

UFO

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STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Sept. 14, 1992

Tales of UFOs leave researcher wondering

Folklorist finds 'peculiar' consistency

By SCOTT L. MILEY
STAR STAFF WRITER

A Plainfield woman says she's taken several rides in alien spacecraft.

In Union County, a woman claims her four-month pregnancy was terminated when she was taken into a spaceship that hovered above her trailer for an hour.

Skeptics say such tales of unidentified flying objects are told only by the mentally unbalanced — fanatics passing along tall tales they've read or heard.

Yet, something is oddly consistent among stories of UFO abductions, says an Indiana University folklorist.

"The pieces keep falling in the same order. That's peculiar," says Thomas E. Bullard. "Yet no logic holds the pieces together as a story."

Bullard, 43, also serves on the national board of directors for the Fund for UFO Research Inc., based in Mount Rainier, Md.

That organization funded a study in which Bullard catalogued hundreds of reported abductions. He's also interviewed dozens of people who claim to have been kidnapped by alien beings.

"Do I believe people see objects they can't explain? Sure. Do I believe they see spaceships? I don't know," says Bullard, who works



STAR STAFF PHOTO/IRON IRA STEELE
IU folklorist Thomas Bullard is on the national board of the Fund for UFO Research Inc.

in the university's biology library.

Basically, Bullard looks at the claims as a folklorist. But, he says, the baffling abduction accounts seem to come from some real experience, as compared to folk stories.

For example, he cites this popular story that often crosses the nation:

A young couple is parked on a dark lovers' lane. On the car radio,

Bullard says a typical abduction story has a capture, examination and discussion.

The capture involves an elaborate chase between alien and human. The examination is a medical probing of the abductee.

In the ensuing conference, aliens use telepathy or computerized communications to relate a warning or prophecy to the human.

A folklorist at Penn State University says abduction stories could indeed be modern fairy tales.

Bill Ellis, an associate professor of English and American studies, says he agrees with Bullard's assessment that abductees experience some abnormal event.

But they are apt to use UFO stories they've already heard to explain these mystifying experiences.

"You've got to use cultural language to share the story. . . . If you tell a story of being buffeted back and forth among forces that you can't put a label on, then you can get committed," he says.

As a result, there's pressure on the abductee to personalize details so he or she doesn't appear to be crazy. For that reason, a first-person story of a UFO abduction is bound to be more elaborate, Ellis says.

Bullard, however, refuses to dismiss the stories out of hand.

"It's a really bizarre thing. In a way, I don't want to believe it. If it's true, there's a bunch of aliens grabbing people and sticking needles in them and there's nothing we can do about it."

By W. G. Eslinger
Director, Ozark UFO Network

Crisp, clear autumn nights broaden opportunities to observe the travels of "The Intruders" in the Ozarks.

Recent sightings include a large cigar-shaped object in the vicinity of the Harrison fairgrounds at 9 p.m. on Aug. 13, moving east at a low altitude without sound. Its large lights revealed its shape.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 22 a cluster of non-pulsing red lights was observed moving silently from east to west over the Boone-Newton County line. Reflection of the lights was visible on the underside of the object, but its shape couldn't be precisely determined.

Shortly after 1 a.m. on Sept. 27 a large triangular-shaped "mother ship" was seen over northern Newton County. These large ships have been reported by several witnesses during the past year in Carroll, Boone, Newton and Searcy Counties.

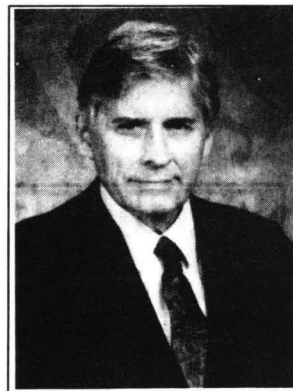
They are described as 1,000 or more feet long, several hundred feet wide; or as big as three football field or as large as a battleship or aircraft carrier. Such a sight is unforgettable.

The Ozark UFO Chronicle reports on all sightings in the Ozarks. Subscription details are available at the address below.

Another first for the Ozarks; a photograph taken one sunny day in August in northeast Boone County of a "mother ship." Apparently the object was emitting exhaust particles in three directions. This photo will be displayed at our public meetings.

The term "mother ship" most likely is derived from the fact that smaller UFOs have been seen entering and departing these large crafts. This activity was observed in the fall of 1991 and early 1992 in southern Searcy County and over Shiloh Mountain in Newton County.

As witnessed by abductees, the mother ships also contain various laboratories which are involved in technological activity unfamiliar to our planet.



W. G. Eslinger

Lighted, glowing spheres, usually red but capable of changing colors, are believed by many researchers to be probes dispatched from the mother ships.

They appear in various sizes; some as small as a basketball, others seem to be as large as the sun. The mother ship may be out of sight while the probes are viewed parked on a ridge, in a pasture, in the woods or maneuvering about, tending to their undeclared agenda.

Credibility: This is the principal problem in discussing matters of ufology with the uninformed. Skeptics are reading these words right now. Yet those persons who have viewed the many unexplained phenomena during the past decades as well as the present in our Ozarks possess good vision, sobriety, average to high intelligence and an honesty to admit reality.

Healthy skepticism is a must in the search for truth, but if the reports of UFO sightings and accounts of abductions do not jibe with predetermined views that are based on no facts, one should remove his blinders and consider the preponderance of evidence before him.

The age of reported events seems to improve their credibility. Looking back to the first week in July, 1947, the Arkansas Gazette reported

multiple sightings of flying saucers or discs at Texarkana, Ashdown, DeQueen, Arkadelphia, Rison, Paragould, El Dorado and Tuckerman.

The July 5 issue, in an AP dispatch from Washington, stated that flying saucer reports had been received from 40 states.

Reported sightings actually began the last week in June, 1947, when Kenneth Arnold, while flying toward Yakima, Wash., on a search and rescue mission, observed nine UFOs flying north to south at approximately 9,500 feet, headed toward Mt. Ranier.

A recent Unsolved Mysteries TV program re-ran its account of the Hudson Valley UFO sightings of the 1980s that began New Year's Eve, 1982. The program did not mention that over 5,000 sightings were reported from that area during the next five years....an average of three per day.

"Night Siege," a republished paperback now available, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Phillip Imbrogno, documents these incredible events in New York state.

And so it goes. Where is the credibility of armchair skeptics? More and more they are losing it.

Credibility. Everyone needs it. The demands of everyday life require it. For many years, even decades, the fear of credibility loss has restrained those among us who have suffered in silence with their stark memories of abduction by The Intruders or the sight of fantastic anomalies.

Now they are coming out from behind the rocks and telling their story, many for the first time, because they have found understanding and a sympathetic ear in our organization.

Meanwhile, we urge prompt reporting of UFO sightings. Inquiries regarding unusual, unexplained experiences and prevailing trauma, and other requests for information are welcome.

Our central mailing address is PO Box 1919, Harrison, AR 72601, telephone (501) 741-7278.

DAILY NEWS, Fort Walton Beach, FL - Aug. 24, 1992 CR: R. Reid

LETTERS

UFO sighters, you are not alone

Good articles on the "alien abduction" phenomenon (Daily News, Aug. 16). Readers unfamiliar with our area's UFO history may view Ms. Gillespie's coverage out of place in a serious newspaper. I, for one, think it quite timely.

Popular fervor over the Gulf Breeze UFO photos has died down now, largely due to a concerted effort to discredit them. But the sightings continue. Strange lights in the sky over Gulf Breeze have been recorded by experienced observers more than 150 times since early 1991. I've seen them a half dozen times myself; these are not conventional flares or aircraft.

I also know several individuals who confide, in all seriousness, having had physical encounters with an alien intelligence. The term "abduction" may be misleading. The experience is usually involuntary and often traumatic, but no one I know has suffered loss or serious injury at the hands of the aliens. Many report a broadened outlook and sharpened awareness after the encounter. Some remember their experiences spontaneously, while others find hypnosis a help in reconstructing what happened.

An informal network is developing among these individuals as they share experiences and discuss ideas. This is a network of warm and friendly people. For obvious reasons they don't advertise openly, but one can find them if he wants to join in.

Polls by the Roper Organization indicate that 2 percent of American adults have experienced this phenomenon. If you think you might be one of these people, don't despair. There are dozens of others just like you here in the Fort Walton Beach area.

ROBERT REID
Niceville

CR: D. Worley

Mysterious objects appear in night sky

By SAM CARTER
Staff Writer

GREENVILLE — Paul Grant nearly drove his son's Chevy pickup off the road when he saw a huge oval object with pink fluorescent lights hovering over a pasture.

"I was fighting the truck and trying to see too," said Grant, 65, of Raphine.

Grant and his son, Jim, say that about 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10 they saw a huge cigar-shaped object in the air about 2.5 miles south of Greenville.

And on Oct. 28, a Fishersville man said he watched as something 10 times the size of a star streaked across the sky.

"I've been a 'coon hunter many a night, but I've never seen anything

Va. 666 about 2 1/2 miles from Greenville.

The moon was so bright that Grant remarked to his father the deer must be feeding at night.

Then an object appeared to their left with the suddenness of a light being switched on, said Grant.

Floating several hundred feet off the ground, the grey outline of the object looked as big as a 747 jet, he said.

The night was filled with a roaring noise like the sound of an airplane's prop engines thrust into reverse for landing, said Grant.

"He said 'Daddy, what the hell is that?' I said, 'Lord, I don't know,'" said Paul Grant.

Looking on from about 400 yards away, the two men watched as the

That the Grants saw the object from Va. 666, a number associated with the occult, adds an ironic twist to the story.

But it is all true, said Paul Grant.

"People said 'they're going to call you a liar,' but I said 'I don't care; I know what I saw,'" he said.

Other people noticed the object, but most feared being ridiculed, Grant added.

However, Franklin Moses, who lives off U.S. 11 at the intersection of Va. 675, said he saw a ball of fire falling from the sky and heading toward Lofton about 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10.

The object could have been a comet or meteor, but there was no trail behind it, he said.

Looking on from about five miles away, Moses noticed the object had a ring of orange, red, and yellow lights, he said.

"I just took it to be a meteor falling out of the sky, but (the Grants) were closer than I was. Maybe they saw more than me," he said.

Donald Shull, who owns the pasture where the object allegedly appeared, said he heard nothing that night but added that he was inside watching television.

The appearance of mysterious lights did not end in early October.

Two weeks ago Sibert Armstrong saw a yellowish, stationary object that looked as though it might have been in orbit, he said.

The lights switched on for three seconds and then remained off for about three seconds, said Armstrong.

When the object moved off after about 12 seconds, it appeared to be traveling east, he said.

"It was about 10 times the size of a star and sitting still, and about that time the whole light went out and you couldn't see anything," said Armstrong.

Unusual lights in the sky often can be attributed to meteors or comets, said Dr. Robert Rood, a professor of



SEEING IS BELIEVING — After apparently seeing a cigar-shaped object near Va. 666, Jim Grant and his father, Paul Grant, pay more attention to reports of unidentified flying ob-

jects. Grant points to the area where they say they saw the object about 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10. Others reported similar sightings.

(Photo by Sam Carter)

STAR PHOENIX,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,
Canada - Oct. 19, 1992

UFO debate still waging decades later

IRVING, Tex. (AP) — Both sides in a UFO debate remain light years apart nearly half a century after the U.S. army claimed briefly it had recovered a flying disc in New Mexico.

About 200 experts and enthusiasts at a weekend conference agreed the 1947 announcement about an unidentified flying object in Roswell was a big mistake. They disagreed heatedly over how the mistake was made.

"The many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group . . . was fortunate enough to gain possession of the disc," the army release said.

Skeptics say there is no hard evidence the wreckage was anything other than the remains of a military balloon. That was the army's final explanation.

Skeptics say there is no hard evidence the wreckage was anything other than the remains of a military balloon.

"It was a big embarrassment," UFO debunker Philip Klass said at the national meeting of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

CSICOP, based in Buffalo, N.Y., encourages the critical investigation of paranormal and fringe-science claims from a responsible scientific point of view, the group says.

The release was issued on the authority of an intelligence officer who was unable to identify the wreckage, said Klass, former senior editor of Aviation Week and Space Technology.

But some researchers believe the government goofed in 1947 by calling attention to the find — and has had to cover it up ever since.

"It was no . . . weather balloon," was the deathbed declaration of an eyewitness, according to Donald Schmitt, co-author of UFO Crash at Roswell. Schmitt is director of special investigations at the J. Allen Hyneck Centre for UFO Studies in Chicago.

Not only does Schmitt believe the wreckage was a UFO, he is investigating reports that the military recovered the bodies of aliens from the craft. He is trying to find a nurse believed to have helped with an "autopsy."

The nurse had told a friend the bodies were smaller and more delicate than an adult human, with large heads and large concave eyes, Schmitt said in his book. Their hands had four fingers and no thumb, she reportedly said.

"We are convinced she is still alive," Schmitt said Saturday.



RENDERING — Jim Grant drew this representation of what he saw on Oct. 10.

like that," said Sibert Armstrong of Rt. 2, Box 52.

The object the Grants described bears few similarities to a comet or meteor, according to an astronomy professor at the University of Virginia.

Local law enforcement officials were flooded with calls Oct. 9 from people who reported seeing a green ball of light traveling across the sky about 8 p.m.

Astronomers attributed the sightings to a meteor shower that passed through the area.

But Jim Grant's close encounter was no meteor, he said.

Grant, 39, of Grottoes was in the truck when his father turned onto

Society members serious, but anonymous

By CONNIE ROHR
Pickaway County ThisWeek Contributor

Members of the Roundtown UFO Society (RUFOs) interviewed for the following article spoke with ThisWeek on the condition their names would remain anonymous.

The Roundtown UFO Society (RUFOs) is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 whose members are seriously interested in collecting data about local UFO sightings.

The organization does not present a particular position as to what UFOs are or where they come from. It's members say they strive to maintain an objective view of the

UFO phenomenon, which they say is perhaps one of the greatest mysteries of modern time.

RUFOs provides an outlet for people who are interested in finding out the latest information regarding UFOs, as well as offering a forum where people can talk about their own experiences with UFO sightings.

Members of the group believe there have been a large number of unreported UFO sightings made by Pickaway County residents over the past few years. They realize that many people are reluctant to report sightings for fear of being ridiculed. However, society members emphasize the importance of making reports so the sightings

can be analyzed.

RUFOs take all UFO sighting reports seriously and strive to explain the phenomenon to the witness, members say. Many reports can be explained as conventional objects or hoaxes, but some sightings are truly unexplained.

Some members of RUFOs are also members of two national UFO investigative groups, MUFON (Mutual UFO Network, which is located in Seguin, Texas, and CU-FOS (Center for UFO Studies), located in Chicago, Ill.

Local RUFOs members say they will also be closely monitoring research obtained from NASA's SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) radio telescope.

RUFOs also subscribes to a monthly publication put out by MUFON which they donate to the Pickaway County District Public Library. This magazine contains up-to-date information about "UFOlogy."

RUFOs meetings are held monthly in the Clark-May Museum meeting room, 162 W. Union St., Circleville. The group also publishes its own newsletter which is distributed to members and area libraries.

For more information about RUFOs, or to report a possible UFO sighting, write: Roundtown UFO Society, P.O. Box 52, Circleville, Oh. 43113; or call 477-6252 or 332-1286. All information received is kept confidential. ♦

Nature of incident that launched UFO craze debated

By Matt Crenson
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

IRVING — Is the U.S. government really keeping three little green men on ice?

Did they come from a mysterious "flying disc" found near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947?

And exactly what was the disc? "It was a radar reflector" attached to an Air Force test balloon, said Philip Klass, who has investigated — and worked to debunk — UFO sightings for 26 years.

"Sounds like a flying saucer to me," responded Donald Schmitt, co-director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

So it went for more than four hours Saturday as Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Klass and two other experts duked it out over the true nature of "the Roswell incident" — the alleged flying saucer crash that spawned the UFO craze of the late '40s and the '50s.

In the end, none of the 100-plus spectators was moved by either side. But that was to be expected, because the debate took place at the



The Dallas Morning News: Donna Bagby

Pat Reeder (left) of Dallas talks with Lynette Nisbet of Prometheus Books in Buffalo, N.Y., during the national meeting of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal on Saturday in Irving.

16th annual conference of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"The whole question of UFOs revolves around the evidence," said James McGaha, a retired U.S. Air

Force major and active skeptic.

