

UFO

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TIMES, Springfield, MO — Sept. 2, 1992 CR: J. Carpenter

3.7 million Americans have close encounters

One night this past April, a 33-year-old Springfield woman was awakened from her sleep by the presence of what she later

She told investigators she felt herself being "pulled" toward the window by a mysterious force. She glanced at her bedside clock; it read 1:10 a.m.

Her next recollection was waking again,

ence. Literally.

She is not alone.

As many as one in 50 Americans--3.7 million individuals--may have had strange encounters with aliens, according to a recent survey. The experiences reported include waking paralyzed with a strange figure in the room; losing an hour of more of time; a sensation of flying through the air; or puzzling body scars.

Helping analyze data from almost 6,000 survey interviews conducted nationwide by the respected Roper polling



O'Bservations

by Mike O'Brien

described as a disk-shaped object ringed by red lights just outside her bedroom window.

this time with a jolt, back in her bed. The time: 3:10 a.m.

It was, she says, an other-worldly experi-

firm was John S. Carpenter, a licensed clinical social worker and psychiatric therapist in Springfield.

Casual curiosity sparked Carpenter's initial interest in reports of unidentified flying objects about four years ago. Because of his professional training and skills, including experience in conducting interviews with the aid of hypnosis, Carpenter since has become deeply involved in several investigations of reported UFO incidents. He also helped found a thriving Springfield chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, a worldwide organization dedicated to sharing information and encouraging serious research into UFO phenomena.

The Springfield MUFON chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month -- except this month. The reason for skipping the September session is an event Carpenter describes as "the most significant gathering of this type ever here": The Midwest Conference on UFO Research, expected to draw about 500 participants to University Plaza the weekend of Sept. 18-20.

Truth to tell, convocations of UFO buffs are nothing new hereabouts. An Ozarker by the name of Buck Nelson used to host annual get-togethers he billed as "flying saucer conventions" 30 years ago. However, Carpenter draws a clear distinction between Nelson-type shindigs and this month's conference.

"Back in the 1960s, UFO meetings were attended mostly by wild-eyed believers who had no interest in proving anything scientifically," Carpenter explains. "They just wanted

to get together to tell stories. Many, I'm afraid, were hoaxers or attention-seekers. And those who were gullible believed anything and everything they heard."

Today, Carpenter says, the emphasis is on science and facts. "We don't have mere story-telling anymore. We have presentations by researchers who have impressive credentials and scientific backgrounds, people who know how to conduct high-tech investigations and who aren't likely to be fooled by hoaxes."

Carpenter says the chief aim of the conference is education.

"We want to bring the public good information -- not tabloid stories, but the best information from the best sources, information that is solid, reliable and verifiable."

The lineup of conference speakers -- the "Dream Team of UFO Research," crows Carpenter -- will include:

--Budd Hopkins of New York City, who has researched UFO abduction reports for almost two decades. Hopkins has written two books, "Missing Time" and "Intruders," the latter serving as the basis for a CBS-TV miniseries this past spring.

--Stanton Friedman, a Canadian nuclear physicist and oft-quoted authority on reports of crashed flying saucers and alleged government cover-ups of such incidents.

--Linda Moulton Howe, a television producer whose 1980 documentary about mys-

terious cattle mutilations, "A Strange Harvest," won an Emmy award. She contributed to the Fox Network's 1991 documentary "The UFO Report: Sightings."

--George Wingfield, a retired IBM employee who directs research into mysterious "crop circle" patterns that have appeared in fields in England in recent years.

--George Knapp, an investigative TV journalist who produced startling documentaries about super-secret U.S. Air Force test sites in the Nevada desert, including interviews with a former government scientist

who insists he saw retrieved alien spacecraft test-flown.

--Bruce MacCabee, a research physicist specializing in laser optics for the U.S. Navy, who will present reports on his high-tech analysis of photographs of ap-

parent UFOs.

--Harry Jordan, whose work in engineering and architecture has led him to conclude that surface features on Mars photographed by satellites are "architectural artifacts" created by intelligent beings.

--Forest Crawford, a research chemist whose study of Indian cultures has uncovered correlations between ancient traditions and modern-day UFO reports.

Carpenter says Springfield was chosen as the site for the conference because the MUFON chapter here has an enthusiastic and sizeable membership roster (typical

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Reported UFO sighting has Healdsburg abuzz

A reported UFO sighting was the talk of Healdsburg on Thursday evening, but there apparently is little evidence to support the claim.

A local radio station, KZST, reported the sighting, which was called in to Healdsburg police by a Mill Street man.

The man said he saw a bunch of lights outside his home at 5 p.m., and that his radio went dead shortly thereafter, according to a Healdsburg police dispatcher. The man declined to give his name because he was embarrassed, and the alleged incident was not investigated.

But the report was a topic of conversation for many Healdsburg residents Thursday night. One man called the newspaper to say the reported sighting was the talk of the town, and another called police after hearing two people discussing it in Safeway.

PRESS DEMOCRAT, Santa Rosa, CA
Sept. 4, 1992 CR: R. Douglass

monthly meeting attendance is between 80 and 100 persons); because several of the speakers know Carpenter and are personally as well as professionally interested in participating; and because reports of strange sightings and animal mutilations have been on the upswing in this area this year.

In addition to the April case of the Springfield woman seemingly abducted for two hours from her bed, Carpenter and fellow MUFON investigators are looking into recent reports from:

--A Springfield woman who said she saw two robed creatures in a vacant field near her home. The creatures had glowing amber eyes and seemed to glide effortlessly over the ground. One appeared to be operating a computer-like apparatus, the woman said.

--A woman and her two small children who were driving near Northview in Webster County when, upon rounding a curve, they saw two red balls of light hovering above the road. The woman braked her car violently to avoid hitting the lights, which then flew up and over the car and disappeared.

--Two MUFON investigators and four other witnesses who saw what appeared to be an alien craft in rural Webster County. The craft moved at a walking pace about five feet off the ground, then disappeared slowly "as if it were going through a door."

Persons interested in attending the Sept. 18-20 sessions may call 882-6847 for registration information or may write to Midwest Conference, 4033 S. Belvedere Court, 65807.

The next regular meeting of the Springfield MUFON chapter will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the Markham Inn (formerly Drury Inn) on North Glenstone Avenue at I-44.

Mike O'Brien is a longtime Springfield journalist.

CHRONICLE, The Dalles, OR — March 24, 1992 CR: M. Dobbs

Several UFO sightings reported in Dufur area

Three people see mysterious lights above Highway 197

A woman driving down Highway 197 last night, reported being pursued by a UFO.

Wasco County Sheriff's Department Deputies soon found themselves chasing a series of mysterious lights in the Dufur/Tygh Valley area shortly after the report.

The Sheriff's office received

three reports of UFO sightings in the area, but the source of the lights remains a mystery.

The initial report came from a Milton-Freewater woman just before 9 p.m., who reported something flying above Highway 197. She said it had red and green lights and was following cars and shooting or dropping something. The caller said this was not the first time she had seen a similar thing in that area.

After that report, a deputy drove from The Dalles to Dufur, but saw no strange lights or anything else unusual.

Shortly after the initial call, a

man reported that three triangular shaped objects in the sky followed him from Tygh Valley to The Dalles. This time, the Sheriff's Department checked with the U.S. Air Force in Seattle, who said they detected nothing on radar screens.

One deputy in The Dalles said he saw some lights in the sky and said they changed color, while the other deputy, in south county, was unable to see anything out of the ordinary.

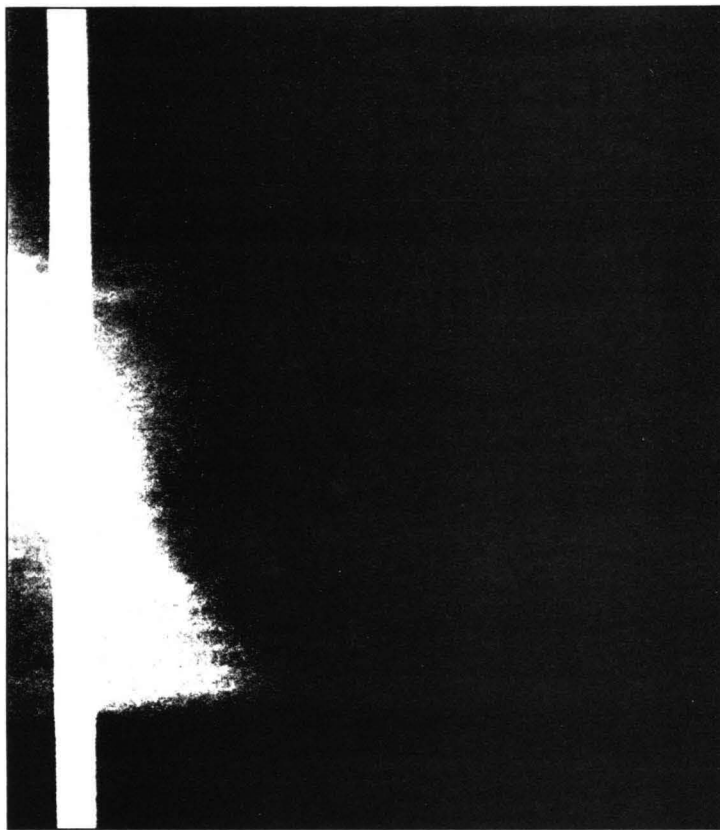
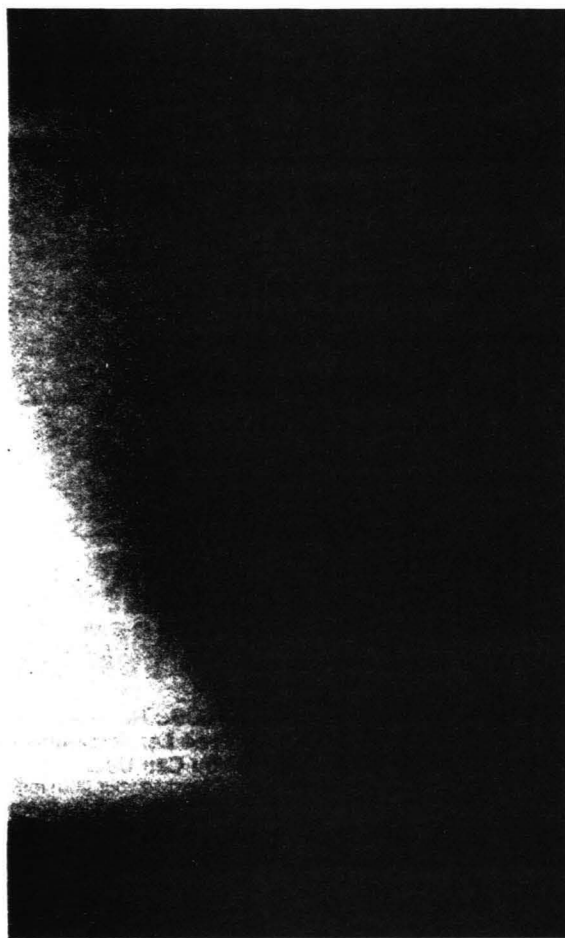
A third call came to the dispatch center at 10:04 p.m.

Under Sheriff Gary Crow said the sightings reported Monday night were not the first in that area. He said there had been a UFO report from the Miller Ranch about

three months ago, but that report came from a juvenile who later admitted he made it up.

Crow said there is no reason to believe the reports were a hoax, and the people making the calls probably did see some lights. But he offered no explanation of what they might have seen. The sheriff's office had asked that the names of the persons who made the UFO reports be kept confidential.

Crow said that even the people on duty at the emergency dispatch center went outside to scan the sky after the third report. One of them saw some colored lights in the sky, the other one, standing nearby, didn't see anything unusual.



PHOTOS © 1988 T.K., R.D., D.W.

Space Case

The Night The Coast Guard Got Buzzed

By Christopher Evans

They keep it in the "Classics File" at the Coast Guard's 9th District Headquarters downtown: a single-page incident report issued by the Fairport Harbor station on the night of March 4, 1988. The subject: Unidentified Flying Objects.

"None of those guys are around anymore and I wasn't there," says Chief Quartermaster Leo Deon of the Search and Rescue Data Section. "They saw something, but who knows what."

Sgt. Greg Reid was the executive officer at the Fairport station before he retired and joined the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

"I believe my guys," he says. "They were definitely sure of what they saw."

Sheila Baker sits in her kitchen, sunlight streaming through the windows, a black, prune-faced Shar-Pei snoring on the floor.

"I'm a typical Jewish mother with three kids," she says. "I go to temple. I believe in God."

She fingers her ponytail. Then leans forward.

"I know," she says. "I saw it."

Friday, March 4, 1988, started cold and got colder. There were light snow flurries throughout the day, but by the time the sun set at 6:21 the clouds had broken

Disco Fever

Bright lights in the night and unidentified flying objects are nothing new. For almost 100 years, they've appeared and disappeared and reappeared without explanation in local news stories. The reports have been cross-referenced where possible with The New York Times.

The Cleveland Leader
April 25, 1897. Page 3:

MUST BE SOMETHING IN IT
The Mysterious Airship Seen Again by Mahoning County People - Skeptical Ones Changing Their Minds.

... Frank Rogers and Scott Ebert, both reputable men, claim it had the appearance of a cigar, with fan-shaped apparatus on the sides, and brilliantly lighted.

April 29, 1897. Page 10:

IT SAILED OVER
The Aerial Wanderer Viewed by Many Clevelanders.

Cleveland Plain Dealer
July 4, 1947. Front page:

'FLYING SAUCERS' MYSTERY PROBED
A.A.F. Spokesman Insists Facts Are Too Meager

A preliminary inquiry into reports that strange "flying discs" have been whizzing at 1,200 miles an hour over the western United States "has not produced enough fact to warrant further investigation," an army air forces spokesman said today.

July 8, 1947. Front page:

FRISKY DISKS ARE STILL A-WHISKING

Disks Over Nela? Hundreds Say So

New York Times

July 8, 1947. Front page:

'Disks' Soar Over New York, Now Seen Aloft in All Colors

Cleveland Plain Dealer

April 18, 1966. Front page:

Ohio Deputies Chase, Lose Brilliant UFO

Portage County Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur said he and his partner, Deputy Sheriff W.L. Neff, played tag with the mysterious object from 5 a.m. near Ravenna to 6:30 a.m. on the outskirts of Pittsburgh.

New York Times

October 16, 1973. Page 33:

Ohio U.F.O.'s Stir Skepticism

Astronomy experts and Air Force officials said they were not taking seriously reports of a huge amber light that was said to have hovered over several areas and to have landed, broken fences and killed a cow.

Cleveland Plain Dealer

October 21, 1973. Page 31:

Copter narrowly misses collision with strange craft

A crew of four aboard an Army helicopter en route to Cleveland narrowly missed a midair collision with an object described as "unlike anything produced on earth."

Capt. Lawrence J. Coyne, 36, a veteran of 19 years of military flying said, "We never saw anything like it before. It was unreal... a cigar-shaped craft with a glowing steady red light on its leading edge. A hull was at the very top of it and a green light emitted from the rear of the craft filled our cabin with a green glow. It was eerie."

New York Times

October 10, 1989. Front page:

A Tass Bulletin: Knobby Aliens Were Here

The official press agency Tass says towering extraterrestrial creatures with little knobby heads have landed in the Russian city of Voronezh.

"Scientists have confirmed that an unidentified flying object recently landed in a park in the Russian city of Voronezh," Tass said in a straight-faced news report. "They have also identified the landing site and found traces of aliens who made a short promenade around the park."

New York Times

March 7, 1991. Page 20:

Mysterious Fireball Across Skies Leaves A Trail of Questions

It zoomed across the night sky early yesterday, a greenish-red fireball. Airplane pilots radioed that it seemed to be hovering over New York City.

Cleveland Plain Dealer

November 14, 1991. Page 2B:

Green fireball in sky puzzles night driver

Robert L. Dugan told police the moon-sized ball was "lime green - clear, use, maybe."

... C.F.

While the Coast Guard was observing the ice "cracking and moving abnormal amounts as the object came closer," Tim Keck was several miles inland, staring at the stars through a telescope. He managed to photograph a partial image of one of the glowing triangles that had flown out of the object. The triangle was so large and moving so fast, that he captured only half of it. Dr. Bruce Macabee, an optical physicist for the U.S. Navy, analyzed the photograph and determined it was not a hoax. What it was, he couldn't say.

All the time Sheila was watching it. It was about five miles out now, still descending, red and blue lights flashing as if it was going to crash. She called the cops back. They told her unusual activity over the lake was the responsibility of the Coast Guard. Sheila called Fairport Harbor. They suggested Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

"Everybody thinks I'm nuts," she told Henry. Suddenly a series of bright triangular yellow lights shot out of the center of the object. These triangles, there were five or six of them, it was hard to count they moved so quickly, looked about the size of a single-seat Cessna. They hovered point-up around the object. Then darted north, then east, heading inland toward the Perry nuclear power plant. Sheila had never seen anything move that fast. Zero to warp-speed in less than a nanosecond. Without making a sound. She called the Coast Guard again. This time they said they were sending a crew by the house. Sheila let her kids out of the closet, but made them stay in the bedroom with the door locked.

Mobile Unit 2 was a 1984 blue Chevy Suburban and the two guys in it were gung-ho. Seaman James Powers and Petty Officer John Knaub said they could see the lights from Fairport Harbor. They figured they were flares. Fishermen trapped out on the ice, that kind of thing. They were towing a 22-foot Boston Whaler just in case.

Sheila and Henry pointed to the object they now thought of as the mother ship. A couple of the triangles were zipping around it. Powers and Knaub didn't say a word. Instead of driving onto the beach, they four-wheeled the Chevy up the ridge. The ice was going nuts, rippling and rumbling and roaring. Sheila and Henry got out. The windows were down and they could hear Knaub and Powers talking to the base.

"Be advised the object appears to be landing on the lake," they said. "Be advised there are other objects moving in around it. Be advised these smaller objects are going at high rates of speed. There are no engine noises and they are very, very low. Be advised these are not planets."

Rick Hilberg is very nuts and bolts as befits a parts-and-service manager. Mary Ann Hawk is a gray-haired grandmother, and Lawrence Blazey lives in a steel house.

Collectively, they have spent 120 years investigating the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis, and their conclusions are as individual as the groups to which they belong.

"What you do is just open your mind and go from there," explains Hawk. She is co-director of the 38-year-old Cleveland Ufology Project, the oldest continuously meeting group on the planet Earth. Hawk always qualifies it like that because, who knows?

"This is my UFO room," Hawk says walking past a cluttered desk into a jam of bookcases, their shelves stacked with mag-

All of a sudden one of the triangles zoomed toward the Chevy, low, just above the ice, a blur of light blistering straight at them. Knaub quickly rolled the van back down the ridge. The triangle veered east, then went straight up and came down beside the mother ship. Sheila told Knaub to turn his lights off.

"Why attract attention?" she asked. Fifteen miles to the southeast, not too far from the Perry plant, Cindy Hale stepped outside to walk her dog. She noticed a triangular light hovering above her. The dog began to whine and cower. Cindy took it back inside. But she came out again. The triangle flashed a sequence of multicolored lights and Cindy responded by flicking her Bic. This went on for about 30 minutes, then the triangle accelerated and was gone. It didn't make a sound.

Tim Keck was observing the stars through his telescope when a bright triangular object caught his eye. Luckily, Tim had his camera with him. It wasn't a great camera. In fact, it was a little plastic number he had gotten free from Burger King. But it worked, and he took a picture of the triangle before it disappeared silently over the horizon.

Back at the lake, the mother ship was almost on the ice. For an hour, Henry had stood on the ridge and listened as Powers and Knaub communicated with their base. They said things like, "You should be advised that the object is now shining lights all over the lake and it's turning different colors."

The ice thundered. Powers and Knaub had to yell to be heard. Henry thought the big ship was in trouble. So did Sheila. She had gone back to the house. The kids were still locked in the bedroom and she watched from the window. Suddenly the triangles were back. They shot one by one into the side of the mother ship as it seemed to set down on the howling ice.

It flashed a sequence of red, blue and yellow lights. Sheila thought they looked beautiful. Then the white light that poured from the front of the object turned red and the triangles reappeared, hovering over it.

UFORIA

By Christopher Evans

azines and newsletters.

"I subscribe to the UFO News Clipping Service, which has stuff from all over the world. I got these magazines from Brazil and those are published in Canada. These I get from England, those come from Denmark and there are some from California."

Hawk has never seen a UFO, but she is beyond that anyway. She flips through a

The ice boomed, louder and louder, and then suddenly it stopped. The lights disappeared. So did the triangles. Now there was nothing. Darkness and silence.

Powers and Knaub drove off white-faced. Sheila and Henry stood watch through the night. In the morning all that remained were scattered chunks of broken ice. But that evening, the triangles returned.

Sheila called the Coast Guard. This time they sent three people. But they arrived too late and the triangles were gone. To reassure the Bakers, they called Lost Nation Airport and talked to Elizabeth Mele in the control tower who told them the two bright lights in the sky were Venus and Jupiter, and the flashing lights were gases in the atmosphere.

That was Saturday. On Monday, The Plain Dealer ran a short item headlined "Cozying of Jupiter, Venus light up sky." The Lake County News-Herald ran a similar version with the caption "Sky-gazers mistake planets for UFOs."

Sheila called Fairport Harbor. Powers and Knaub weren't there. She left a message. They didn't call back. She called again and again and again. Nothing. Four years later, she's still confused.

"The government flat-out denies it happened and I was standing there with two government employees watching it and they saw it and then they disappear."

Chief Leo Deon said the Coast Guard had no official policy in regard to UFOs, and since there were no more sightings that was the end of it. All personnel assigned to Fairport Harbor in 1988 have been rotated out. Deon said he couldn't locate Powers, who had left the service, or Knaub through personnel records, because those records had been archived in Washington.

"It was big around the station for a while," says retired executive officer Greg Reid. "Then it just fizzled out."

