visions and you just cannot help believing that you are seeing something extraordinary or are you genuinely encountering strange beings from a distant planet?

This is never fully explained in the book, but Mr Kingston's painstaking research manages to glean a plethora of experiences from Crosby to Copenhagen.

Yes in 1964 flying saucers were spotted in the Crosby night sky by a couple of residents and acknowledgments are given to the Crosby Herald for reports of eyewitness accounts.

James Cassidy of Derwent Drive was 23 at the time. He describes what he saw: "What drew my attention to this object was its brightness. It appeared much brighter than a star or satellite."

"The object remained stationary whilst I watched it for a good ten minutes before it began to move slowly."

"After completing two circles, it moved off in a north-north easterly direction, where it finally disappeared."

Unfortunately, there seems to be little scientific evidence to support or dispel the myths surrounding the sightings.

So we end up with a one-sided account of ET experiences but this does not detract from the fact that the book is an enjoyable read.

Mr Kingston also incorporates diagrams to back-up his claims.

However, I was still unconvinced that there are little green men of a superior intelligence wandering round the universe in their cigar-shaped space-ships.

But if there are, I hope they are friendly and head straight for Mr Kingston.

● "An Experiment With Alien Intelligence" by Larry Kingston is published by Regency Press and costs £5.95.

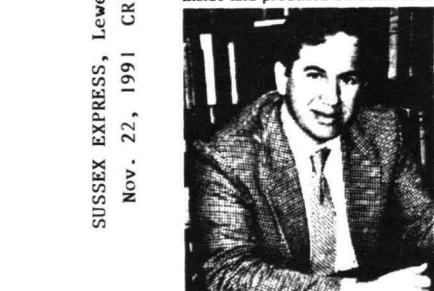
CR: T. Good

UFO SPOTTED OVER LEWES

ANTIQUARIAN bookseller Alan Shelley thought he was seeing things when he looked into the sky and saw what appeared to be an unidentified flying object passing above Lewes High Street.

'It was 8.30m and the sky was clear. I looked up and saw a silver, metallic, spherical object passing north to south,' he said.

'I assumed it was a balloon but then staff at the local chemists ran inside and produced binoculars. It



SUSSEX EXPRESS, Lewes, England Nov. 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

then looked like a fattish rugby ball. It took several minutes to disappear to the south.

"There were no markings on it that I could see and I couldn't form an opinion on its speed because I did not know its height. I came back to my bookshop and consulted certain books but couldn't find anything useful."

Alan isn't running away with the idea that he spotted a UFO.

"There are things that have no explanation in our world," he added. "I don't know if what I saw was one of them. However it was very, very curious."

UFO sightings do not abound around Lewes. One night in the summer mysterious moving lights were spotted on Mount Caburn. Several years ago a motorist spotted coloured lights in the night sky heading at speed across the Ouse Valley.

Superpowers 'co-operating with aliens from outer space' claim

ALIEN LIAISON by Timothy Good; Arrow Books, £4.99.

IF THE claims in this book are true, then they are rightly described by the publisher as "astounding revelations."

For the author claims nothing less than secret co-operation with alien beings, over many years, by the U.S. government — and possibly the former Soviet authorities as well.

It is even claimed that the aliens have at least one base in the United States, provided for them by the government there.

Many assertions by the author sound like the stuff of science fiction, but he has researched the topic over a number of years and quotes a number of highly-placed officials in the U.S. military, scientific and intelligence fields.

He purports to link a number of UFO sightings and the proverbial "close encounters" with highly secret use of US bases, with the alleged knowledge and consent of the authorities.

The book contains eye-witness accounts and documentary evidence for its claims, which include alien craft having been test-flown by

U.S. military pilots at a top secret military installation in Nevada.

The author tells of farm animals being mutilated by means unknown to human medicine, claiming this to be the work of the aliens. He also claims that doctors have examined live aliens and dissected the bodies of other extraterrestrials recovered from crashed vehicles.

The Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Hill-Norton says in the foreword to the book that he has known the author for ten years and found him to be honest and reliable.

"The plain fact is that either what he reports here is true or it isn't," he writes.

"If his accounts of recovered UFOs, and their alien occupants, being in the hands of United States Government agencies are not true, then it seems that many important and distinguished former public servants have perhaps lied, or have been grossly mis-reported."

"In the latter event one must expect and hope that they will take the appropriate legal action to set the record straight."

R. F. E.

MORNING WALKERS SPOT UFO ON EGGARDON HILL

Flying saucers at breakfast time..!

TWO BRIDPORT men claim they spotted a UFO flying towards Dorchester on Saturday from a vantage point on Eggardon Hill, east of the town.

Quick thinking Lee Brown and Mike Sturt, who had driven to Eggardon to take in some early morning fresh air, caught three unidentified objects on film using a camera that is always kept in their van.

Now, Lee, aged 23, and Mike, 37, are set to forward copies to specialised UFO magazines so experts can evaluate their claim.

Two objects

Their photograph shows three black flying saucer shaped objects flying in a close proximity triangle formation beneath cloud. The picture was taken at 9.30am.

Mike said: "We thought they were hang gliders at first but after Lee had run back to the van to get the camera and then taken a picture the objects disappeared straight away."

PHIL CHARD reports

"Originally it looked like there were only two objects in the sky but when the film was developed there were three in the picture."

"We were standing on Eggardon and they were about a mile away flying in the direction of Dorchester. The funny thing is they disappeared without even going faster or slower."

Mike said that although it was an overcast morning the unidentified objects were flying well below the clouds.

A spokesman for Bridport police said that no reports of sightings had been made over the weekend and that no low flying had been carried out in the area by military or private aircraft.