The evidence in the "Roswell incident" includes that "flying disc," which was found near the town of Roswell by a rancher. There's also the testimony by dozens of area residents and military personnel who say they saw the corpses of tiny aliens — they may have been green — loaded onto U.S. Air Force trucks.

The skeptics say the disc was part of a scientific balloon launched by the government. And the aliens? That's all hype, they say.

Mr. Schmitt doesn't agree. "We have fully explored all the mundane and all the prosaic explanations," he said. And discarded them.

The explanations include some pretty far-out possibilities — including that the object was part of a chemical warfare experiment gone awry that has been covered up for 45 years.

But Mr. Klass contended that if there was a U.S. cover-up, "President Truman didn't know about it." Neither, he said, did the CIA direc-

tor or the commander of Wright Air Force Base in Ohio, where the aliens were allegedly stashed.

"Not one of these officials ... have heard of the crashed saucer," he said, citing top-secret UFO studies that have been declassified.

Nevertheless, Mr. Schmitt refused to accept that conclusion. He suggested that the documents were part of the cover-up and that the witnesses' testimony is more reliable. He said he has interviewed hundreds of people.

"If all these people or any one of them are telling the truth," he said, "something truly extraordinary did happen at that time."

VALLEY TIMES, Pleasanton, CA - Oct. 6, 1992

Aliens kidnap thousands, former UC professor says

By Mary Barkey
Correspondent

BERKELEY — Have an interest in world peace, ecology, or population control? Consider yourself spiritual even though you don't belong to a church? Fascinated by UFOs since you were a child?

If so, says James Harder, you probably have encountered extraterrestrial beings — whether you remember it or not.

Harder, a professor emeritus of engineering at UC-Berkeley, estimates that hundreds of thousands of people in the United States have been kidnapped by beings from another planet, taken aboard their spacecraft and subjected to a number of experiences.

He estimates that 95 percent of the abductees have no conscious memory of what must be the most unusual event of their lives.

Harder has been studying human-extraterrestrial contact for 30 years.

On Saturday, in concert with the Society for the Advancement of Civ-

UFO SYMPOSIUM

What: Extraterrestrial Contact: The Meaning and the Message
Where: Physical Sciences Lecture Hall, UC-Berkeley
When: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday
Cost: \$30
Call: 521-3298

ilization, he will present a symposium, "Extraterrestrial Contact: The Meaning and the Message" on the Berkeley campus.

How can Harder and other alien-encounter researchers find victims who don't remember their kidnappings?

Harder narrows the field by using a profile of a typical abductee — an unconventionally spiritual person with an interest in issues like peace and the environment who also has an interest in UFOs.

Then Harder uses the pendulum test. The pendulum, Harder says, is "an ideomotor technique of accessing information from the uncon-

scious mind."

The researcher suspends a weighted object from a string attached to the subject, and observes its motion as the subject is questioned about possible contact with extraterrestrial beings. The pendulum's motion shows if the subject has subconscious memories of contact.

If the pendulum test is positive, they progress to hypnosis to bring to light blocked memories of extraterrestrial experiences, Harder says.

Harder has no doubt about the universality of the UFO experience, but for others it's more fiction than science.

One of these is Bob Steiner of El Cerrito, a founder of Bay Area Skeptics, an organization that debunks what it considers pseudoscience.

Stein says there is no evidence that humans have ever been visited by extraterrestrials, much less gone off in spaceships with them.

The pendulum and hypnosis? All nonsense, says Steiner.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Oct. 30, 1992

UFO Follows Erratic Course

by Bland Pugh

Reports keep coming in to the Hotline, of sightings from the area, not only from Gulf Breeze and the Beach, but from Pensacola as well. One of the reports was of the UFO that we are all used to seeing, this report originated from the Polynesian Isles Subdivision. This object appeared in the sky over East Bay, and went through all of the usual color changes before disappearing.

Several of the skywatchers continue to turn in reports of sighting small lights that seem to appear for 5 to 10 seconds before disappearing. Most times, you would say that, this is what is known as autokinesis...when a stationary person stared at a star (or Planet) for awhile without a visual stationary reference point in view for comparison, it appears to move and dart about, in this particular case I rather doubt that a trained investigator would misdiagnose these objects. I saw what I believe to be a satellite last week, and reported it as such, on

the day that the shuttle was launched Bruce Morrison reported to me that he had seen what he felt like was the shuttle passing over. So again I feel that these reports are credible.

A frequent sighting report this time of year is the planet Venus, the following is from the November Mufon Journal: Venus (magnitude - 4.1) is easier to see at dusk low in the Southwest, not setting until about two and quarter hours after sunset in mid-November. The resplendent planet lies 5 degrees below the lunar crescent on November 27.

We are approaching the next meeting with great excitement, I will give a quick thumbnail sketch of the program, I think most will find it fascinating. The lady's name is Leah Haley, she is a wife, mother, CPA, and college professor from Columbus, Miss. Ms. Haley has had first hand experience with extraterrestrials, for the first time she will share her experiences publicly. Ms. Haley

has been tested by some of the top UFO investigators from all over the country, and has proved to be highly credible. A book is now being written about her encounters with the ET's, and the possibility of military presence at the time of contact. She will speak at the Gulf Breeze recreational center theater on Sunday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Future meetings will feature Dr. John E. Mack, Psychiatrist, and "abduction investigator" from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Mack is scheduled to speak on February 14. This should prove to be a very interesting meeting.

It has been confirmed that David Jacobs, author of "Secret Life" will speak at an upcoming meeting, after the first of the year, as we will have no meeting in December.

Remember the Hotline 438-3261, and keep looking up, and behind you.

See you at the voting booth. 3

SUN HERALD, Biloxi, MS - Oct. 24, 1992
CR: W. Clendenon

Filmmaker out of sight after UFO announcement

Screenplay being written; no casting yet

By KEN FINK
THE SUN HERALD

■ In July, independent film producer Midge Soderbergh announced plans to make a movie on the Coast about a man who said he beamed aboard an alien craft in Pascagoula.

Casting was scheduled to begin in August and filming would begin in September, she said. But the man she asked to cast and film the movie said he has not heard from her.

"There is no news on the film that I'm aware of," said Randy Walsh, of Walsh Production Co. in Bayou Goula, La. "There was no script available. I've yet to receive it. We can't cast without a script, and we have no way of contacting her."

Soderbergh, who has produced a portion of a documentary for the television show "NOVA," announced in a July press conference that she planned to produce "Snatched," a film about the story of Charles Hickson.

On Oct. 11, 1973, Hickson said alien beings interrupted his fishing trip on the Pascagoula River. He claims he was taken aboard a hovering UFO.

In July, Soderbergh, whose son Steven directed the 1989 film "Sex, Lies and Videotape," asked Walsh to cast and film Hickson's story, but Walsh said he has not heard from her since.

"It's unfortunate," Walsh said. "I think the press conference was premature to say the least. You have to have a finished script before you move forward. Fortunately, I'm doing other things."

The \$10-million plan

Soderbergh said in July that casting 1,000 people, most local, would begin in August. Shooting the \$10 million feature film was to begin in September. The movie was to be released no later than January.

Walsh said he was told Soderbergh lived in Alabama, but he did not have her telephone number.

Contact: UFO at Pascagoula Inc., an Atlanta company, would fund the movie, Soderbergh said. But the number she gave for the company

There is no news on the film that I'm aware of.

Randy Walsh

was answered by a receptionist who said it was actually a company called Petroleum Source, a wholesale energy company that has nothing to do with movie funding.

Atlanta directory assistance does not have a listing for Contact: UFO at Pascagoula Inc.

Hickson has an unlisted telephone number and could not be reached for comment.

Ed Conroy, a San Antonio, Texas, author writing the script, would not say how close to completion it is.

"It's just a bunch of memory in my computer," Conroy said. "I can't tell you how far along it is. I didn't have anything to do with her announcement about a time frame. I kept telling her that producing a viable screenplay wasn't something you can do in a jiffy."

Conroy said Soderbergh was living in Atlanta, but he would not give out her telephone number and did not want to be quoted. Directory assistance in Atlanta did not have a listing for Midge Soderbergh.

Cliff Kirkland, director of administration for the city of Biloxi, was present at the press conference, but he has not heard from Soderbergh since.

Walsh said it would take up to six months to prepare for filming once he receives the script.

"She kind of walked me through the bases," Walsh said. "I know the general story, but that's all."

"We've heard from a number of people wanting parts," Walsh said. "She hasn't opened an office and we haven't heard from her. Many, many of these deals fall through. It's just the way this business is."

Opinion

Is it natural.....or supernatural?



By John & Eleanor Ayer

Given our location--in one of the largest agricultural counties in the U.S.--you'd think our fields might be the site for one of those intriguing designs known as "crop circles." This amazing phenomenon, which dates back to the 1800's, has attracted particular attention in the last three years. For reasons unexplained, an increasing number of huge geometric shapes have begun to proliferate in corn, wheat, and other grain fields worldwide.

Crop circles are best spotted from the air, but according to local enthusiast Janet Meisinger, Weld County has yet to report any sightings. England seems to have the

greatest activity; more than 2,000 have appeared there since 1989. But farmers in the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, and some European countries have reported markings in their fields as well. The fact that fields in developed countries are more frequent targets indicates to some believers that the forces of nature are sending a message to us decadents: Get In Touch With The Earth!

Crop circles come in a variety of designs, most of them incorporating circles as the basis of their structure. Many show key-like formations with two parallel lines. They range from reasonably small up to 1/8 of a mile across and are done both in positive and negative relief. The patterns are accomplished when grain stalks are bent over near the roots so as to hold a shape but not break the stalks, for the plants continue to grow. Perhaps most amazing is the time it takes to create a crop circle -- only 1 to 1-1/2 seconds the experts speculate!

Just who or what force creates these crop circles is unknown. And that, say most supporters, is part of their mystique. Another enigma lies in their meaning; to date there is no accepted opinion of what, if any, message the crop circles are intended to convey. "The approach [to answering these questions] needs to be intuitive as well as ra-

tional," says one authority. "There is little sense in asking questions of other people when the answer is already contained within ourselves."

So the medium is the message; the meaning is in the eye of the beholder. Or look at it like a religion: crop circles mean whatever you want them to mean, and they were put in our fields by whatever force--spirit--power--person your intuitive sense tells you to believe in. Approach them as a child would, says Jan. Don't get hung up trying to find an explanation. Just enjoy the wonder and magic of their existence.

Jan's attraction to crop circles has evolved into a business of sorts. She designs T-shirts that replicate the patterns of some of the more well-known images. A common theme is the dumbbell pattern (a must for weight lifters)? which comes in either silver or rainbow colors on a black or white shirt. Then there's the more complex dumbbell design with four additional rectangles--part of what Jan refers to as the 11:11 theory. (Call Jan for a view of the shirts and an explanation of 11:11). This one uses glow-in-the-dark paint on a teal shirt--very attractive.

A personal favorite is the most complex of the patterns, another glow-in-the-dark which you can get on a black or purple shirt. This amazing design incorporates concentric circles, straight lines, a triangle, and a little mutant circle off to one side. It recently appeared near Barbury Castle, an Iron Age fort in England. Its significance is, naturally, open to interpretation, but the preciseness of the design cannot be faulted. Photographs of the actual circle in its British field appear in a book called *Crop Circles: Harbingers of World Change*. The pictures confirm that whoever or whatever created this pattern did so with incredible attention to detail.

If crop circle enthusiasts agree on one point about the significance of this phenomenon, it is that the circles are precursors of great change. This belief is bolstered by a design called the Mandelbrot which appeared in England in 1991. This series of heart shapes is based on the Mandelbrot Set, a complex mathematical pattern which shows order out of chaos. The design relates to changes that will soon occur throughout the world, says Jan.

For many generations, Native Americans have recognized the crop circle designs and have incorporated them into their craftwork. Now the circles have found life again on Jan's T-shirts. She even adds some of her favorite wise sayings on the backs, such as "Conformity Breeds Mediocrity" and "Imagination is more important than education" (a

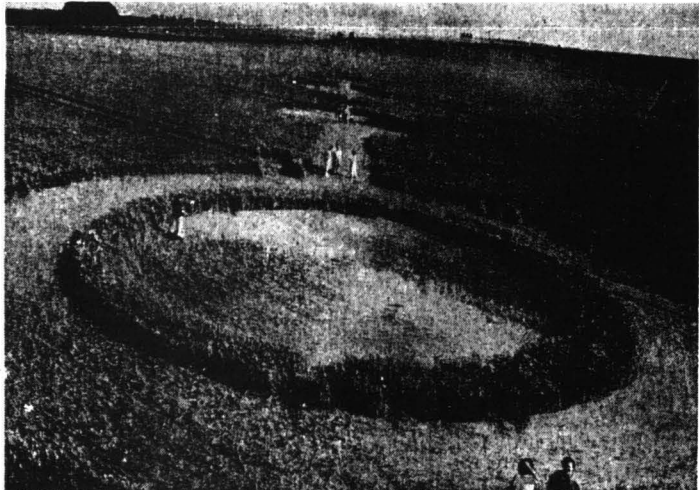
gift idea for your child's teacher)?

People have told her that the shirts impart a certain energy to their wearers. "This shirt really makes me feel good," reported one woman who was wearing it over two other shirts. This energy comes as no surprise to Jan. Her personal belief is that the patterns for the circles have always been present within the earth, but only recently have they appeared to us. Sort of like a child's paint with water book--the potential for a pretty picture is there, but it lies dormant until brushed with water. The "water" catalyst in this case is electromagnetic energy coming from the earth. This energy, which has increased in recent years, attracts the dormant designs and draws them out.

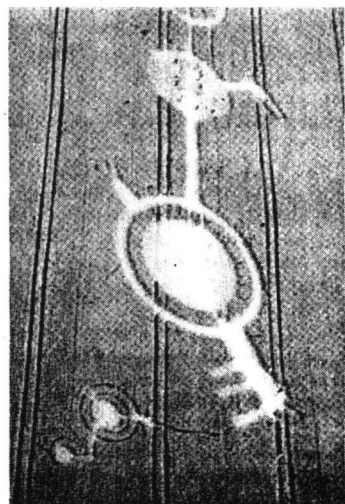
Of course there are doubters and disbelievers, folks who call crop circle designs a hoax. After all, there are no footprints or tire tracks leading up to them. So who or what could possibly have made them? Traditional scientists have a hard time accepting what cannot be explained, and cereologists (crop circle specialists) have a hard time accepting scientists' need to explain everything. Adding to the mystery is the fact that the circles seem to proliferate in regions of high spiritual energy such as England's Stonehenge. Observers also point out that there is a profusion of wildflowers this season in the fields where crop circles appeared last year.

But whether or not you're a believer, you'll find Jan Meisinger's Crop Circle T-Shirts an artistic delight. So loosen up, lay back, quit being such a pragmatist, and give her a call (833-2940) to see the shirts or simply to talk further about the intriguing enigma of crop circles.

(John and Eleanor Ayer are residents of Frederick).



'Crop circles' are frequently found in England.



STAR PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Sept. 15, 1992

Scientists want UN to provide answer for space aliens

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After more than 30 years of listening to radio waves from outer space for greetings from an alien civilization, scientists are planning to turn to the United Nations for guidance on how to answer.

Dozens of times, scientists have picked up radio waves matching the expected signature of a message from space. But they have

not been confirmed as genuine contacts because they were fleeting and unverifiable.

With new NASA equipment joining the search next month, some radio astronomers believe they will ultimately be able to confirm that a future transmission is a sign from a distant planet.

Radio astronomers and engineers involved in the Search for

Extraterrestrial Intelligence, commonly called SETI, this month began consulting with their colleagues in all scientific disciplines for suggestions on what the reply to aliens should be.

After sifting and winnowing their ideas, the scientists plan to seek a decision from the UN General Assembly's committee on the peaceful uses of outer space.