Sheila Baker frowns and points a finger. "You start to worry," she says.

Christopher Evans is a Sunday staff writer.

thick oversized book entitled "Matrix II: The Abduction and Manipulation of Humans Using Advanced Technology."

"When you got material like this," she says, "why look for a light in the sky?"

Page after page of precisely drawn military maps show underground alien research laboratories, sea bases and secret cave entrances. There are detailed diagrams headlined "Mind Machine Used By Sirians to Create Artificial Realities in the Mind of the Human Abductee," and official documents entitled "Composite of Autopsy Findings of Some Alien Species."

"They're not like us," Hawk says, pointing to an illustration of a species identified as the Long-Nosed Greys. "They don't have a digestive or reproductive system. One type has two hearts. Another takes food in by the mouth and it comes out the skin."

To get this information to the proper authorities, the Ufology Project works with the Intercontinental U.F.O. Galactic Spacecraft Research and Analytic Network based in Jackson Heights, N.Y.

"We've sent things to the president, to Gen. Colin Powell, to Congress, to the U.N., to Russia, Japan, even the Dalai Lama."

But the response has been disappointing. "The Dalai Lama thanked us," Hawk says.

Asked her opinion of the 1988 Eastlake sighting, Hawk dismisses it.

"It wasn't a UFO," she says. "It was one of ours. Why else would the Coast Guard be called off? The government wouldn't waste its time investigating one of its own planes."

Hawk pauses. "Have you heard about the implants?" she asks.

Lawrence Blazey has. In fact, his latest issue of the Cosmic newsletter "Revelations of Awareness" features a story headlined "Good News for Those with Alien Implants."

"I'm an Aries," Blazey explains, sitting in the single-story steel house he designed back in 1942. "Aries always pick up on things that are unusual."

He turned 90 in April, a true believer who, for almost half a century, has been working the outer limits. Trained as an architectural and industrial designer, he was one of the founders of the Cleveland UFO Society in 1956.

"I've researched the Bible considerably and know quite a bit about it," Blazey says. "Of course, all of the incidents or contacts from the Bible that are by gods and what-not are all extraterrestrials, higher beings from the other side."

Current Alien Activity

Out there
NASA will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World with a \$100 million project aimed at contacting alien civilizations in outer space. NASA has conducted more than 50 searches for space aliens since 1960, but on October 12 it will launch its most comprehensive and systematic search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

"On that day, perhaps not far off," states the SETI brochure, "when the first extraterrestrial signal is heard, humankind, until now isolated on the far fringes of a huge galaxy, will suddenly become aware of a universal community."

Way out there
A recently released Roper opinion poll indicates that one out of every 50 adult Americans — the equivalent of 10 million people — may have had a UFO abduction experience. Alien abduction, or "Experienced Anomalous Trauma," is such a hot topic that no less august an institution than the Massachusetts Institute of Technology hosted a major invitation-only conference on the subject last month.

The five-day confab, which was cosponsored by the news media, brought together scientists, medical specialists, mental health care workers, and investigators in a panel of "abductions." It was chaired by MIT physics professor David Pritchard and Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry John E. Mack, M.D.

Way, way out there
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, of Project Blue Book, the government-sanctioned UFO study that failed to explain 701 sightings it researched from 1946 to 1969 — hides the remains of crashed saucers, dead aliens and quite possibly one live alien, according to nuclear physicist-turned-ufologist Stanton T. Friedman.

Friedman, who once worked at Wright-Patterson, is on the trail of what could be the biggest story of the century. Nothing less than a cosmic Watergate.

In the just published "Crash At Corona," he and co-author Don Berliner argue that the Air Force recovered two flying saucers and their crews (one live alien, one dying alien and six dead aliens) after an apparent midair collision over the New Mexico desert on July 2, 1947.

The recovered saucers were sent to Wright-Patterson's Air Technical Intelligence Center for further study as were the remains of several aliens.

And the live alien?
"Probably taken to Albuquerque, then maybe onto Wright where they had a special place designed to its specifications," Friedman says.

"Who knows?" Friedman says. A Wright-Patterson spokeswoman of course denied everything, although she did say people are always sending shoes and small outfits for the alien to wear.

Way, way, way out there
O.H. Krill's "Situation Report on our Acquisition of Advanced Technology and Interaction with Alien Cultures" states there are some 40 known extraterrestrial biological entities currently living on Earth. These are the most commonly seen:

1. Orion Grey Type (also known as the Long-Nosed Grey). Between 7 and 8 feet tall. Insect-based genetic system. Extremely aggressive toward humans.
2. Zeta Reticuli Grey. Between 3 and 4 feet tall. Big head. Big eyes. No nose. Less aggressive than Type 1.
3. Tall Blond Humanoid (also known as the Swede or Nordic Entity). About 6 feet tall. Blond hair, eyes typically blue with large oval pupils.

Krill, by the way, is the alien ambassador to the United States.

According to a notarized statement from retired U.S. naval intelligence officer, Krill and other alien "guests" were held near Los Alamos, N.M., where they were fed ice cream and enjoyed strawberry the best. They also liked listening to Tibetan music and possessed extremely high IQs. Unfortunately, the officer noted, they had a tendency to lie.

- Gone
In his biography, "Stranger at the Pentagon," Cmdr. Valiant Thor of the planet Venus lists the reasons why he doesn't have time to meet with the public. Among other things he has to:
1. Command the starship.
 2. Head the Venusian Council of Twelve.
 3. Make regular journeys to and from the planets.
 4. Prevent atomic holocaust by exercising certain limits on certain human agencies.

— C.E.

Over the years, he has produced a series of nine paintings known collectively as "The Celestial Contacts of the Bible," each detailing a well-known biblical scene beneath the enormous blue glow of a UFO.

"This is the Israelites crossing the Red Sea and this is the UFO that came to assist them," Blazey explains. "This is Jesus on Mount Tabor. He has been beamed down from a spaceship. He is a spiritual being from the fifth dimension, a representative of the spiritual kingdom."

His take on the Eastlake sighting?
"There is a deep ravine underneath Lake Erie where the UFOs dive in and disappear. It has an outlet near Buffalo where there is a base or point of contact." Blazey clears his throat a couple of times. "I got this information secondhand," he adds. "But it's quite reliable."

Rick Hilberg, on the other hand, doesn't know what to make of the '88 sighting.

"It's obviously something that can't be dismissed," he says. "But there's always been doubt because of the possibility it had an astronomical explanation."

After 30 years of investigation, Hilberg believes there may be a natural explanation for all UFO phenomena. Such conservatism makes his group, the United Aerial Phenomena Agency, the Republican Party of local sky scanners.

"A lot of people make claims, but we don't," he says. "In our experience, 95% of the sightings are a planet, or an advertising plane, or things like that. We don't have enough information to explain the other 5%, but that doesn't mean it's evidence of alien intelligence."

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UFOs OVER TOPANGA

The Sixth Encounter

THEY CAME ONCE MORE

By Colin Penno

S ometime between midnight and dawn's early light Sunday, June 14 strange things happened in the night sky over Topanga.

We can't account for it, we can't explain it—and those who could just aren't talking.

Here's what we think we know

From somewhere in West Hollywood, a couple of weeks ago a shaken man called the Lost Hills/Malibu Sheriff's station to ask a question and tell a tale.

They'd eaten dinner down on the beach at Gladstones, and then he and his girlfriend took off for a spin up the Coast, turning north into the Santa Monica Mountains at Highway 27 for a peaceful night drive through Topanga Canyon and home to the bright lights of L.A.

"Did anyone report anything strange tonight in Topanga Canyon?" came the call.

Wanna be more specific?" responded a dubious deputy. "Strange like what?"

"Ah... lights."

"Not that I know of."

With his question answered, the caller stumbled into an incredible story.

"You'll think I'm crazy, but I don't know who to tell," he began.

"Officer, we were driving through the Canyon, where the Canyon gets deep, and we noticed a bright light in the sky." The couple became uneasy because they felt it was following them—whatever it was.

"Suddenly it was over us, we lost control of the car and it lifted us up in the sky, lifted us up off the ground.

"I'm telling you, I've never been more frightened in my life," he said, assuring the cop that "we don't drink, don't take drugs and have no history of psychological problems."

What happened next was vague, according to the driver, who reckons they both lost memory for "I don't know, maybe a couple of minutes and then we were put down.

"Suddenly it (the light, the craft, the tractor beam) wasn't there anymore."

Responding to a distraught but cogent caller, the listening officer stepped in from the cold of incredulity and asked were they both okay?

"Well we got home by the grace of God. My girlfriend was near-hysterical, we feel nauseous and weak, I don't know what to do.

"I'm telling you I'm a normal human being," the caller pleaded in a quaking voice.

"I have a job, a good job, and my girlfriend too. Should I report this ...? They'll think we're out of our minds!"

"I don't believe that something like this would fall under our jurisdiction," the cop said—and wrapped it up by advising the couple to sleep on it and maybe check in with a doctor in the morning.

Second Fishy Couple

Soon a second call about the state of cosmic stability in Topanga came in to the station.

"My girlfriend and I saw three very strange ... ah, God ... who does one report UFOs to?"

"We saw three UFOs, flying discs high up in the Canyon, past Sassafra's Nursery, where the Canyon gets deep."

"What did they look like?" inquired the voice of the law

"They were saucers, they were following us above the car and we stopped and got out. We saw them, we watched them and within maybe three seconds—poof—they were gone straight up into the air like a bat out of hell."

This second caller was quite calm, we're told, and asked the listening deputy if he happened to have a number for the U.S. Air Force?

Disappointed, the second caller said, "Well I dunno ... we saw what we saw, maybe Gladstones spiked our wine ...?"

The Odd New Englishman

Next comes a call from a guy asking if the cops had helicopters flying over the Canyon that night—choppers with unusually bright lights?

"My wife and I were woken up by a very bright light above our home coming in through the windows," he says. "We went outside to look at ... an extremely bright light ... but there was hardly any sound," just a sort of "high-pitched hum."

His home and the "encounter" were about

a mile north of Sassafra's, the caller answered in response to a deputy's questions, but declined to give an address explaining that he really didn't want to report a UFO and because his wife was "a bit shaken up right now."

"Have you eaten at Gladstones recently?" asked the deputy—still pushing for a location and explaining that maybe something illegal was going on.

"Deputy," the caller replied, "let me tell you this—if someone is doing something illegal around here they have a hell of a lot of wattage."

"Damnedest thing I ever saw in my life" he concluded, and hung up.

Last Call From Texas

Lastly that night came a call from a guy with a soft Texas accent—a guy who gave his name right up front.

"Did y'all have helicopters up in Topanga Canyon tonight?"

"What did you see sir?" inquired a deputy long-since accustomed to curious calls from a quixotic Canyon.

"I was going down through Topanga Canyon and I think they were helicopters 'cause they were shining damn bright lights on me, but they kinda chased me down the road a bit."

"It sure did put out a powerful beam, a very bright light," the cowboy went on. "I'd say they tailed me from above, but I couldn't see anything 'cause it was so damned bright ... it sure seemed strange to me."

What the Doctor Saw ...

For readers sceptical about outrageous stories from odd outsiders—here is testimony from a true Topangan with the guts to stand up and say what he saw!

Dr. Murray Clarke lives on Callon, a T-junction street at the termination of Cheney Drive, itself an eastward artery off Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Clarke was at home and up and about after midnight that Sunday morning June 14, when a powerful point of light zoomed over his house heading north.

"I looked through my view window which faces the ridge line and the Valley," Clarke

told the Messenger last week. "It was traveling south-to-north very fast in a horizontal path, an intense white/yellow light. As it sped away from me—about over the last ridge, it just vanished."

Clarke, a homeopathic specialist in private practice in Santa Monica, estimated the entire incident to have lasted "just two or three seconds".

He went outside, naturally, but the night sky was "as it was before."

A burning meteor perhaps? A helicopter searchlight?

No says Clarke: "meteorites do not travel on a path parallel with the planet, and the intensity of light was something no helicopter could have brought about."

The Hillside Observation

Around that time and a mile or so south of Clarke's house another Topanga resident remembers something she'd never seen before that night.

She too lives east of the Boulevard, and at an elevation similar to Clarke's—two or three hundred feet up from the Canyon floor.

"I saw a brilliant ray of light outside through my window," says the witness, who prefers to be unidentified.

"I saw it and I'll never forget it," she told the Messenger last week. "I'm telling you this now but, well, I'm a professional person and I can't afford the risk of ridicule."

The beam from a car on its way home in the neighborhood?

No way she says.

"I've lived right here for years and because of the hills around I can tell you no headlights can pass by around the house."

A Sheriff's chopper looking for who-knows-what in the night?

"I've seen those lights over and over," she shot back. "This light was so focused, so intense—like nothing I'd ever seen."

So What's New?

None of this comes as much of a surprise to Preston Dennett, who wrote "UFOs Over Topanga", a Messenger cover story in volume 12, No. 25, our terminal edition of 1988.

Dennett says of last month's strange events: "This would be at least the sixth encounter in the Canyon." ■

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - Sept. 20, 1992

600 attend first Midwest UFO conference

► UFO conference

Seminars today at the Midwest Conference on UFO Research, at the University Plaza Hotel, 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway:

9 a.m. "Fascinating UFO Encounters in Puerto Rico," by Jorge Martin, editor, "ENIGMA" magazine.

10:45 a.m. "What Does All of This Mean?" Question-and-answer panel discussion with all 10 speakers from the conference.

12:30 p.m. End.

The public is invited; \$10 entrance fee for today's events.

By Chris Bentley
The News-Leader

Crops flattened to form circles and strange patterns in fields worldwide may hold a clue to alien visitors to Earth.

So may widespread cases of animals mutilated with surgical precision.

So may remarkably similar incidents in which people under hypnosis remember being abducted by small, four-fingered aliens who sometimes perform strange surgical procedures on them.

The first Midwest Conference on UFO Research — attended by about 600 people from across the country — covered those topics and others Saturday.

The weekend-long conference, at University Plaza Hotel, 333 John Q. Ham-

On Page 7A

► UFOs that crashed?

mons Parkway, continues this morning.

■ **UFO jigsaw:** "Something is happening out there. You have to realize this is a big picture we're painting," said one of the event's 10 speakers, Linda Moulton Howe. "We each have just a part of the canvas, and they fit together in what I call the UFO jigsaw."

Howe won an Emmy award for "A Strange Harvest," a 1980 TV documentary she produced on animal mutilations and their correlation to UFO sightings.

■ **Mutilations:** Saturday, Howe spoke about continuing mutilations. She cited cases in England, Canada and the United States, including some that occurred this year in the Marshfield area.

"What's remarkable about all these is that the wounds are so pristine," she said, showing slides of mutilated cows.

■ **Annual:** Organizers said they hope the conference becomes a yearly event.

More than 340 people pre-registered this year, and on Saturday an additional 250 to 300 people bought one-day tickets.

"This is one of the best planned, best organized, certainly one of the best attended conferences I've been to," said Stanton Friedman, who spoke on government cover-ups of UFOs.

Those mysterious CROP CIRCLES

A year ago, a couple of landscape painters fessed up to concocting the hoax, but local expert says mysterious markings should not be written off so quickly

By Nicole Jacobs
Times Staff Writer

For the past 11 years, giant circles have mysteriously appeared overnight in grain fields in more than 40 countries. Some measure 20-30 feet in diameter. Others stretch to an incredible 500 feet.

Last year, a pair of landscape painters said they were responsible for many of the crop formations that appeared in great abundance in Southern England. But scientists are skeptical about their claim. The men have never successfully duplicated one of the intricately swirled patterns in public and, despite their retirement from the alleged hoax, formations continue to appear near the rock pattern of Stonehenge and around the world.

So who is making the formations and why are they growing more complex each year?

On Saturday, Steve Canada, author of eight books on the crop circle phenomenon, will try to answer these questions at a two-part workshop at Hancock College. The course, which concludes Sept. 26, will explore the nature of the strange formations and test current theories regarding their creation.

"There's a genuine mystery out there and we shouldn't write it off (as a hoax)," said Canada, who lives in Morro Bay.

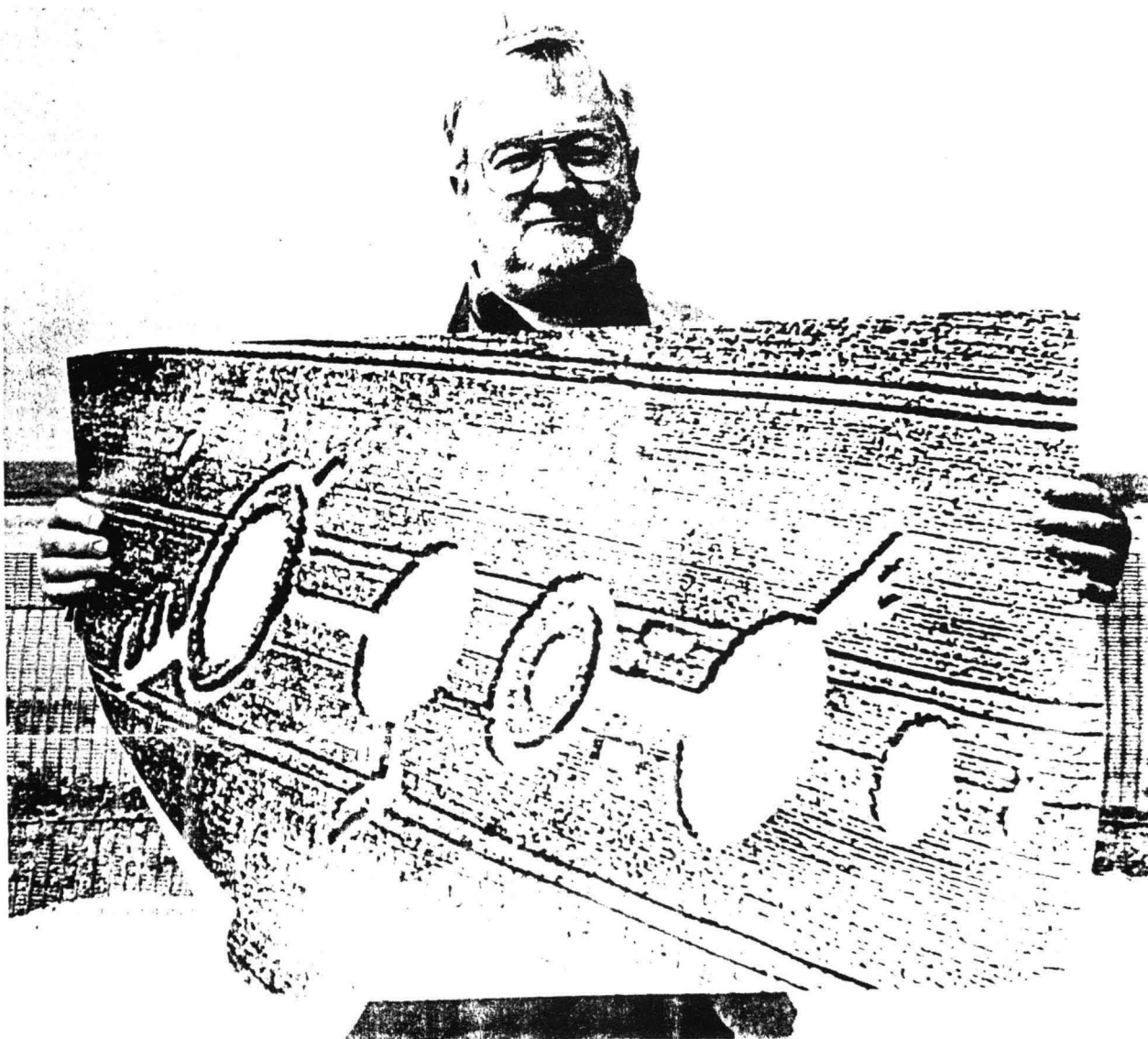
In the early 1980's, most of the crop formations appeared as simple, nearly perfect circles of grain flattened in a spiral pattern. But they have gradually increased in complexity to include circles in groups, circles inside rings or circles with spurs and other geometric appendages.

The flattened plant stalks bend 90 degrees, but are not broken. Sometimes they are woven together in an intricate pattern to look like wheel spokes or pieces of pie. And, no matter how much sun or water they receive, they continue to grow parallel to the earth, said Canada.

In order to learn more about the mystery, both scientists and members of the British Army have repeatedly monitored fields with infrared equipment, night watches and helicopter sweeps. So far, the surveillance has not revealed how the formations are created, even though circles are often seen in the morning. Canada said many people have tried to reproduce crop circles by carefully tramping down crops, but everyone who has tried has failed. Either the stalks break or they soon bob up to greet the sun.

In a genuine formation, Canada explained, the bending point on the stalks are slightly swollen, as if some sort of energy was applied to keep it supple while changing the direction of its growth.

Explanations for the phenomenon vary. Some people believe it's the result of microwave-generated ball lightning, whirlwinds, or other



Steve Canada, author of eight books on crop circles, displays a picture of the phenomenon.

Times/Susan Goldman

peculiar atmospheric conditions. Some say it's a group of graduate students driven by a mad professor. Others propose dancing deer or industrious hedgehog colonies. And still more believe it is the work of non-human life forms that live on Earth or visit from neighboring star systems.

Canada supports the theories that intelligent lifeforms created the circles as a means of communication.

"I do agree that the growing complexity of the circles seems to be supportive of the idea that there's intention behind the phenomenon and information contained within the phenomenon," said Canada. "If you wanted to communicate, but didn't speak the same language you'd start simple and progressively get more complex."

He said the circles contain ancient mathematical symbols that could be used to bridge two foreign languages.

Mathematics do seem to be at the heart of crop circle phenomenon. Gerald Hawkins, a retired American astronomer, studied their geometry. Using data from

'There's a genuine mystery out there and we shouldn't write it off (as a hoax)'

Steve Canada

published ground surveys and aerial photographs, he painstakingly measured the dimensions and calculated the ratios of the diameters and other key features in patterns that had more than one circle or ring.