"After looking at our picture someone suggested it was a clay pigeon which had been shot, but we didn't hear a blast or see anything else in the area. That's why we are so sure the objects were UFOs," Mike said.

Brum alert over UFO

A BRIGHT light which "hovered" in the sky without sound led to calls from dozens of Midlands claiming to have seen a UFO.

The vast blue disc was spotted over the King-standing-Great Barr area and meant the West Midlands UFO network was inundated with calls.

Mr John Hurley, from the network, said he normally took around three calls a year, but yesterday he received 48.

One sighting was by ex-RAF pilot Mr John Lawnes, of Queslett Road, Great Barr, who reported a big blue disc

— "the size of a football pitch" — hovering above Aldridge Road in the early hours yesterday.

He said: "It was amazing. It just hovered for about 10 to 15 seconds and then shot off."

Another witness, 48-year-old John Copson, of Copthorne Road, King-standing, said: "It was like a massive glowing oval shape, but it wasn't making a sound."

Mr Hurley said today: "I'm baffled by it."

A spokesman for Birmingham International Airport said nothing unusual had been seen on the radar.

CR: T. Good



UFOs returning to Carroll County?

By SHARON GRINDSTAFF
CCN Staff Writer

CARROLL COUNTY -- In November of 1990 and February of 1991, cattle were mutilated on the Carroll County, Ark. farm of James Thorne.

Local investigators at the first scene leaned toward the theory that Satanists were involved.

Local investigators at the second scene felt the animal had died of natural causes.

By then, James Thorne didn't agree. Neither did Vince Serencko and Jeanne Robinson of Forsythe, Mo. (Serencko now gives Springfield, Mo., as his home address.)

The pair worked for a private research organization investigating an ongoing series of livestock mutilations in this part of the country.

"We're seeing things!"
-- Vince Serencko,
UFO investigator

tions in Southwest Missouri, Northern Arkansas and Southeast Oklahoma.

The organization is affiliated with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) which has initiated a study of

livestock mutilations in this part of the country. Serencko and Robinson were convinced the mutilations were not work of Satanists or that of wild animals.

Mysteriously, there were no footprints or blood nor was the surrounding landscape disturbed in any way.

The investigators were sure they knew what had happened. Aliens had come to earth, hovered over each cow, levitated the cow to the ship and operated with high-heat lasers far more sophisticated than

UFO convention planned

EUREKA SPRINGS -- The opening months of 1992 have seen a number of UFO reports coming from various areas of Arkansas, according to a group of UFO enthusiasts who plan a conference here next month.

Observers in the Northern, Central and Southeastern regions of the state have seen strange objects and lights in the skies which did not readily lend themselves to conventional explanations, they say.

"This activity, coupled with similar reports from around the world, promises to make the fourth annual Ozark UFO Conference an interesting and timely event," the group said in a news release to CCN.

The Conference will be held at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs April 3-5.

It will feature personal accounts of UFO experiences, UFO research summaries, audio-visual presentations and panel discussions.

anything an earthling could devise.

The animals were then returned to earth, minus several important parts -- not to mention their lives.

On Feb. 4 of this year, Serencko called Carroll County News, saying a press release would be forthcoming and that there was a great deal of UFO activity in the Springfield, Mo. area.

"We had a minimum of 13 mutilations in the last month -- all over Oklahoma and Marshfield (Missouri)" he said. "We're fixing to mail out that thing (a press release). It won't have the 13 new ones (mutilations) on it -- including one out of Blue Eye that occurred the same time as when Thorne reported his last year."

Serencko said that a UFO had been visiting Marshfield, about 60 or 70 miles from Carroll County, every night for two weeks or so.

Dozens of people investigated the incident and took photographs. Although the investigator said he would send photographs with the news release, the pictures did not arrive.

"The area's been heating up with activity, you wouldn't believe it!" Serencko said in February.

"There were a minimum of 20 investigators the other night. There's all this pumpkin-colored light," he said. The light had spread over the landscape for several days, although no actual ship was spotted at the time, according to Serencko.

The research group is active throughout the area.

"We're collecting vet reports and animal pictures of incidents because investigators often don't get to mutilations in time," Serencko explained.

Getting near a mutilation before law enforcement officers begin investigating is difficult. Serencko said it is extremely important that his group get there first, to take

"Some of these sheriff's departments aren't too cooperative."
-- Vince Serencko

photographs and samples and before the carcass begins to decompose.

Being allowed to view the bodies first is an ongoing problem. "Some of these sheriff's departments aren't too cooperative," he said.

On Feb. 10, the UFO investigator phoned CCN again.

"We're going through an incredible flap -- an incredible amount of sightings!" he reported.

"We're seeing things."

Serencko said more than 150 cars had come out to view the pumpkin-colored lights a couple of days before his phone call.

"We're after an incredible ... time exposure," said Serencko. He said he would send a copy if the photo came out but was afraid it would be hard to make out the subject matter.

"It looked like an inverted question mark," he said.

On March 2 (Monday of this week), CCN received the press release Serencko had called about previously.

After explaining the Missouri research group is affiliated with MUFON, it went on to say:

- The study's purpose is to assist in determining responsibility for the mutilations by providing correlations of case characteristics to law enforcement and government agencies.

- The group currently has cases dating back to 1978 and is contacting law enforcement agencies, government officials, livestock associations, veterinarians and the media in an effort to expand its data base.

- "The data base eventually will be linked to other similar data bases across the country," said Tom Strand, a spokesman for the group.

- "It's time we took this thing (livestock mutilations) seriously," he said.

In a cover letter from Strand, Serencko and Bedell, all of Springfield, it was stated that the reason for compiling data is part of an effort to resolve the unsettling crimes.

"... we hope to provide officials with information about previous investigations, points of contact, pathology correlations and investigation resources. Our organization can also provide referrals to our consulting pathologist, Dr. John Altshuler, M.D., P.C."