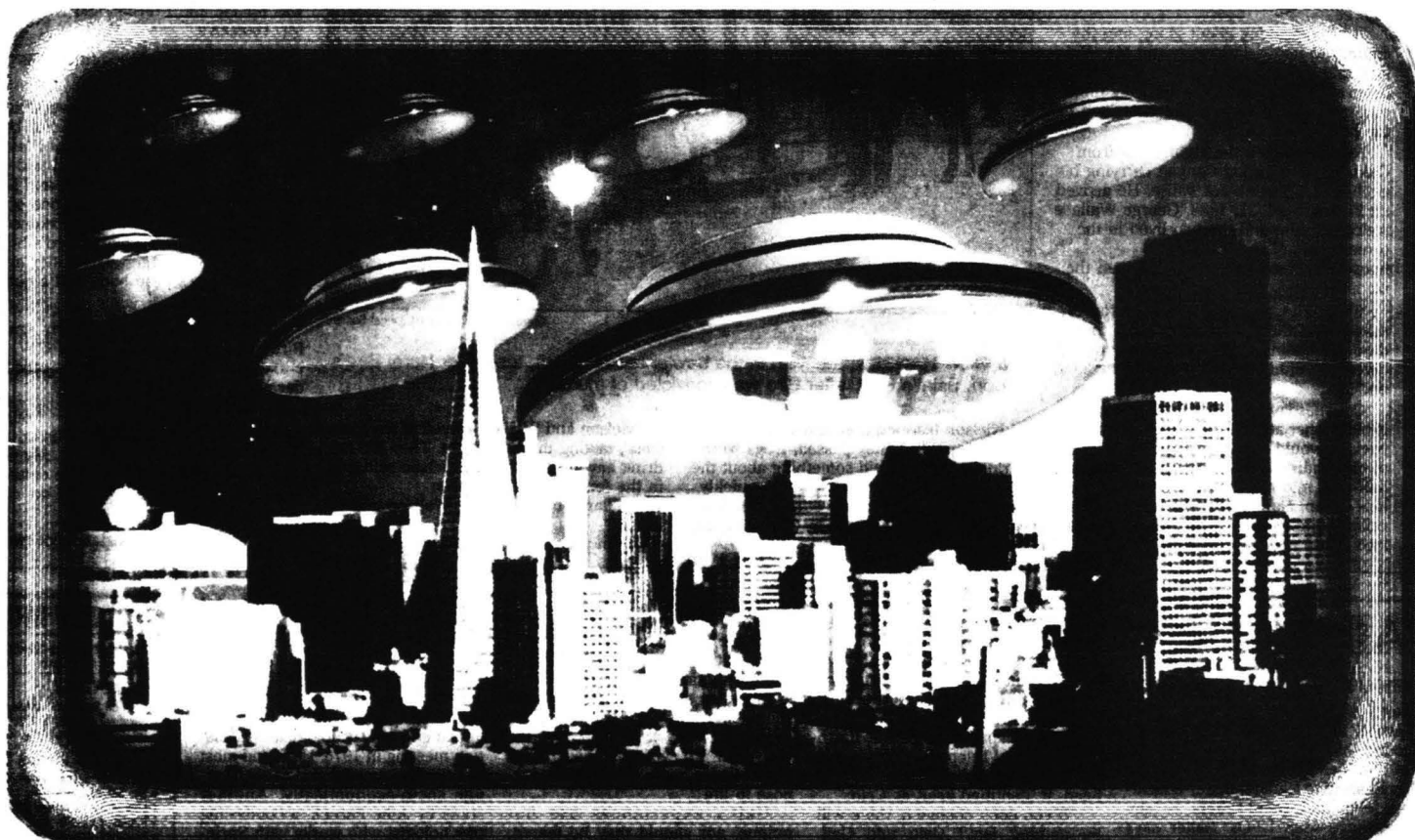
"The basic thinking all along is that this decision ought to be put into the hands of the United Nations," said John Billingham, head of the SETI project at NASA's Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, Calif.

In a "white paper" being circulated to space scientists worldwide, one key principle is that

Earth should reply with one voice, on behalf of all humanity, rather than individual states sending a response, according to scientists familiar with the document.

The space scientists plan to refine their ideas at international meetings in April and October of 1993, and then bring them to the UN's space committee.

The scientists will have to find a sponsor country to bring their ideas before the 53-country UN committee. Then, Billingham said, the committee could accept wide-ranging testimony from scientists, historians, philosophers and political delegates to shape Earth's reply to a message from another planet.



Is anybody out there?

We've all heard tales of close encounters with aliens; now people are starting to listen

Heavily armed troops threw a cordon of steel around Florida's Homestead Air Force Base — after Hurricane Andrew caused a UFO to crash on one of the runways. ... Agents charged the spacecraft with their Uzi sub-machine guns drawn — and whisked the stunned aliens into an armored personnel carrier ...

— Article that appeared in the Sun, a tabloid newspaper, Oct. 6, 1992.

By Joe Garofoli
Staff writer

Never to be heard from again, probably. Yeah, yeah, aliens belongs in the tabloids. They can hang out there with the latest sightings of Bigfoot, Elvis and Delta Burke.

Before you yuk it up, talk to John Salter. Need a credibility check? Salter is a full professor of Indian Studies at the University of North Dakota. He wrote a book about his experiences leading civil rights protests in Jackson, Miss. He has won state awards from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Martin Luther King society.

And he has not only seen UFOs four times, he has been abducted by them.

Salter is one of a growing list of respected academics who are talking openly about ETs (extraterrestrials) and their role in shaping our lives. It marks a change. Everyday folks have been talking about UFOs for 50 years, but the government and academics rarely listened. Their ear is turning. Some say that a very public meeting with aliens is imminent, either here or in space.

When? Whenever we're ready to

handle it. Maybe within the next several years but probably not in our lifetime, some ufologists say. It is all part of a slowly evolving plan by the ETs to bring our worlds together in the interest of cosmic harmony.

Before that can happen, say UFO scientists and observers, ETs must earn a little respect on Earth. Their credibility is improving:

■ On Monday, the United States will begin its most sophisticated search to date for extraterrestrial life. Scientists in Puerto Rico and California will point the world's most powerful radio telescopes toward 2,000 stars, hoping to catch a trace of intelligible communication somewhere out there. Some ufologists say it is a waste of money because ETs are already among us.

"Radio signals to them are like smoke signals to us," UC-Berkeley professor emeritus James Harder says. He has studied UFOs for 30 years.

■ Seven percent of Americans say they have seen a UFO, according to a Roper poll of 5,947 people released earlier this year. One percent has seen a UFO more than once.

■ An open forum on Saturday at UC-Berkeley attracted medical professionals, scientists and faculty from universities around the country. Folks who

Times illustrations/Sheldon Cordier-Carpenter share their UFO experiences at similar forums elsewhere are coming from all social, economic and geographic backgrounds.

■ There have been thousands of sightings in Northern California over the last 30 years and hundreds of abductions, according to an estimate by Harder.

UFO abductees are the best at cleaning up the alien image. Forget about the "take me to your leader" B-movie drivel you've heard since the 1950s, Salter and others say. ETs don't want to conquer Earth. If they wanted to do that, they would have dusted us years ago.

Aliens are benevolent creatures. They are concerned about us. They fear that our constant infighting and violent ways are making us bad cosmic neighbors. They don't want us splattering the rest of the universe with our radioactive dust.

"The ETs are pretty sharp," Leo Sprinkle says. He is a former professor of psychology at the University of Wyoming and has studied UFOs for 38 years. "They'll know when the United Nations has distributed enough public information and when we'll be ready for it. They know that if they'd announce it too quickly, we'd panic."

Salter and others who have interviewed hundreds of abductees notice a pattern to their backgrounds. Most are

“The ETs ... (will) know when the United Nations has distributed enough public information and when we'll be ready for it. They know that if they'd announce it too quickly, we'd panic.”

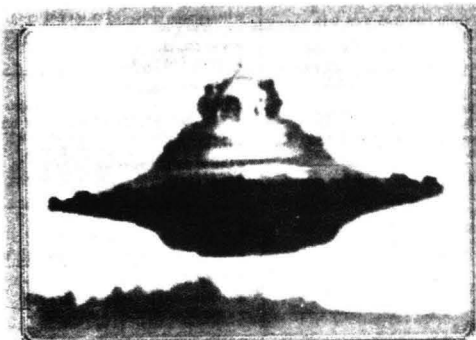
Leo Sprinkle, UFO watcher

concerned with some sort of social justice, Salter says. The Roper poll found that a higher percentage (10) of "influential Americans" — defined as civic leaders, better-educated folks and trend-setters — say they have seen UFOs. Salter says the ETs are approaching a targeted audience.

"The ETs kind of want to help people keep on keepin' on," Salter says.

The tough part is convincing the chosen to tell the disbelievers about their experiences. Gail (not her real name) has only told a few friends

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5 - CONTRA COSTA TIMES,

Walnut Creek, CA - Oct. 11, 1992)

about her abduction last September in the Sierras. She certainly can't tell her colleagues in the medical profession. The 47-year-old Livermore resident fears being ridiculed. Here's what she remembers, with the help of hypnosis:

After going to sleep, she found herself sitting cross-legged outside her tent at 3 a.m. A silver disc-shaped spaceship the size of a house hovered a few feet off the ground 15 feet away. She saw a woman inside. She had full, beautiful lips, short spiky hair and a mole on her cheek.

"Yeah, she looked like a punk rocker," Gail says and laughs. She felt the left side of her body go numb from her lips to her mid-thigh — similar to a general anesthetic. "The last conscious thought I had was, 'This is it. Finally, you've come.' Then a real bright light came out of the ship and lifted me back into it."

She saw an image of the Earth on a monitor. Telepathically, a voice spoke inside the left side of her head. It identified itself as Celo:

"If you don't change it, there will be nothing left," Celo told Gail. "Your ecosystems can't handle the way you abuse them. Before long, the Earth will only be able to support between 2 and 5 million people."

Even a friend who was camping with her that night doubted it. That was until he found a scar from a scalpel on his left forearm. Gail discovered a similar one on her thumb. They had no idea where they came from.

Gail stops her story several times. She fears that if it sounds too weird, she will invalidate her experience. And she doesn't want government investigators knocking on her door to ask questions. She is caught between wanting to spread the ET's message, and fearing the repercussions.

Sprinkle knows the pains of going public with ET tales. He resigned his tenured professorship after the National Enquirer printed the headline, "Space Aliens Abducted Me as a Child ... Claims College Professor."

But he wanted to tell others about the message he received as a young boy. It surfaced during a 1980 hypnotic session. A tall alien in

a one-piece suit put a hand on his shoulder and said, "Leo, learn to read and write well so that when you grow up, you can help other people learn more about their purpose in life."

Gail's experiences are not unique, nor should they be feared, Sprinkle says. He hears many more each year at the annual conference he hosts for folks who say they have been abducted by aliens or have other UFO experiences. So has Harder. His Society for the Advancement of Civilization, a non-profit organization devoted to studying how ETs affect our lives, sponsored the forum Saturday in Berkeley.

Gail's physical description of the aliens falls among the 20 most often described, Harder says. Nearly 95 percent of the encounters he has documented were friendly.

"These are not angels or devils or time travelers," Salter says. "They are similar to us, but a good evolutionary jump ahead. They have the same range of emotions that we do. Some people have even seen them bickering with their leaders, so they're not a totalitarian system."

Others aren't so friendly. Stories of aliens drawing blood or sperm samples, taking skin scrapings, and performing vaginal exams are not uncommon.

But what about the folks who see them? Still saddled with the image of a bug-eyed loner on the edge town? Harder presented findings from interviews with 115 people to an American Psychological Association meeting in 1976. He found most to be well-educated and above average socio-economically. Another study by Julie Parnell, a counseling psychologist who works with Sprinkle, found 225 abductees to be basically sane folks.

But why do so many of the sightings occur in remote, rural places like Montana? Why don't we ever hear about a spacecraft landing in broad daylight on the corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and North Main Street?

"Think about it from your perspective," Harder says. "If they had a very public landing, it would be all tabloid journalism. Scaring people half to death might not be the way to influence people."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Oct. 23, 1992

Pensacola Skywatchers Spot Familiar Rings Of Lights

by Bland Pugh

The Gulf Breeze Research Team has continued to get reports from different locations, both in Gulf Breeze, and Pensacola of UFO sightings. The problem that we are having is that they are not coming in on the Hotline but are being told to us second hand from friends or relatives of the witnesses. The sightings have been reported as follows:

Around Oct. 2 a lady living in the western side of Pensacola reported seeing a "ring of red lights," sound familiar? Then another report comes from the eastern side of Pensacola, near the "Bluffs," where several people spotted a row of "green" lights. Just two nights ago a MUFON member, and his wife were looking out their balcony doors overlooking East Bay when they also spotted a large white ball of light, similar in color.

The GBRT has seen several bright lights that have appeared suddenly moving towards them very high in the sky for about 8 to 10 seconds before disappearing. As a matter of fact I was a Shoreline Park about 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday night, when one of the skywatchers pointed out a very large yellowish or white light, that was moving towards us. I watched it

for approximately 1 to 1 1/2 minutes through binoculars, before it faded out. I continued to watch for the telltale flashing or strobe, which never came. I must say I really was hoping that it would turn ruby red, and shoot something out of it, but it was not to be. My guess is that I was a witness to the passing of a satellite, as it was rotating and reflected the sun off of a portion of it's surface. Not to say that is what the other GBRT members saw, it's only a guess on my part as to what I witnessed.

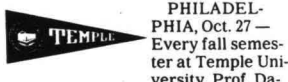
I guess, the point that I am making is that we are not getting the same response on our Hotline that we once were. It is difficult to investigate any sighting when it comes to us second hand, for several reasons, usually the witnesses have forgotten many of the details, and have talked to many other people and by the time we are able to talk to them, they have either gotten the facts confused or have forgotten many small details that are always very important in an investigation. So remember, if you have a sighting please call our Hotline at 438-3261. Remember, keep looking up, and behind you.

TIMES, New York, NY - Oct. 28, 1992 CR: E. Rager

Campus Journal

Taking U.F.O.'s for Credit, and for Real

By MICHAEL deCOURCY HINDS
Special to The New York Times



PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 27 — Every fall semester at Temple University, Prof. David M. Jacobs exposes himself to ridicule by teaching a course entitled "Unidentified Flying Objects in American Society." This year he made himself more vulnerable by asserting in a book that extra-terrestrials are among us and doing vile things.

"We have been invaded," he writes. "They want human sperm and eggs."

Such theories, he admits, make most people laugh or call him an embarrassment to the university. But many faculty members strongly support him, if only because of their commitment to academic freedom, and students sign up for his class in droves and give it superlative ratings in questionnaires.

Professor Jacobs, a historian, graduated from U.C.L.A. and earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin, where he wrote his doctoral thesis about the U.F.O. phenomenon. Having spent nearly a third of his 50 years on this planet separating U.F.O. fact from U.F.O. fiction, he is the first to admit his findings sound incredible. A corkboard in his cluttered Temple office, for example, features clippings from supermarket tabloids with headlines like "Alien Kidnappers Seek Human Blood and Body Parts, Warn Experts."

So what is the difference between aliens seeking blood and aliens seeking sperm and eggs? Research, says Professor Jacobs. And his book, "Secret Life: Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions" (Simon & Schuster, 1992), has a glowing introduction by Dr. John E. Mack, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Professor Jacobs had "made his case well," Dr. Mack writes.

Using hypnosis, Professor Jacobs interviewed about 60 people who say they were kidnapped and sexually exploited by aliens in several hundred encounters. Their stories are amazingly similar. They tell of "small beings" and "taller beings" from 2 feet to 5 feet tall with big heads, huge eyes and leathery gray skin. They do not talk but communicate telepathically, the people say.

The "beings," they say, kidnap men and women at night or at other times when the victims will not be missed, then put them into a trance, give them medical examinations, extract sperm or eggs, and sometimes

mittee in the late 1960's was commissioned by the Air Force to investigate reported U.F.O. sightings. Instead, he said, committee members conspired to discount the validity of the sightings.

"I love it," Gregory Webb, a sophomore, said at the end of class.

But Lou Teller, a senior, was skeptical. "I feel he is trying to sell us his view on U.F.O.'s because he discounts everyone else's work," he said.

Among themselves, some professors have questioned whether Temple's curriculum should include a three-credit course discussing supposed sexual abuse by aliens. But academic freedom has triumphed.

"I don't see David proselytizing, and as long as that is the case, I will continue to support him," said James W. Hilty, chairman of the history department. He recently nominated Professor Jacobs for promotion, to full professor of history from associate professor on the basis of "Secret Life" and numerous articles on U.F.O.'s. "It's an important body of work, and he has shown courage in pursuing it," Professor Hilty said.

Other faculty members think Professor Jacobs' book and course are nonsense. "Faculty members talk about it a lot and say it's really odd-ball stuff," said Prof. Philip R. Yan-nella, director of the department of American studies. "But I wouldn't want to be in the position of canceling the course just because it advocated a strange position."