In 11 of the 18 formations, Hawkins found ratios of small whole numbers that precisely match the ratios defining the musical scale found on the white keys of a piano. And by comparing the relationships among the circles, rings and lines of the patterns he discovered geometric theorems that are only preserved in ancient mathematics textbooks and some that have never been published at all.

Canada, 51, said he became interested in crop circles because of their simple beauty and because he loves to solve puzzles. He has also

led workshops on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

During his two-day workshop on crop circles, Canada will present evidence of a UFO connection.

Canada has gathered many eyewitness accounts including one person who allegedly saw a crop circle appear within seconds accompanied by a strange rustling sound. Another witness who allegedly saw a disc floating in the sky, said a crop circle was formed where a beam from the disc touched the ground.

Canada will also display photographic evidence including one picture of a small silver disc, a foot in diameter, that hovers at the center of a crop circle. In the photograph are two investigators who, Canada said, claim they saw nothing

of the UFO until the photograph was developed.

Canada's also has a video tape of a strange point of light that travels across a field where a crop circle had recently been formed, and "roams" around, over and through the formation.

Although Canada has never been to the site of a crop circle, he corresponds with many of the English scientists currently working on the mystery.

"This is no joke," said Canada. "We ignore this phenomenon perhaps at our own peril — revealing our ignorance."

Canada's books "Crop Circle Language" sell internationally. The books are available through mail order for \$5 each or \$37 for eight volumes. For more information write to Steve Canada at P.O. Box 1913, Morro Bay, CA. 93443.

Those interested in participating in Canada's class may register by calling Hancock College Community Education at 922-6966, ext. 3209. The class meets from 9:30 to 4 p.m. and costs \$48.

Area residents to tell their story on national TV

By PAT RICH
Gazette Staff Assistant

ROBINSON — Many people have speculated as to what fell from the sky near a Kecksburg farmhouse during the late afternoon of Dec. 9, 1965. Some say it was a meteor, while others believe it was a piece of a foreign spacecraft. But for John Hays, who lived at that Kecksburg farmhouse as a boy, the object that fell from the sky that day was definitely not from this world. "I know if it were something of this world, they (military and space investigators who were called to the scene) would have told us," he said. But instead, they hid it."

Mr. Hays of Robinson, along with his mother, Lillian Hays of Saltsburg, will tell of their experiences that day in 1965 during a segment of Fox Television Network's new Friday night show, "Sightings." A crew from Sather Gates Productions of Los Angeles, Calif., interviewed the mother and son on Sept. 21 at Mr. Hays' home. The segment, according to a Sather Gate spokeswoman, is tentatively scheduled to air 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.

Mr. Hays, who also appeared in a segment on the Sept. 18, 1990, broadcast of NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries," said his parents were renting the farmhouse. He, the eldest of 10 children to Lillian and Donald Hays, was 10 years old at the time of the incident. Since then, his father has passed away.

"I remember hearing on the radio that something had crashed," he said. "I looked out the window and there were cars all over the place. Everybody was coming in (to the town) to see what had landed."

Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, Greensburg, said the object was tracked from the tip of Canada through numerous states before it landed at 4:45 p.m. in a wooded ravine, approximately 1,200 feet from the Hays' house.

Mr. Gordon, who has been interested in unidentified flying objects (UFO's) for approximately 33 years, will also appear with Mr. Hays and his mother on Fox's "Sightings" show.

"Thousands of people in the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, New York, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania saw a huge fireball coming across the sky," he said. "People saw it very low (in the sky), at a gliding type of speed. Many saw it make a distinct turn before crashing."

Mr. Hays said shortly after the crash, members of all branches of the military, along with NASA personnel, arrived at his home and immediately set up a command post.

"They had my parents send us (the Hays children) to our bedrooms," he said. "But you know how kids are when they want to know something. We made a lot of trips to the bathroom."

Mr. Hays spent most of his time watching the military and NASA officials from his bedroom window, which faced the field where the object came down. He said he watched numerous military vehicles, all which were empty, go down into the ravine. A short time later, one flatbed truck came out with something covered up on it, "the size of a Volkswagon."

Mr. Gordon said despite numerous eyewitnesses who saw the military transport the object out of Kecksburg, military officials maintain nothing was found in the area, according to documents obtained by Mr. Gordon through the Freedom of Information Act.

Even some members of the Kecksburg Fire Department came face to face with the object, according to interviews on the "Unsolved Mysteries" show. One fireman, who was in the search team that first discovered the object, said it looked like a huge acorn with something that appeared like hieroglyphics across the base of it.

Mr. Hays said the next day, family members went down to the crash area to fix a fence that he says was broken during the seizure of the the object.

"Brush was broken down and it looked like they tried to cover up the area with a load of dirt," he said. "But they didn't do a good job."

Mr. Gordon said he believes that something did come down out of the sky that day, but for some reason, military and NASA officials are keeping it a highly classified case.

"There's no doubt in my mind that something came down," he said. "We're not trying to prove that it was something from outer space. It could have been a Soviet probe. Some of the evidence points to that. But we would like to know."

Mr. Gordon said he hopes that one day an official congressional investigation into the matter gets underway. In the meantime, his volunteer agency, PASU, continues to collect data from witnesses who may have been in the area that day.

"There is something there, but we need massive testimony to back it up," he said. "But eyewitnesses are dying away. We want to get this documented as quickly as possible and we need information badly."

If anyone saw or knows anything about the case is asked to call the PASU hotline number at (412) 838-7768 or write to Mr. Gordon at PASU, 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601."

Elusive UFO Outwits Gulf Breeze Skywatchers

by Bland Pugh

The Gulf Breeze Research Team has been keeping its nightly vigil, however, the UFO seems to be everywhere except where we are. We have had reports from all over Gulf Breeze to Bagdad, Pensacola Beach to Navarre. There have been theories upon theories, questions about questions, as to where the UFO has gone, but the truth is...the UFO isn't gone, it's just showing up in different locations than those the GBRT happens to be in. One of the reports came from a frequent watcher, and photographer, he was traveling north on the Three Mile Bridge with his father, when they looked above the Bluffs, or what would have been the area of "Cock of the Walk" restaurant, there appeared the UFO. It seemed to be hovering and was visible to them for about one minute. This individual has had about 15 to 20 sightings, and has photographed the Gulf Breeze UFO on many occasions, so his report is highly credible.

At this past Tuesday MUFON meeting, Col. Don Ware spoke to an audience of approximately 100 people, telling them of the Government's involvement in covert UFO cover-up, or of their overt public information program. Col. Ware spoke of an incident in the Persian Gulf War, where four Army Tank Battalions were in position on the Saudi-Kuwait border, just before the actual war began, waiting for the word to go, when before them appeared a number of UFO's, hovering for a number of minutes before disappearing. After the sightings, all of the troops involved were debriefed and all film confiscated, the troops were instructed not to talk about the incident, obviously some have talked about it, and the word is now coming out. Were these soldiers shown this on purpose? Was this a means of programming them to become accustomed to the presence of UFO's.

What about the incidents in Williamsport, Penn. on Feb. 5, 1992 at 6:15 p.m. These sightings all had a very similar scenario, a large boomerang shaped object hovered over the area moving "low and slow at tree

top level at the pace of a fast walk", the witnesses typically, "were in their homes, in the living room or recreational room, in the basement watching television, reading the evening newspaper, or in the kitchen washing dishes. They were unaware of what was soon to happen".

"A loud or heavy rumbling noise was heard over the house which shook or vibrated the house and rattled its windows. Then one of the witnesses would leave the house to investigate the cause of the noise and, having discovered the UFO in the evening sky, would call the other witnesses to view the object. At this time, the witnesses observed the object and its actions until visual contact was lost. Lastly they would return to the inside of the house to reinforce each other on what was seen" (as reported in the June 92 MUFON Journal). Col. Ware stated that there was telephone and television interference reported by dozens of residents at or just after the time of the sightings.

These are but just a few of the sightings being reported, are they being staged for our benefit by the UFO's, or by the Government? Very interesting questions...

Be sure to watch "Sightings" this Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. on Fox TV, this will feature a daylight sighting that took place in Mexico City in front of hundreds of witnesses, videos of this sightings have been shown at many UFO symposiums. Again was it staged?

Just for information, our radio program on WCOA has been moved from 4:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., keep your eyes to *The Islander* for further information about next month's show. Next month's meeting will feature a very exciting speaker. Dr. Bill Carson. Dr. Carson spoke to Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON last Sept. and had those in attendance spellbound, again stay tuned.

Keep on looking up, and around behind you, and remember if you have had any unusual sightings of anomalous lights or objects, be sure to call the MUFON hotline 438-3261...strict confidentiality observed.



DAVE
BAITY

UFO book

George Fawcett of Lincolnton has spent 48 years studying unidentified flying objects — the first seven before he ever saw a UFO.

Fawcett was at Lynchburg College in 1951 when, he said, he watched an object shaped like a 30-foot truck tire hover near the college for 4½ minutes before it disappeared.

That spurred him to conduct interviews and send questionnaires to hundreds who claimed to have witnessed similar events. He found amazing similarities in what they described and published his findings in a booklet released in the 1970s.

About 1981, he became curious about how people reacted after they sighted a UFO.

So he sent questionnaires to people he had read about who claimed to have seen UFO's. He advertised in newspapers and periodicals to contact others.

In the study, which lasted from 1982 to 1986, he got responses from residents of 25 countries.

"Their reactions, too, were about as consistent as the descriptions of UFO's," said Fawcett, who is affiliated with state and national UFO study groups.

They fell into 31 categories ranging from abject fear to total calm, he said. In between, he found people who claimed personality changes, emotional shock and other things.

Fawcett compiled some of those reactions in a booklet, "Human Reactions to UFOs Worldwide," which has just been published by Arcuturus Books Inc. The \$7.90 booklet may be ordered from Arcuturus at P.O. Box 831383, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083-0023.

CR: G. Fawcett



Lillian Hays and her son John, right, tell the story of their encounter with an unidentified flying object to Phyllis Ward, second from left, of the Fox television show "Sightings." Also involved are Joyce Goldstein, left, segment producer for "Sightings" and Stan Gordon, center, of Greensburg, who is the director of the state association for the Study of the Unexplained. (Gazette photo by Peel)

It's true! Alien abductions recalled

By Christy True
STAFF WRITER

You feel as if earth is not your real home. You saw bright lights just before you lost several hours of time for no apparent reason. You find unexplainable marks on your body. You suddenly hear voices and have visions.

You are not going crazy. You are just one of hundreds of people who have been abducted by aliens, says Federal Way resident Aileen Garoutte. Garoutte, a middle-age Boe-

Sunday Spotlight

ing worker by day, is the woman behind the UFO Contact Center International. The center is really a small office situated in her modest but tidy trailer home in the Camelot Square trailer park.

It was 1978, a year during which a large number of abductions were reported, when Garoutte founded the center to help people **examine traumatic** experiences and assimilate them into their daily lives.

"For people to find acceptance and understanding without ridicule, that's important," she said.

Garoutte, who witnessed a UFO **when she was 17 but doesn't remember much about it**, corresponds with people from all over the world who say they have encountered extraterrestrials. Many travel to Federal Way just to meet her.

A LICENSED hypnotherapist with sparkly dark eyes and a lilting, otherworldly voice, she encourages "abductees" or "contactees" to talk about it.

Once a month, the public is invited to meetings in the trailer park clubhouse where people share new-found discoveries of galactic neighbors. A recent meeting was attended by 70 people.

Her goal is not to document these encounters — she keeps no records — but simply to help those who claim these experiences to remember and understand.

She has hypnotized a "couple hundred" people who are usually then able to recall in more detail their UFO experiences, although in her case such attempts have been unsuccessful. Then she organizes support groups for those who have been "awakened."

"The ones I've worked with had a lot of fear, but once they knew, they integrated it into their consciousness. It made their life better, they lost their fear," she said.

According to her, abductions are not uncommon, even though most people don't know they've been abducted until **after they go through** hypnotherapy.

At least one UFO expert does not believe Garoutte's work is



John Froschauer/staff

Aileen Garoutte, the woman behind the UFO Contact Center, holds drawings of one type of alien described by people who say they have been on extraterrestrial spacecraft.

valid, although he believes it possible there have been alien abductions.

The UFO Reporting and Information Service in Seattle deals only in "verified" sightings and works on uncovering government documents that contain valuable information on UFOs, said Dale Goudie, information director.

"ABDUCTIONS cannot be proven," Goudie said. "We should be reporting on what we do know."

The U.S. government has 8,000 UFO documents it has classified top secret because they are perceived as a threat to national security, he said.

Even if Garoutte is just

another nut who has read too many supermarket tabloids, many respectable people believe her claims and seek her out. She lists several psychologists with doctorates as honorary board members.

More than 80 percent of Americans have said in surveys they believe in the existence of UFOs, although not necessarily in alien beings, Goudie said.

An average of six verified reports a day are made from all over North America at another National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said volunteer Robert Gribble. Those are reports that cannot be attributed to airplanes, weather or other natural phenomena.

eral witnesses.

He said the Lukens sighting, however, has not been reported to any formal organization to his knowledge.

Carey learned of the sighting from a MUFON member who read an article in the Daily Local News.

He said he's pursuing the story because it is one of the most interesting he's recently

heard.

"The fact that there were multiple witnesses and substantial specific descriptions of the vehicle is interesting," he said.

Carey also recently investigated a reported sighting of strange marks in a field near Limerick.

"It was a beax," Carey said.

ly an experience she had when she was 11 years old and living in a remote cabin in Oklahoma.

She saw a lighted UFO, which looked much like the craft in the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," drifting over her house and then landing in some nearby woods. The memory ended there and for years she had wondered what it meant.

Her husband Gene had heard about Garoutte and suggested she go see her, which she did about a month ago.

Under hypnosis, she recalled three short alien beings with large heads guiding her onto the craft she had seen. They communicated with her by telepathy.

ONCE ON the craft, she met another being who looked human and could speak to her in English. He told her they were concerned about her welfare, not to be afraid and they would never be far away. She was not experimented on and she was left unharmed.

"Now I know beyond a shadow of a doubt, they exist," Crawford said, after her hypnosis. She recently shared her experience at one of Garoutte's meetings in Camelot.

Crawford has told only a few people about her recollection. She's willing to go public with it because she believes many people who are considered a part of "mainstream America" are having similar experiences.

"I might have expected a bunch of nuts. I didn't find that. This is not a cult of wide-eyed people. I would have run the other way if I had found that," she said.

Trudy, who runs a business with her husband selling remote control airplanes, said she has seen many UFOs in her life, most recently last fall in Puyallup.

A red, white and blue lighted craft came close enough to her house that she could see glowing human-looking creatures in the windows waving at her, she said.

After the sighting she started having flashbacks about having been on board the craft many times. She needed someone to talk to who would understand and a friend suggested she see Garoutte. Now she attends the support group meetings.

"I feel quite a bit better. It's important to be able to get together with other people who've had experiences. People need to know they are not going crazy," she said. "Who do you tell it to? Will they believe you?"

What Crawford and Trudy describe are consistent with alien experiences others have recalled under hypnosis, Garoutte said.

Contacts with aliens are almost always pleasant, Garoutte said, and people who experience it are never the same afterwards.

"People who experience this are born to help us," she said. "Most people feel they have a job to do."

Lukens UFO report gets group's attention

By BARBARA MASTRIANIA
Staff Writer

Tom Carey, an investigator for Mutual Unidentified Foreign Objects Network, a worldwide organization that responds to local reports of UFOs, is investigating the report of a UFO landing at Lukens Steel in Coatesville.

Carey of Huntington Valley,

said MUFON was organized to pick up where the U.S. Air Force left off when it stopped investigating sightings.

He does investigations of UFO sightings in the five-county Philadelphia region that includes Chester County.

He said MUFON is interested in the June 10 Lukens sighting because there are allegedly sev-

"It a bad attempt at doing a pictogram with barrels. It happens every year."

As for the Lukens sighting, he said, "This has all the elements of something with potential."

Anyone who might have information regarding the reported sightings at Lukens can call Carey at (215)947-6387.

MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA

The elusive



Through history, people have seen odd things in the skies and reported encounters with weird creatures. But in the last century, many such apparitions have been associated with science and technology. The curiosity about unidentified flying objects even applies at NASA, where \$100 million will be spent this year to seek out space aliens. Here's a look at a century of these oddities.

1940s: Sightings

World War II: Some pilots report seeing glowing spheres at their planes' wingtips. The pilots name them "Foo Fighters," for a cartoon-character cat, Foo, who ran so fast that his legs became wheels.

June 25, 1947: Kenneth Arnold, at Yakima, Wash., airport, tells of nine disc-shaped objects which undulate like a "saucer skipping over water." A newspaper reporter coins the phrase "flying saucer."

Jan. 22, 1948: Report of object shaped like ice cream cone over Godman Air Force Base, Ky. Four National Guard F-51 fighters scramble. Flight leader, Capt. Thomas Mantell, follows object, crashes and is killed.

Mid-1948: Pilot Clarence Chile and co-pilot John Whitted while flying an Eastern Airlines DC-3 between Montgomery and Mobile, Ala., report a 100-foot torpedo-shaped craft with 50-foot flame from rear, streaking past at 700 mph.

1950s: More sightings

July 14, 1952: Captain William B. Nash and co-pilot William Fortenberry, while flying a Pan Am airliner east of Newport News, Va., report six bright objects of great speed, red-orange color. The 15-foot-thick coinlike crafts flipped and flew off in unison, they said.

June 26, 1959: New Guinea. The Rev. William Booth Gill, Anglican priest, reports an object above Venus — a four-legged disc with four humanlike figures on top. Gill says he waved and the creatures waved back.

1960s: Abduction, plasma

Sept. 19, 1961: Betty and Barney Hill are driving in New Hampshire. They see red, amber, green and blue flashing lights, and a row of windows with faces. The Hills drive away with no immediate memory of the sighting. But later, they dream of alien abduction and a medical exam aboard the ship. Psychiatrist hypnotizes them separately, and Betty draws a "star map," which shows the location of star Zeta Reticuli.

April 24, 1964: In Socorro, N.M., Deputy Marshal Lonnie Zamora reports an object with orange and blue flames. Its red insignia was a medieval Arabic sign for Venus. Zamora saw two white-clad beings, charred brush, four ground indentations.

Were Hills entranced? Philip J. Klass, UFO debunker, theorized the Hills were mesmerized by plasma from a nearby power line.

Lost-time theories: Tectonic strain theory (electricity from rocks) advocates believe lost-time experiences can be induced in the amygdala of the brain.

Birth-trauma theory: The brain could compensate for lost time with memories from birth.

The fetal body images would range from embryo to aliens with big heads. The theory of Otto Rank, a contemporary of Freud, was applied to UFOs by Alvin Lawson in 1981.



1890-1940

Long before the acronym "UFO," new technology sets the stage for imagination.

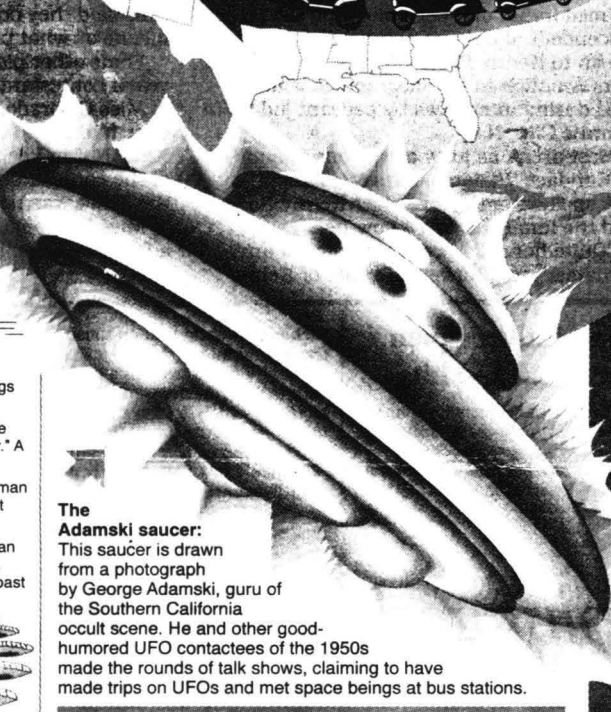
1890s: Inventor Nikola Tesla glows in the dark with millions of volts to show safety of alternating current, but the new science of mysterious electrical waves attracts occultists, con artists. 1940s schemers will use Tesla's name to promote a flying saucer deal.

1899: In Colorado Springs his equipment detects a "message from Mars." Power blackout: Tesla's tower is powered by town's generator and he shorts it out while sending up a 135-foot bolt of lightning.

Nov. 1896-May 1897: In 19 Western and Midwestern states, thousands of people report seeing dirigible-type cylindrical airships and unearthly lights. One sighting, in April 1897, was in Elkhart, Ind.

1905: Tesla's second mari-made-lightning tower at Wardenclyffe, Long Island, N.Y. Effects of the experiments fit later UFO sightings. Tesla's predictions of TV, robots, radar and lasers stimulate imaginings of then-alien technology. In jest or awe, some called him a Venusian.

1938: In New York, Orson Welles' radio dramatization of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* is broadcast. Panicked by warnings of imminent space alien invasion, thousands of people flee the area in their automobiles. Meanwhile, in New Jersey, citizens fire shotguns at a water tower, mistaking it for a Martian spacecraft.



The Adamski saucer: This saucer is drawn from a photograph by George Adamski, guru of the Southern California occult scene. He and other good-humored UFO contactees of the 1950s made the rounds of talk shows, claiming to have made trips on UFOs and met space beings at bus stations.