"Dr. Altshuler has been providing on-site and laboratory analysis of mutilation cases for approximately 20 years and is the foremost expert in the field," the news release said.

The three claim that an estimated 15,000 mutilation cases have occurred since the late 1960s and that each shares several distinct characteristics.

In many instances, the following 11 similarities were noted: Tongue removed, nearly bloodless incisions, sex organs removed, teats removed on heifers, one eye removed and other eye exposed to high heat, anus

removed, ear removed, cookie cutter incisions, high heat (above 350 degrees Fahrenheit) evidence, blood removed (no vascular collapse) and head removed.

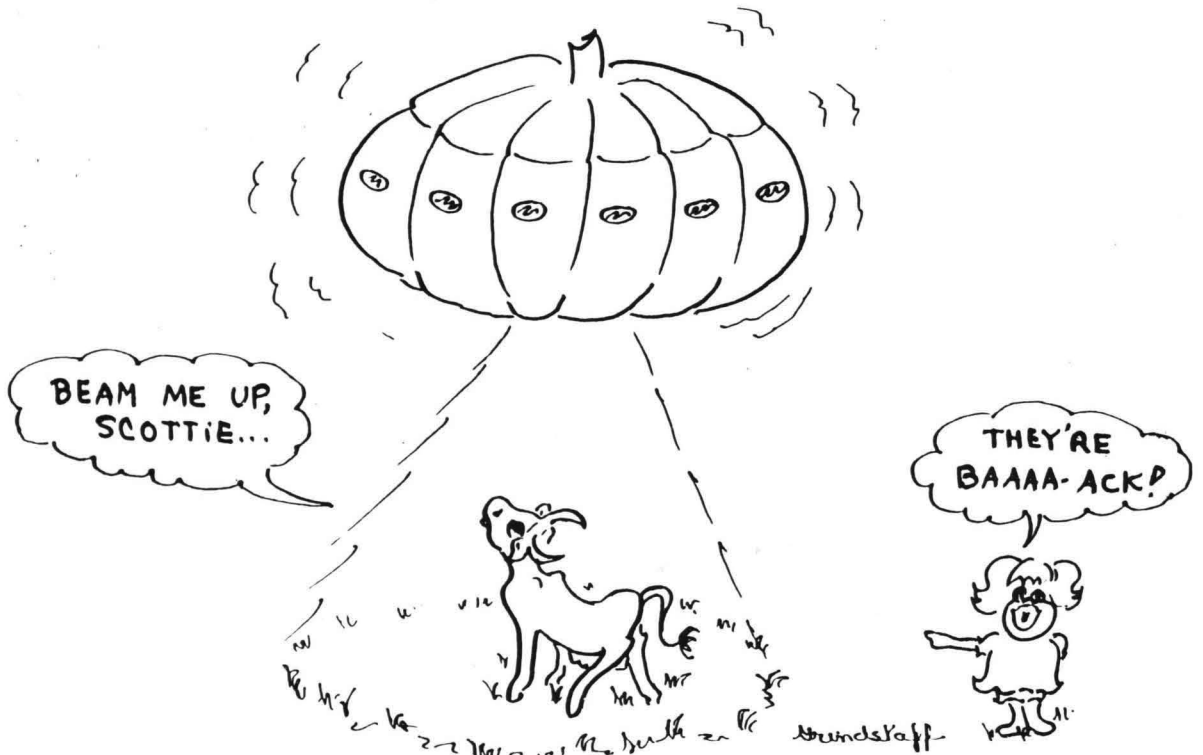
According to the records provided, there have been mutilations in Carroll County in 1978, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1990 and the Feb. 2, 1991 mutilation investigated by Serencko and Robinson.

"All (mutilations) were cattle and all carcasses were found within 100 feet of previous mutilations. The previous owners reportedly also had mutilations," the record states.

"Tissue sample was collected from the Feb. 1991 mutilation. The sample was analyzed by Dr. John Altshuler, M.D., P.C., who described the wounds as indicative of high heat (basophilia)."

Other mutilations were described, all having a variety of the similarities. Some were in Carroll County or other areas of Arkansas (Russellville and Hope) while some were in Missouri (Stone, Taney and Webster Counties).

It is not known whether pumpkin-colored light flooded any of the areas at the time of the mutilations.



WEBSTER COUNTY

Sheriff seeks assistance in cattle mutilation cases

MARSHFIELD -- Webster County Sheriff Bill John is asking the public for help in solving eight cattle mutilations that have taken place during the past two months.

The mutilations -- removal of female organs and teats, removal of a heart and a circle of skin cut out in the stomach -- have occurred across the county, John said.

"There's no rhyme or reason for it," he said.

The sheriff believes the mutilations are part of cult activity that has been suspected in the county for at least three years.

"We have some evidence but nothing that ties them (cults) to the cattle," John said.

He is asking people to watch their cattle and report anything suspicious to the sheriff's department.

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO
April 1, 1992 CR: J. Carpenter

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - April 4, 1992 CR: J. Carpenter

WEBSTER COUNTY

Patrol helps investigate mutilation of 10 cows

NORTHVIEW -- The Missouri State Highway Patrol has joined Webster County authorities in investigating the mutilation deaths of 10 cows.

The cows have been killed on 10 farms, Sgt. Terry Moore of the Highway Patrol said Friday. Owners of the cattle are upset because most of them only have a few cows rather than large herds, he said.

"Some people are saying that it's Satan worshippers or the occult or whatever," Moore said.

"We're not ruling anything out, but we're not subscribing to that issue," he added.

Odd cattle deaths intrigue Webster County residents



Chris Bentley

Joe Bouldin doesn't believe in UFOs. And he doesn't give much credence to talk of Satanic cults.