Prof. Julia A. Erickson, until recently the university's acting provost with responsibility for curriculum, said: "The most troubling complaints were two letters saying that the people Professor Jacobs had interviewed for his book had to be mentally ill, and that it was irresponsible for him to encourage their fantasies rather than getting them treatment."

But then again, Professor Erickson said, "People didn't believe Copernicus either."

Students are told of aliens who kidnap.

implant or remove alien-human embryos.

Millions of Americans may have been abducted, Professor Jacobs theorizes, but most of them know only a residual feeling of anxiety and depression akin to post-traumatic stress disorder. "I want to be wrong," he said of his theory, adding he would "weep with joy" if there were no aliens around.

Professor Jacobs, who teaches a variety of history courses, has taught the one-semester U.F.O. course since 1977. The course, which attracts about 75 students, concludes with the study of his research on abductions.

"I am an easy target for ridicule," Professor Jacobs said. "But this is a serious course about a serious subject, and students take it seriously and get serious grades."

During a recent class, students paid rapt attention as Professor Jacobs described how a scholarly com-

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 18, 1992

Investigators Check UFO Daytime Sighting

by Bland Pugh

You guessed it folks the UFO is back and doing well, at least for this week anyway. On Friday evening, around 6:30 Miss June (this individual's name is being withheld at her request, as well as that of her family) was arriving home, as she pulled into her driveway, she happened to look over her house, and what appeared to be a circular craft, seemed to rise very rapidly from behind her home. As the UFO rose it seemed to rotate over onto its back and level off, it was becoming obscured by tree limbs prior to disappearing. The object literally popped out of sight. This sighting lasted only seconds, however, it will remain with Miss June for quite sometime. You see this is not the first sighting this lady has had from almost the same identical location, the only difference is six years.

MUFON investigators have been on the scene, and are conducting an on going investigation. At this point we are trying to put some pieces together, Geiger counters, and magnetic detection devices were used to determine if there was any residue, so far the only physical thing we have been able to detect is the extremely strong magnetic vortex around the area. There is a very small pond located behind the house, there seems to have been some type of disturbance on the bottom of the pond. Core, water, along with vegetation samples will be analyzed.

This investigation is continuing, further testing will be taking place for the next several days.

Again we've had visits from our

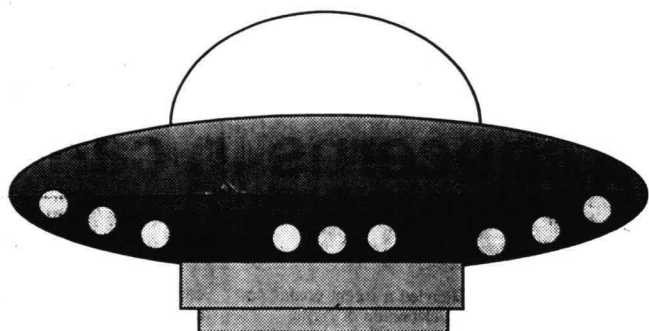
neighbors to the North, Canada...Tom Theofanous of Toronto, Ontario an independent investigator and member of MUFON visited the area with Mike Christol of Owensboro, Kentucky, also an independent investigator. I had the opportunity to spend several pleasant hours with Tom and Mike at Shoreline Park on Friday evening, well into Saturday morning, we discussed many ongoing cases and much of the phenomenon in other parts of the country and world. It's always a pleasure to sit down with fellow investigators and talk shop. My friends, UFO's are not just in Northwest Florida. We discussed the Canadian "Craft Landing" case discussed by Bob Oeschler at his lecture here in June of '92, "The Chesapeake Connection". Tom was involved with Bob on this case. Mike has a BBS dedicated to UFO and paranormal investigation. His BBS number is (502) 683-3826. If any of you decide to call in on the BBS, how about getting back with me and let me know how you like it so that I can pass the information on to Mike.

Speaking of BBS's there is a new one coming on line in Ft. Walton that is also going to be dedicated to UFO's and other paranormal subjects. As this one is not up and running yet, as soon as Paul gets it running I will pass on the number to you.

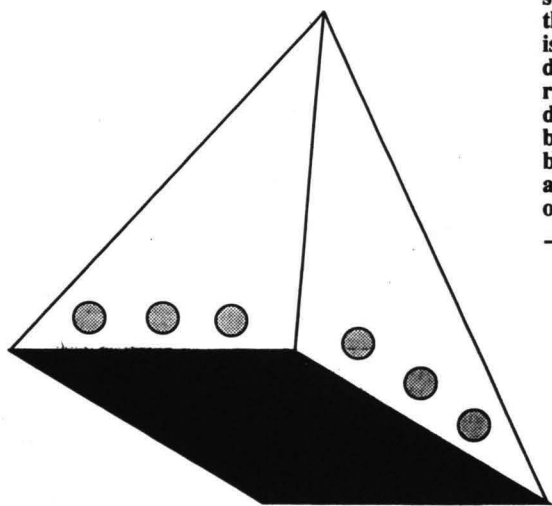
Keep Looking Up...and around behind you, and remember if you have seen anything unusual or that you can't explain, please call our hotline at 438-3261. Remember strict confidentiality is observed. Atta boy & ditto's Joe.

Is anybody out there?

Common shapes for UFOs



Disc-shaped with dome



Pyramid-shaped

The most common shape sighted by those spotting UFOs is disc-shaped with a dome on top, but in recent years, different shapes have been seen, including boomerang-shaped and pyramid-shaped objects.

UFOs sightings spark debate among believers and skeptics

By MARY AVERILL
Daily Telegram Staff Writer

LENAWEE — For about a hundred years, people have been reporting seeing objects flying through the sky they could not identify.

There was the "Great Airship Wave" of 1896-97, in which people claimed to see cigar-shaped airships — well before the Wright brothers successfully flew their first heavier-than-air machine.

In more recent times, people have reported seeing Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) in the form of disc-shaped craft with domes on top, as well as boomerang- and pyramid-shaped objects.

The controversy rages, and book and television shows detail the viewpoints of two very different camps.

Some people believe they have seen craft which possibly could be from an alien planet or part of secret governmental experiments.

Others say that though people may well have seen something unusual in the sky, either it was misinterpreted or there is a logical explanation for it which has nothing to do with aliens. One thing's for sure — UFOs are a fascinating topic.

During the Mutual UFO Network's eighth annual National UFO Information Week (Aug. 9-15), members of the international organization are informing the public about their ongoing research of UFO phenomena.

Virginia Tilly, a Grand Rapids resident and MUFON board member, said in a recent interview that she didn't know of any UFO sightings in Lenawee County, but "there have been a number in the southeastern part of the state," including "the famous ones back in April of '66 (in Hillsdale)."

"People saw things on or near the ground, and above the trees — clear objects," she said. "Hundreds of people saw them. It went on for a couple of days."

After investigating the Hillsdale incident, the U.S. Air Force concluded that the sightings were optical illusions created by swamp gas.

Private investigator Hugh Nivison was a member of the Hillsdale police force in 1966. Though he did not see the UFO himself, he said recently that, judging from what others who had seen it told him, he does not believe it was swamp gas. He said he's not sure that it was an alien spacecraft, either — he just doesn't know what it was.

"From what they described to me, it was right over the (Hillsdale College) arboretum. It hovered there quite some time with various lights. The Air Force said it was swamp gas. But swamp gas would be down to the ground, not up in the trees."

"Swamp gas is just a cop out," Nivison continued. "(The Air Force) doesn't know the answer to it, so they just knock it down. There's too many unanswered questions."

Another former member of the

Hillsdale police force, Jerry Wise, reported seeing UFOs on five different nights while patrolling the area over a six-month period in 1966.

Wise said he and another patrol officer were within 100 feet of one UFO.

"It was a disc — a saucer-shaped deal with a raised part which would be a cabin," he recalled recently.

Eugene Herbiner, professor emeritus and former director of the Hillsdale College chemistry department, talked about the episode during a recent phone interview.

"There were a bunch of people who swore they saw (UFOs)," he said, including his son.

However, Herbiner was skeptical then and remains skeptical now. He agreed that methane gas, which is said to glow, could have risen from a swampy area near the arboretum.

"I laughed at the whole thing at the time," he said. "I think it was mass hypnosis or something."

MUFON's Tilly said a sighting also occurred in 1991 southwest of Flint.

"Two young women were driving in a rural area southwest of Flint. They had seen a craft, quite a low one, over a farmer's field. It was a classic UFO report," she said. "The investigator checked with the farmer. It turned out he had seen it too, while he was out plowing one day."

Tilly says she saw UFOs in 1967 and 1988 near St. Joseph. During the first one, she said, she was a college student, driving along U.S. 31 at

night.

"I saw a very bright light above the trees," she said, explaining that she assumed the object was a plane until she saw that it wasn't moving.

When she got closer, she said she could see that "it was a classic UFO shape, about 250 feet high, tilted slightly with a dome on top. On the perimeter were a series of lights, and underneath in the center an intense beam of light."

"A lot of people saw it that night," she said.

Ironically, Tilly, who had always been interested in UFOs, had no desire to stop and get a better look.

She said she later learned that was typical behavior among those who had sighted UFOs.

She said that as people approached the UFOs during the Hillsdale sightings, "they suddenly had this overwhelming feeling of 'I don't want to do this.' They would turn around, walk away, get back in their cars and leave."

During her second sighting, however, she grabbed a camera and binoculars, but as she got fairly near the object, she said, "it just suddenly blinked out."

"Michigan has always had a disproportionately high percentage of sightings for the U.S.," Tilly said.

She said she had no explanation for this, but MUFON researchers theorize that UFOs may indeed be alien spacecraft which have chosen to visit Michigan because it is visible from a great distance since it is surrounded by the Great Lakes.

Another theory about Michigan's alleged appeal to aliens, she said, is the proliferation of nuclear power plants along the shores of the Great Lakes.

"(Alien beings) seem to be very interested in our nuclear capabilities," she said.

Barry Karr of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal said that he and other CSICOP members do not believe aliens have anything to do with such UFO sightings.

"Nobody's denying that people see things in the sky that they can't explain, but it doesn't automatically mean it's from outer space. There isn't good evidence that anything from other planets is visiting us."

"It doesn't mean these people are lying," Karr continued. "Perceptions and memories become distorted and embellished... and reporting UFOs is part of our culture. We have expectations of what a UFO (should look) like."

Joe Noffsinger, a professor of astronomy at Adrian College, said that while "there are some things that haven't been identified that have been seen, there's nothing out there that leads me to believe that alien spacecraft or cultures are coming down to us."

Philip J. Klass, an aerospace journalist who has spent 26 years investigating UFOs, said there is "absolutely no scientifically credible evidence indicating we have alien spaceships in our skies... 99 percent of the people who investigate UFOs want to believe UFOs are alien spaceships."

He said that people often mistake planets, re-entering satellites and military craft refueling operations for alien spacecraft.

"People don't have to be crazy (to think they see UFOs) — there's all kinds of interesting lights in the night sky," said Klass, who has authored several books, including *UFOs Explained*.

Not only are people talking about sighting UFOs, some say they have been abducted and physically examined by alien beings.

Author Whitley Strieber detailed his alleged abduction experience in both a book and subsequent movie titled "Communion."

MUFON's Tilly, a friend of Strieber's, said he is "definitely an abductee," but added that she feels he fictionalized his story somewhat for the benefit of book and movie sales.

However, MUFON reports that, according to a recent national survey, at least 3.7 million adult Americans may have experienced UFO abductions.

Tilly said she has investigated about 130 abduction cases in Michigan since 1986, some involving "whole families."

"Our culture says that no such thing exists, yet there are millions of people who are being abducted and being subjected to physical exams by unknown entities," she said.

"I don't think anyone remembers all of the experience," she said, but many say they recall being the subject of physical, psychological and neurological examinations.

According to Tilly, signs that these examinations have occurred include "unexplained scars that no one can account for" such as a "scoop mark" where something like a "mini ice cream scoop was put into the body and several inches of tissue removed."

Some people have said they saw alien beings during their abductions, she said, and their descriptions usually are similar.

Tilly said the aliens usually are described as being 3½ to 4 feet tall, and having frail bodies with long, thin arms, legs and fingers. They are said to have extremely large heads, she said, and "very large black eyes — many people suspect those might be some sort of protective covering." The alleged aliens have small noses and mouths, and "ears usually are not observed."

Some people who believe they have been abducted have reported that the aliens' skin color is gray, while others say it is tan or green.

Some of those who report being abducted have doubted their own sanity afterward, Tilly said.

"People are really traumatized — their own family doesn't believe it. Many have sought professional help and they have been very badly treated by the mental health community," she said.

And according to Jerry Wise, many of the people who said they saw the same UFOs that he did in the 1960s now refute their stories.

"The people that do see them deny it a short time later because they've been ridiculed and figure it isn't worth it," he said.

Author Klass likened groups of people who believe they have been abducted by aliens to a "cult with very dangerous consequences."

"People who get involved with this cult are condemning themselves and their families to completely needless fears and fantasies," he said.

Klass said that if such abductions were actually occurring, they would be a matter of national, even world, security. Yet none of these cases have ever been reported to the FBI, he said.

Tilly indicated that the government covers up the UFO-related information that it has. She said MUFON attempts to obtain this information for their investigations through the Freedom of Information Act and court proceedings.

Judges often disallow access to documents "in the interest of national security," she said, and when access to governmental reports is obtained, "many pages of the documents have everything blacked out."

The government could have several different reasons for keeping UFO-related information to itself, she said.

After sightings of boomerang-shaped UFOs in California, "there was speculation that they were experimental U.S. government craft," she said, adding "there's certainly a possibility that it's a (government) experiment."

And there are other theories. "If our government admitted this is true (that spacecraft from alien planets have been sighted here), then

(continued on page 8) 7

(continued from page 7 -
DAILY TELEGRAPH, Adrian,
MI - Aug. 14, 1992)

they'd also admit they do not control airspace over the U.S. We're spending billions of dollars for the military, yet they are not even able to control our airspace," Tilly said. She added that people probably would want to know why the government is not doing anything about the abductions.

"I don't believe the government has a conspiracy to cover up UFOs," said CSICOP's Karr. He said he believes blacked-out pages on documents obtained from the government really do represent information that could jeopardize national security if made available to the general public, such as location of radar.

According to Tilly, there are some governmental officials who are interested in learning more about UFO phenomena.

"(Some) Congressmen have been receptive recently to starting a new investigation," she said.

PIONEER PRESS, St. Paul,
MN - Aug. 20, 1992

Prof professes to remember 4 abductions

DAVID HAWLEY STAFF WRITER

John Salter, a professor of Indian studies at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, has been fascinated by UFOs since 1988 — since March 20, 1988, to be precise.

On that date, Salter says he and his 23-year-old son were abducted by aliens while driving through Minnesota and Wisconsin. Some months later, Salter says he suddenly realized that the 1988 encounter was just one alien visit among many.

"It's called emergence recall," Salter says. "I remembered three previous incidents — 1957 in central Arizona, 1952 in Arizona and 1941 in Kansas, when I was 7 years old."

Salter, 58, now teaches a popular class on UFOs at the University of North Dakota, where he has been a full professor since 1981. He says he's happy that aliens selected him as a contact. He also says he expects some people to doubt his story.

And he doesn't care. "We see this as being a very friendly kind of thing — non-threatening, non-sinister — part of a long-term sensitizing process designed to familiarize members of the human race with their neighbors in the solar neighborhood," Salter says.

During his 1957 encounter, Salter says aliens performed medical procedures on him and took sperm samples. "I'm not at all concerned that they did it," he adds.

In fact, Salter says he benefited medically from his most recent encounter. "I have noticed 24 physiological changes," he says. These include improved energy, the disappearance of wrinkles and a complete absence of cold or flu infections since 1988.

Salter also credits the encounter

Confessions of a bogus UFO captive

"My name is Mark, and I was once abducted by a UFO."

That's what I was prepared to say when my turn came. I figured if you attend a support group meeting for UFO abductees, you'd better have a story.

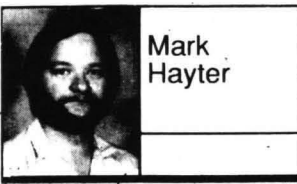
As it turned out, I didn't need a story. Storyless people were welcome at Austin's first UFO support group meeting held last week at the Austin History Center. All that was asked that no cameras or recorders be used. Oh, and they wanted to use first names only.

I picked up right away on the first name stipulation. We're talking some weird stories here. While not all of the 50 people in attendance had abductee accounts, there was enough stuff being tossed around to get you labeled, canned and shelved.