1970s: Plasma, gravity

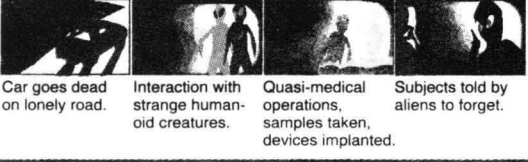
Oct. 18, 1973: South of Mansfield, Ohio, the crew of an Army Reserve helicopter reports a 60-foot gray metallic "fat cigar," red light in front, green in back. They say it pulled the copter upward.

Oct. 11, 1973: Charlie Hickson and Calvin Parker in Pascagoula, Miss., see blue light, hear buzzing sound. Oblong object hovers. Three silver-skinned creatures with big eyes and pointed ears carry the two men into ship. Witnesses at a distance see mysterious lights.

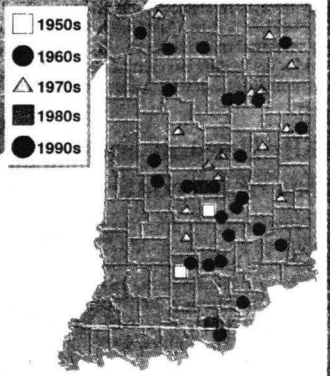
Jan. 28, 1975: In Hinwil, Switzerland, Eduard Meir takes photos, recordings of silver disc-shaped "beamships." Oddities: counterclockwise swirls in grass, time travel, crystals. Meir says he talked to a female space being who called herself Semjase of the Pleiadeans.

1980s: Abductions studied

1980s: Artist Budd Hopkins, in his book, *Missing Time*, finds a trend among many reports of UFO abductions. Contactees are hypnotized, and most of their accounts are similar:



Car goes dead on lonely road. Interaction with strange humanoid creatures. Quasi-medical operations, samples taken, devices implanted. Subjects told by aliens to forget.



Sightings in Indiana

The map above shows the locations of reported sightings since 1950. Below are highlights of the strangest reports.

1950s

July 1954: Four UFOs sighted in Franklin. Air Force sends two jets from Ohio to investigate.

Aug. 1955: Dents left in ground in Bedford. Some residents suspect UFO.

1960s

March 1966: UFO reported over Glendale Shopping Center, Indianapolis. The same month, flying-object reports come in from Valparaiso, Plymouth and Knox. Residents report seeing several small objects in a circle around a central object, colored red, white and green.

Sept. 1966: Reports from Indianapolis, Anderson, Charlestown, Shelbyville, Greensburg, Franklin, Portland and Columbus. Sky-watchers say they saw basketball-shaped objects, 150-foot discs and a blue-white haze.

1970s

Jan. 1973: Orange, glowing "hourglass" spotted in the sky over Michigan City.

Oct. 1973: Sightings in Noblesville, Carmel, Martinsville, Connersville, Huntington, Andrews, Bloomington, Muncie, Redkey, Fort Wayne, Kendallville. All reports are similar: a wishbone-shaped object and sonic booms.

March 1977: One observer in Indianapolis takes a photograph of a silver disc with a clear plastic dome.

March 1978: In Indianapolis, truck drivers on I-70 East report a bright blue light and electrical disturbances that slow or stop motor vehicles.

1980s

March 1987: Reports of blinking lights in Corydon. Objects glow orange and hover, disappear and reappear randomly.

1990s

Dec. 1990: Unusual bright lights reported in Hamilton, Marion, Hendricks, Putnam, Montgomery and White counties.

Science vs. science fiction

Earth-bound physicists have developed theories of matter and energy that might help explain bizarre lights in the sky such as those reported in many UFO sightings. Several unusual man-made devices have caused light effects that fit the description. But the same physical theories that could explain away sightings might also explain the propulsion of alien spacecraft across vast distances.

What is plasma, and how does it explain light effects?

Conventional electricity: Electrons are used as pump to transport energy from conventional fuels.

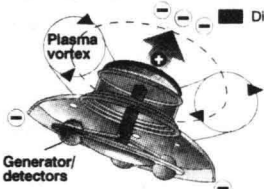
Ion-acoustic current: Positive charges, heavier than electrons, utilize random energy in plasmas.

Plasma is an ionized gas that can be affected by magnetism. It has nearly equal numbers of electrons and positive ions. A common example is the gas in fluorescent light tubes, which is ionized when an electric current is passed through it. The resulting ultraviolet rays strike a phosphor coating on the tube, creating white light. The energy in ion-acoustic current is believed by physicists to be from random sources not yet harnessed by humankind. When positive charges begin hitting each other, surrounding electrons go wild. The results include light effects of different colors and shapes, such as "ball lightning."

Fluorescent tube: Common example of plasma producing light

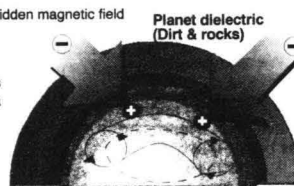
(continued on page 9)

Could plasma and magnetism power Adamski-type craft?



Adamski UFO: Negative charge pulsed through craft could propel positive charge toward negative space ahead.

The biggest, fastest conventional rockets on Earth couldn't reach the closest star in tens of thousands of years. So, assuming there isn't intelligent alien life in our own solar system, how would UFOs get here from so far away? Some scientists speculate that plasma and electromagnetism could play roles in a form of hyper-drive, pushing spacecraft like the one Adamski reported at speeds fast enough to span the stars. In effect, this type of propulsion would simply be the opposite of planetary magnetic fields, like Earth's. Entering into the speculation is a "hidden" magnetic field containing the positive charge that draws negative charges. In planets, the field is beneath the surface; in the Adamski model, the field is generated ahead of the spacecraft.

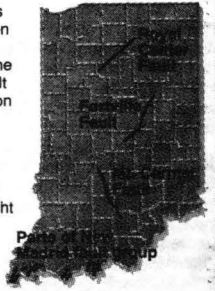


Planet: Magnetic "thrust" naturally occurs toward the positive charge beneath the surface.

Sources: News reports; *Tapping the Zero-point Energy* by M.B. King; *UFOs Exist!* by Paris Flammonde; *UFOs* by Michael Arvey; *UFOs in the 1980s* by Jerome Clark; *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* by Jacques Vallee; *The American Cyclopaedia, 1857-1883* by George Ripley and Charles A. Dana; *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* by Edward Condon; *The UFO Experience* by J. Allen Hynek; *Inside the Space Ships* by George Adamski; *Angel and Aliens* by Keith Thompson; *Lightning in his Hand* by Inez Hunt; U.S. Geological Survey.

Are faults at fault?

Some scientists see a correlation between UFO sightings and the locations of fault lines. The friction of the Earth's tectonic plates might produce plasma energy and, theoretically, unusual light patterns. Here are significant fault lines in Indiana:



What else could they be?

Here are some of the official explanations for these observed phenomena: Weather balloons, hoaxes, planets, optical illusions, meteor showers, NASA tests and migrating geese. For some reports, no explanation was offered.

STAR STAFF GRAPHIC / JOHN BIGELOW

SUN-STAR, Merced, CA - Aug. 20, 1992



Mark Davis, left, and Bill Emerick recall early morning events that occurred at the Flying M Ranch.

Extraterrestrials?

Fire officials dismiss sightings, but Bill and Mark think they're real

By REBECCA TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Fires that charred several acres of ranchland near Planada earlier in the month were deliberately set, and Bill Emerick has a possible suspect — a UFO.

Fire prevention officials dismiss the notion of an extraterrestrial arsonist, suggesting instead that unusual sightings above the burned-over fields may be nothing more than highway lights previously

obscured by foliage.

Emerick, a ranch hand at the Flying M Ranch near La Paloma Road, was helping his buddy fix the clutch on his truck at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday when something caught their attention.

"None of us could figure out what it was," said Emerick, 34. "It was like nothing any of us had ever seen before."

"It wasn't a plane. It wasn't a helicopter. The speed that it was going — it was like a plane of that size couldn't have stayed in

the air that long."

What Emerick and pal Mark Davis, 29, claim to have seen was one brilliantly lit spacecraft sporting some 15 to 20 blue and white lights hovering 300 to 400 feet above the 22,000-acre ranch.

When asked whether it could be a UFO, Emerick replied, "That's the only thing that it could be."

Three other objects looking more or less like spotlights were also hovering above, he said.

"They'd be flying along maybe 20 feet above the ground and then the light would be gone, then it'd reappear again."

Emerick and Davis also witnessed a great ball of light shining toward the back of the ranch. But when they ventured out in their truck to see where the light was coming from, they say it disappeared.

"What's strange about it is this thing was sitting back there, right where that fire was set," Emerick said.

rick said.

"Where all the pasture was burned off, that's where these things were popping out from."

Nearly 5,000 acres were blackened on the ranch earlier this month, in a blaze firefighters say was deliberately set.

"This is just a theory, but it's kind of like — if they did cause it — maybe they're looking for something and maybe they burned the pasture off so they could find it," Emerick suggested.

"It was almost like these things were out there

searching for something."

Lynn Wychunas, fire prevention technician for the Merced County Fire Department, offered an alternative explanation.

"After the fire, with the growth removed, you are able to see perhaps something in the distance you weren't able to see with the growth," she said.

"More than likely it could have been a farmhouse they couldn't see before, and now they can see the lights, or maybe they're lights from Highway 140 or from some other little roads."

DISPATCH, Blairsville, PA - Sept. 3, 1992 CR: S. Gordon

Sunday Sighting Was No UFO, But Bigfoot Lives On Chestnut Ridge

By JEFF HIMLER

It was apparently an IFO, not a UFO, which had many awe-struck residents in Indiana County and other parts of the state calling police and Stan Gordon Sunday night.

Gordon, director of the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, said "lots and lots of calls" kept him awake from about 8:30 p.m., when a flying fluorescent craft was spotted in Lawrence County.

By late Monday morning, he was still fielding inquiries from reporters.

Although the verdict is still out on some sightings, Gordon said, "This has turned out to be an IFO (identified flying object)."

What most people saw, he believes, was a blimp operated by the Glidden Paint Co.

During the range of time when the sightings occurred, it was reportedly traveling through the area at 40 mph.

It was headed from a golf tournament in Akron, where it

provided overhead camera shots, to its base in New Jersey.

Specially designed for nighttime advertising, the blimp is illuminated from inside by powerful halogen light bulbs.

"That would have given it a fluorescent effect," Gordon said. "Things that look very common in the daytime can look very unusual at night."

"At night, you couldn't see the markings on it."

Gordon was further convinced after comparing a video of the blimp's maiden night voyage with footage on TV newscasts.

But, he said, "There's still a possibility something else was seen."

As of Tuesday morning, Gordon still had more video to view, and sightings were starting to fill his mailbox.

Gordon noted that some reports he received didn't match the blimp's traditional elongated shape or steady movement.

"Some said it was wobbling up and down or zig-zagging."

"This has turned out to be an IFO."

--Stan Gordon

Reports also were made of "unusual flashes of light" near Pittsburgh at about midnight. By then the blimp would have been far east.

Meanwhile, Gordon is still looking into the story of some Westmoreland County motorists who claim to have seen a UFO Aug. 14 while driving along Rt. 22 in Indiana County.

They apparently saw the object when they came within

view of the Homer City power plant.

Gordon does not reveal witnesses' names, but said their tale was convincing. "These people were really shook up."

They spotted "a large triangular shape about 150 feet off the ground."

It reportedly flew directly over their vehicle, letting them glimpse "structural beams and white lights glowing."

Gordon logged an almost identical report from the same vicinity in August 1991.

Several sources in the area claimed to have seen military jets flying overhead after last month's incident.

UFO sightings have been linked with the Homer City plant since it was constructed.

But he could not recall any recent reports from the Conemaugh power plant.

According to some nearby residents, a new smokestack scrubber unit there resembles a UFO once the sun goes down.

Gordon noted triangular objects are becoming more common at night; mass sightings

of one were reported within 40 miles of Williamsport, Pa., on Feb. 5.

Elusive earthbound creatures are also targets for Gordon's investigations.

Sightings of the legendary Bigfoot around Chestnut Ridge have been reported every year since 1972. This year was no exception.

Gordon said the mysterious being, which/who is usually covered with dark brown hair and may flash reddish eyes, has put in appearances in Indiana, Westmoreland and Somerset counties in the last few months.

In Indiana County, it was accompanied by a strong odor.

No matter what reaction it may cause in the humans it encounters, Bigfoot seems to have the same effect on pets everywhere.

Initially "animals go crazy," Gordon notes. But as it gets in close, "Even the most vicious dog won't bark and won't move."

Great Depression

Experts Are Perplexed By Circles That Crop Up In Madison County

By Charles Bosworth Jr.
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Large doughnut-shaped depressions have appeared two years straight in a field of tall grass near Troy, Ill., and scientists can't figure out what in the world — or outside of it — caused them.

"It makes no difference to me whether these circles are natural or made by some secret, government, high-tech devices, or by what we all know as UFOs," says Peter Bostrom, who owns land near the rings and has brought scientists in to investigate. "I'd just like to know why this phenomenon happens in a small marsh in Madison County, Ill., two years in a row. I'd just like to know what's making these circles."

Bostrom has documented the appearances of 40-foot and 35-foot circles pressed into the same locations in the fields two years in a row. With the help of experts, Bostrom has collected evidence that would seem to link the depressions with "crop circles" that have been the subject of study, speculation and publicity in England.

"Everyone I've talked to has been unable to find any evidence that these circles are a natural occurrence," Bostrom said. "Everyone says there has been some kind of energy applied here that has pushed these plants down in such a uniform way, all radiating out from the center. They are not just lying down and dying."

Bostrom, 44, owns the Lithic Casting Lab in Troy. He makes reproductions of archaeological artifacts for museums, universities and other sources and is known internationally for his work. He said he has brought the same scientific approach to his study of the circles, which are in marshes next to the farmland he owns south of Troy.

Bostrom said he has become particularly interested in the crop circles in England. He has heard of similar circles appearing in eastern Illinois and southwestern Missouri but has seen no documentation on them.

Spokesmen for the agriculture departments in Illinois and Missouri say they have no reports of crop circles in either state.

The circles near Troy were shown to Bostrom in June 1991 by the farmers. Bostrom said he documented what he found and began talking to experts about it. The circles reappeared last June in exactly the same spots, he said. Smaller and less defined circles, 9 feet and 24 feet in diameter, also showed up nearby, he said.

The larger circles are 192 feet apart, both in 6-foot stands of a plant called sweet flag. Only that plant seems to be affected; stands of cattails and sedge at the perimeter of the circles were not pushed over. In fact, the sweet flag was pushed down around the bottoms of the other plants in a way that gave the edge of the circle a scalloped effect.

In the middle of the circles — like the hole in a doughnut — stands of the sweet flag were unaffected and stood tall; one still held a bird's nest.

The grass had been pushed down toward the edges of the circles in a uniform pattern, almost like the effect created by floodwater. But Bostrom and others said water or wind could not have created that effect in perfect circles that pushed over a specific plant.

Bostrom said the grass in the circles was a rich, dark green at first, then slowly turned brown. It returned to green before the second occurrence, he said, and is beginning to turn brown again.

A biophysicist and a chemist consulted by Bostrom said there have been structural and chemical changes in the sweet flag. They could not find any natural forces that would have caused the changes.

W.C. Levengood of Grass Lake, Mich., a biophysicist who runs a private consulting laboratory, said in an interview that he found structural changes in microscopic pits in the cell walls of the plants Bostrom collected.

The cells expanded by as much as 50 percent, with the percentages varying in different parts of the circles.

Levengood said the edges of the leaves also were wrinkled oddly, a bit like the way a length of crepe paper wrinkles when stretched on one side.

He called those changes remarkable, and said the only way he could reproduce them was to apply a rapid burst of heat in a microwave oven.

"These are definite changes in the plants' anatomy," Levengood said in a telephone interview. "There is no way a hoaxer can do it; they wouldn't even know about these changes in the microscopic cells of the plant."

He said the changes in the plants from Troy were consistent with changes researchers have found in the plants in the circles in England.

"This is a representation of a force that has been applied," he said. "The fields register this force. The idea is to figure out what the force is and what it does."

He said his conclusions do not mandate some intelligence behind the application of the force — like an alien space ship. He said there could be unknown, natural forces responsible.

Nighttime streak mystifies

A bright yellow light with an orange streak flashed through the Pacific Northwest sky Tuesday, Aug. 18, spurring reports from Portland, Ore. to Vancouver, British Columbia.

"It was tremendous," said Kala Point resident Jim deTarr, who caught a two-second glimpse of the light about 9:07 p.m. He said the light, which he thought was a meteor falling to earth, crossed from the northeast to northwest.

"I've seen shooting stars before," deTarr said. "This was truly spectacular. Its core was bright yellow and the outside was orange with a long streak."

Numerous calls about the streak were received by the National Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reporting Center in Seattle, according to a program spokesman. The UFO Center reports the light was ascending so it could not have been a meteor or

space hardware descending into the earth's atmosphere.

"The object was seen ascending into the sky, and it was seen a very short duration of time," the spokesman said Aug. 20. "We know there were no aircraft reported in the vicinity. We record the object as an unexplained sighting."

His "wild speculation" is that it is related to changes in electromagnetic forces found in the ionosphere, the highest level of the atmosphere around the Earth.

"I also want to say that I don't belong to any damned group of UFO believers or circle followers," Levengood said. "I went into this with no preconceived notions. I went into it simply to find out if there was anything different about the plants inside the circles from the plants outside the circle."

Sherry Yarkosky, a chemist trained in plant physiology who works for Alvey Laboratories in Belleville, said she ran mineral tests on plants sent by

Bostrom. The affected plants showed sodium levels twice as high as unaffected plants, and there was a 5 percent decrease in nitrogen content.

She called the changes "very peculiar from a physiological standpoint." She said she never had seen chemical changes of that sort. "There's no natural phenomenon I've ever seen that

would lay down the plants that way, in a perfect circle," she said.

She also rejected suggestions that the effect could be caused by underground water tables or other geological changes.

"I don't even think this is man-made," she said. "I see something we cannot explain."

SUN-TIMES, Chicago, IL - Sept. 24, 1992

MYSTERIOUS CIRCLES: A Downstate

Troy researcher who studies mysterious circles in farm fields says four circles this summer in a field near Troy were not caused by humans, animals or the wind. George Wingfield does not know the cause, but says he's sure the circles were not caused by aliens from outer space.

CR: R. Boomer

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - Sept. 16, 1992 CR: R. Nelke



Peter Bostrom standing Tuesday in a field near Troy, Ill., where two doughnut-shaped depressions, 35 and 40 feet across, have appeared.

Karen Elshout/Post-Dispatch

Fieldwork: Experts Divided On Circles

By Charles Bosworth Jr.
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Experts who have studied mysterious circles and odd designs in fields around the world said Tuesday that the large doughnut-shaped depressions in a marsh near Troy, Ill., bear similarities.

But they disagree strongly on whether there is some strange phenomenon at work or just pranksters.

An investigative writer who has studied paranormal matters, Joe Nickell of Lexington, Ky., said Tuesday that he has concluded that the hundreds of circles reported in England, Canada, Japan, Australia, the United States and other countries are man-made.

"Crop-circle phenomenon, as we know it, is a hoax phenomenon — pure and simple," he said.

Not so, says Linda Moulton Howe of Huntingdon Valley, Pa., an independent producer and writer who made a television documentary for the Fox Network called "UFO Report: Sightings," and wrote a book called "An Alien Harvest."

Howe said that she was in England studying the circles until Aug. 5. She believes

that the charges that they all are hoaxes have been discredited completely. She said the worst hoax was the claim by two landscapers that they had made all the circles for 13 years as a prank.

The Post-Dispatch reported Tuesday that a businessman near Troy has investigated two circular depressions 35 and 40 feet across that he said appeared the past two years in a marsh near his property south of Troy.

The businessman — Peter Bostrom, owner of the Lithic Casting Lab — took pictures of the circles and had the plants in them studied by experts. Scientists said there was no apparent explanation for the significant structural and chemical changes they found.

A biophysicist said he could re-create the effect only with a rapid application of heat.

Bostrom said he is convinced the circles are not a hoax.

No natural forces such as wind or water could have swept over the tall plants — called sweet flag — so uniformly, while leaving adjacent stands of cattails and sedge untouched, he insisted.

Nickell, whose books include an inquiry about the controversial Shroud of Turin and who teaches technical writing at the University of Kentucky, said people have re-created the circles that others claim were made by some powerful force such as an alien space ship.

Those who believed in the circles held a contest in England in July, Nickell said, and watched as hoaxers faithfully re-created dozens of patterns.

He said the description of the circles at Troy offered some unusual characteristics. But he said he would classify them as hoaxes unless another explanation could be found.

Howe, on the other hand, said scientific studies have proved that the circles were caused "by some kind of heat energy rapidly applied to these plants from outside." She has talked to Bostrom about the circles near Troy, and she said they are similar to what she saw in England.

"I say you can't exclude the probability of a very advanced intelligence here," she said. "None of us can prove that yet. But these circles are not explicable as human hoaxes. This is a serious global mystery."

UFO Watcher: Local Sightings 'Unexplained'

By L. LEE JANSSEN
Sun-Gazette Staff

A "wave" of flying objects that attracted the attention of area residents last Feb. 5 did not involve commercial or military aircraft and remains inexplicable, according to an investigator from the Mutual UFO Network.

In a report on "The Williamsport Wave," Dr. Samuel D. Greco, a Mount Carmel-based MUFON investigator, concluded the slow-moving, low-flying object or objects that rattled houses from Cogan Station to Selinsgrove "must remain unexplained."

Greco based his report on interviews with 13 witnesses from a four-county area. His is an international scientific group devoted to researching the unidentified flying object phenomenon.

"The witnesses... were working-class people: managers, fac-

Flying objects or fleeting fancy? The MUFON UFO Journal, the official publication of the Mutual UFO Network, recently published Dr. Samuel D. Greco's cover story on "The Williamsport Wave," a series of unidentified sightings in local skies last February. Greco supplied the Sun-Gazette with a copy of his final report, which is the basis for this story.

tory workers, mechanics, nursing assistant, home health service worker, hospital unit desk clerk, college student, housewives and retirees," he wrote in his report, a copy of which he sent to the Sun-Gazette.