But something mysterious killed and mutilated one of his cows three weeks ago on his farm south of Northfield.

And the two suspects at the top of the rumor mill in Webster County are UFOs and cults.

Bouldin's cow apparently died with no sign of a struggle. Then its throat was slit, its esophagus was removed and its teats were sliced off at the udder. Oddest of all: its blood was gone. And there were no tracks near the body.

Other animals would not go near the dead cow. It has not decayed as quickly as animals usually do, says Bouldin, 54. "It's real mysterious," he says.

His is one of 11 cows that have been mutilated in Webster County over the

past two months. The Webster County Sheriff's Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol are investigating.

Sheriff Bill John said last week he believes the mutilations are part of cult activity he thinks exists in the area.

The Highway Patrol doesn't ascribe to any particular theory, spokesman Sgt. Terry Moore says.

There is a third group investigating the mutilations, too. It's the Mutual UFO Network Inc., the largest international organization dedicated to researching evidence of UFOs.

Many of the Webster County mutilations match classic cases that have occurred all over the world in the vicinity of sightings of mysterious lights in the sky, MUFON members say.

Of course, people have been seeing strange lights in the sky over Northview

since late last year. So many people park along the I-44 exit to Northview to look for UFOs that the Highway Patrol says they are sometimes a safety hazard.

None of the investigating agencies will release names of farmers whose cows have been killed. That would violate the farmers' privacy, they say.

But in addition to Bouldin's cow, two cows died mysteriously in February on the farm of Phillip and Edwina Ragsdale just east of Marshfield.

One died with no sign of a struggle, and two patches of skin were cut from its stomach. The other died after an apparent struggle and was not mutilated at all.

Predators and scavengers like coyotes and possums in the area did not touch the bodies, either. The bodies also did not decompose as quickly as normal.

"It's just like they were embalmed,"

says Edwina Ragsdale. "We went out there last week and there was finally starting to be some flies on them. There was a faint smell of decay, but they should have been deteriorated by now."

She won't offer a theory.

"UFOs or cults — they both scare me to death," she says.

Bouldin says he doesn't much like either theory, but he's leaning toward the cult, "just because I don't believe in UFOs," he says.

He admits, though, the cult explanation leaves questions unanswered.

For instance:

■ How were the wounds made? They were straight and precise, with dark

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA
March 30, 1992

INK



By DAVE JEWETT
The Columbian

Sasquatch scout still optimistic

In this country, and particularly in the Northwest, the legendary and mysterious apelike humanoid creature is called Bigfoot or Sasquatch.

The Russians call it Alma. In the Himalayas, it's known as the Yeti.

But no matter what you call it, the large, hairy creature that walks like a man yet resembles a large ape has been puzzling people for generations, with sudden appearances and quick disappearances.

Even the best-known Sasquatch investigator in the world, Rene Dahinden, admits he's confused and still looking for solid answers after diligently checking clues and interviewing witnesses since 1956.

After devoting so much of his life to the mystery, you might think Dahinden would be convinced of the existence of Bigfoot.

But on a recent visit to Clark County, he told me that isn't actually the case.

"I'm really greatly confused," he said.

"What I mean by that is I have never seen one, but I know too much to just dismiss it. I've talked to countless people over the years who claimed to have seen one. Some you can easily dismiss, but other stories come from sensible, reliable people with no reason to make up such stories.

"In addition, on the reliable sightings there is a consistent pattern of information.

"If all these people are just seeing things, then there is a different story here that also deserves to be investigated."

Dahinden, 62, was on vacation from his home in Vancouver, B.C., when he stopped in Vancouver for a few days to visit friends who are

edges that apparently had not bled.

Local investigators for MUFON took tissue from nine of the slain cows in Webster County, including Bouldin's and Ragsdale's. They sent them the samples Dr. Robert Altshuler, a pathologist in Colorado.

Altshuler's conclusion: The wounds were made by a precise high-heat instrument like a surgical laser beam.

But because of differences in carbon readings and the polarity of cells near the wounds, he told local MUFON members a conventional laser wasn't involved.

"Basically, he said there is no known technology that could produce these wounds," says Duane Bedell, co-director of the MUFON chapter in Greene, Christian, Webster and Polk Counties.

Bedell points out that the smallest surgical laser is the size of a refrigerator and costs thousands of dollars.

"If you can afford one, why would you lug it out to a field in the middle of the night where a farmer might take a shot at you for messing with his cows? Why not just buy your own cow?" he says.

John Nolen, an investigator for the Webster County Sheriff's Department who checked out Bouldin's cow, says it looked like it could have been cut by a sharp hunting knife.

He also says he's heard of cases where coyotes or other predators

slashed a cow's throat with their teeth as cleanly as if it was cut with a knife.

But Bouldin said MUFON investigators used knives to cut away the wounds for tissue samples. Comparing their cuts to the wounds convinced him the wounds weren't made by a knife, he said.

■ How was his cow killed without a struggle?

"Even if you shoot a cow in the head, it'll kick," Bouldin says. "There wasn't even a blade of grass broken near this one."

Nolen says the lack of struggle doesn't mean anything, though.

"Some will struggle, some won't," he says.

The Highway Patrol took blood samples from Bouldin's cow and others to check for tranquilizers or other drugs that could have made a cow drop in its tracks.