Of course, you need to understand that this was an "open" meeting for those with UFO concerns. It was bound to attract a few oddities. I don't care if it's a meeting of baseball card enthusiasts, table leg makers or people who love the color orange, there are going to be one or two netless aerial performers show up.

The most peculiar thing I discovered about this group was the fact that no one scoffed at any of the stories. You could've said, "My name is Beepo and I'm from the planet Zioptron," and I guarantee you, apart from me, not a soul would've laughed at you.

I'm not saying they would've



Mark Hayter

believed you. They just would've shown you respect for showing up...and opening up.

Many of those who did open up, expressed a distrust for the government's handling of the UFO phenomenon. Some said they had talked to military officials who privately confirm contact with aliens, but publicly see everything as swamp gas.

There was one thing that surfaced during the meeting I consider of notable importance. I have placed it in my "I told you so" file. Those in the know claim that on October 12 something of UFO significance might take place. If it does, I told you so. If it doesn't, I can't believe you fell for it.

Of course, none of what I'm telling you had anything to do with the reason for the meeting. The real purpose was to provide understanding and support for those who profess to having been abducted by alien beings. About a third of those present said they had been abducted.

Most of the abductees said the occurrences took place during their youth. Of course, one person mentioned an encounter six months ago; another had one the day be-

fore; and one lady had an encounter during the 10 minute smoking break.

The smoking break lady said that she received a mental message and was asked to relay it. She had jotted the message on a tablet and read it to the group.

The message was uplifting. We were told that the aliens come in many forms and that we should "continue to seek." They are here to do good, and that each of us is our own UFO experience. She lost me on the last part.

When she finished reading the message, the guy sitting behind her called her a "Pollyanna." He said that the aliens are not here for our own good. "They're hostile as hell!" he said.

Not to worry, though. The man is in the process of getting a patent on a device that will help us take care of the problem. That's comforting as all get out.

As it turned out, only a few of the accounts sparked my eye-rolling tendencies. Most of the stories were similar to what I had read. Several people described beings akin to the ones mentioned in Whitley Strieber's book, "Communion." In fact, Strieber's book is what 'caused' a few "abductees" to try to come to grips with their "time lost" experiences.

Some claim that the incidents had lain dormant in their minds for years. They always sensed something had happened, but could not connect any of the dots. It was only

after hearing or reading of the claims of others, or during hypnosis, that their episodes surfaced.

One lady remarked that she wasn't convinced that the visitors who contacted her were extraterrestrial. She just knows that they were nonhuman. She hopes, as all did, that more people will come forward to tell their stories. They believe that with enough dots, perhaps the picture will come to focus.

Needless to say, I didn't buy all that I heard that afternoon. However, I did go away with a feeling that there were a number of people in that room who actually experienced a phenomenon they cannot explain. These individuals appeared genuinely troubled, and sought understanding from those who had like experience.

They were not seeking notoriety or publicity. And, though it makes for interesting reading, they certainly don't care, nor need, to be ridiculed by a newspaper columnist.

They're looking for help. They're hoping for answers. That's what support groups are for.

Personally, I don't have any answers. I do, however, find limited comfort in the words of my favorite philosopher, John Walton, who said, "Life is a sacred mystery John Boy."

That it is. That it is.

Mark Hayter is a regional columnist.

NEWS TRIBUNE, Tacoma, WA - Sept. 5, 1992

Flight of 'mystery' plane leaves many questions for Pentagon to answer

By Mark Sauter
The News Tribune

The report of a near collision last month between a mysterious aircraft and a packed 747 could bring some unwanted scrutiny to the Pentagon, and perhaps even The Boeing Co.

The mystery plane may have been part of a "black" (secret) weapons development project, perhaps involving Boeing, experts say.

In addition to the safety issues posed by the near collision, critics say the very existence of such mystery aircraft raises questions about congressional control over the estimated \$35 billion being spent by the government each year on classified weapons projects and intelligence operations.

The incident seemed to surprise even Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Bremerton), whose work on the House Appropriations and Intelligence committees involves oversight of some classified projects.

Dicks pledged to investigate the incident. "I'm going to have to check into it," the congressman said.

An analyst for a Washington, D.C., research organization often critical of the Pentagon said if the mystery craft were part of a military project, it may have been kept secret even from Congress.

Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists helped write a study earlier this year concluding that the Pentagon probably is developing secret aircraft.

"If these (aircraft) programs exist, someone is lying. And the public is being kept in the dark about how its money is spent," Aftergood said.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the near collision occurred over Southern Cali-

fornia on Aug. 5, when the crew of a United Airlines 747 en route to London reported that an unusual and unscheduled aircraft had zipped by within 1,000 feet of their widebody jet.

The unidentified aircraft was described as having a sleek, wingless body about 50 feet long and looked something like a miniature version of the now-retired SR-71 spy plane. The description that does not fit known aircraft.

There have been numerous press reports of the military flying secret spy planes in California and Britain. But Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Garner denied the mystery aircraft was part of a "black" (secret) military project.

"That wasn't one of ours — not to suggest we have black programs," Garner said.

Yet the respected magazine *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, which first reported the August incident, also has claimed that a number of "black" military aircraft may now be under development.

The magazine said an aircraft similar to the one involved in the 747 incident was spotted last January being shipped from the Lockheed company's secret development center in California to Boeing Field aboard an Air Force C-5 transport jet.

The information suggested a possible joint project between the companies on some sort of classified flying machine. "I can't confirm or deny that report," said Boeing spokesman Tom Koehler.

The Air Line Pilots Association reportedly is investigating the safety implications of the California incident, but the FAA says it does not plan an investigation, in part because no one will admit operating or owning the mysterious aircraft.

UNION LEADER, Manchester, NH - Oct. 14, 1992 CR: D. Bradley

Strange Lights Reported Over Concord

Police in Concord received about 10 reports and Manchester police one call about odd-looking bright lights in the sky about 7 last night.

The National Weather Service, asked by police, at first said it might be the way the moon was shining through the clouds.

However, the weather man changed his mind after looking at the sky and finding no odd light from the moon.

No one has, officially, suggested flying saucers.

Anglers Mystified By Speeding, Glowing Object

by Bland Pugh

Here are two sighting reports by the same couple, they are very interesting and I thought I would pass them along.

"We are avid fishing enthusiasts. We were fishing here one bright starlit evening when it happened, suddenly we heard a sound directly overhead. It was a sound much like when a welders' torch is turned on, although not quite as sharp ... Plop! ... Simultaneously and instantly the whole area, for a great distance around us, was lighted bright as day.

Looking upward in amazement, we both saw an enormous round white light which remained motionless and soundless, as it hovered right above us. It almost seemed that we could touch it ... we felt no heat. For several seconds it quietly illuminated the ground around us. We could not see any person or identifiable object behind the white glow of the light, as it hovered directly over our heads, but we had an uncanny feeling, and yet it was a real feeling. Somebody or something was intently watching us, I don't know how long we stayed there as we stared spellbound and speechless.

Speeds Away

In an instant the light, in a tremendous burst of speed, started to ascend. There was no audible sound and the air did not stir. The light traveled nearly straight upwards, at a fantastic speed, to a point high in the Northern Sky, where without a split second pause, it made an abrupt square turn westwards. The figure [seven] describes the path the object took, as it disappeared in the clear Northwest evening sky.

In the ensuing silence that followed, after the disappearance of the object, a feeling of great reluctance and emptiness took over. We did not talk about what we had just seen."

Quite some time passed between that first sighting and the next encounter you are about to read, but remember this is the same couple.

"Friends of ours, told us about sighting several [flying saucers]. They had seen two or more on some evenings.

We voiced our interest and expressed a desire to see the UFO's, if our friends ever saw them again.

It was on a clear evening when we got a telephone call ... "Hurry over, they're here again!"

Two Objects

Quickly we put the camera and glasses into the car and drove over to our friends home. Three very excited children and their mother greeted us. The father had gone downtown and would return in a few minutes. "There are two of them! ... Everybody clamored ... "See, there is one directly east of us ... and one is over in the Northeast."

Looking through our glasses at the first one, and then the other object, we watched them for quite awhile. The father returned home and joined our noisy group.

My wife and I wanted to get closer to one of the objects and perhaps get some pictures of it. The parents and children decided to stay at home so we got into our car and left them.

We drove about three miles and stopped on the shoulder of the road. We were exactly opposite the object, which appeared to be about a half of a mile north of us. Apparently, it was stationary in the sky. Getting out of our car, we trained our glasses on it. The object, with a short cylindrical body, dome shaped top, and flat bottom, was turret shaped.

The top glowed a blue-green color ... the sides glowed white ... and the bottom glowed red. We could hear no sound from it.

Suddenly, a semicircle of white light glowed around the upper trim of the object ... The lights blinked on and off several times ... Suddenly, while we were watching, it split completely apart ... into separate pieces and then it went back together, forming a single object again. We were astonished!

In the next second the object started a reverse circular movement, whirling around and around. In an instant it stopped. The semicircle of lights glowed on the tip and suddenly a shower of sparks erupted from each light. Each light looked like a 4th of July sparkler. Our amazement was unbounded.

The object continued quite slowly eastwards. As it traveled, it stood top-side up. Then it tilted first forward, then backwards, then it lay on its side. It was a demonstration that presented itself, as we watched!

Wow ... what a sighting report ... I think these people have seen exactly what we've been seeing, all of their descriptions match, either all of our sightings or most. As you know each sighting seems to be just a little different. Maybe we could get this couple to come to one of our MUFON meetings and give us a first hand account of their sighting. Their names are Charles and Mae Dean Fiorita.

Past History

How many of you caught this little blurb in the *Pensacola News-Journal*?

"Apparently the UFO's - unidentified flying objects - are real. And apparently many of the flying saucers have been hovering over the Pensacola Area.

Many such reports have come to city desks the last several weeks - particularly on Wednesday nights.

That's the reason a UFO watch has been set up, starting at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday at the bluffs on Scenic Highway - just across from the cemetery overlooking the bay.

You're invited."

- Authur Cobb

W a n t e d :
Information leading to the location of a flying saucer watcher, who walked into *The Pensacola News-Journal* editorial offices, some time after midnight, three Saturday nights ago and claimed to have been taken for a ride in an unidentified flying object.

If you weren't taking us for a ride, UFO passenger, drop back by. We need your story."

Authur Cobb

... There's only one problem, the people were from Moberly, MO., and the time of the first sighting was, 1956, the second was in April of 1967. Amazingly enough, if you will go back and read the description of the sightings that we have been writing about for the past 10 months, you will find them remarkably similar.

The Pensacola News-Journal blurbs were written in 1967. It all sounds very familiar ... Huh? And we thought we had invented sitting around in lawn chairs, looking up in the sky. I wonder if that guy, that wrote the editorial in the *Journal* this past summer ... maybe his mother or dear old dad ... nah, not someone from Pensacola, they wouldn't sit out with lawn chairs, and wait around on UFO's to come by ... would they?

I guess the whole gist of this article, is to make a point, that the UFO phenomenon is not something that was home grown in Gulf Breeze, it has been around for many years.

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - Sept. 19, 1992

UFO event taps professional crowd

Believers from near, far meet to prove sightings in scientific manner

By Chris Bentley
The News-Leader

Sure, there are probably some kooks.

But most people attending the Midwest Conference on UFO Research in Springfield this weekend seem to be anything but the flaky types that TV comedies tell us are the typical UFO believers.

Attending the weekend-long event at University Plaza Hotel, 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway, are psychologists, college professors, scientists, retired members of the Air Force and electronics experts.

■ **Far-flung:** Most attendees are

from Missouri and Arkansas, but some traveled from Oregon, California, Alabama, Mississippi, New York, Nebraska.

The reason? MUFON has a good reputation because it's skeptical, said Walt Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, sponsor of the event.

"Eighty to 90 percent of UFO sightings, after we investigate and interview people, check records, can be explained. It's something mundane," Andrus said.

"We're looking for proof in a scientific way. People ask me if I believe in UFOs. 'Belief' has a religious connotation. There are facts, documentation. I don't have to believe. By this time, we know."

■ **One attendee:** Wes Ellison arrived from Kansas with his family and assorted electronics equip-

ment. An electronics engineering technician at the University of Kansas, Ellison has been working on developing "UFO detection devices" in his spare time since January.

He doesn't know how UFOs work, but: "Regardless of where something comes from, it still has to obey the laws of physics."

So Ellison built sensitive magnetometers that set off alarms when the electro-magnetic field nearby changes — as it would if any large vehicle passed by. He's incorporated infra-red photography equipment and laser beams into some designs.

Tell him the equipment looks like something from *Ghostbusters*, and he laughs.

"Yeah, it does," he says. "Everybody tells me that." He plans to field-test his inventions soon, he says.

NEWS-PRESS, Glendale, CA - Oct. 29, 1992 CR: F. Ruehl

Witching hour comes to city — 2 see UFO

By Steve Ryfle
Glendale News-Press

Maybe it was an alien trying to find the Galleria. Or a top-secret military aircraft spying on the city below. Whatever it was, one Glendale woman insists she saw it, and it gave her a fright.

"It was dark gray, shaped like a triangle. It was flat, and at each of the three corners it had a flashing red light," said the 50-year-old woman, who asked not to be named.

The woman and her 13-year-old son said they both witnessed the UFO about 9:30 p.m., Monday, in the skies above their north Glendale home. The boy was watching television in a bedroom when, during a commercial break, he glanced out the window and noticed something strange in the heavens.

"He came into my room and said, 'Mom, I saw a UFO.' I thought I'd go outside and see a big airplane, but instead it was this huge object, flying very slowly," the woman said.

The object emitted a low hum and at first appeared to be heading earthward, as if it were about to crash, she said.

"It was flying over the middle of Glendale," the boy added. "It kept on going and then the trees blocked our view and we couldn't see it any more."

What Is BBS?

I guess I'd better clarify something for some of you. In last week's article, I mentioned a BBS. I have had several people ask me, "What is a BBS?" So, I guess I'd better explain. First of all, it's not a UFO, it doesn't fly, nor make funny marks on the ground, and it doesn't have little gray people living in it, most of the time anyway. Some may be looking at it on occasion, but that's about all. OK ... a BBS is an electronic Bulletin Board, that is available to those that have a computer, with what is called a modem. It's just like making a long distance telephone call, except you do it through your computer. Once you have been connected to the BBS, you can either talk to other people of similar interest or post messages to them. You may also retrieve messages left by others. Most BBS's have many interesting files that are available for "downloading" or copying. You may also leave your articles or messages for others to read. Again if you don't have a computer, just forget I ever said anything, and keep looking up ... and around behind you. Don't forget the old hotline 438-3261.

Her curiosity piqued, the woman called her neighbors and then the Glendale Police Department to see if anyone else had sighted the flying craft. But no one had, and she was left wondering just what it may have been.

While Glendale may have its share of strange characters, beings from beyond have yet to stake a claim here. There are no inexplicable rock formations, no aerial designs formed in the grass at Verdugo Park, and — according to police — few, if any, UFO sightings.

"I've worked here for years and years, and I don't remember ever taking a UFO call," said GPD spokesman Leif Nicolaisen.

"It's not a typical thing when someone calls up and reports a UFO sighting. If one person were to call up it wouldn't necessarily be a big issue, but if we were to get a rash of calls about a UFO that's something we would pay attention to," Nicolaisen said.

Even though her story cannot be corroborated, Dr. Franklin Ruehl Jr., Glendale's UFO expert and host of the cable TV program, "Mysteries from Beyond the Other Dominion," called it "an interesting sighting."

"We've had some triangular-shaped sightings throughout the years, but the most common are the saucer-shaped and the cigar-shaped UFOs," Ruehl said.

However, Ruehl said he knows of no other reported UFO sightings over Glendale. Most sightings tend to be in remote areas, away from cities, he said.

"I would certainly say it should be taken under serious consideration. One possibility is obviously that it could be a true UFO. On the other hand, there could be a more mundane explanation, such as an aircraft of an experimental nature," Ruehl said.

Some purported UFO sightings have been linked to test flights of triangular-shaped warplanes like the B-2 stealth bomber, which are undetectable to radar. Such planes are developed under a cloak of secrecy and information about their whereabouts is kept under wraps by the Pentagon.

The woman, who works for a local bank, said she and her son are not UFOlogists, nor are they particularly intrigued by the prospect of life on other planets. Had not both of them spotted the UFO together, she would never have reported the sighting, she said.