"They were of good character, honest, religious, sincere in what they said, not given to exaggeration and they were able to describe what was seen clearly

and factually," he wrote.

Other witnesses saw the object or heard the noise it made, Greco said, noting those witnesses called local authorities.

A majority of the skywatchers reported a boomerang-shaped object that appeared to be 100 to 150 feet in length. They described the sound produced by the object as a "loud rumbling noise," Greco reported.

The object's speed was de-

scribed as "very slow," about that of a "fast walking pace," and was low to the ground, flying at about 50 to 100 feet overhead, he wrote.

The majority of the sightings lasted from three to five minutes, a time that is considered to be "long" for a UFO sighting, he wrote. But that longer time also allowed witnesses to view the object more thoroughly and be more positive in their statements about it.

Most witnesses reported the object "faded away" over the Bald Eagle Mountain, and about one third of them reported it hovered for up to five minutes in some areas.

The times and locations of the sightings suggest more than one object was in the sky at any one time, Greco noted.

"At four different locations,

objects flying less than 500 feet in altitude were observed at approximately the same time," he stated. "These observations were miles apart and could not be seen by the witnesses at each site. Visual contact could not be made because of small mountains between them."

"In trying to comprehend a meaningful solution to what was observed in the evening sky, a good analysis will deduce also what the object is not," Greco wrote.

He determined the object was not a commercial or military aircraft.

The shapes reported by the witnesses have been seen many times in the U.S. and other countries of the world, he reported.

Witnesses of four sightings reported that the UFO "abruptly disappeared" from sight in less than a second and was not seen thereafter, Greco noted.

"There are no known aircraft in the world which can abruptly disappear as reported by the witnesses," he wrote.

As for explanations outside of aircraft, Greco was not able to come up with any.

"The object appeared to be under intelligent control because it flew in a straight line, it made turns, it hovered for various lengths of time, it abruptly disappeared from visual contact, it flew at a dedicated altitude and it flew at an unusual slow speed," he wrote.

"No rational or reasonable explanation has been advanced for any man-made object or astronomical object, event or condition," he wrote.

"Perhaps with additional data from future sightings, it may be possible to draw a definitive conclusion for some form of flying object. Until that time, what the witnesses have seen must remain unexplained."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 4, 1992

Will History Repeat Itself?

By Bland Pugh

Last August 15, '91 was the beginning of a quiet time for the Gulf Breeze Research Team, for 18 days the skies over the Breeze and Pensacola Beach were missing its now famous visitor. On September 1, '91, however, a sighting of great significance occurred over Pensacola Bay. The "Ring" or the "port holes" appeared for the first time. This phenomenon continued to appear for almost three months, and as the year progressed, on occasion. We are again in somewhat of a dry spell. The UFO we are used to seems to have gone on a sabbatical for awhile, but reports continue to come in from individuals that report sightings in other locations. Will something as spectacular or even more awesome replace the silence for The Gulf Breeze Research Team?

South Shoreline Park has not been completely abandoned by the UFO, on August 23, the UFO made an appearance for about six witnesses, it appeared to the east between Shoreline Park and the Bob Sikes Bridge, it appeared low in the sky, the witnesses stated the object moved up and just hovered in one spot for quite sometime before fading out some three minutes later. Witnesses observing the UFO through binoculars stated that the object appeared to be amber in color, and the size of a street light, these witnesses also stated that there was a red light in the center of the object and on the bottom, it also appeared to be spinning. Other witnesses stated that what they observed, through binoculars as well, appeared to be triangular, another said it was almost "U" shaped. These skywatchers are veteran observers and continued to search the skies for the telltail strobing and blinking marker lights of aircraft, but found none.

The strobing light, if you remember, was reported at Shoreline Park about two weeks ago, this phenomenon was reported again to this writer by a couple...they were on the Three Mile Bridge at the time of the sighting driving towards Gulf Breeze

and looked towards the right portion of the land when they saw a brilliant white elliptical light flash on, it moved at a very rapid rate towards the Southwest, stopped, disappeared, then reappeared and again dashed off towards the Southwest, the action was repeated a third time before disappearing altogether. The witnesses said the light left a very faint trail of light as it moved, the whole thing reminded the gentleman of a Morse code signal. _ _ _ _ or dot dash, dot dash, dot dash.

Another sighting was reported by the wife of Joe Barron, MUFON Director of Investigations for the State of FL, as follows.

UFO OR UO sighted near Villa Venice.

At about 2:30 a.m. on August 30, Doreen Barron who lives in Villa Venice got up to get a drink of water.

While she was looking through her kitchen window, which faces west in the direction of Hwy. 98, she noticed a very bright green light hovering about 10 or 12 degrees on the horizon at about 90 degrees. She said it was very big, and if she extended a pencil, held at arm's length, the eraser on the pencil would have been the same size. When asked about distance, she estimated that the light was somewhere between Highway 98 and East Bay. However, she cautioned, that's only a rough estimate. The light was very bright green, at one time it appeared "fuzzy" and also appeared to move to one side. She was not too sure about the movement, as she said that it might have been her eyes playing tricks on her. The entire time that the light appeared is estimated at ten to fifteen minutes.

That seems to be the extent of the

sightings for now. The skywatchers are continuing and GBRT sets up somewhere in the area, between the Three Mile Bridge, and Pensacola Beach, we have plans to be even more strategically located, and will be on several watch sights each night. If you would like to go on one of our skywatches call our hotline 438-3261, and someone will return your call with the information. Also remember if you have a sighting please call our hotline, strict confidentiality is observed.

One last bit of information, coming soon will be some very exciting speakers at the monthly MUFON meeting, beginning in November our meetings will be on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Keep your eyes to The Islander for more important news...and keep looking up, and behind you.

MESSENGER, Cairo, GA - Sept. 9, 1992 CR: M. Meadows

More Local Sightings Of UFOs Reported

Komarek Sending Information To MUFON

Two unidentified flying objects (UFOs) were sighted on successive nights at virtually the same location last week, by two members of the same family, Ed Komarek, Jr., State Section Director for Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), reported this week, adding that he had made contact with the sighters to obtain information to file with MUFON.

Earl J. Wall, Rt. 1, Whigham, who lives about three miles north of Whigham, made the first sighting on Wednesday night, Sept. 2nd. He commented when contacted by a Messenger reporter, this week, "I was in the Air Force for four years and during that time I became familiar with all types of aircraft but I never saw anything like that before."

Mr. Wall described what he saw as an object about as long as his house with a tail but no wings and a light on the tail. When first noticed it appeared to be a star but began moving closer from the

north at a fairly slow speed until it passed over his house at an estimated height of 300 feet, giving him an excellent view of its outline.

The object continued moving southward until some distance away from the Wall residence before turning eastward.

"It made very little noise and was wierd," Wall said, adding that he took cover under a pine tree as it passed over him. He didn't intend to say anything about it because he knew others would not believe him, but decided to report it after his son, Jimmy's experience the following night.

He had called his son from the house to observe the UFO but by the time Jimmy reached the yard, the object was indistinguishable.

But Jimmy Wall had his own report to make after his experience with an unidentified flying object just 24 hours later, last Thursday night, September 3rd.

According to Komarek's report, Jimmy Wall first sighted the UFO about 9:45 p.m. when a light began rising from behind some trees to the north of the Wall residence. The object moved

slowly in a southeast direction and, when on the east side of the house executed a circular turn, ending up about 100 yards in front of Wall before continuing southeast across a cornfield and then disappearing from sight.

The UFO was "moving at a walking pace, stayed just above treetop height and was in view for about 6 minutes," Komarek said in his report.

"The object was well defined by brownish-white lights around its circumference of about 15 feet, it was about 10 feet thick, and had a much brighter white light on top," Komarek reported after contacting Wall on Friday, Sept. 4th.

On his visit to the Wall residence, Komarek and Jimmy Wall checked a power line easement clearing beyond the woods over which Wall first noticed the light, but could find no evidence of a landing.

"I was pretty scared, but I calmed down in time to run in the house and get a camera to take a picture," Wall said, Tuesday afternoon, while discussing his UFO experience. Komarek had reported earlier that Wall had given him the film to be developed.

Wall also explained that the circular track the flying object made while nearest him was to avoid some pine trees before it set course across the nearby cornfield. "The lights got brighter and brighter as it circled," he said.

He added that, about 45 minutes prior to observing the UFO rise from behind the trees to the north of the Wall residence, he noticed some low-to-the-ground flashes of light in that area but thought nothing about them other than they indicated a rain might be on the way.

"I've heard about UFOs being seen and haven't believed much of it in the past, but I do now," Walls said.

Komarek indicated, Tuesday, that he was made aware of last week's UFO sightings in a round-about way, the Walls being a little bit reticent about discussing what they saw with acquaintances because they didn't think anyone would believe them.

Instead, they called a relative in another state who then notified an acquaintance who was involved in MUFON reporting. That MUFON member then contacted Komarek who got in touch with Jimmy Wall last Friday to get his report so it could be added to MUFON's records.

"I hope that anyone sighting an unidentified flying object in this area in the future will contact me immediately at 377-7088," Komarek said, while discussing the most recent double sighting.

Fascinating UFO Study to Stretch the Imagination

BOOKS

Patricia Holt

Angels and Aliens: UFOs and the Mythic Imagination

By Keith Thompson
Addison-Wesley, 283 pages, \$19.95

If you've been marveling at the swimmers at the Olympics who undulate so beautifully underwa-

ter that they seem amphibious, "Angels and Aliens" is for you.

The book is not about Olympic swimmers, though an amazing link is suggested by Aptos writer Keith Thompson between athletes who push the seeming limits of human capacity and people who believe they have seen Unidentified Flying Objects.

To understand that link, it doesn't matter whether you be-

lieve in UFOs, though I guarantee that "Angels and Aliens," no matter what your beliefs, is the most fascinating book ever written on the subject.

'Saucerology'

Thompson believes that the way human beings think about alien beings visiting Earth is just as remarkable as the phenomenon of UFOs itself. It seems that the ritualistic nature of sightings, encoun-

ters and abductions in UFO literature (he calls it "saucerology") first attracted Thompson's attention.

"Whenever there is a sighting, all the books and TV reports say the same thing," Thompson commented in a recent interview. "An extraordinary 'something' is seen in the sky. The witnesses come forth to testify. Then the debunkers appear to say you couldn't have seen that. Enter the proponents,

who bring on researchers to say yes, this fits the patterns we've been observing. The debunkers argue and point to their researchers. Everyone has a role."

Thompson says he is neither a proponent or debunker of the UFO phenomenon, but he's clearly its most avid student. In the book, the odd-numbered chapters follow the history of UFOs from the first saucer sighting in 1947 by a Boise, Idaho pilot, to saucer landings, the appearance of dwarflike aliens, the emergence of the "alien abduction motif" in 1957, famous "strange encounters" with bystanders such as Barney and Betty Hill in 1961 and telepathic kidnappings in which photos were allegedly taken by victims such as Florida developer Ed Walters in 1987-8.

'Epic Drama'

Over and over, the dynamics between believers and nonbelievers, the role of secondary players (scientists, the military, the media), and the tension between the fantastic and the mundane becomes increasingly dramatic. "I began to think of this as epic drama," says Thompson. "It's as if the whole thing were happening on stage. Not only is the original event — the UFO — a display with its vast volume of light and energy, so is the lining up on both sides of those who say 'it's real!' and those who say, 'it's not real!'"

The meaning of this "lining up" is the focus of Thompson's even-numbered chapters, in which his explorations range from the psychological significance of UFOs (Carl Jung, he says, believed UFOs signalled "the end of an era" in the collective unconscious), to the religious (in one Tibetan religion "the ecstatic transcendence of gravity" defies scientific explanation) and mythological: The Greek god Hermes, he says, perfectly expresses our ambivalence about the real vs. unreal, mind over matter, fantastic vs. mundane, evidence vs. belief.

Thompson takes that ambivalence to a higher plane. He shows how UFOs can happen, and he shows how UFOs can be an invention of the mind. He sees aliens coming to planet Earth, and he sees human beings trying to "elevate" themselves into the universe to meet them.

'Bobber' Legend

At this point he offers the parable of the fish. "One day a fish spots the bobber of a fishing line and tells his friends about it. They scoff at first, but then another fish sees a bobber, and soon the legend of the bobber grows. Then another fish gets hooked and is hauled up out of its atmosphere into alien hands that prod, poke and eventually throw him back. When he tells the other fish about his 'abduction,' some become proponents and some debunkers.

"What's happening here is the meeting of two worlds. The bobber is like the saucer — it becomes legendary because of its promise that transition is possible. It shows us that developing lungs to live on land and in water, that pulling out latent gifts inside us to make mind and matter the same thing could be part of our evolution."

That's where the Olympics come in. When Thompson watches magnificent athletes breaking records by a fraction of a second every four years, he sees all of humanity edging closer to the "metanormal," that state where mind and matter meet, where the "superhuman" is possible. Believe it or not, every time we wonder about a UFO, the same challenge presents itself. If you don't believe it, read the magnificent "Angels and Aliens" and see.



Keith Thompson: The history of UFO sightings is 'epic drama'

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - Aug. 3, 1992

RIVERFRONT TIMES, St. Louis, MO - Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 1992

OUT OF THE CIRCULAR FILE

While lecturer George Wingfield fielded questions last Thursday night at the University of Missouri here, Pete Bostrum of Troy, Ill., reconnoitered from the back row of J.C. Penney Auditorium.

"There is no answer to it," observed Bostrum, in response to the evening's program. Wingfield, an English astronomer and former computer analyst, had just concluded a lengthy slide presentation entitled *The Crop Circle Enigma*.

The mysterious phenomenon captivates both men.

Bostrum's interest grew after four circular formations developed twice in the last two years amid the same stand of sweet flag, an aquatic plant that thrives in a marshy area near his rural Illinois property. Wingfield, who now devotes his time to lecturing and researching crop circles, toured the site last week as a guest of the Southern Illinois Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON).

"I wasn't even in the crop-circle business in 1986," Wingfield told the audience. That's the year that he and his family first visited one of the circular depressions that dot the English rural landscape each summer. The geometric patterns have been inexplicably forming in English grain fields since the late 1970s, leading some to believe they have extraterrestrial origins. At the time of his first encounter with the phenomenon, Wingfield told his wife he would doubtlessly be able to explain the circles within a day. Like Bostrum, however, the scientist hasn't come up with any answers yet. Wingfield has, however, carved a career out of the unknown.

Outside the auditorium, his spouse hawked crop-circle postcards, videotapes, magazines and books. Inside the lecture hall, droning new-age music lulled the audience before the engagement. Then, as the crop-circle expert took the stage, the house lights went down and, from within the eerie cast of the podium light, Wingfield began to speak in his proper British accent. The weirdness he described over the next two hours — with the aid of dozens of color slide projections — provoked a few giggles and caused one extremely obese man to begin snoring.

There was, nevertheless, one intriguing cosmic coincidence to Wingfield's appearance and the announcement of the touted Troy circles. Although the Illinois circles appeared again this June — as they purportedly had last year — word of them wasn't published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* until Sept. 15 and 16, the week before the English crop-circle expert's lecture here.

In a Sept. 23 story about Wingfield's tour of the Troy site, the *Belleville News-Democrat* reported that MUFON "decided to keep quiet about the discovery because it wanted to do additional research and maintain a cooperative arrangement with the farmer, free of interference from curious trespassers." The same story indicated Bostrum was a member of MUFON.

In a telephone interview last Friday, Bostrum said the *News-Democrat* account was filled with errors. One of the alleged mistakes was the date of the circle's first appearance. The *Belleville* paper indicated June 16, whereas Bostrum told the *RFT* the circles were discovered on June 6.

The 10-day difference would seem of little significance, if not for an article published in the June 1991 *MUFON Journal*. The cover story of that edition details a mystical view of crop circles based heavily on a lecture delivered by Wingfield last year in San Francisco. The account refers to several children in the Yugoslavian town of Medjugorje who had received divine messages coinciding with visions of the Virgin Mary.

One of the Medjugorje prophecies indicated the Virgin Mary would leave a permanent

mark on the Earth on June 6, 1991.

Last Thursday night, using a pool cue to point out details in his color-slide presentation, Wingfield mentioned other apocalyptic signs that can be discerned from aerial views of the English crop circles. Among the most prevalent, according to the cerealologist, are replications of the Celtic cross, an ancient Christian symbol.

Because English crop circles often correspond with the observance of anomalous nocturnal lights, the phenomenon has also attracted the attention of UFO enthusiasts. This is also true in Troy, Ill., where Bostrum claims a few of his neighbors witnessed unexplainable luminous objects in the night sky around the time the circles first appeared in 1991.

There is another apparent similarity between the Troy circles and many of those found in England. British formations frequently appear in proximity to archaeological sites like Stonehenge. The Troy circles are within 15 miles of Cahokia Mounds, the oldest American prehistoric Indian site north of Mexico. Whereas the rough Troy circle formed in marshy conditions amid a 5-foot-tall stand of sweet flag, the more precise English patterns usually form in wheat, barley and rye fields before harvesting. The crop circles form almost exclusively at night.

Proliferation of increasingly complex symbols has led to speculation that the entire phenomenon is a hoax. Last year, two elderly English landscape painters, David Chorley and Doug Bower, claimed to have trampled hundreds of patterns in 13 years by using two wooden boards, a piece of string and wire gun sights attached to baseball caps.

Admitting some crop circles are frauds, Wingfield insists most are not. The intricately weaved swirls of bent but unbroken wheat, typical inside English crop circles, are impossible to duplicate by hoaxers, he says. Wingfield alleges the hoaxes themselves are a part of a covert disinformation campaign sponsored by several national governments and the Vatican to cover up what is really transpiring.

Although the papal-conspiracy theory can't be verified, there is some mathematical and scientific evidence to substantiate Wingfield's assertion that the circles are not all simple hoaxes.

Astronomer Gerald S. Hawkins, for instance, studied the dimensions of 18 English grain formations and found 11 examples where their ratios precisely equaled those that define the eight tones of the diatonic scale — the white key on a piano. From his research, Hawkins also deduced five new geometric theorems not found in standard Euclidean geometry or anywhere else.

Although most orthodox scientists consider the field verboten, there are a few in England, Japan and the United States currently researching possible natural causes for the phenomenon.

One scientist both Bostrum and Wingfield have relied on is Michigan biophysicist W.C. Levengood. He is a respected specialist in seed and plant development. After separate tests, of both Troy, Ill., sweet flag and grain from English crop circles, Levengood came to this conclusion: The cells of the affected plants had expanded by as much as 50 percent because of a very brief exposure to heat — 300 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit for a millisecond, according to Bostrum.

"What we're to make of it," says Wingfield, "I still don't know. There's a very real phenomenon going on — we still don't know what it is."

There is one certainty in Bostrum's view, however. "Just tell them it's not the wind."

— C.D. Stelzer

CR: R. Ne1ke

Military shouldn't censor UFO quest

JOURNAL, Alexandria, VA - Oct. 6, 1992 CR: L. Bryant

Editor, *The Journal*:

Can the several hundred U.S. government-owned news-and-information media called military commercial-enterprise newspapers engage with impunity in the arbitrary rejection/censorship of letters to the editor submitted by readers on matters of public interest?

That's the crux of a problem now coming to a head with my recent submission of letters to four such newspapers in the region.

Each letter deals with an aspect of what appears to be a taboo subject for the pages of these newspapers: the role of U.S. military personnel in collecting, analyzing and disseminating hard-core evidence of encounters with alien aircraft.

For example, the letter to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center's *Stripe* newspaper seeks whistleblower testimony on medical data derived from the celebrated case of an alien craft that crash-landed near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

In her rejection of the 100-word letter, the *Stripe* editor gave such specious reasons as (1) too small a newspaper to run it and (2) too remote a topic for reader interest. My letter of appeal to the WRAMC commander has yet to elicit a response.

Meantime, none of the other newspapers has seen fit to run the letter sent to it.

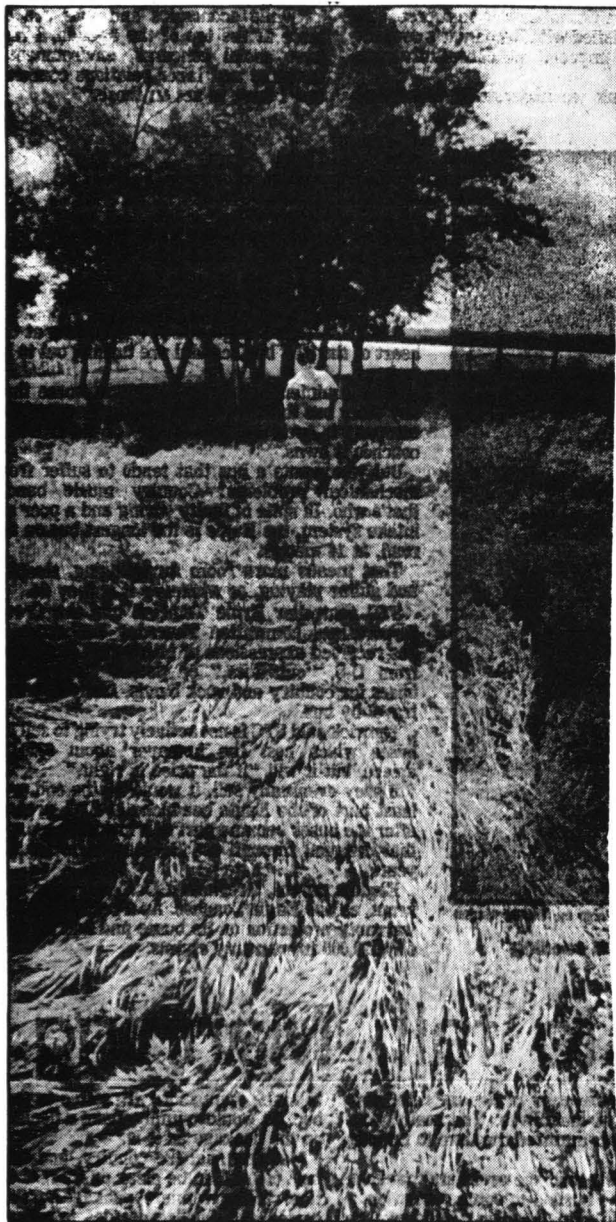
The next logical step: to mount a legal challenge to such official censorship. Accordingly, any reader who desires to contribute funds or otherwise give support to the challenge is urged to contact me at the Military Newspaper Litigation Project, 3518 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22302.