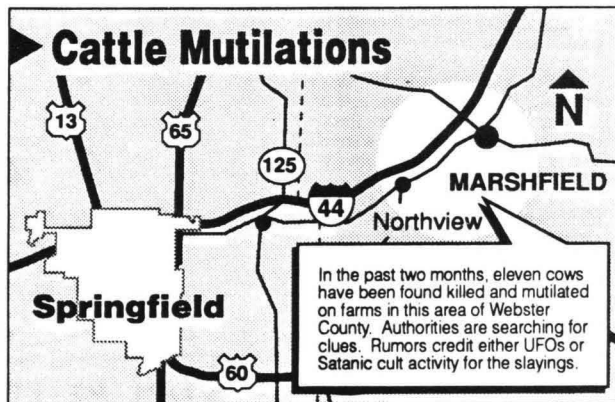
The state crime lab should send back results in a month or two, Sgt. Moore says.

■ Why were there no tracks near the cow's body?

Bouldin says the field was covered with manure from about 100 cows he kept there.

But he, Nolen and Bedell agree there were no tracks — from people, predators or vehicles — near the dead cow. Ragsdale says there were no tracks near her cows, either.

The night Bouldin's cow died, March 10, temperatures dropped to about freezing, National Weather



SOURCE: News-Leader research

The News-Leader

Service records show.

The ground could have frozen for an hour or two before dawn, so tracks wouldn't show up.

Nolen checked the area carefully for other clues and says he did not find any signs of trespassers in the area. A fence nearby didn't have any drops of blood or scraps of cloth in it, he says.

■ Where did the cow's blood go?

Bouldin says there was only about a quart of blood left in the cow. Ordinarily a cow has about six gallons of blood, he says.

But the ground was not soaked with blood.

"How do you drain a cow of blood without spilling any?" he asks.

Bedell says the disappearance of blood is one of the classic signs of mutilations associated with UFO sightings.

As for Bouldin, he still doesn't believe in UFOs. But he knows one thing: His family is scared.

"Let's put it this way. I've never carried a gun before in my life, in my truck. But now we are carrying a loaded gun in our truck. That's about how I feel about it," he says.

Chris Bentley is a News-Leader reporter.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - March 12, 1992 CR: J. Fry

Bigfoot believer doubts video

By David Jacobs
Dispatch Staff Reporter

A Michigan man is offering a \$500 reward for information about a videotape that purportedly shows Bigfoot.

"We don't know for sure if it really is Sasquatch (Bigfoot) or if it is a fake," said Art Kapa, a Bigfoot researcher at Mayville, Mich. "The video is so well-done."

A fellow Bigfoot researcher in Indiana received the 5½-minute videotape Feb. 4, Kapa said. There was no letter or return address, but the envelope had a Coshocton, Ohio, postmark.

A two-legged creature resembling a human and a gorilla is shown walking through snow-covered woods, Kapa said. He suspects it is

someone in a gorilla suit but "it would have to be quite expensive because if it is a suit, it fits perfectly."

From the video, the figure appears to be 7 to 8 feet tall and about 400 pounds with long arms and dark brown or silver hair. Kapa and the Indiana researcher visited Coshocton County last month to investigate.

Kapa has been tracking Bigfoot reports for 25 years. He hopes the lure of \$500 will help separate "fact from fiction" in the Coshocton tape. To claim the prize, a person must identify where the video was shot and produce the gorilla suit, he said.

Don Keating, founder and president of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Study Group, said 14 Bigfoot sightings were reported last year within 25 miles of Newcomerstown, 15 miles east of Coshocton.

The color film they shot of the brief event has since been exhaustively examined and has never been proved a fake. The film is frequently seen on TV shows when stories are done on the Bigfoot mystery, but Dahinden said the film should really be seen on a large screen to be fully appreciated.

"The amazing thing is you can see the muscle masses moving. You can fake something like that by putting a man in an ape suit, but the suit would conceal the muscle masses," said Dahinden, who knew Patterson.

The investigator doesn't know if the mystery will be solved in his lifetime. "If it is, it will be one of

the greatest scientific discoveries the world has seen.

"In the meantime, I just look and listen and say, 'What the hell is going on?'"

CR: M. Dobbs

Expedition goes hunting Russia's elusive ape man

by Stuart Wavell
Paris

BOOM, boom, boom. These conversational tones of the elusive Alma, a species of relict Neanderthal man, will reverberate around the world if a Franco-Russian expedition succeeds in its mission this summer to capture a cousin of the Yeti. Abominable Snowman and Bigfoot in the remote Caucasus mountains of Kazakhstan.

Leading the hunt is Marie-Jeanne Koffmann, a 73-year-old doctor who has collected 500 eyewitness accounts of the mythical creature during her 20 years of traversing the sparsely populated wastes of Kabardin-Balkar by horse and jeep. Always one step behind her quarry, she has taken impressions of their huge footprints and studied their voluminous droppings.

Her quest has been given fresh impetus by the claim of her colleague, Gregori Patchinkoff, that he observed an Alma in the same region for six minutes last August. "Its appearance corresponded exactly to that of other witnesses," Sylvain Pallix, organizer of the Alma 92 Expedition,

sometimes wear even though well insulated with fur. This apparent "aping" of human behaviour could explain the mysterious disappearance of two ski sticks from Chris Bonnington's controversial Yeti expedition to Tibet in 1988.

Yet the Alma has no need of such aids to assist its flight from man. If local peasants are to be believed, it is capable of bursts of speed approaching 40mph on its short legs, carrying a heavily muscled body that can exceed 440lb in a fully grown adult.

Its newborn young, according to one witness's testimony printed last June in the magazine Archaeologia, "were exactly like human babies, except that they were smaller. They had pink skin, like human infants, exactly the same head, the same arms and legs. Not hairy."

The Alma reportedly numbers "boom, boom, boom", although Jimmy Tarbuck punches are not widespread in the Caucasus. Nomadic, omnivorous and shy, it has reflecting eyes conforming to

6 Its face was a mix of an ape's and Neanderthal man's

ly. He says it shows a large furry critter walking upright through the snow.