"Neither one of us are really given to fantasies. This is the first time I've ever seen anything like this," she said.

"It's hard to believe there is no other form of life out there, but it's also hard for me to believe they're flying over the continental U.S. The jury's out, as far as I'm concerned."

Who's been sleeping in my cornfield?

Austinburg man would like explanation to mysterious rectangle in his garden

By CARL E. FEATHER
Lifestyles Editor

AUSTINBURG — Donald Wheeler is baffled by what he discovered in his cornfield Sunday morning.

Returning home from a several-day trip, Wheeler discovered that something, someone or some phenomenon had produced a rectangular impression in the field behind his Route 45 home. An interior section of the field, measuring approximately 25-by-8-feet, had been leveled. All of the corn stalks were bent down in one direction.

"None of the stalks were broken," Wheeler said.

Suspecting deer, Wheeler made a thorough check of the perimeter of the cornfield looking for tracks. But there were none — deer, raccoon or man, for that matter. Further, the ears were untouched by the intruder.

Next, Wheeler examined the field and area around his home for possible wind damage. But he said the stalks were not twisted and nothing else in the yard showed any ill effects from wind. It just appeared as if something came down out of the sky, pushed the stalks flat on the ground and left without leaving any other trace in the soft ground.

Although some might learn toward a visit from a spacecraft as an explanation, Wheeler isn't speculating.

"There's no evidence of that kind of stuff," he said. Rather, he's chalking up as a unsolved mystery.

"It's just one of those things that happen and you have no explanation for it," Wheeler said. "One of the problems with man is he can't stand to have something go unexplained."

One thing is for certain, a portion of Wheeler's handsome sweet corn crop won't make it to the dinner table.

"It was the best part of my corn, too," Wheeler lamented.



CARL FEATHER / The Star-Beacon

Donald Wheeler of 9151 Route 45 examines the rectangular impression left in his cornfield. Wheeler said there are no tracks or other sign of entry into the field, but something leveled a 25-by-8-foot patch of the corn.

INTELLIGENCER, Edwardsville, IL - Sept. 16, 1992

Troy man believes UFOs caused circles

By LAURIE SYBERT
Of the Intelligencer

TROY — Have UFOs visited rural Troy and left a mark on the land there?

This is the second year that perfectly formed circles of flattened plants have appeared in an isolated farm field near field near Peter Bostrom's laboratory south of the city on Troy-O'Fallon Road.

And he wants to know why.

"I don't care what did it. I'm just curious to know why it did it," said Bostrom, the owner of Lithic Casting Labs. "It just looks like energy. It looks like something just forced them (the plants) down." Nearby cattails were not affected at all, he added.

Bostrom, who reproduces his-

toric artifacts for museums around the world, has undertaken a one-man campaign to locate the source of the circles.

He has contacted scientists throughout the nation for answers to his questions about the origin of the eerily perfect circles.

So far, Bostrom said, the scientists' answer is: The circles haven't been created in any way known to man.

With natural possibilities eliminated, Bostrom concludes that the only cause of the circle is "an unidentified cause."

"UFOs are the only thing I can see as a cause," he said.

He said he was also led to the UFO conclusion by the fact that numerous area residents have told him they have seen strange lights in the

rural area. Last year, neighbors told him they saw white lights that changed to red as well as orange globe-like lights.

Bostrom describes the circles — which are made in an uncultivated field of weeds called "sweet flag" — as being being wheel-like circles of up to 40 feet in diameter around a center 5 foot stand of the plant. He said the edges appear scalloped. "They look like little energy release points," Bostrom said.

Up to five circles have appeared the past two years in June in the same farm field. Bostrom said he doesn't own the field and that the owner does not want to be identified.

After the plants are flattened, they turn brown and die, he said, which makes the circles easily visi-

ble.

A biophysicist in Wisconsin who was sent samples of both flattened and unflattened sweet flag said the cells in the flattened plants have been stretched by up to 50 percent, Bostrom said. He said the scientist had also studied crop samples from England — where crop circles first appeared several years ago and received wide publicity — and found the same results.

Bostrom said a botanist with a Belleville lab had found that the flattened plants have different iron and mineral contents than the untouched plants. The botanist was out of town and could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

But Bostrom did not end his analysis with plant scientists.

He also had the soil structure an-

alyzed and found that there was no geologic cause for the circles, he said. And a jet technician and helicopter pilot concluded that the circles could not have been caused by high winds from either of those vehicles, he said.

Bostrom has also ruled out a man-made hoax as the cause.

Sweet flag grows only in a marshy area and no footprints have been found at the site when the circles have appeared, he said.

Bostrom has been interested in unexplained phenomena and UFOs since the 1960s — "Before you could talk about it."

He believes he has gone almost as far as he can go as an amateur individual investigating the site.

"It takes money and time to get the information," Bostrom said.

UFOs Checkout Mainland

by Bland Pugh

Sighting reports continue to come into MUFON, surprisingly enough several have come from areas other than Gulf Breeze. One report that did originate from the Breeze was from one of our regular Skywatchers, that was at the Three Mile Bridge when he spotted an anomalous light late Tuesday evening, while there with a friend. His sighting consisted of a white, greenish, and red light that was over the Pensacola area around 10:30 p.m.

Another sighting was reported by one of our MUFON members and his wife. In the interest of accuracy I am going to relay the story just as this member wrote the sighting up, and presented it to me. Both of these sightings occurred approximately at the same time.

"Object appeared in sky through car windshield, as we approached the rail overpass on Brent Lane, trav-

eling east from the Palafox Street intersection. We were just west of the Quincy's when we first detected it. At that point it was approximately 35 degree elevation from us. It could have been higher when it appeared, but came into our view through the windshield of the car at that point. It fell slowly, disappearing at approximately 10 degree elevation and appeared to have been approximately over or near the rail road tracks at that time, but we had no point of reference for triangulation to be sure where it was. The object was a bright glowing ball of light. Color was a yellowish-green tinged with blue. Seafoam green comes to mind, but that may not be an apt description of the color. A mix of yellow, blue and pale green, Berol pencils come about as close to the color as we could get. There was also a tail or stem (like an apple). This seemed to be close to a Berol

process red (which is a composite of red, pink and blue with a yellowish orange or "fire" colors around the edges of the tail or stem. The ball of light did not change size or color during the time it was in our view. It disappeared instantly, without any sound or evidence of smoke, etc. There were no aircraft of any kind in the vicinity at the time. It was first spotted by my wife, then is came in my view. She is shorter by several inches, so she could see a larger angle of view through the windshield. Another passenger was in the car, but was in the back seat and did not see it. Object was either fairly large or extra close. A half dollar would not have covered it at arms length. It fell straight down, without apparent deflection by the prevailing winds. The absence of Pyrotechnic effects seems to rule out flares or fire-works of any kind. A bolide of that apparent size would have created such an explosion that the witnesses would unlikely be here to tell about it."

On Saturday, October 3, our local MUFON publicity chairperson Patti Weatherford was in the Tampa, Florida area to present slides and videos about the UFO Phenomena in the local area.

Patti was invited by state section director Eugene R. Brown and his wife Jean Brown to speak to the Pinellas/Manatee County MUFON members and the interested public.

About 30 diehards, braved the torrential rains, flood, and tornadoes, to come to the presentation.

Hopefully this will spur some visits to the area resulting in additional revenue for the Beach area businesses during the off season.

Our next meeting is going to be next Tuesday, and the speaker is Dr. Carson...all I can say is be there, if you miss this one you will be sorry. The meeting is at 7:15 p.m. The admission is \$3.00 for MUFON members, and \$5.00 for non-members.

Sightings are still being reported on the hotline, we are receiving many

calls from the New York area reporting sightings there, and asking for information about the sightings here. Visitors continue to come to the area wanting to learn as much about the Phenomena as possible, and of course to hopefully see the famous UFO if possible. Remember if you have a sighting or have seen anything unusual please call our hotline at 438-3261, and keep looking up...and behind you.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach,

FL - Oct. 9, 1992



CRISPY PASCUAL/Aubury Park Press
Artist's rendition shows one type of alien that has been reported.

Support for those extraterrestrial moments

By MELANIE E. EVERSLEY
PRESS FREEHOLD BUREAU

JOHN O'CONNELL awoke suddenly in his bedroom that September night in 1989, and found "an entity standing next to me."

"It made quick, insect-like movements," said O'Connell, 39, of Toms River. O'Connell said he sensed that the entity, small and gray with reptilian features, was an old lady. It

kissed him on the cheek and touched him with its hand, he said.

"It was like a latex glove and it was very warm to the touch. It felt good."

O'Connell, not his real name, is one of dozens of people who have reported encounters with aliens to the local chapter of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, based in Seaside, N.J.

While most of the 25 regional

MUFON members are accustomed to ridicule, Vincent Creevy, Monmouth-Ocean chapter president, said it is important to keep an open mind. Many in the group are scientists, engineers or employed in some technological field, and apply their expertise to objectively weighing claims, said Creevy, 41, a surveyor who lives on Brown Road, Howell Township.

Like O'Connell, many of those who

seek answers from MUFON usually need support, having kept silent for fear of ridicule.

"They're trying desperately to integrate this into their lives," Creevy said. "They're usually looking for validation that this happened."

Creevy takes telephone inquiries from one or two central New Jersey

"I asked him when will the time be for all this to come to an end and he said, 'Soon, very soon,'" O'Connell said. O'Connell said he asked the entity how survivors would be chosen. He looked out the window and saw pedestrians, with beams of light shining on perhaps one-fourth of the passersby, O'Connell said.

"(The entity) just sort of smiled," O'Connell said.

The majority of people who believe they've had such experiences are women, said Joseph Stefula, 46, Pemberton Township, a retired Army officer and MUFON's New Jersey state director.

Many of the women report having medical examinations, and even having fetal tissue removed, although this phenomenon has not been documented, MUFON members said.

Still others, both women and men, report small, glass-like probes being inserted into their brains or nasal tissues, Creevy said.

"A lot of people believe they're some sort of tracking device. Others believe it's a device to control your behavior," he said.

Carol, a professional Monmouth County woman in her 30s, whose name was changed to keep her anonymity, believes she might have had a probe inserted into her head. She recently found a mark near her ear that she believes might be the result of such a procedure.

Carol contacted Creevy several months ago believing she might have had experiences with aliens. Under hypnosis, she recalled experiences dating back to her childhood, she said.

About three months ago, a male entity and a female entity visited her in the night, she said. "The male ... propped me up to a sitting position. All I could perceive was this light aimed at my head. The female was at the left side of my bed. I had this numbing feeling."

Another Monmouth County resident, Bill, also a professional in his 30s, believes he has encountered

aliens over the years. His name also has been changed for anonymity. Unlike Carol, Bill's memories are more dreamlike. He believes his experiences may be partially buried in his subconscious.

Bill recalled lying in bed early one morning, about 18 months ago, and suddenly feeling dizzy and numb. "Then I heard a voice, a distinct voice in the room."

The voice spoke a language Bill said he never heard. "It was the weirdest sound, as if you took a deep male voice and kind of chopped it all up and played it backwards."

Some people remember even less of their experiences, Creevy said. One Wall Township man and his small son experienced "missing time" last year, Creevy said. Neither the man nor the boy remember what happened, but immediately after the experience, the man found a star-shaped marking on his stomach that disappeared after a few hours, Creevy said.

While many ufologists employ hypnosis to jump-start people's memories, Creevy said he prefers that the recollections return naturally. Hypnosis can introduce unwanted suggestions, he said.

The U.S. government takes no specific stance on UFOs and disbanded an investigatory committee in the 1970s, said Air Force Capt. Betsy Freeman, public affairs officer. "We found 90 percent or so of the reports were explainable," she said.

The experiences could indicate anything, from time travelers, to unknown earth-bound forms of life, to paranormal phenomena, Creevy said. The key is to "listen carefully and with compassion to the testimony of those who have had these unusual and frightening encounters," he said.

MUFON welcomes new members, and is particularly interested in advice and input from present or past military personnel, Creevy said. For information on local MUFON chapters, contact the national headquarters at (512) 370-9216.

TIMES, Shreveport, LA - Oct. 16, 1992 CR: K. Turner

Speaking of UFOs... here's an authority

By TEDDY ALLEN
The Times

Karla Turner, in Shreveport Saturday and Tuesday to speak about her UFO-based book, knows what you're thinking.

A former Shreveporter and educator with a doctorate in English, she didn't believe or disbelieve the UFO phenomenon either. Then her husband saw a UFO in December of 1987.

"Even though I knew my husband well — I knew he wasn't a liar or a joker and he was stable — I was still floored," said Turner, who now lives near Little Rock, Ark. "I thought there had to be another explanation."

In June of 1988, Turner accompanied her husband to Tulsa, Okla., where he underwent two days of hypnosis. One night while there, she had a compulsion to walk outside at 3 a.m. Her husband and the mental health professional they were seeing followed. What she saw convinced her.

"Once you actually see a UFO and you can't tell yourself you're sleeping or dreaming, you have to pay attention to it," she said.

"There was no sound," she said. "It began as a brilliant strobe of zig-zag patterns across the sky. It was stationary, flashing three different colors of lights."

"Then it got closer," she said, "and the lights became horizontal bars of different colors. Then

SIGHTINGS

Former Shreveporter Karla Turner will make two Shreveport appearances:

■ 2:30 p.m. Saturday: Brief talk/autograph session for her book *Into the Fringe*, City Book Store, 1917 Creswell Ave. Books available for \$4.99.

■ 7 p.m. Tuesday: Lecture, LSUS Student Union Auditorium. Free.

the metallic reflection took on a pie-pan shape."

It lasted a minute. The three witnesses compared notes. Each had seen the same thing.

"I've had other sightings since then," she said, "but that was the first I'd witnessed. It was so undeniable, so real, I had to pay attention."

After 10 years of college teaching, the Woodlawn High graduate and former LSUS student quit her university position to pursue "ufology." (pronounced u-FALL-o-gee). Working with an Oklahoma researcher, Turner recently published *Into the Fringe*, a book billed as a "true story of UFO's and alien abduction."

residents each month who believe they have encountered aliens.

The accounts carry eerie similarities, from people who do not know each other, Creevy said.

There are the distinct characteristics of three types of creatures: one small and gray with large, dark eyes and able to feel emotion; another, tall with large, dark eyes and devoid of emotion, and a third that appears human.

There are the reports of what ufologists, or UFO researchers, call "missing time," in which a person blacks out for several hours. Under hypnosis, the person might recall encountering aliens.

And there are the warnings that the aliens psychically project to these people about the apocalypse or some future, dramatic event, Creevy said.

These callers are all "normal people," Creevy said. He says he has interviewed only one person in the last two years who may have been emotionally disturbed.

O'Connell and two other local residents who believe they have encountered aliens sat in Creevy's dining room, sipping seltzer and discussing the UFO phenomenon with Creevy. They sometimes laughed, making light of their experiences. At other times, they sat quietly while one of them recalled an experience that was emotionally painful.

O'Connell believes that he, his wife and two daughters may have been experiencing alien encounters for years. About eight years ago, while the family lived in Liverpool, England, O'Connell said he was visited in the night by an alien with a human appearance. The entity psychically told O'Connell that some world event would take place.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Sept. 23, 1992 CR: S. Gordon

Kecksburg UFO: It will fly again on national TV

By Sharon Santus
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

The alleged landing of a UFO in the Mt. Pleasant Township community of Kecksburg 27 years ago will once again be in the national spotlight.

Fox Television's "Sightings" will feature the case in an upcoming broadcast, perhaps as early as Oct. 9.

A production crew was in Kecksburg and Greensburg Monday and Tuesday conducting interviews with people who say they saw a mysterious, acorn-shaped craft glide over the community and slowly land in a creek bed Dec. 9, 1965.

The issue has divided many members of the farming community. Many say they were there when military personnel hauled away a tarpaulin-covered object in the back of a flat-bed truck. Others, including then Fire Chief Ed Myers, said there were a handful of military personnel in the area that night, but they found nothing and soon left. They say the so-called UFO landing is nothing more than an elaborate hoax.

Myers and other Kecksburg skeptics were asked to appear on the broadcast, but declined.

Phyllis Ward, producer for the UFO segment, said she is perplexed by their refusal to appear.

"We're very much interested in

hearing the other side because the segment will deal with how this case has divided the community," Ward said. "We're disappointed that people who feel it is a hoax refused to have their feet put to the fire on the facts. They won't let their version be scrutinized."