LARRY W. BRYANT
Alexandria



FOREIGN NEWS

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Aug. 7, 1992



—SP Photo by Richard Marjan

Flattened field has Phyllis Collins puzzled

Circle in alfalfa field difficult to explain

Phyllis Collins was reluctant to use the acronym UFO.

But clearly an unidentified flying object came to mind when she looked over the unexplained circle in her alfalfa field just south of Saskatoon Thursday.

University researchers were withholding comment until they got a look at it.

It could be related to the storm that blew through the area Wednesday night.

Then again, it might not.

"I haven't got a clue..." said Collins as she looked over the three-metre wide circle of flattened alfalfa.

"Do you think it was a UFO?" she was asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "What do you think it is?"

Herman Austenson, a U of S crop sciences professor, was asked the same question.

He wanted to look at it.

Austenson has checked out dozen of circles and still hasn't reached a conclusion other than most of them could never have been caused by "dust devils" as some have suggested.

Dust devils, spinning winds, are incapable of doing some of these things, said Austenson.

There were no reports of spinning winds Wednesday night when a storm blew through Saskatoon.

And Austenson chuckled when asked if it could have been left by a UFO.

"Some people say they are work of UFOs... I don't have an explanation."

He gave no indication of dismissing the idea of UFOs. Among the circles he has looked at were those in previous years in the Prince Albert area.

"I'd like to see one being formed... it's very strange."

Vic Gossen, weather service specialist, said while there were reports of strong winds, there were no funnel clouds or tornados in the Saskatoon area.

Collins said the circle wasn't in the field Wednesday.

"The crop is about 15 inches (37 centimetres) high and it's flattened in the circle which is about 15 feet (five metres) across," said Phyllis.

Recent reports say there were 87 sets of circles, rings and other shapes discovered, flattened or dug into fields across North America last year.

A Winnipeg researcher is now calling them UGMs — unidentified ground markings.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, Sydney, Australia — July 26, 1992



UFO spotters Andrew Cocks, Warren Swanston and Eamon Perry... saw a 'green disk-like object'

UFO clinches prime view

A BRISBANE couple's passionate mid-night rendezvous on a beach was interrupted — by a UFO.

The couple's clench was cut short when a bright saucer-shaped object hovered overhead before disappearing in a flash.

"The UFO caught them in a very embarrassing situation," said Dr Martin Gottschall, of UFO Research Queensland.

The North Stradbroke

By IAN CAMPBELL

Island incident is among a spate of UFO sightings being investigated by Dr Gottschall and his team.

"In a recent fortnight we had more reported UFO sightings in the Brisbane area than we would normally get in a year," he said.

In another incident, three teenagers camping out for the night in Samford Valley suddenly

found the sky lit up by a bright, green light.

One of the youngsters, Andrew Cocks, 13, said: "We looked up and saw a green disk-like object above us. It was quite frightening and we didn't dare move — it just hovered over us."

Andrew, of Samford, and his two friends, Eamon Perry and Warren Swanston, watched spellbound as the 30-40cm object hovered for

about half a minute, then disappeared.

Dr Gottschall, who has prepared a detailed report into some of the sightings, believes the UFOs were occupied by aliens.

He believes they could have been conducting a scan of "human mental, emotional or physical conditions".

But his view was labelled ridiculous by John Ross, senior lecturer in physics at the University of Queensland.

"I am an astronomer and we tend to look at the sky a lot. Believers in flying saucers tend to avoid us because no astronomer I know of has ever seen a flying saucer," Dr Ross said.

"Sure, there are plenty of unidentified flying objects, but I'm sure that all of them could be explained. The most irrational explanation is to say they are flying saucers driven along by aliens."

Bizarre circle in field continues to perplex

It's just strange.

That's how Herman Austenson, a University of Saskatchewan crop sciences professor, described the circle in an alfalfa field just south of Saskatoon.

Phyllis Collins found the three-metre wide circle of flattened alfalfa on Thursday.

"It's not like your typical cereal field circle. It's not as clear cut," said Austenson.

It's roughly the same size and it's the same simple single circle as has been found in other Saskatchewan fields.

Austenson, who has checked out dozens of circles, has no theories "that hold water" on how the circles were formed.

One possible explanation is a local tornado just dropped out of the sky at that spot and went back up. It's not the usual evidence of a tornado, but they do strange things, he said.

The Saskatoon weather office didn't receive any reports of funnel clouds or tornadoes in the area Wednesday night. There were reports of strong winds.

"It's all a mystery until somebody sees something, has a good photo or witnesses a UFO or pranksters or something else causing them," said Austenson.

—WOODHOUSE

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada — Aug. 10, 1992

CHAD, Mansfield, England — Aug. 19, 1992 CR: T. Good

Langwith UFO could have been experimental airship

Theories about the origins of the Langwith UFO as experts to eye-witnesses give their reason of what could have flown over Devonshire Drive one starry night.

Since the four Langwith friends spotted the large black UFO, they have been interviewed by chairman of the Mansfield UFO Group Mark Trueman.

Mr Trueman plans to make a full report of the sighting and add it to other sightings from the Shirebrook "hotspot" area.

Meanwhile, Blidworth designer of experimental aircraft Frank Sharman thinks the UFO may have been a gyrostat — a high speed pressure airship — being tried late at night by another amateur designer.

Mr Sharman says he has witnessed a couple of UFO sightings, but is convinced that almost all such strange craft have more



Flashback to last week's Chad.

earthly origins.

"This does not mean I believe we are the only race of beings in the vastness of space capable of aerial or space travel," he said.

Scientific discovery

"Only that our efforts on earth are very much over-rated as points of interest to people who must have better things to do with their space time than buzz over our heads!"

Another UFO expert is treating the incident as a serious scientific

discovery.

Mark Haywood, of the Scientific UFO Research Association, declines to reveal what the object could have been, but is storing the information on a computer programme for future analysis.

Mr Haywood is currently preoccupied with investigating crop circles at Shirebrook, Pleasley and Mansfield Woodhouse.

He is asking for people who have seen balls of light or heard strange noises or felt earth tremors to contact him on Mansfield 632622.

Planning UFO theme park

A "UFO theme park", complete with a UFO museum, has been selected by the Langenburg Tourism Committee as the key to its plans to bring more tourists to the town.

A representative of the committee,

Darren Schmidt, met with town council last night (Tuesday) to explain the group's plan to capitalize on the town's link with Unidentified Flying Objects.

The committee, he explained, has been looking at various tourist

themes for the past three years but had eventually decided on the UFO concept. At a recent meeting with representatives of several other community organizations it received "overwhelming endorsement," he said.

There is no such thing as a UFO museum in Canada, he said. The committee believes that such an attraction could draw between 100,000 and 200,000 visitors a year.

Two rough sketches of the proposed park and the adjacent museum were shown to council. The park would be located in the area where the UGG elevators used to be located, just north of the railway tracks. It would incorporate a play area and a full-size model of a UFO. The museum would be located nearby.

It might take up to 10 years to fully develop the proposal.

Schmidt noted that the development could perhaps be done through a Community Bonds issue, or by private developers.

The property is presently owned by Marathon Realty, the real estate division of CP Rail. Council members had a lengthy discussion about whether it should make an offer to buy the property at this present time.

time.

It was noted that if the town did purchase the property it would lose some \$3,800 in property taxes that Marathon pays each year.

"The important thing," said Ald. Trent Fieseler, "is to get the property."

If the town doesn't wish to support it by helping buy the land the tourism committee might as well disband, said Ald. Fieseler.

"No one has any problem with the idea of obtaining the land," replied Mayor Dave Schappert.

"But what I do have a problem with is, what happens if we do get the land but the project doesn't proceed for 10 years? We lose the tax base from that property."

In the long run council did agree to agree to make a bid on the property. In the meantime it is hoping to hear that the provincial government in its April budget will provide additional funding for tourism projects, such as Langenburg's UFO theme park.



'Wow! Look at that!' Richard cried out to his friends

Was whirring, illuminated object a UFO?

You must be UFO-ing! An unidentified flying object spotted at Langwith and not an April Fool in sight?

Strange and mysterious it may seem to some Chad readers, but a group of Langwith friends claim they watched a UFO pass through the night sky as they camped out last Tuesday night.

Richard Goucher (15), of The Woodlands, said he cried out: "Wow! Look at that!" when he saw bright lights travelling over Devonshire Drive just before midnight.

His friends Neil Lewis (14), Tony Bown (15), and Tim Niblett (14), all looked up and watched, mesmerised by the large black object which had triangular lights around its edges and a red dome in the middle.

Neil, whose garden the lads were camping in for a shooting star watch, said his stomach filled with butterflies as the UFO

By Sarah Parrington

"hummed and whirred" its way from a westerly direction.

"I wish I'd had my telescope with me to see if there were any green men onboard but I think I'd have been scared stiff if anything came down to earth," said Neil.

Convinced

The foursome are convinced what they saw was a UFO since it was too large and multi-coloured to be a micro-lyte and flew too close to the trees to



A Chad artist's impression of what Neil and his pals saw passing overhead.

be an aeroplane.

And Mansfield UFO and crop circle enthusiast Mark Haywood says it is quite possible the boys saw a craft which is beyond the bounds of identification.

"Out of the thousands of sightings each year about 95 per cent are identifiable, but there is still a great amount left unidentified," said Mr Haywood, founder member of The

Scientific UFO Research Association. He added: "We get a lot of reports of UFO's in Mansfield — Pleasley Vale is quite a big area for sightings — although it's been reasonably quiet so far



FOTO - G884035

Langwith UFO spotters Richard Goucher and Neil Lewis, front, with Tim Niblett and Tony Brown.

this year." Neil's mum Irene believes her son's story while his dad is still trying to find a logical explanation for

the sighting.

"It makes you wonder just what it was and whether anyone was looking down watching Neil — it's

weird," Linda added.

Countless library books have failed to show the lads anything that looks remotely like what

they saw, so for the time being, at any rate, the Langwith UFO remains a mid-summer mystery.

Laser clue to the UFO riddle

A laser show due to be staged at Dudley Castle could hold the key to a UFO riddle which has baffled residents.

A spokesman from the show organisers, Laser Hire, said the lasers and lights were being tested last night when fresh sightings of flashing lights were made.

Gail Fletcher, a spokesman for Laser Hire, said lights and lasers were being tried out at around 11pm and could account for strange flashes in the sky.

But she did not think the lasers were being tried out on Sunday evening when

there were unexplained sightings.

Mr Roy Taylor, of Parkfield Road, Dudley, was parking his car at his home just before 11 o'clock last night when he saw a blinding light.

He said: "I saw the white light with a red glow behind it. At first I thought it was a helicopter but it didn't make any sound."

Meanwhile, aviation experts tried to explain away the strange flashing lights spotted on Sunday.

A spokeswoman from the RAF said the sightings were probably aircraft navigation lights. But there was no way of confirming if aircraft were in the area when

the lights were seen at around 11pm.

More calls are being added to the string of reports from Dudley residents who saw lights on Sunday.

Mr Ian Hale, a part-time fireman from Sedgley, said he saw a very bright white light 1,000ft up at around 10.30pm.

Mr Hale, of Clee View Meadow, Sedgley, said: "It was travelling at an astronomical speed towards The Wrekin."

The same white light was seen shooting northwards by Mrs Kay Savage and her husband Andrew, of Elwell Crescent, Woodseton, and Mr Don Watson, of Wells Road, Brierley Hill.

Aliens 'took me from my car'

A West Midlands businessman told a UFO conference how he was "abducted" by aliens as he drove in Oxfordshire.

Mr Graham Allen told 500 enthusiasts in Sheffield that he was moved 20 miles further along the road — past his destination.

Mr Allen, known as the "abductee", said it happened in 1979 when he took his eyes off the road to adjust his radio.

He said that when he looked up, he was 20 miles further along the road and had no knowledge of what had hap-

pened. Since then he has had flash-back recollections of the alien "abduction experience", he said at the two-day International UFO Conference at Sheffield's Central Library Theatre.

Speakers included experienced UFO researchers from the United States, Mr William L Moore and Mr John Keel.

During the conference, organised by the Independent UFO Network, Mr Moore is outlining his research into the so-called MJ12 documents.

These allegedly detail the US government's recovery of a crashed alien spacecraft and its dead occupants.

Family reports a UFO encounter

by Greg Nixon

A STOCKTON Heath family believe they have had a close encounter with an extra-terrestrial mystery when strange lights flew over their home.

Michael Platt, and his wife Norma, were alerted by their 15 year-old son, Michael Jnr. when he claimed he had seen a crucifix-shaped light passing low and silently overhead.

Mr. Platt said: "He had been opening the loft window to let air in when this thing startled him."

Lights

"We rushed upstairs and were joined by our youngest son, Robert, and watched five of these lights circling in the sky over the Daresbury area."

The family, of Roman Road — next door to Stockton Heath County Primary School — heard no sound as the lights moved in and out of the clouds before disappearing.

Mr. Platt added: "I got my binoculars and watched one as it came back towards the house — there were four white lights and a red one, shaped like a cross."

"A plane passed by and there was no mistaking the difference because we could hear it."

"None of us have ever seen anything like it before in our lives."

UFO expert Harry Harris is looking into the incident.

Mystery corn circle baffles passers-by

A MYSTERY corn circle in a Pontllyfni field is creating a major attraction for passengers on pleasure flights from Caernarfon Airport, and intriguing passers-by.

Clearly visible from the main A499 Caernarfon to Pwllheli road, the circle is baffling the experts because there are no footprints, or tracks, anywhere near them.

By Liz Carter

One local observer said: "They could only have been created from above, perhaps they really were marked by some celestial being in a flying saucer."

Farmer's wife Mrs Gwladys Roberts, on whose land they have appeared said jokingly: "I only hope we get no flying saucers bumping into any of our farm buildings."

But she and her husband, Merfyn, father-in-law Mr Dafydd Roberts and their families, remain mystified as to how they were formed.

"I first noticed them on Sunday after returning from Shrewsbury Flower Show," said Mrs Roberts of Hendy, Pontllyfni.

"I just have no idea how they got there."

"We certainly have not seen nor heard anyone mysterious about to explain how they have formed."

"Now, everyone is taking a great deal of notice."



The mystery corn circle — Picture courtesy of Caernarfon Airport

Children Listen To Crop Circles

Three children camping out in Upton Lovell may have heard a crop pattern being formed at 4 a.m. on Wednesday 5th August.

The youngsters were woken up by a strange noise which they described as being like distant keyboard music or galloping horses. They were too afraid to remain outside, and hurried indoors to tell their parents.

The next morning in a field between Codford and Upton Lovell beside the A36, a mysterious pattern had emerged.

Bob Hill of the White Horse Morris Men, who is also chairman of Upton Lovell Parish Council, described the formation as a long central avenue about 4ft long and 600 ft wide had appeared.

To the east there was a small circle about 15ft in diameter, with counter rotating swirls, then a narrow snake pattern had extensions which resemble a serpent

tongue.

A central circle about 20 ft in diameter had a narrow outer ring, then a main circle to the south had a large band like a forked tongue protruding.

There was a western circle with a rectangular block, and to the north another isolated circle 5 or 6 ft in diameter. Out and beyond the central circles, a central avenue had formed.

As yet there is no logical explanation of the patterns.

The theories range from the scientific to the imaginative — plasma vortices (electrically charged whirlwinds), UFOs, helicopters flying upside down, hedgehogs making love, fungi, communication from another planet, messages beamed down

in code, an unknown form of earth energy, all have their supporters.

Whatever the answer, the crop patterns do exist, decorating the fields. Nature's mysteries are unending.

CR: T. Good



The Roberts family; mystified by the circle

Mission to track info on 'alien' close encounter

UFO experts want to find a girl who was standing at a Livingston bus stop ... THIRTEEN YEARS AGO!

For they believe she could have important information on one of the world's most famous close encounters.

The near-impossible search has been launched after a Livingston pensioner recently claimed to have spotted a flying saucer on November 9, 1979.

On that day, forestry worker Bob Taylor told his wife that he had stumbled across a flying saucer on Dechmont Law in the new town.

Bob's story made international headlines and has become one of the world's best known UFO encounters.

Last year, the Courier ran a series of articles on the erection of a plaque at the site where Bob claimed to have met the spacecraft.

And those stories have jogged the memory of a Livingston pensioner.

UFO expert Ron Halliday said: "The lady told me last week that she was standing at a bus stop near Dechmont Law on the evening of November 9, 1979."

"She says she saw a large, round object with bright lights hovering in the sky above the Pentlands."

"A girl at the bus stop agreed with her that it was a UFO, but a man standing there said they were talking rubbish."

"The lady told me that the object then took off across Dechmont Law like lightning."

Ron, chairman of the UFO group Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said the mystery girl could corroborate the pensioner's story.

"It won't be easy finding her but it would be great if we could."

"We've had claims that there was a UFO in the Livingston before Bob Taylor says he encountered it, and now this lady says saw a strange object after his encounter."

"It looks like there was a whole day of strange activity, not just one incident."

The mystery girl should get in touch with Ron at 35 Fountain Road, Bridge of Allan.

Secret US spy plane is Kintyre's dark visitor

by Christy Campbell
Defence Correspondent

A MYSTERIOUS, fast-moving shape in the sky has been scaring sheep in the Mull of Kintyre and rattling windows in Los Angeles. From both sides of the globe have come reports of sudden "pulsating roars", and strange smoke rings in the sky.

Defence analysts are convinced they are caused by the US Air Force's top secret Project Aurora — a spy plane as big as Concorde that can fly three times as fast.

The US Air Force is using the remote RAF airbase at Machrihanish, Strathclyde, as a staging point, it was claimed last week. The mystery aircraft has been stealthily dropping in at night before streaking back to America across the North Pole at more than six times the speed of sound.

Flying on the edge of space, powered by a "pulsar" engine, the aircraft is being tested in missions that circle the globe.

Guy Norris of Flight maga-

zine, who is based in Los Angeles, said last night that Aurora was being flown from a base in the Nevada desert to an atoll in the Pacific, then on to Scotland to refuel before returning to the US at night.

Specially modified tanker aircraft flying from Britain are being used to top up Aurora's tanks with liquid methane fuel in mid-air.

The aircraft carries high-powered cameras and infrared radar which can see down through cloud cover. Its flightpath covers targets in Iraq. An F-111 fighter-bomber is scrambled as the black-painted aircraft lands, flying in close formation to confuse prying civilian radars, according to reports from US airmen.

Paul Wiggins, editor of *Scottish Airnews*, describes Machrihanish as "the remotest military airfield in Britain — with a very long runway". It is guarded by a detachment of US Seals, the equivalent of Britain's Special Boat Squadron.

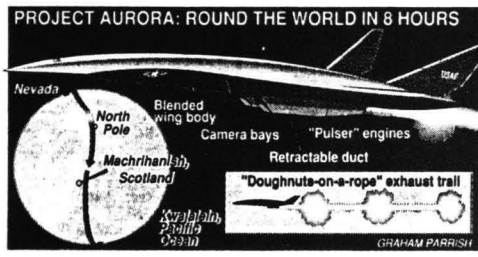
"It would be ideal for operating a secret high-performance aircraft," he says.

People living nearby reported strange ear-splitting noises and mysterious smoke rings in the sky earlier this year. As rumours grew of secret developments at the base, Archie Hamilton, the Defence Minister, told Parliament last month that the existence of, and any operations by Aurora were a "matter for the American authorities". A US air force spokesman yesterday refused to confirm or deny its existence.

But last week independent evidence came from Washington that the Pentagon is spending billions on its "black budget" on a clandestine successor to the SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, retired two years ago.

Kemper Securities, the financial analysts, said up to \$8 billion has already been spent on the project at Lockheed's "Skunk Works" in California where the F-117A stealth fighter was developed.

"Something has been booming Los Angeles regularly for the last six months," said Bill Sweetman, a US-based aerospace writer. "The frequency of the sonic booms indicates that whatever is making them is now an operational aircraft."



Mystery heart on the lawn

A STRANGE heart-shaped patch of grass on her back lawn has left Elaine Parish utterly baffled.

The legal secretary, who lives at Harracott, noticed the scorched outline had appeared in her otherwise undisturbed garden when she and her family returned from a week's holiday.

"When we first saw it, we just wondered what it could be," she says.

A month later, the mysterious shape is still showing.

"I thought it would just go," says Elaine, "but it's taking a long time for the grass to grow back there."

"Perhaps if it had been February 14, we could explain it."

Elaine's mum, Jane Moore, is very puzzled by the mark and wonders whether it might be the work of an extra-terrestrial being.

"It looks like something has come down, landed, scorched the grass and taken off again," she says.

Rhoda Turner, who was keeping an eye on the house while the family were away, says, "We would have seen it there had been anything."

And UFO enthusiast Mick Austen also thinks it is unlikely the Parish's lawn was used as a landing pad for aliens.

He says the description of the scorched heart cannot really be classed as anything similar to sightings and corn circles he has studied previously.

Now Tony sees the light!

LAST week's Advertiser report about a disc in the sky confirmed what Omskirk man Tony Daly knew - he had seen something strange.

Tony was walking along Yew Tree Road in the direction of County Road at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday, August 1st, exactly the same time that Bickerstaffe nurse Eileen Harrison was walking her dog.