Robert Morgan, an independent film producer who is investigating the Ohio sightings, saw the tape and also is unsure what it shows.

Morgan said a typical Bigfoot stands over 7 feet tall, is coated with black-to-gray hair, and is distinguished by enormous footprints.

"He walks upright like a man," said Morgan. "He has a big toe, a thumb and a buttocks. That takes him out of the realm of the apes."

"I believe we're coming upon prehistoric people."

Morgan, 56, who has written two books on the subject, said he was on his way to a Bigfoot hunt in Russia

winter. They like the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois. ...

"But you gotta watch those Ohio reports. We put on our 'Sasquatch snowplow' when we go down there, because they're knee-deep in sightings."

Sasquatch is the name given Bigfoot by Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

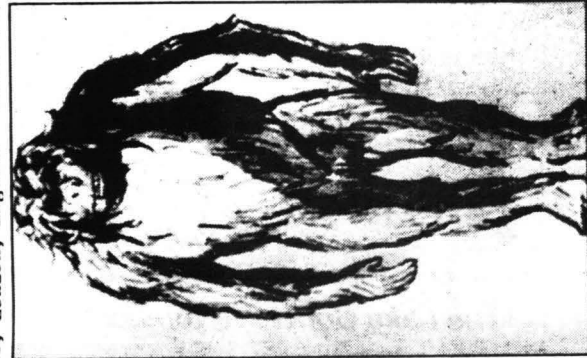
Despite his skepticism, Kapa was in central Ohio recently investigating a videotape sent to him anonymously

By Ann Sweeney
THE DETROIT NEWS

Has Michigan's Bigfoot gone Buckeye?

About 50 recent reported sightings of a large, hairy woodland creature near Cleveland have Michigan enthusiasts wondering.

"It makes sense," says Al Kapa, 60, of Mayville, who heads the Bigfoot Investigative Center. "He's been known to meander south in the



Has anybody here seen Alma? An abominable snowman similar to the Caucasus creature and, right, Koffmann, who has spent 20 years travelling in search of it

the Almas' existence. "There was an extraordinary body of folklore, but the bottom line was that not a single piece of hard evidence existed. Unless you have one decent photo you won't get anywhere."

She fears the Franco-Russian venture may be doomed to similar disappointment. "The larger the expedition, the more unlikely it is to find anything. But Dr. Koffmann is the grande dame of the Caucasus Almas, and I wish her the best of luck."

Myra Shackley, once Britain's leading authority on Almas and professor of archaeology at Leicester University. She has abandoned her research, which took her to Mongolia in 1969.

"I dropped it because of all the flak I got," she said last week. "I got rather tired of being called a lunatic. Because it attracts amateurs on the fringes of respectable sciences, it cannot be treated seriously by anybody."

She grew more sceptical of Dr

Bartholomew of Whitehall, Washington County, one of four authors of "Monsters in the Northwoods." "But all these people must have seen something."

Bartholomew and the other authors of the book have spoken with 140 people who claim to have seen the same thing: a 10-foot-tall hairy apelike creature with flashing red eyes.

Most of the sightings have been in the Kinderhook and Whitehall regions of New York and around Rutland in Vermont.

Since the mid-1980s, Bartholomew and his brother Robert, a radio newscaster, along with William Brann, an amateur archaeologist, and Bruce Hallenbeck, former talk-show host for WQBK in Albany, have been collecting sightings of Bigfoot.

All 250 copies of their self-printed book have sold out, Bartholomew said, and a second printing has been ordered. Their slide show and lecture series has been so popular that the Chapman Museum in Glens Falls had to schedule two shows and both had standing room only.

Not all of those people are believers, Bartholomew admitted. "There was a cross section of believers and skeptics," he said.

Bartholomew said the evidence for Bigfoot includes plaster castings of footprints and the fact that so many people reported seeing the same thing.

When skeptics point out that no one has ever taken a conclusive photograph and that no one has ever found a Bigfoot corpse or bone, Bartholomew is not put off.

"There seems to be a paranormal aspect to this," he said. "None of us are really sure what we have here. I think we're dealing with a physical creature on the edge of extinction."

The authors include in their book 16 different theories about what the creature may be — perhaps an ancient cross between a man and an ape, a supernatural being, a figment of people's imaginations or a relative of the Neanderthals.

The four authors decided to pool their information into the book after pursuing it on their own for several years, Bartholomew said.

"We were going at it from different angles, and we met and formed a loose network," he said.

Hallenbeck, who lives in Kinderhook, is the only one of the four who says he has actually seen the monster, as has his grandmother. He could not be reached for comment.

While the book only contains recent sightings, he said, there are reports that date back to the Colonial era and even Iroquois and Algonquin legends. The most recent sighting was in April in Long Lake in the Adirondacks.

when farmers, hunters and housewives began to bring him tales of Ohio sightings.

Michigan sightings, rife during the 1970s, have tapered off, Kapa said. Many proved to be hoaxes.

Morgan believes up to 18 of the creatures are hunkered down near Cleveland.

And he says he's sure they live there all year long.

TIMES UNION, Albany, NY - Feb. 16, 1992 CR: D. Wemple

Bigfoot!!!

Apeman stalks woods near us, book claims

By Craig Brandon
Staff writer

Warning to the squeamish: Don't read this story if monsters keep you up at night.

Warning to those who think Elvis is dead and flying saucers don't exist: You won't be amused either.

For the small but select audience still reading, here's the news: Bigfoot has been sighted in the outskirts of the Capital District.

It must be true because there's a freshly printed book that says so and they certainly wouldn't print something that isn't true, would they?

"Well, we're not really sure what it is," said Paul Bartholomew of Whitehall, Washington County, one of four authors of "Monsters in the Northwoods." "But all these people must have seen something."