Ward said she realizes the UFO controversy has continued to spur strong emotions in the community, but was still startled by an incident that occurred Monday near the Kecksburg fire hall.

"A blue pickup with gray stripes drove past and an occupant yelled at us, 'Go to hell.' It's bizarre that after 27 years, this case still stirs such intense emotion."

Myers defended his refusal to appear on the show.

"Every time we do say something, we get 5 minutes to their 25," Myers said. "There are people saying they saw certain things that night just to get on TV. One member of my church said to me, 'Oh, it's only a little white lie.' To me, a lie's a lie, no matter if it's big or small."

Myers said some of his neighbors and most members of the Kecksburg Fire Department haven't spoken to him since the case first gained national prominence on an NBC "Unsolved Mysteries" segment two years ago.

"This is what hurts," Myers said. "When people who were born and raised with turn against you, it hurts. It's been so bad, we've been thinking of selling out and moving."

Stan Gordon, director of the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, has conducted dozens of interviews and compiled hundreds of pages of documents on the Kecksburg case.

Gordon said there is no doubt something landed in the area that night.

"We've talked to many, many people who don't know each other and they're all confirming each other's report of what happened that night," Gordon said. "Our position is, something definitely landed that night. It might have been a Soviet space probe. That's

not a definitive answer, but it's a possibility."

Gordon said he does not understand why Myers and other skeptics declined to tell their side.

"We very much wanted for them to appear and give their facts," he said. "I think all sides of the story should be heard."

Gordon, whose group has called for a congressional investigation into the alleged landing, said he is convinced there are many witnesses who have yet to tell what they saw that night.

"Now's the time for people to come forward," he said. "It's very important for this history to be recorded because many witnesses are getting older and people are passing away."

Gordon asks that anyone with information on the alleged landing contact the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

'Close encounter' too close for Quarryville man

For Quarryville's Bill Epler, 1952 was the year that was.

"Whatever I saw haunted me the past 40 years," said Epler, an amateur astronomer and teacher in the Octorara School District.

"I have watched the night sky and have seen Venus, Mars, Jupiter and many constellations. But I have never seen anything resembling my 1952 experience," Epler observed.

He was seven years old at the time, living with his family on Chester Street in Lancaster.

"My mother and I were the only people at home on that Friday night," Epler said. "I had gone to bed early, so I could get up to watch 'Covered Wagon Theater' on channel 8."

Around midnight, his mother awakened him and told him to come with her to the upper porch of their home.

"She pointed toward the sky almost directly overhead. To my surprise there were two bright, circular lights that were side-by-side, as big as full moons," recounted the teacher.

"The lights moved steadily — not really fast or slow — with no sound," he added. The next day, he saw flying saucer articles in the local newspapers.

Forty years later, Epler, decided to go back to those articles and learn what he could about that fateful night. After obtaining the dates of the articles from the Lancaster Newspaper office, he researched them at the Lancaster County Public Library.

During that week, he learned, many sightings were reported from observation watches being made on the roof of the Griest Building and the Lancaster Newspaper building.

A newspaper headline on July 30, 1952, proclaimed the first "credible" sightings in the area.

The headline reads "Newsmen Show Saucer To County's Air Spotter Chief." The "Chief" was Leon Duckworth, leader of an observation corps which was on assignment to observe the skies for unidentified flying aircraft during the Korean War.

According to the article, "Flying saucers were no laughing matter." And it told how newspaper staff (unidentified) escorted Duckworth to the top of the roof of the newspaper building where he



New Era Photo by Barry Decker

Watching the skies is a family affair for Bill Epler, of Quarryville, and his sons Wade, age 11, and Wesley, age 8. Epler also uses their star-gazing ses-

sions as an opportunity to fill them in on Lancaster's very own "flying saucer scare," which took place 40 years ago this month.

was given a telescope to look for "flying saucers."

Duckworth was not a believer in flying saucers: he was a trained observer. On that night, however, he saw something that changed his mind.

"It's a red glow in the sky over the western part of Lancaster, about four miles away," read Duckworth's account. "Man, look at it go."

Duckworth contacted another spotter corps member at the Griest Building to confirm his sighting. After a discussion with the spotter, Duckworth asked the news reporter if what he had seen was an "unidentified flying object?" (UFO).

The article ended with the statement, "Duckworth left the newspaper building with a new-won respect for the mysterious missiles in the sky."

According to Epler, Duck-

worth's account was only the beginning of sightings in Lancaster.

"The Lancaster Newspapers reported sightings all over the city and county," he said.

On July 31, 1952, a Lancaster newspaper reported that a family on spotter duty at the Griest Building observed a red blinking light over the skies of Willow Street and Quarryville.

The Tomlinsons of Andrew St., reported, "First a white light, then a red light, then it streaked upward leaving a tail."

"The reports actually continued in the newspapers until August 22, 1952, said Epler. But "the front page headline reports were made during the first week of August."

Sightings were made by airline pilots, traffic controllers and airport radar personnel.

Explanations generally cen-

tered on the scientific factor of "heat inversion." That occurs when hot and cold air meet in such a way to cause a mirage which acts as a kind of lens capable of producing a reflection.

In recent years, Epler has continued to watch the night skies with his wife, Bette Lou, and his two children, Wade, age 11, and Wesley, age 8.

He said that his family particularly enjoys getting up just after midnight in this part of August to watch for the meteor showers from Perseid, a group of meteors which appear annually about August 11.

"On a clear night we set up a telescope and enjoy the beauty of the night sky," said Epler.

He also uses that time to tell his family about a night 40 years ago when the sightings were not nearly so predictable.

"I have never forgotten that night," he said.

REGISTER-HERALD, Beckley, WV - Sept. 28, 1992

Residents report UFO sightings in Summers Co.

By Sean Gannon

REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

Summers County residents are wondering whether the bright flashing lights they saw on a hill-top late Sunday night could be an unidentified flying object.

The row of six or seven lights was first reported around 8:20 p.m. when about 23 staff and guests at the Oaks Supper Club on Indian Ridge Road in Pipestem saw bright green lights at the end of the building, where normally there are just regular floodlights, said waitress Sharon Romanello.

"The lights (outside near the dining room window) flashed and then got a funny green glow," she said. "I walked out and then two other waitresses went out and the light went out totally."

"A strong green light came back and then while we were looking at the light (to see why it had turned green) we saw the row of lights (up on the hill)," she said.

The row of flashing lights could clearly be seen in a far away field on top of a hill, she said, watching the lights as she spoke on the phone.

The guests and staff all told Romanello they weren't sure what the object was, and none thought it looked like an airplane or helicopter. No one reported seeing any

movement from the lighted object, she said.

After looking at the lights through binoculars, one guest left to bring back a telescope, she said.

Firefighters were called and there were no flames coming from the object to indicate wreckage, she said.

Police, firefighters and restaurant staff all laughed when asked if they thought it was a UFO. Yet all admitted they didn't know what the lights were and wanted to find out.

At 10:30 p.m., Indian Ridge Road was reported to be busy, as residents came to take a look at the lights, Romanello said.

"They're definitely lights, but I don't know what it is," said one person who asked not to be identified. "We drove out as close to where we thought it was, but couldn't seem to get close enough."

A state police Trooper from the Hinton detachment was also asked to investigate and was heading toward the area at press time.

"If I get taken by little green men, make a good write-up in the paper," joked Trooper T.S. Pack.

Yet, the lights did warrant a closer look, Romanello said. When police arrived and looked at the lights through binoculars, they were still joking, but decided to

change clothes, find the lights and get to the bottom of the mystery, she said.

At 10:45 p.m., police had not yet identified the source of the lights.

Off-duty firemen from the Pipestem Volunteer Fire Department took a video camera and were trying to find the source of the lights, and were still there at press time, said fire department dispatcher Linda Lowe.

MOUNTAIN WAVE, Marshall, AR - Nov. 5, 1992

Strange Lights Over South Mountain

A number of local residents witnessed unusual lights in the sky, in the area of the radio tower on South Mountain last Tuesday evening.

The Sheriff's Department received several calls about the lights. Deputy Harold Young went outside after several calls and saw the lights himself. He stated there were prob-

ably three aircraft that were doing circular maneuvers over the radio tower, at about 10,000 to 20,000 feet. There was no sound associated with these aircraft, Young said.

Others reported singular or two objects. The general consensus of the reports was aircraft of a triangular shape. Reports were that the underside of the aircraft was either outlined in lights, or completely lighted by rows of lights.

The reports mostly stated the area of sightings to be over South Mountain. Some reports were in the direction of Point Peter out of Snowball and south out of Witts

CR: C. Lippert

Springs.

Deputy Young called the Air Force Base in Little Rock and was told there was no aircraft training going on in this area at the time. They would not make any other comment, Young said.

After watching the lights for about an hour, Young said, a fighter plane came into the area, making the standard sounds associated with aircraft. The identifiable plane took off in an easterly direction, the other aircraft in the opposite direction.

NEWS, Hinton, WV - Sept. 29, 1992

UFO Sighting?

By Fred Long

Police and Pipestem State Park officials investigated a mysterious sighting, Sunday night, of a reported Unidentified Flying Object landing in the vicinity of the Oak Supper Club on Indian Ridge Road, which is located near the park's main entrance.

According to Sharon Romanello, an employee with the Oak Supper Club, all the lights outside went out and "all the employees and 18 guest saw green flashing lights" coming from an object somewhere in the

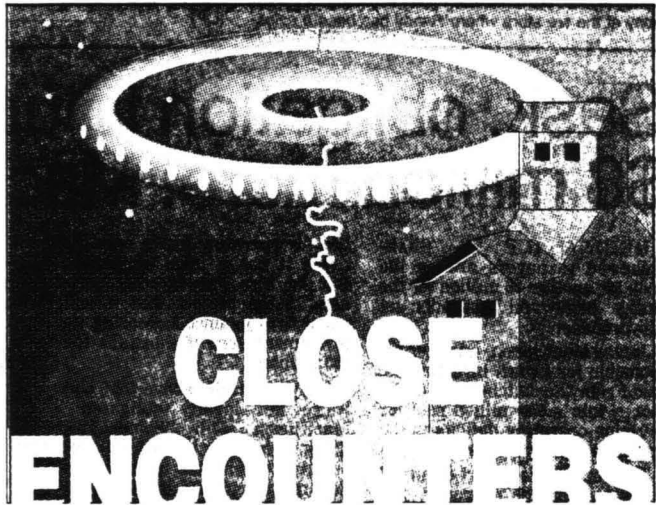
distance. "It was a real funny green glow."

No one saw any movement; however, she said, reports from the park indicated that some kids saw what must have been the same green lights and they said they were moving.

Police determined, following a humongous investigation, that the green lights were only part of a collection of lights placed on the outside of someone's farm house. The house had two green lights on each end and two red lights along with a white light in the middle.



FOREIGN NEWS



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Woman beamed aboard UFO shuts off TV shows about aliens

By Art Robinson
of The StarPhoenix

When you've been beamed aboard a spacecraft with your family, you really don't want to watch similar events on television.

So Margaret, a former Saskatoon resident now living in the Regina area, turns off the set.

"I shut it off on television. I don't like to recall it," she said in an interview with The StarPhoenix.

She and her husband, Paul, have seen UFOs.

She also has been beamed aboard a spacecraft. He has a long, straight scar on his leg from a cut which appears to have healed without stitches.

Their most recent encounter was a couple of years ago with a UFO which followed them from about Chamberlain to Saskatoon.

It wasn't their first unusual experience and it wouldn't be their last

were."

As a youngster she saw a light in a field.

"I know now that I landed in a craft. There was a light beam. Then I was in the craft. When I was in there, I could see my whole family inside. I know they (the aliens) were doing something to them. I could see my dad, mom and sister. They (the aliens) wanted me to go over and see what they were doing. They were operating. I went into a trauma," said Margaret.

She said there were no scars left on her body.

"I think I'm comfortable that nothing has happened to us," she added.

She said the visitors just appear to be doing research.

"That's the impression Laurie (Vassos, a city physician with an interest in UFOs) gave me. I feel it's true."

But there were scars on her husband, she said.

There was one on the back of his leg and one on the base of his

penis.

He too had encountered time-lapses as a youngster, she said.

Paul remembers, for example, as a boy about 10 playing on the farm in his treehouse just before dusk.

He was just getting ready to go into the house when he saw a bright light. Then he remembers falling to the ground "but in slow motion. He had a vague recollection of falling on a barbed-wire fence and cutting his leg. But his clothes weren't torn."

When he hit the ground, it was pitch-black. He couldn't understand why. There appeared to have been a time-lapse. He found a four-inch scar on the back of his leg which healed without a bandage.

Barbed wire would rip the pant leg.

Paul was placed under hypnosis.

He remembers a craft landing in the field. Some beings come out of the craft. They float him down from the treehouse and into the

ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD, Colchester, England - Sept. 25, 1992 CR: T. Good

Laser lights are not the answer

UFO sightings excite the buffs

UFO buffs were excited on Wednesday after two sightings of mysterious yellow saucer-shaped discs over the Colchester

• From the Standard

her house.

It was closely followed by another one and they both disappeared in the distance. These were followed by a massive bunch of silver lights which she could only describe as huge. This also disappeared in the distance. How far can laser lights travel?

On May 7 a gentleman who lives in John Kent Avenue was lying in bed at 10.30pm waiting for his wife to come to bed. He was just staring out of the window and saw a large object in the sky that he described as having the

brightness of a hazy sun and travelling very fast.

He watched it for about seven minutes until it disappeared in the distance. When he first spotted it, it was absolutely stationary in the sky and remained that way for about five minutes. He went on to describe it as saucer-shaped with bright lights around it.

On July 29 at about 10pm, a lady in Copford stepped outside her door to call her cats and saw, between houses on the opposite side of the road, a bright yellow oval shaped object which was moving

up and down in a snake-like motion and from right to left. There was no beam attached to it and no party was being held in the area.

I am not suggesting that Colchester is being invaded because the same things are happening in the Clacton area as well. In fact, I am not suggesting anything. I just want an answer, an intelligent one. Laser lights, in these cases, is not an intelligent answer.

In this latest report the police and meteorological office suggest laser lights. Since when can laser lights disappear behind trees? Perhaps they can. The way to solve this mystery is for the person operating the laser lights to come forward and put our minds at rest.

L J STACEY
Essex UFO Research
51 Keable Road Group
Marks Tey

Steven brought out a neighbor who became frightened.

The next day, the neighbor told him he didn't see any of it. He denied it.

Vassos says that Steven, too, tells of being abducted.

"It happens to family groups," says Vassos in an interview.

Mary from northern Saskatchewan was placed under hypnosis. Earlier, without hypnosis, she could recall only a light at the foot of her bed one night and a voice saying not to be afraid.

Now she elaborates.

After seeing the light, she remembers floating out of bed and the trailer into some kind of craft. She sensed she was going into another place or building.

She felt the beings directing her — floating her — and then doing some medical experimentation on her.

Their stories are similar to many other accounts in Canada and the United States.

Anti-UFO talk that's strictly for the Birds

Erlend Clouston

CALLING Penguin, Falcon and the Owl: stand by to be assigned to other duties. Despite your efforts to have flying saucers written off as rogue weather balloons and crop circles attributed to rural pranksters, public interest in paranormal exoticism remains resistant to dirty tricks.

Even worse, you are to be unmasked in front of 400 ufologists. The highlight of a UFO-meet at Leeds Civic Theatre today promises to be exposure of the double agents who have "helped brand us a load of idiots," according to Tony Dodd, director of investigations for the conference organisers, Quest International.

The audience will hear taped conversations of the gang of international debunkers — group code name: the Birds — revealing the role they have played in giving ufology, etc, a bad name.

The Birds are said to be linked to the military intelli-

gence agencies of several nations. One of them, according to Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine since 1981, is "a very well known Briton".

The tapes were gathered by Armen Victorian, a Nottingham-based former diplomat, whom the Birds allegedly tried in vain to recruit.

According to Mr Dodd, a retired police sergeant, who says he was buzzed in 1978 by a 100ft wide disc with a glowing globe on top, the Birds "publish false documents and penetrate major groups, giving out stories that are totally different from anything else we get. We are fed up of being ridiculed and want to get even."

So far this year the Ministry of Defence has logged 117 claims of UFO sightings. Mr Birdsall and his readers believe the Birds' activities represent a desperate rearguard action.

"We've had quiet talks with some of them and they are always saying 'The world is not ready for this yet,'" complained Mr Dodd.