He explained: "A light in the sky grabbed my attention. It appeared to be over the Scott estate and I saw it three times."

"I would definitely describe it as a disc shape, although it was not clear. The light appeared to be trying to burst out from it. Twice it meandered round and then shot off and disappeared, perhaps behind clouds. There was no beam of light leading to it and it moved too fast to be a light anyway."

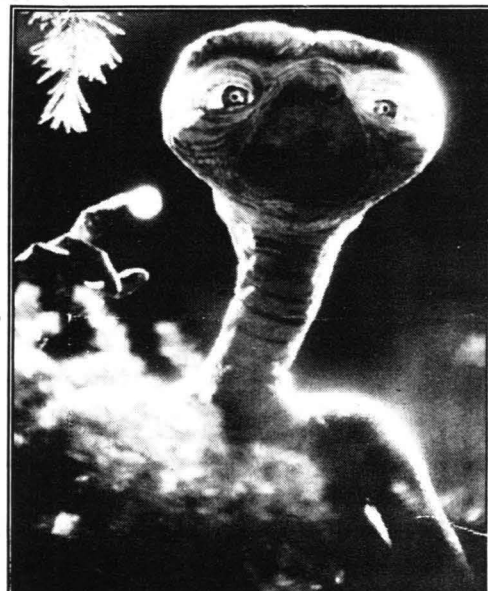
When Tony told his mates about the incident the next morning, they teased him about having too many drinks in the pub. But he had the last laugh when he showed them the Advertiser. He said: "It proved I was not the only one to see something."

Did you witness the strange disc or can you explain what it was? If you can contact the Advertiser - we want to hear from you.

Move over ET, the real alien is here...



THE REAL THING: Reconstructed image of 'an alien found near space-crash wreckage'



FANTASY: Stranded ET in the Spielberg blockbuster

EXCLUSIVE by Carl Nagaitis

THIS is the face of a "genuine" visitor from Outer Space - a scientific mock-up of an alien said to have perished with his crew on a trip to Earth 45 years ago.

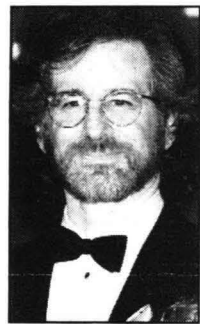
Next week UFO watchers worldwide will travel to Britain to hear US expert William L Moore's theories on the most incredible Close Encounter ever - the Roswell Incident, which helped experts to engineer this eerie likeness.

Now Hollywood golden boy Steven Spielberg plans a big-budget movie about the alien crash-landing which Moore has spent a lifetime investigating.

Spielberg, who created the blockbuster movies ET and Close Encounters of the Third Kind, is fascinated by the 1947 incident in which alien bodies were allegedly discovered after a spaceship crashed in remote ranch-land north of Roswell, New Mexico.

A Spielberg aide said: "ET was just a fairy story but this seems to have some basis in fact. It would make an incredible movie."

Moore will tell the UFO Congress in Sheffield that the incident led to a cover-up by the US Government.



PLANS: Spielberg

amid growing publicity. US authorities said the debris was from a weather balloon.

Controversy grew when researchers produced documents bearing what looked like the then president Harry Truman's signature.

"Some were proved to be forgeries but others can't be discounted," said Moore.

"We cannot prove conclusively it was a visit from alien beings. But there is growing evidence it was NOT a weather balloon."

Moore insists: "Earth is being visited by extra terrestrial intelligence. They have been coming here for a long time."

"The US Government know this but have no idea what to do about it."

FREE PRESS, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada - Sept. 29, 1992 CR: T. Stevenson

Saskatchewan crop rings baffle

By Jane Brown
Thomson News Service

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - "Tis another case of mysterious circles."

For several years now, mysterious circles have been appearing in farmers' fields in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Last week, two rings suddenly appeared on Ed Beauchesne's farm near Albertville, about 40 kilometres northeast of Prince Albert.

Chad Deetken of Pacific Research in Vancouver, who went to the

Beauchesne farm immediately after learning of the occurrence, concluded the rings are genuine. "Genuine meaning they are of unknown origin, eliminating persons, weather, animals and most of what we call natural phenomenon," he said.

"They come from an unknown source, but an intelligent source. They seem to have been created very deliberately in grain fields so someone will find them."

When Beauchesne came across a ring in his oat field Sept. 21, he was not shocked. A similar ring had been

discovered about two kilometres away on Clarence Brule's farm two years ago. Brule is the cousin of Beauchesne's wife. Beauchesne knew what he was looking at. He also knew who to call.

"I had almost swathed across the circle when I realized what it was, so I cut around it," said Beauchesne. "Then we contacted Chad in Vancouver. He said he would come down right away. Just before he got here, I came across another circle in a wheat field. This time I was able to avoid it completely (with his equipment)."

KENT MESSENGER, Maidstone, England - July 31, 1992 CR: T. Good

UFOs came twice, claim couple

SNODLAND could have had the strangest tourists of the season - aliens.

A couple from Townsend Road believe they saw flying saucers hovering over the North Downs two nights this week.

Sue Nye and her husband Geoff said they saw two spacecraft over houses towards the North Downs at about 10pm on Monday night.

Mrs Nye said: "We watched

them for a little while and they went away. A couple of hours later we saw one again. It had flashing lights and kept turning round as if it was watching something."

The next night the couple say they saw the strange shapes again; this time three.

Mrs Nye said they believed they had seen alien space ships because their shape was unlike anything they recognised.

She said: "We looked at them through binoculars and they had a circle of white lights with flashing coloured lights inside."

A spokesman for Rochester Airport said that no UFO sightings had been reported to them and that nothing had been going on at the site which could have been mistaken for a UFO.

Nick Pope, of the secretariat to the air staff at the Ministry of

Defence, said there had already been 60 reports of UFO sightings in Britain this year.

Mr Pope, who says he has an open mind about the existence of UFOs, said most sightings had an explanation. They have turned out to be lights used at pop concerts, meteorites or weather balloons.

But he added: "There will always be those reports which cannot be explained away."



Monster buffs still hot on trail of Bigfoot legend in Florida

By CORY JO LANCASTER
Orlando Sentinel

The trouble with monsters is that they just won't go away — even if they don't exist.

True believers will scoff at researchers' failure so far to find the legendary monster of Loch Ness, just as they have for years at scientists' adamant proclamations that there is no such thing as Bigfoot.

For a beast that doesn't exist, though, Bigfoot sure gets around. Thousands of people have reported seeing it, from China to Canada to Florida.

In fact, chances are that someone has reported catching a glimpse of Florida's version of Bigfoot near where you live.

The idea that a half-man, half-ape beast could exist in the 20th century became big news in 1967, when a tracker named Roger Patterson filmed a hairy, two-legged creature in the forests of Northern California.

"After reviewing all the reports throughout history, you're pretty well forced to believe in the existence of it," said John Green, a famous Bigfoot tracker and author of six books about the subject. "Otherwise, you have many hundreds of thousands of people over the years who were fabricating stories and making footprints."

Green and others say the creatures belong to a species of supposedly long-extinct apes. Florida's is just a slightly smaller version.

Hundreds of beastly encounters have been reported throughout the state during the past 20 years. And many probably never were reported, believers say, because eyewitnesses were afraid of being ridiculed.

Followed by Bigfoot?

Perhaps Wendell Littlejohn can understand the hesitation. He never reported his sighting three years ago but swears to this day that Skunk Apes do exist.

Littlejohn, now 19 and a student at Valencia Community College in Orlando, was camping with friends in the swampy farmland around Lake Washington in west Melbourne. They were walking through the woods when Littlejohn realized that they were being followed.

"We didn't know what it was," he said. "Whatever was out there was getting closer."

"We finally got back near our camp, and we heard this cow mooing, like it was being disturbed," Littlejohn said. "We went over . . . and noticed a figure moving out from us. . . . It was dark, but we could see it in the moonlight."

He said the creature stood about 5 feet tall, had long, apelike arms and lumbered slowly away. "It didn't move with grace or speed," he said. "We were really pretty scared."

Like Littlejohn, most people report seeing the creature by chance, just for a few seconds, before it flees for safety into the woods or swamps.

Maybe because of that, the sightings in Florida have produced varying, and often contradictory, descriptions. Generally, it has been described as 6 to 8 feet tall, weighing 300 to 500 pounds, with a flat nose and little hair on the face. The fur color is brown to red, with grayish hair trimming the face. A foul, rotten-egg odor always is present and usually is the first thing noticed by eyewitnesses.

Believers contend that the creature is a species of ape, called Gigantopithecus, that sought safety in North America 7 million years ago.

"There is no fossil ever found . . . that could have allowed a Bigfoot creature to be in the New World," said Sue Boinski, an anthropologist at the University of Florida.

"If such a thing existed, we would jump on it," she said. "It would be a coup. We would be writing grants. There would be hordes of graduate students out, looking for it. Nobody is ignoring this. There's no reason to."

Officials didn't ignore it in the 1970s, when reports reached panic proportions from the Everglades to the Ocala National Forest. People said they had hit the creature while driving at night on isolated roads. Others said it killed small farm animals.

Expeditions went out. Police searched the Everglades by foot and from helicopters. But everyone came back empty-handed, leading most to surmise that the reports had been fabrications.

"Certainly, there are people who make up stories," Bigfoot tracker Green said. "I'm quite satisfied that there's something here. There isn't any way to prove it unless someone brings one in."

Many in Central Florida tried between 1975 and 1980, when dozens of sightings were reported from Oviedo to Eustis to Holopaw. One man even said he shot one that attacked him one night near Apopka.

Donnie Hall was a 27-year-old night watchman at John's Nursery. On the night of Oct. 3, 1977, he called the Orange County Sheriff's Office to report that he had been attacked by a big, hairy creature.

Deputies arrived to find Hall with a torn shirt and scratches on

his back and shoulders. Several large footprints were found in the dirt.

"He had me by the shoulder, and I only came up to his waist," he told a local newspaper, describing his attacker as 10 feet tall, covered with brownish fur, with gray hair on its face.

Hall told deputies that he broke free and fired his shotgun at the creature, which he had seen at night around the nursery for a couple of weeks.

Deputies and co-workers dismissed his assertion, but Hall always believed that it was real, said John's Nursery owner Bob Scott. Hall was so shaken up that he quit the night shift. The last anyone heard, he had moved to Alabama.

In 1976 a 67-year-old Baptist minister said he saw an 8-foot-tall hairy creature while cutting firewood in the forest. The next year, a welder in Belleview said he saw one off U.S. Highway 441.

Also that year Mike Corradino, a news reporter in Sarasota County, began investigating a series of 250 reports that stretched over five years.

"Some of them were a hoax. Some of them were questionable, and some of them would scare the hell out of you," he said recently.

Again and again, Corradino and police found chickens, rabbits and raccoons with their heads ripped off, brains removed, blood drained and bodies left. Chicken-wire and chain-link fences were ripped through. The sightings clustered around the Myakka River.

"I'm not going to say, yes, it definitely exists. But I'm not going to deny it," Corradino said.

"Toward the end of the '70s, the sightings just disappeared," he said. "When (Interstate) 75 was completed and the land was cut in two, the sightings just stopped."

Reports of sightings in Central Florida also have dropped off.

"I'm sure it's being pushed out by development," Green said. "That's probably why there were so many reports in Florida back then. The populations were being pressed for territory."



BIA investigates report of Bigfoot sighting

LAPWAI — Authorities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Friday investigated yet another report of a Bigfoot sighting.

"We weren't able to confirm anything," said William Aubertin, supervisor of criminal investigations. He said two BIA officers scoured the hills west of town for about three hours but "drew a zero."

Nonetheless, Tess (Greene) Sherman said she and at least three other people saw a very large, black creature moving rapidly uphill through farm and grazing land.

"It was all black and it was huge," Sherman said. She said her family was having a dinner in town when they made the sighting. She and three other people drove in a pickup truck to get a better view.

"It stopped and looked at us," Sherman said. "We tried to cut it off, but I didn't want to go through with it. I was scared." Sherman, 29, works for the Nez Perce Tribe.

Asked if she thought it might be a hoax, Sherman said, "No way. It was going up that hill way too quickly. Any ordinary person couldn't walk up that hill that fast."

Sherman said she was skeptical after initial reports of Sasquatch sightings here some three weeks ago. "But after yesterday, I believe it. There's one out there," she said.

2 boys claim to see 'Bigfoot' beast

KLAMATH — Two boys playing deep in a forest spotted a smelly, hairy, manlike beast similar to the legendary Bigfoot, according to the father of one of the youngsters who photographed huge footprints.

The incident occurred Sept. 12 when 8-year-old Josh Owen and a 12-year-old companion saw a "big hairy man" about 100 feet away shaking a tree branch.

"The smell was like rotted chicken, it was awful," Owen told *The Tri-County* newspaper in Crescent City. "He was covered with thick, dark brown hair and he was shaking a branch in his hand. We could see his face real good."

The boys, who live in this coastal mountain community 350 miles north of San Francisco, told their father, who then went out and reportedly found and videotaped primate-like footprints that measured 16 inches long by 8 inches wide.

Associated Press

UNION-TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Sept. 30, 1992

CR: S. Atlanti

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 29, 1992 CR: G. Conway

OGOPOGO

Lake creature features in NBC plans

Canadian Press

KELOWNA

OGOPOGO, THE legendary beast of Okanagan Lake, may soon be a TV star south of the border.

Arlene Gaal, a local Ogoopogo expert, says the NBC show *Unsolved Mysteries* may use what could be the best video of the alleged lake monster on one of its fall programs.

The show is interested in an update to its 1990 program that focused on a video taken at Bear Creek Provincial Park, said Gaal. She wrote *Unsolved Mysteries* officials this week suggesting use of a video taken July 24 by Paul DeMara near a local resort.

"I've never seen that type of visual record before,"

said Gaal. "You'd almost swear there was a head and a tail, where you can actually see how the creature swims. It's got to be 30, 40 feet long or more. It's pretty good stuff."

Okanagan Lake was calm and there was no wind about 7:15 p.m. the day seven people saw something unusual.

"We were having dinner from our sundeck overlooking the lake," said DeMara, "when we saw what appeared to be an underwater object moving across the water in front of my mom's lakeshore property."

It appeared to be just below the surface, and to bob up and down as it moved from south to north fairly quickly, said DeMara.

'Bigfoot' Spotted by 8 Idahoans

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPALDING, Idaho — Eight Spalding-area residents say they saw a large hairy creature Thursday evening that could only have been a "bigfoot."

The unidentified creature was spotted descending a hillside southwest of the Nez Perce National Historical Park's visitor center at Spalding.

"I looked up and it was just too big and dark to be a man," Becky Johnson said Friday. "It was 6 or 7 o'clock. It was still daylight."

Johnson tried to photograph the creature as it walked across a plowed field almost a half mile away. But she said her camera was not equipped with a telephoto lens and the small negative recorded just a tiny black speck.

Frank Walker, the park superintendent, said a park employee also reported seeing a

large, dark creature walking down the hillside Thursday.

Tony Arthur saw the creature much closer up. He and two other family members spotted the suspected Sasquatch on the hillside from the home of Moffett and Rachel Johnson.

Several family members said the animal was walking on two legs, swinging its arms.

Arthur said he and two others drove down a nearby road to get closer. They spotted the creature crouched behind some bushes at the edge of the field.

"I'd say we were about 100 to 120 yards away. It was mostly behind the bush and it kind of crouched down," Arthur said.

He said others were watching the creature, too, including one man who had binoculars and said what he saw was a man, "but he wouldn't let us look through the binoculars."

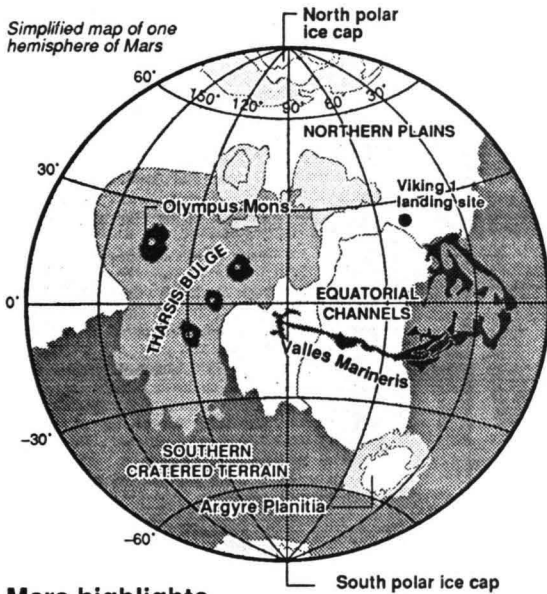
TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT
Aug. 9, 1992 CR: M. Bieseke

NASA Scorns Mars Mission Hype

THE WORLD OF MARS

Mars is an arid, cold and apparently uninhabited planet.

Simplified map of one hemisphere of Mars



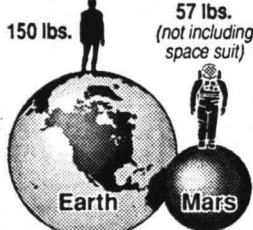
Mars highlights

■ **Atmosphere:** Mars' air pressure is equal to Earth's at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air is 95% carbon dioxide.

■ **Water:** Today there is no liquid water on Mars, although the planet shows evidence of free-flowing water having existed there in the past. The polar ice is made of frozen water and carbon dioxide. Large quantities of water may be frozen in the ground as permafrost.

■ **Volcanoes:** The biggest is Olympus Mons, 88,000 feet above the mean surface level and more than 300 miles across at the base.

■ **Canyons:** Valles Marineris is a 2,800-mile-long canyon, as much as 3 miles deep and 150 miles wide.



Lightweight world
Mars' gravity is only 38% as strong as Earth's, so travelers there would feel only 38% of their normal weight.

■ **Channels:** Valleys and channels on Mars show evidence of having been carved by running water.

SOURCE: Mars Beckons, John Noble Willford, Cambridge Encyclopedia of Astronomy

By Billy Cox
Gannett News Service

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.— Last month, as researchers prepared the Mars Observer for its voyage to Earth's sister planet, project manager David Evans made a revealing appraisal of the mission's unconventional mission to rephotograph landforms evoking images of a civilization in the Martian desert of Cydonia.

Standing before the three-ton craft, which blasted into space Friday, Evans said NASA did indeed intend to acquire new, high-resolution photos to replace the 16-year-old pictures of monoliths that resemble pyramids and the face of an Egyptian sphinx.

But rephotographing the landforms is "not the mission," Evans said. "The mission is a scientific mission."

Evans' use of the word "scientific" and the distinction drawn between what is and what isn't science underscores what has become a source of irritation among Mars Observer mission planners:

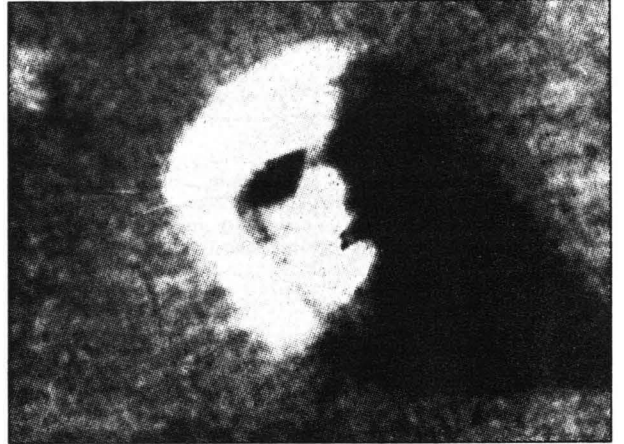
NASA is charged with reinvestigating some odd-shaped landforms that its geological teams dismissed as a "trick of light and shadow" after a Viking orbiter photographed them in 1976.

The scientist who designed the \$21 million camera and who will be responsible for deciding which photos to release to the public has been involved with one of the most hotly debated UFO controversies.

In 1987, author Gary Kinder chronicled the strange case of a one-armed Swiss farmer named Eduard "Billy" Meier in a book, *Light Years*. For years, Meier, an amateur photographer, kept returning from solitary hikes into the Alps with hundreds of photos of apparent flying saucers.

Michael Malin was one of several quoted experts who studied the pictures. Unable to detect signatures of a hoax, Malin proclaimed them credible.

Now working on the Mars Observer contract under the corporate name of Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego, the 42-year-old former Arizona State



Mars' mile-long formation shaped like a human face has puzzled scientists for years. It was photographed by NASA in 1976.

University professor will command three cameras.

Once inserted into Martian orbit in August, Malin's primary assignment is to begin a global photographic mapping mission for 687 days, or the equivalent of a Martian year. The high-resolution camera will be able to resolve surface features as small as three feet across, 40 times better than the quality of the Viking photos.

The tenor of debate over the Cydonia images has escalated since Viking first beamed back two photos of a mile-long, 1,500-foot-high mesa that looked like a face staring upward.

In 1980, Goddard Space Flight Center engineers Vincent DiPietro and Greg Molenaar published the results of an independent photo analysis of the Cydonia region. By stretching the contrast, they not only concluded that the shaded region of the face was symmetrical to the sun-lit portion, they also discovered a five-sided pyramid with apparently buttressed foundations.

But by 1987, science writer Richard Hoagland went way beyond the case for mere artificiality. In "The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever,"

the former CBS aerospace consultant argued that the alignments of assorted other pyramids and structures were as mathematically sophisticated as the tombs of Giza.

In 1989, after meeting with Hoagland and studying NASA data, Rep. Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, secured verbal assurances that the Mars Observer would in fact rephotograph Cydonia. Observed Roe, "It looked like [the objects] had to be fashioned by some intelligent beings."

But in a four-page statement titled "Information on NASA Rephotographing the Cydonia Region of Mars," NASA details the obstacles confronting the Observer's ability to acquire specific pictures, as well as the adjustment limitations on the fixed-position camera.

The paper also reiterates that planetary scientists have determined Cydonia is studded merely with natural rock formations.