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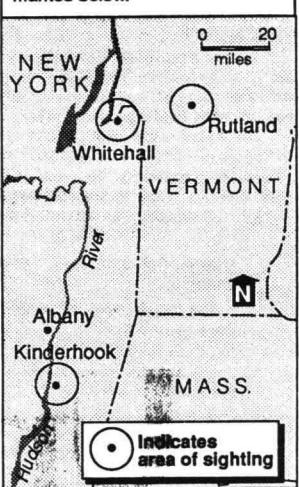
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Bigfoot sightings

Most of the sightings of a hairy, apelike creature in the region have occurred in the areas marked below.



Times Union map

NEWS, Detroit, MI

Feb. 26, 1992

Sick flock to Mexican well of 'miracle' water

By Tracey Eaton
Orange County Register

TLACOTE, Mexico — Guided by faith and driven by desperation, the sick and the feeble stream into a heavily guarded ranch in central Mexico, filling their jugs with "God's medicine."

It is plain water, which bubbles up from a 792-foot well. But believers will say it dissolves tumors, kills viruses and mends broken bones. Word of the liquid has swept through the barrios, not only in Mexico, but in the California cities of Santa Ana and Anaheim, in Long Beach and Los Angeles. Everyone's talking about it. Everyone's got to have some.

But getting it isn't easy. Water seekers wait as many as four days in a winding line that stretches more than a mile.

Two travelers died of their illnesses before reaching the front of the line, Mexican police say. Four people have been hit by cars on the country road leading to the ranch. And dozens have nearly frozen to death during cold nights.

"A lot of people are suffering," one believer said. "But we have faith this water will help us." The man, 52, has diabetes, and gangrene is eating away his fingers and toes.

"The water is my last hope."

The owner of the well is Jesus Chahin, a tall, gray-haired eccentric. He said the water had been blessed by an "extraterrestrial force."

"All that has life, the water helps," he said on

SPECIAL REPORT

a recent afternoon.

Chahin, 51, comes from a wealthy Arab family that owns 17 steel and plastics factories throughout Mexico. About 10 years ago, he sold an herbal treatment for cancer in Mexico. But the remedy cured no one, Mexican health ministry spokesman Eduardo Arvizu Marin said.

Critics say Chahin's latest miracle — the water — raises hopes, only to send them crashing down.

"Water is water," said Gerald LaRue, a University of Southern California professor and author of the book "The Supernatural, the Occult and the Bible."

"There's no doubt that having a positive attitude can be helpful in dealing with an illness. But if these people aren't going to a doctor, it's a terrible thing. They're really playing with their fate."

An analysis by Water Test Corp. in Manchester, N.H., showed that Tlacote water is high in minerals but has no unusual properties.

"If it's got something unique in it, we didn't find it," company president Jerry Tone said.

Chahin stands by the healing powers of his

water and said he's "not some trickster."

His ranch is on the edge of Tlacote, a town of 5,000 about 150 miles northwest of Mexico City.

He said he discovered the water's powers seven years ago.

A mutt named Lucas, injured in a dog fight, fell into a tub of it and his scars disappeared, he said.

In March, Chahin started giving away the water, saying it contained mysterious healing ingredients. Mexican newspapers wrote about it and the word spread.

Now, the two-lane road leading to his 568-acre ranch is jammed with four buses and cars.

More than 10,000 people are lined up for water night and day.

Vendors sell provisions — steaming tamales, coffee, blankets.

Fights sometimes break out and there are long arguments, with people yelling and crying.

Artemio Rodriguez Rubio, 43, a Mexican farmer who was getting water for his father, was one of the

few skeptics.

"They told me the water would get rid of my fat, so I drank some," he said, patting his large belly. "But it didn't work."

Chahin's ranch is surrounded by a stone wall and chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. Guards make sure that no one gets in without a token, a numbered slip given to people in line.

The metal gates are opened at least every half hour and 40 or 50 people rush in.

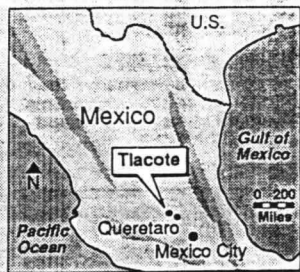
The water flows from rows of faucets hanging from 16 steel tanks, some holding as many as 20,800 gallons.

Chahin said the water is free, but people keep trying to sell it. Already, 96 volunteers have been dismissed for selling it on the side, he said.

But Chahin warns that the water has side effects: diarrhea on the first day, smelly urine on the third or fourth day. And one believer said it makes some people vomit mud.

How 'miracle' water stacks up

These are some of the ingredients found in three water samples. Tlacote water is classified as mineral water. Experts say water may seem like a simple element, but it is actually quite complex and as distinctive as a human fingerprint, with samples varying greatly even though they may contain many of the same ingredients.



In milligrams per liter	The water of Tlacote	Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water	Santa Ana, Calif., tap water	Maximum contaminant level*
Chloride	less than 10	7.8	41	250
Fluoride	0.3	0.2	0.37	4
Silica	46	32	not tested	not set
Sulphate	23.9	5.4	71	250
Calcium	48.8	15	58.5	not set
Magnesium	15	3.9	18.5	not set
Sodium	69.2	11.2	39.8	not set
Total dissolved solids	480	121	362	500
Total hardness	183	60	222	250
ph**	7.9	7.8	7.8	8.5

* As established by the Safe Drinking Water Act

** The ph figures are not expressed in milligrams per liter. ph values from 0 to 7 indicate that the water is acidic. Values from 7 to 14 show that the water is alkaline.

Note: The miracle water's coliform count — a measure of fecal contamination — met accepted standards, a water test showed.