"This conclusion," it states, "is supported by the fact that the face disappears in images of the same place taken at different lighting angles."

TRIBUNE, Lewiston, ID - Aug. 8, 1992 CR: M. Hall

BIGFOOT ON OUR DOORSTEP?

Eight claim they spotted bigfoot in Spalding area

■ Descriptions match Northwest's mythic creature, yet photo, footprint inconclusive

By Bill Loftus
of the Tribune

SPALDING — Eight area residents say they saw a large hairy creature Thursday evening that fit just one description: bigfoot.

The creature was spotted descending a hillside southwest of the Nez Perce National Historical Park's visitor center at Spalding.

"I looked up and it was just too big and dark to be a man," said Becky Johnson.

"It was 6 or 7 o'clock. It was still daylight. There was still a lot of daylight left," she added.

Johnson also tried to take a photograph of the creature as it walked across the plowed field nearly a half mile away.

Her camera, however, was not equipped with a telephoto lens and the small negative recorded just a tiny black speck.

Frank Walker, the park su-

perintendent, said a park employee had also reported seeing a large, dark creature walking down the hillside that evening.

Tony Arthur saw the creature much closer up. He and two other family members spotted the creature on the hillside from the home of Moffett and Rachel Johnson.

When the animal crossed the ridgeline heading away from the park and toward Lapwai, it came into view from the Johnson place.

Several family members said the animal was clearly walking on two legs, swinging its arms as it walked.

Arthur said he and two others drove down a nearby gravel road to get closer to the creature.

They spotted it crouched behind some bushes at the edge of the field, about a quarter mile from U.S. High-

way 95. "I'd say we were about 100 to 120 yards away. It was mostly behind the bush and it kind of crouched down," Arthur said.

Arthur said others were watching the creature, too, including one man who had binoculars. "He said it was a man but he wouldn't let us look through the binoculars," he added.

He's convinced it was no man, Arthur said. "I'd say it had to be at least seven feet tall," he added.

The animal was covered with long and shaggy dark hair, Arthur said. It couldn't have been a bear, because a bear couldn't have walked upright for such a long distance, those who saw the animal said.

Arthur's uncle who accompanied him and who declined to give his name for a newspaper story said the animal was clearly not a bear. It had no distinct neck and was heavily built.

The sighting follows another

made late last week at the Mud Springs encampment by tribal members, said Gary Johnson.

Johnson visited the field Friday morning looking for tracks and found some he believed belonged to the animal.

He revisited the field with a Tribune reporter. The tracks appeared indistinct, however, and

appeared no longer than a size 12 shoe.

Past reports of bigfoot tracks generally have indicated they often stretched 14 inches or more.

Grover Krantz, a Washington State University anthropologist and avid investigator of Sasquatch claims, visited the area late Friday afternoon.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Aug. 23, 1992

Marine scientists find evidence of sea creature

Reuter

VANCOUVER, British Columbia

— For centuries, Indians on Canada's west coast have reported sightings of a sea serpent similar to the Loch Ness monster speeding through Pacific Ocean waters.

Now, two British Columbia scientists have pieced together what they believe is compelling evidence of the existence of the fabled, long-necked creature known as Cadborosaurus.

They say that, in the past 60 years, at least six specimens of such a creature have been discovered, including a live baby and a dead young one found undigested in the stomach of a whale.

Marine biologist Ed Bousfield says he and colleague Paul LeBlond, a University of British Columbia oceanographer, will present findings in December to the American Society of Zoologists.

The researchers say in their paper that "evidence strongly supports the recognition of this animal as a distinct vertebrate species."

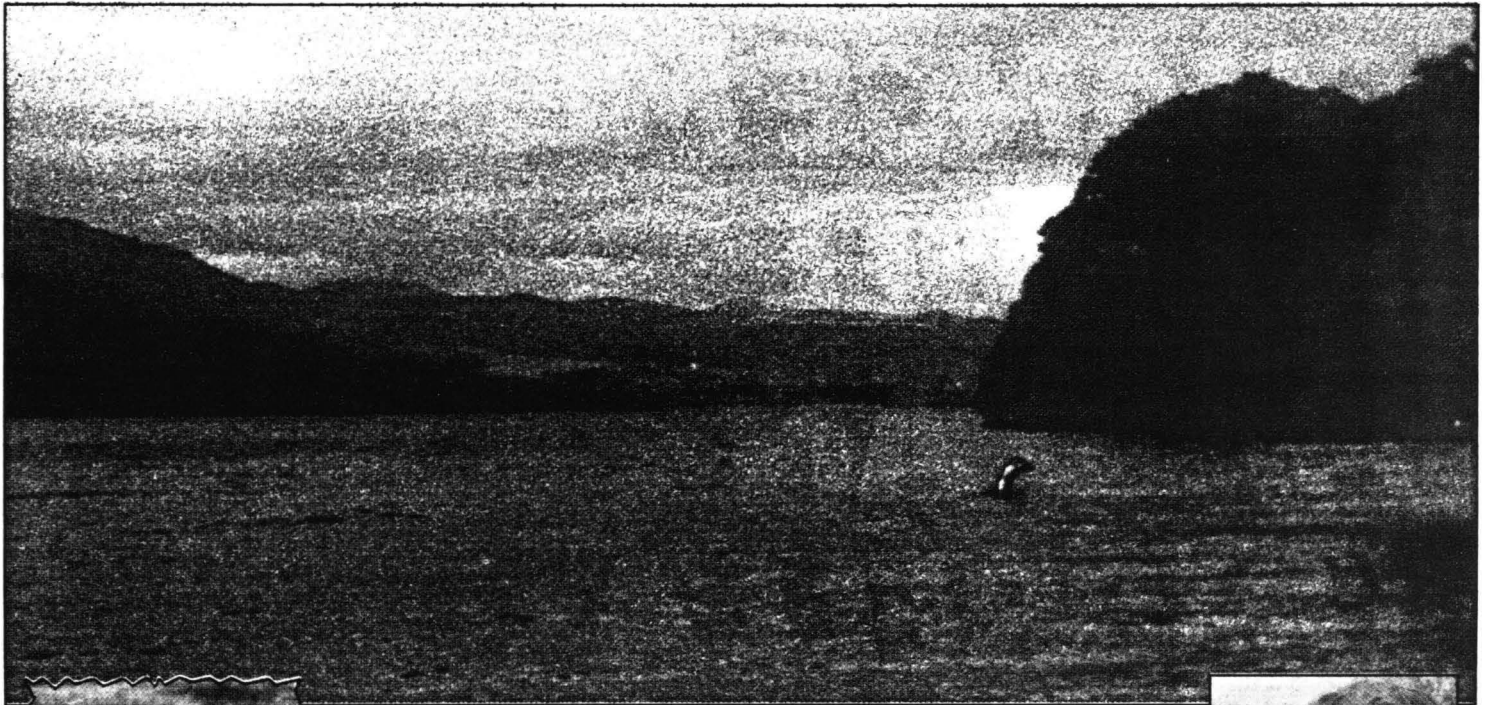
Bousfield says he is convinced the dinosaurlike serpent with the small head, affectionately known as Caddy, is not simply a figment of the imagination of ancient Indians, grizzled sailors and tourism promoters.

Bousfield says Caddy lives mainly in ocean depths, eats fish and probably bears its young in warmer, coastal waters.

CR: C. Carpenter

IS THIS THE LEGENDARY MONSTER . . . OR JUST ANOTHER HOAX?

Nessie rears her ugly head again (BUT DON'T FORGET, IT IS THE SILLY SEASON)



Monster mystery: The object snapped by a Daily Mail reader at Loch Ness last weekend



The classic 1934 picture

A LONG brown neck pokes out of the still waters of Loch Ness.

Snapped by a Daily Mail reader at the weekend, is this Nessie coming up to take the morning air — or an elaborate hoax?

Ian Bishop, head of the zoology department at the Natural History Museum, smiled as he studied the picture and three others taken in the same sequence.

His first question — in reference to the traditional summertime lull newsmen call the 'silly season' — was anything but scientific. 'Are you aware,' he said, 'that the month is August?' Such scepticism will not dampen the enthusiasm of the 45-year-old man who took the pictures, which bear a striking

By STEPHEN OLDFIELD

resemblance to the classic 1934 photograph by London surgeon Robert Wilson.

'I believe I saw Nessie,' he said yesterday. 'Let the experts pore over the pictures and deliver any alternative explanations they can. I'm a simple man, not a scientist. And I say, if that wasn't Nessie, then what was it?'

The man, who wishes to keep his identity secret, had camped overnight about two miles from Fort Augustus, armed only with a Boots 110EF pocket camera.

'It was about 6.30 to 7am and I went to the loch to brush my teeth and have a swill,' he recalled. 'I soaked my face and looked up. I saw it and my immediate reaction was, "I must have water in my eyes". I rubbed

them, looked again and thought, "Christ Almighty".

'There was about 6ft of a long neck and head and she was a blackish dark brown. She seemed to be looking right at me and I thought she was going to come to the shore. My camera was lying by the trees a few yards away and I made a dive for it.

'I scrambled back. She was about 40 yards out, still looking in my direction. I was trembling and my heart was pounding but I managed to knock off four shots. 'At one stage, she opened her mouth. I thought she was going to make breakfast of me. Then she tipped her head back and slid under.' After five minutes, he said, the head appeared again, about 200 yards away. 'I could see the shape of four or five humps. It was as if a miniature waterfall was cascading from the front hump. She swam slowly for 20 to 30 yards and then submerged.



The amateur photographer

That was it. I picked up my stuff and I ran.'

The negatives have been examined at the RAF's photographic laboratory and by Kodak. Flight Lieutenant Caroline Smith said: 'We would say they have not been tampered with or touched up.' And Kodak scientist Roger Flint said: 'It is a genuine photograph of something, though we have no comment about the image.'

SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, WA - Sept. 27, 1992

Tiny town attracts tall tales of Bigfoot

LAPWAI, Idaho — Weird screams are heard in the night, giant footprints are found in back yards, and many people in town think a new sign should go up on the highway:

"Bigfoot X-ing."

The way things are going in Lapwai — population 1,043, give or take a few sasquatch — nobody would be surprised if Bigfoot strode into the local tavern to order a couple of Bud Lights and a bowl of peanuts.

The bartender would probably be tempted to throw in a can of deodorant and some breath spray.

Bigfoot smells bad, they say.

To those who laugh at the thought of getting close enough to a sasquatch to catch a whiff, Beci Johnson offers this: About 25 people

say they've seen 500-pound, hairy creatures on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in the past seven weeks.

"Let people laugh and call it a hoax," says the 32-year-old Lapwai homemaker. "Nobody can tell us different. We know we saw Bigfoot."

The sasquatch sightings started Aug. 6, when Johnson and seven other people, including an employee at the Nez Perce National Historical Park visitor's center, allegedly saw a 7-foot, "ape-like creature" striding across a farmer's steep field above the park.

"We watched it for 15 minutes — it seemed confused, like it was trying to get to the river for water," says Johnson. "When it disappeared over the hill, a couple of guys raced after it in their truck and saw it crouching in some bushes."

Washington State University anthropologist and Bigfoot researcher Grover Krantz was called to look at footprints on the site and gave the sasquatch a "50-50" chance of being authentic.

Johnson was insulted. "I thought it was a put-down," she says. "He said, 'The only way to prove it is to bring me a body.' If I do see one again, I definitely wouldn't kill it. Something that special deserves to live."

Legends about sasquatch have been passed down for generations among the Nez Perce and other Northwest tribes. Known as "The Old Man in the Woods" among Nez Perce elders, Bigfoot is said to come to the aid of anyone who needs help in the forest.

"He's harmless," says Harold Scott, a police officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs who claims he saw a sasquatch on an elk hunting trip in 1988. "I was brought up not to fear Bigfoot, that he would take care of me. But I never thought I'd see one."

Other officers have scoffed at the rash of Bigfoot sightings, but Scott, who has investigated several recent sasquatch reports, says, "Who am I to deny what somebody has seen? I was in the same position. Your eyes

don't lie."

If sasquatch are lurking in the hills outside Lapwai, they are certainly getting brave.

Locals say they've heard strange, high-pitched screams at night and have seen Bigfoot the next day, walking near the town water tower, lurking around grain elevators and crossing the railroad tracks.

Perhaps he was catching a train?

"I know it seems weird," says Johnson with a laugh, "but this is real to a lot of people. One lady almost ran over a Bigfoot in her pickup and another person saw one stealing his deer meat. He'd hung it in his yard between two trees."

Smell something foul? It doesn't stop there.

Dee Taylor says she and her nephew, Josh, saw not one but four of the creatures last Monday on a slope above Lapwai's community center.

"I haven't told many people because I was afraid they'd think I was crazy," she says. "It was 3:30

in the afternoon, and I was walking home with Josh. We looked up and saw these four tall hairy things — we knew right away what they were.

"I was too surprised to be scared, but I thought, 'I'd better not get any closer.' It's probably wise to let them be."

Certainly, a 500-pound creature with bad breath can do whatever it wants. But why hang around Lapwai?

Johnson shrugs. "Some people think it's because we had a lot of fires this year that drove them out of the woods," she says. "Others say they're heading west. They're migrating."

Perhaps on their way to the coast, a few sasquatch will stop at Donald's Diner and order his new special: A "Bigfoot burger" with the works for \$2.95.

That would be fine with Donald Whipple. He could use the business.



CATHY FREE

Columnist

Two 'Bigfoots' track camera buff in woods

Freeman, Bigfoot hunter, tells of encounter, says creature 'snarled' at him

By VANCE ORCHARD
Has the Blue Mountains Bigfoot saga run its course?

Well, after filming two close encounters with the "Bigfoot of the Blues" in four months, Paul Freeman says it has as far as he is concerned.

After 10 years of hot pursuit of the creature, Freeman on Aug. 20 got the scare of his life when he met two of them.

After he was able to elude them and get away, Freeman firmly believes that the two Bigfoots spared his life.

"For some reason, they let me get out of there alive last Thursday," Freeman claims.

"I don't know what the reason might be, but I got the message — I'm not going to hunt them anymore. That was the last time. They warned me off!"

Freeman's most recent encounter came last Thursday morning near Deduct Spring where a house-sized "Waldon" pond is a favorite watering hole of many forest creatures.

Including Bigfoot.

The pond near Deduct Spring is about two miles south of the Kendall Skyline Road just off the main road to the Skyline from Mill Creek.

Freeman knew he'd find a Bigfoot at the pond if he had enough patience — and Freeman has gobs of that!

You see, this huge man (6-5, 300 pounds) has been the most persistent and well-organized hunter of Bigfoot the creatures have found to date. On a map about six feet square, Freeman has recorded every sighting of every track and other evidence of the Bigfoots for 10 years he's



This is photo taken from videotape filmed by Paul Freeman. Bigfoot, says Freeman, is black figure in center of photo.

Times Photo by Vance Orchard.

found in the northern section of the Umatilla National Forest. For air miles, the area probably stretches 14 miles east to west and 25-30 miles north-south. On the map are the dates and times of day for the 10 years of Bigfoot data.

The map holds a long litany of such information.

Early in his search for Bigfoots, Freeman packed a heavy duty rifle. Then, he quit packing a rifle about four years ago largely at the suggestion of a Bigfoot-hunting partner, Wes Sumerlin, he says.

"Since I quit taking a rifle along, I began seeing Bigfoots," Freeman says.

And, since leaving his gun at home, Freeman has instead taken to packing along a video camcorder.

With it, he recorded a Bigfoot's picture on April 20. It wasn't good quality, but you could see a creature moving.

Last week he recorded two Bigfoots, one in a menacing manner, then later, as he chased them through the trees to film more of them, they were to prove even more threatening, to the point they were to frighten him more than he has ever been.

In recounting the incident, Freeman said he had been going up to the Deduct pond every day of last week, arriving there in his little compact car around 6:30 a.m. His habit was to drive to the left of the pond, park his car near the trees, then just sit and watch the pond for several hours, maybe a half day. His plan for August and into September (because of the map's data) was to go to the pond every day for that period.

But, last Thursday, Freeman arrived at the pond around 9 a.m., because he had been delayed in leaving his home. He parked his car, "never thinking to look over across the pond," he says.

"They (two Bigfoots) were probably standing right over there watching me — I found grass there matted down when I checked around."

Getting out of the car, Freeman unloaded his camcorder and got out his coffee jug and went over to the far end of the pond.

Bingo!

There's a couple of fresh Bigfoot tracks!
Real fresh!

With water still standing in them.

The maker of the tracks must have "just pulled out," Freeman conjectures. "It was probably there ready to get a drink of water when I pulled into the clearing in my car."

Checking out the fresh tracks, Freeman saw where they apparently had taken off in a hurry around some bushes and up the hill at that end of the pond. At the other side of the bushes tracks resembling those at the pond's edge were seen coming down to the pond.

But, Freeman followed tracks going from the pond, heading up the hill. It was when he had proceeded only a short distance that he heard brush noises as twigs and limbs broke as a body was moving through the brush.

"I heard brush popping up ahead so got the camera ready and headed up that way," he recalls.

He filmed one Bigfoot at that point as it moved away from a small tree and then "it just disappeared."

But, then, a second Bigfoot, slightly smaller than the first, came into view and began moving toward the Bigfoot hunter.

"This is the one I got casts of its footprints at the pond," Freeman notes. "I think the larger one had been lagging behind the other when it went down to drink," he adds.

The Bigfoot moving toward him got to within 100 feet or so, he estimates. It was close enough that he could see what appeared to be a deformity in the Bigfoot's face.

"The side of its face was bulged out and deformed on its right side.

"And, the Bigfoot was snarling at me!

"I was getting kind of excited about then, too, believe me!

"But, I kept trying to remember what (KXLY-TV newsman) John Yeager had told me in April about filming movement. I was doing okay but then it disappeared, veering off to one side. I followed their tracks and saw where they went on over the hill.

"I shouldn't have followed, I guess. I think something had

upset them — maybe someone had in the past shot a gun at them and they thought my camera was a gun."

Freeman pursued the creatures for "about a quarter mile or so," beyond the pond.

"Then, I could hear them nearby, making a lot of noises and an odd whistling sound with a loud popping with it and wheezing ... I could hear that real good, too, and close by.

"I really got scared and upset then."

Spotting where a big tree had blown down and its roots creating a hole in the embankment, Freeman scuttled into the cavity to hide from the Bigfoots. He felt strongly at the time that they were seeking him to possibly kill him.

"I jumped down and crawled into the hole of the tree. The longer I sat there, the louder the Bigfoot noises got" as the creatures moved around, making their odd noises, Freeman says.

This is the point at which this huge outdoors man suffered his most frightening experience.

"I got just like a little kid," Freeman says. "I was so doggoned scared — and I was in a cold sweat!

"Finally, they calmed down and quit making their strange noises, so I got out. I crawled on my belly for a long ways down a ditch-like channel, then got away to the pond and my car and got the heck out of there."

When he arrived home, Freeman alerted some friends and he showed the video film he had shot. It is excellent footage and he has captured on film the creature which has been his goal for a decade.

But, the hunt is over and no more will Paul Freeman conduct any more Bigfoot expeditions.

"Oh, I'll go up to the mountains, because I truly love the Blues," he says. "But I won't be hunting any Bigfoots any more. It's over. As a matter of fact, if I saw one on the road tomorrow, I wouldn't even film it. I'd leave it alone.

"I'd maybe just wave at it and say: 'Good luck, fella!'"

And, Paul Freeman enjoyed a laugh.

Something he was not doing a week ago when he was matching wits with two Bigfoots near Deduct Spring.

TRACKS AND MORE TRACKS! — Maybe it's part of the Deduct Spring affair and maybe it's not.

Anyway, when Freeman last week reported he'd heard that Bigfoot tracks had been followed all the way from Timothy Campgrounds to Squaw Camp on the Kendall Skyline Drive, it was exciting news. It did, however, pale a bit in light of the major news: Freeman's close encounter at Deduct!

Going to Deduct the next day after his encounter, Freeman was accompanied by two from KXLY-TV, Channel 4, Spokane and four other Bigfoot hunters. The TV people were newsman John Yeager and cameraman Brad Carlson. Completing the party were Wes and Swede Sumerlin and Swede's son, Frank, and myself.

After we'd checked out the pond site and poured some casting material in the footprints, most of us went home. Swede and Frank, however, drove over to Squaw Camp to check that track rumor out.

Later in the day, Freeman headed back up to Deduct to get his castings, by now set hard enough to remove. On the way he met Swede and Frank and Frank went back to Deduct with Freeman to get the track castings. Freeman readily admits he was glad to see the Sumerlins and have one accompany him to Deduct. "I really didn't like the idea of going back there alone," he says.

Swede and Frank brought back confirmation of the tracks seen at Squaw camp.

"They are tracks all over the place up there," Swede declared.

He and Frank poured some castings and brought them out for study.

But, those who conjecture on these things, figure the host of tracks from Timothy over to Squaw (10 road miles!) likely were made by the same two-some that Paul Freeman met at Deduct.



DAILY GAZETTE,
Schenectady, NY - Sept.
19, 1992 CR: D. Wemple

'Selma' may become a Norwegian 'Nessie'

OSLO, Norway — Businesspeople in southern Norway are hoping to draw attention from Scotland's Loch Ness monster to a 200-year-old serpent reportedly living in Seljordsvannet Lake.

Entrepreneurs from the small town of Seljord returned Thursday from Inverness, the Scottish town next to Loch Ness, with plans for a hotel, boat safaris and other attractions designed to lure monster fans to Seljordsvannet next summer.

The 478-foot-deep lake is said to be the home of Selma, a dark gray serpent first reported seen in the mid-18th century.

Selma sightings have been reported over the years, and last summer four or five people said they spotted her at the same time, said Olaf Slaaen, the secretary of the Seljord Trade Association.

"Our Selma is worth just as much attention" as Scotland's "Nessie," Slaaen said. "She is a very kind and gentle snake."