SOURCE: Orange County Register, Water Test Corp. of America in Manchester, N.H.; the Pernier Group, which owns Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water; the Orange County (Calif.) Water District

Knight-Ridder Tribune

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR — March 29, 1992

Joe Mosby



The Lake Conway Monster

You remember the good old days — no television, no air conditioning, two-lane potholed streets. Lake Conway was brand new; a green, watery jungle and an immense fish factory.

And whatever happened to the Lake Conway Monster?

We've got a whole passel of folks in our community who have never heard of the Lake Conway Monster, and that's a shortcoming for them. Seems like this is one small segment of those fabled good old days we ought to resurrect.

Now that they've moved Toad Suck Daze away from Toad Suck and right into the middle of town, couldn't we get the old Monster back into the picture, maybe dress him up a little? I'm not trying to put down able and efficient Toadmaster Jim Stone, but wouldn't the Monster add something to the celebration?

By way of enlightenment and introduction for the newcomers in our midst, the Lake Conway Monster came into being sometime in the early 1950s, just after the lake was completed and turned into the hottest and most popular fishing spot in this part of the universe.

Stories came out about the strange creature people encountered on or around the lake. Descriptions varied and varied widely. The stories were fairly frequent items in the pages of the Log Cabin Democrat and the Little Rock newspapers.

Were they true? Was there really a Lake Conway Monster? I can no more answer that now than I could when I wrote some of the stories as a greenhorn young reporter for the Log Cabin back in the early 1950s.

I never saw the Lake Conway Monster. Once or twice out on the lake in hot weather, I ran across some big ol' fellow with his shirt off who had a lot of body hair — naw, no way; he wasn't the Monster. But I talked eyeball to eyeball with people who said they had just seen the Lake Conway Monster. And looking them in the eyes, the feeling came across strongly that these people had seen something, something unusual and scary and frightening and puzzling.

I'm not about to say there never was a Lake Conway Monster today any more than I would have said it to one of these folks back then. Plenty of other people, too, knew somebody who had seen the Monster, even though they had not had the first-hand experience themselves.

Could the monster have been a huge snapping turtle? An alligator? A big ol' gar? A bear? A draft-dodger hiding out since World War II days? All these theories came forth at one time or another. Draft-dodger? Remember, the Monster stories began just a few years after the war.

Some descriptions of the Monster were graphic and pretty close to descriptions of the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas and Sasquatch of British Columbia. Some 15 or 20 years later, similar descriptions of a mystery creature came forth from the little community of Fouke (Miller County) in Southwest Arkansas.

Other sightings of the Lake Conway Monster described it as a critter of the water, something large and black that rose up from the surface of the lake then sank back out of view.

There were skeptics of the Monster stories, of course. People ridiculed the tales and passed them off as hoaxes or as delusions of somebody that had made a trip to Palarm and was returning with a quantity of giggle water inside him or her.

The Lake Conway Monster stories diminished quite a bit when the late Frank Robins Jr., publisher of the Log Cabin, decreed, "No more Lake Conway Mosnter stories in this newspaper unless they have a picture with them." Somehow the photographs never materialized.

But the stories did not stop completely. Nope, not at all. They just gradually faded away.

Some of us miss the Monster a little. Even if we can't bring him, or it, back, maybe we could dress up somebody in a costume for Toad Suck Daze or for a parade or something.

Can we appoint a committee to design this costume?

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK — March 22, 1992 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Hunters say 'Forest Man' exists

By ALEXEI SHUDRYA
Northern News Service

A mysterious creature apparently lives in the Sikhote-Alin mountain range in the Far East.

Forcing his way through the taiga, Pyotr Leonov, a hunter, stumbled over the remains of a human body. After returning to his settlement, he reported his finding to the police. The investigation revealed that the remains were of a missing geologist who had worked for a local prospecting team.

There was no evidence of attack by a wild beast — a bear, for example. Starvation was discounted because the geologist had been reported missing in September, the season for berries and other edible plants.

Besides, the man had been a seasoned traveler, and armed.

Another version, more far out, was that the geologist had bumped into a mysterious creature whose footprints local dwellers have often seen on the taiga.

The Khuttinsky Pass is beyond reach for most hu-

NORTHERN NEWS

□ Editor's note: Articles from the Northern News Service are taken from newspapers from northern nations, translated and distributed by the Novosti Press Agency in Moscow. The Daily News publishes them to give readers a view of issues peculiar to northern areas and as a view of how the news is reported in other nations.

mans. Even seasoned hunters, who know the taiga well, prefer to use a helicopter or land rovers to get there. The stern beauty of the rocks, stunted birch trees that cling to the slopes of the hills enduring incessant gusts of wind, and dwarfish pines creeping on ancient lava, produce an amazing view.

While assessing the number of wild animals in that area, huntsmen Sergei Zavatsky and Semyon Rukavitsa once came across enormous strange footprints, and shortly after heard blood-curdling howls.

On another occasion, Zavatsky stumbled over the

body of an elk with its belly ripped apart. Its spine had been crushed by an enormous blow.

"It looked as if it had been cracked by fingers," the hunter said.

Hunters say the mysterious creature, dubbed "Forest Man," sometimes breaks into log cabins, rummaging through everything and looting food cans. Sometimes bears do that too. But if a bear breaks into a cabin, it will normally leave bite marks behind.

"Once I saw an enormous creature on the Khutu River," said Zavatsky. "Naturally, I took it for an animal at first, but it was standing on its hind legs. Then it began running quickly, its arms waving like those of a swimmer. It had bright orange fur and a protruding flat head, not a bear's round one. I shot at the creature with my carbine but missed it."

Such reports have not been confirmed by other evidence. Encounters with this creature, a mixture of beast and cave man, are rare.