NORTHERN ECHO,
Darlington, England
Sept. 23, 1992
CR: T. Good

Light shed on UFO 'kidnap'

AN American woman was kidnapped by aliens from her 12th-storey apartment in full view of 14 independent witnesses, it was claimed yesterday.

And policeman-turned UFO hunter Tony Dodd is now set to reveal more details of the amazing story at a major conference to be held this weekend.

Mr Dodd spent 25 years in the North Yorkshire force before becoming UFO research director of the group Quest International, and he is to be one of a number of experts at the group's 11th annual conference at Leeds Civic Theatre on September 26.

From his Grassington home in the Yorkshire Dales, he said of the "abduction" case: "There were 14 witnesses driving along a road by the apartment block in New York when they saw a UFO hovering outside the 12th-floor. They all stopped to watch and saw a blue light shoot out. The next thing they saw were aliens floating back with the woman."

ADVERTISER, Ilkeston, England - Aug. 28, 1992 CR: T. Good

UFO spotted hovering over Larklands

A UFO was spotted levitating in the sky above Larklands.

A woman, who did not wish to be named, said she watched as a ball of brilliant light spun in the sky for about a minute and then disappeared. She is convinced it came from outer space.

"It was ever so strange. I went up to bed and I always look through the window. It was a big massive ball. I'm certain it wasn't a plane or a shooting star because it disappeared so fast," she said.

And she was not the only person who saw the strange sight. Omar Fowler, of 12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, is a member of a world-renowned group which investigates UFO sightings and corn circles and is based in Ilkeston. He said that people in Liverpool, Wigan and Shropshire had also reported seeing a similar strange object hovering in the sky.

"It was described as a blueish light at very high altitude. We don't know what it was but it coincided with the end of a meteor shower that earth has been passing through," he told the Advertiser.

UFO fans across the country were interviewing people who witnessed the event to try and determine what it was, he added.

Last month, the Advertiser reported sightings of a UFO hovering above a field off Derby Road in West Hallam, where a corn circle had been found. The story prompted people who had seen UFOs to get in touch with Mr Fowler.

"Although we didn't have any witnesses that came forward to say they had seen it, your article did prompt five or six inquiries from people who had seen things over the past year," he said.

A Cossall man, who had been walking his dog in the village, said he saw what looked like a glass ball heading skywards in July last year. It had a mirrored surface and shone brightly.

One of the most recent sightings was two weeks ago in Sandiacre when numerous people reported seeing an object travelling through the sky and leaving a trail of red lights behind it.

Alien visitors described

By Art Robinson
of The StarPhoenix

Aliens are regularly visiting Saskatchewan.

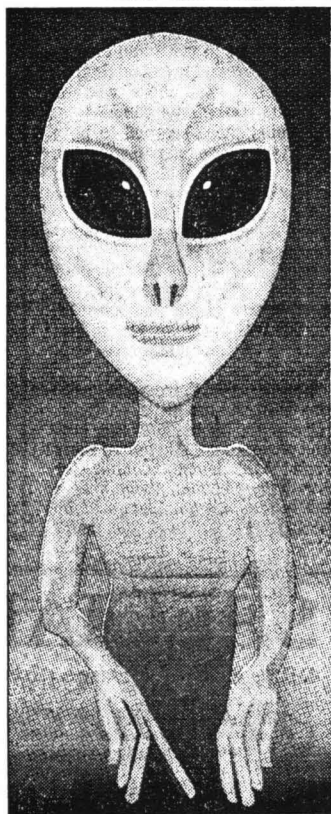
They've been doing it for decades, probably conducting experimental medical research on the humans they abduct.

They could also be developing a hybrid, with more human-like features.

The growing number of people who not only believe this, but have been personally involved in CE4s (close encounters of the fourth kind), talk about the visitors as easily as most others talk about the constitutional referendum.

"All I can remember is that they were all the same shape. They had huge heads and were bald. They didn't have a hair," said Mary, who lives in northern Saskatchewan.

Mary and several others from around Saskatchewan have been in touch with city physician Dr. Laurie Vassos who in turn brought in psychologists, psychiatrists and others researching extra-terrestrials to meet with them.



-SP graphic by Kathy Munroe

Under hypnosis, Mary and the others have given details of experiences with aliens far beyond what they do while not under hypnosis.

Mary didn't come forward with her story for more than 20 years after her first inexplicable incident in 1962.

She didn't want to be associated with the "crazy" reports of others.

She spoke with The StarPhoenix in recent days, giving an account dating back decades.

Mary, 51, is articulate, easy to talk with and witty. Because of medical problems, she doesn't travel much.

During an interview, Vassos said Mary was examined by a psychiatrist who found no evidence of psychosis, but reported she was distressed over something which had happened to her.

Mary first wrote to Vassos in 1987. Her story isn't all that much different from those told by hundreds across North America each year.

Her first — or perhaps second — strange encounter came in 1962 when she was living in a trailer at Squaw Rapids. Her husband was at work at the power house.

The trailer was locked from the inside.

"I went to bed as usual. I woke up and at the foot of my bed was a very bright light. I tried to look at the light but it was too bright and a voice said: 'do not be afraid,'" she wrote Vassos.

Later, under hypnosis, she is reported to have talked about being floated out of her house and various medical procedures being performed upon her.

She told The StarPhoenix that an incident she recalls as a youngster living in rural Saskatchewan might be linked to all the strange events which have occurred over the years.

"As a kid I remember walking through the field. I was walking down the pasture to where the horse was. It was as though my feet were walking there on their own. I sat and watched the horse chew grass. Then I saw a man walking toward me. He looked familiar. I just stayed there in the middle of the pasture and he sort of walked around me. And then he disappeared. But there was no where he could have gone."

She said there seemed to be a lapse in time — a period of an hour or more for which she could not account. Under hypnosis, many people tell of being abducted by aliens during these unexplained time gaps.

Mary said after the incident with the light in the trailer, she began to tire easier and more often. She was in the process of giving birth to, and raising, five children.

She often felt there were problems with her health.

One night about 1972, her husband awoke and started running around the house looking for something. He said there was a man by the bed but there was no one in the house and the doors were locked.

She began having dreams.

"One night I dreamed I was on a ship that was not on water. I saw the earth a great distance away and suddenly I was looking at a star and I knew if I took my eyes off of it, I'd never find it again."

"The next thing I know, I'm afraid and struggling and my arms are being held in front of me. I knock someone to the floor, freeing my arm and I seem awake enough to notice the person is quite small — about the size of (her daughter) who was about 10 at the time."

"Then a voice in front of me says not to be afraid as they aren't going to hurt me — there is going to be a disease and they are going to vaccinate me so I won't die," she wrote of the incident.

"I hold my arms out, palms up, and he draws a sharp thing across my wrists and it leaves a red welt. It didn't hurt, just a slight scratch."

"The next thing I know, it's morning and I don't have any marks on my wrists but I did have an awful head cold. I noticed puncture marks on my hand and on my stomach."

She lived in a trailer court at Langenburg in the early '60s.

"One day I was at a neighbor's and she asked: 'Who were those little men you were out with the other night?'"

Mary said she wasn't out with anyone.

She said she only lived at the trailer court a short time and couldn't remember the woman's name.

"I wonder if she is still alive and can tell us something."

Vassos has unsuccessfully attempted to find the woman.

Langenburg has been a hotbed of UFO sightings for many years — as recent as three years ago.

Almost 20 years ago a farmer was swathing in his canola field when he spotted five flying saucers. He watched them for 90 minutes. He lost track of more than two hours during the episode.

He recalled feeling that his body had received an electric jolt.

About 1986, Mary had a dream she was holding a baby in her arms — it was sickly or something and wasn't quite right.

"I remember thinking when I get home I'm going to buy some clothes for the baby — I was so happy. When I first woke up, I thought I still had a baby, but then I had to go into the living room and look around to make sure it was only a dream."

She said several times after her husband died she felt as if something was kicking her from inside, but she knew she wasn't pregnant because she hadn't been with anyone.

Many reports in the United States include accounts of incubation rooms, nurseries and hybrid babies having human-like features.

Mary's most recent experience took place several years ago.

She was looking out the window

one night and saw something come out of the sky. It became hidden behind some bales piled in the field.

The next thing she knew, she was looking out a different window.

"I saw two craft flying over. They were different than those described in books. They were round rings of light with something dark in the centre. They seemed to pulse."

She said there was panic in the house. Her two daughters and a son were there at the time.

"I said: 'don't worry. We'll be okay.' My son went to answer the door. We knew they were at the door."

She and her daughter went into the kitchen. She looked out the window and saw something which appeared to be the top of a craft of some kind outside.

What happened that night hasn't been discussed in detail by family members.

"We don't talk about it in the house," she said.

Mary said she spotted people on the porch. They seemed quite small — one looked taller than the rest — more like a human being.

"I was wondering at the time if it was some kind of joke. The one looked like a shorter man — about four feet. The others were smaller and looked like small kids."

"I only remember all were of the same shape. They had huge heads and not a hair."

All three seemed to come into the room at the same time.

"It was kind of ghost-like," she said, adding that they seemed to head in different directions.

"I welcomed one. He sort of greeted me. His hand was warm, kind of clammy. He never stopped looking at me. They were sort of taking over my house. They were about as high as the top of her cupboards."

"The guy in front of me, tugged at me. I looked at him and I held my left hand out and he sort of guided me. They went toward the living room, but Mary doesn't exactly remember going into it."

"The next thing I remember is I'm sitting on a chair. He was on the sofa."

She said she recalls saying something like: "So, you are real after all."

"He put his arm up towards me. That's the last I remember."

Mary didn't recall the incident the next day. It all came back to her when she awoke suddenly one night.

She said she doesn't know what her children remember.

"We don't want to talk about it. If they remember something, I don't want to influence them."

Mary said she hadn't read anything about people abducted by aliens until years after a number of incidents had occurred.

Books, movies and magazine articles have related numerous accounts of visitations similar to those described by Mary.

Lights spark UFO fear

By SCOTT GULLAN
and PAUL ANDERSON

UFOs, meteors or space junk?

That's the question hundreds of space watchers were asking last night when balls of flame were seen hurtling across the skies of Victoria and southern NSW.

Dozens of people alerted the *Herald-Sun* after seeing the strange phenomenon about 9.30pm.

One caller from Moe said he thought the lights were a satellite breaking up.

"Half the sky was lit up for about four or five seconds with the mystery object," he said.

Another caller from Laverton said he saw four lights that he couldn't explain.

"There was a yellowy orange light with three smaller lights behind it," he said.

"It all lasted for about five seconds and the lights were really moving and leaving a jet stream behind them."

A spokesman for the weather bureau said they also received many calls about the mystery lights.

"There is nothing meteorological supposed to be happening but my guess is it would be a meteorite or a satellite breaking up," he said.

Pat Geldea from the Victorian UFO Research Society said he had received scores of calls from all over Victoria.

"I estimate it is probably space junk but it didn't come in on a normal pattern," Mr Geldea said.

"It's probably part of an old spy satellite that broke up as it came down."

"There's a lot of stuff up there and it has to come down sooner or later."

NSW police were inundated with calls from people convinced they were being spooked by extra-terrestrials.

Albury police said they also received calls from people who saw the lights head south over the Alps.

Griffith police were also swamped with calls.

WITAN EVENING POST, Lancs., England - Aug. 28, 1992 CR: T. Good

Mystery of 'UFO' alarms residents

RESIDENTS in a west Lancashire village alerted police late last night concerned they may have spotted a UFO.

They rang Ormskirk police to say he had seen a possible UFO over Burscough.

A police spokesman said they had rung about an unidentified blue light flashing and darting about in the sky.

He added: "One man said it came towards his house, and then passed by at great speed."

"The man was indicating that he had seen a UFO. We couldn't send a panda car after it. We just had to log it in case there were other complaints. Sometimes police helicopters fly very low and we get complaints and log those. I think the information was passed on in case there was anything suspicious."

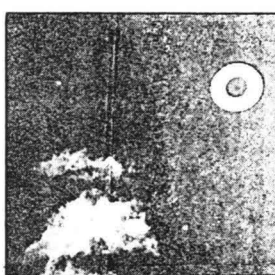
YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - Sept. 30, 1992 CR: T. Good

UFO with the hole

I FOUND Charles Hutchinson's report (Evening Press, September 24) about unidentified flying objects extremely interesting, intriguing and informative. It also provided reliable corroborative evidence of the existence of UFOs, which I have sought in vain for many years.

Like Tony Dodd, I have served in the Royal Air Force and have worked for the police service for many years. This combined experience developed my powers of observation and indoctrinated me with a total acceptance of all things bizarre and unnatural.

Since my first sighting, in 1949, of an unidentified flying object in the sky above the Egyptian desert, approximately 24 miles south-east



■ Sweet success? Bryan Marlowe's UFO snap.

of Tel El Kebir, I have seen numerous strange and inexplicable phenomena, which could not be identified as conventional aircraft, planets, stars, meteorites, or other heavenly bodies.

In the early years of my experience I usually reported my

sightings to the authorities, but was always disbelieved, probably because I was never able to support my reports with photographic evidence.

In recent years I have adopted the practice of carrying a camera when out walking in the countryside. After many years my patience was rewarded. On March 23, 1991 at approximately 09.35 hours local time, I was walking my dog in the high field overlooking the Hambleton Estate at Foxwood Lane — a map reference can be provided, if required — when I saw a round yellow object in the sky, travelling at great speed, at an estimated height of 700ft above the field.

On this occasion I was carrying a 35mm Canon 20 Snappy automatic camera, loaded with 100ASA Kodak film. It had been my intention to photograph my dog with the Minster spire and York skyline in the background. I snapped a hurried

photograph and the print, left, is the result.

Having experienced such disbelief in the past, I was, up until now, reluctant to show the photograph to the appropriate authorities or the general public. However, in view of your featured article on the subject, I feel duty-bound to share my experience and supporting evidence of the sighting.

Bryan Marlowe,
Otterwood Lane,
York.

Man Alive looks at UFO abductions

By Wendy McCann
of The Canadian Press

TORONTO — Professors, lawyers and bank managers are among the tens of thousands of North Americans who believe they have been taken away in flying saucers and subjected to painful, traumatic procedures.

There is no hard physical evidence.

But in a special edition today of Man Alive (CBC, 8 p.m.) the continent's leading scholars and scientists in the field of UFO abductions mount a startling case for their existence.

Consider the case of Rusty Hudson, who says that in 1981 he had an abduction experience during a business meeting with two colleagues in a Florida hotel room.

After light flashed from the television, Hudson says the three-some was transplanted across the room. Then, from a bright light streaming from a mirror, a white skeletal-looking face with large black eyes glided toward him.

Hudson says he heard screaming as he stood frozen with fright. Instantaneously, he says, he was transported through the wall to his hotel room next door.

In another case, a young man — who was vaguely conscious of experiencing some kind of trauma while he was a hotel manager in the Caribbean — recalled under hypnosis that he had been abducted by aliens who took samples of his sperm.



Man Alive takes a look at UFO abductions in a special show tonight

David Gotlib, a Toronto doctor who has worked with more than 40 abductees over the past five years, says the encounters sound

so fantastic that anyone who has had the experience is reluctant to admit it.

"There's an element of fear, es-

pecially to begin with," he told the CBC. "There's a sense of isolation. They're sure that this thing happened to them but they can't tell anybody."

One American abductee who attended a summer conference on the subject at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said abductees are forced into silence by a society that, incongruously, appreciates such fictional space adventures as Star Trek.

"There's this ferocious period as you try to sort it out. Where you ask yourself: 'Am I crazy, have I lost my mind and where do I go for help?'" he said.

David Cherniack, who directed Sky Magic, the one-hour Man Alive pre-season show, says some scholars believe "encounter-prone personalities" exist.

"There is some thought that these people are likely the sensitive souls of another era, that on some kind of psyche level they're responding to the needs of humanity by having these experiences and by going through the personal transformations that don't just affect them but everybody who comes in contact with them," Cherniack said.

"My judgment is that coming in contact with the experience (through the documentary) has had an enormous effect on me and my view of the world. You literally have to adjust your view of reality to accommodate the fact that these experiences are real on some level."

Not everyone is so willing to believe.

Cherniack found witnesses who allege conspiracy and coverup in a UFO sighting in the New Mexico desert more than 45 years ago.

They told of debris from a crashed saucer, hieroglyphic markings and the bodies of three large-headed aliens whose fingers were capped with suction pads.

A New Mexico undertaker says he was asked for three hermetically sealed caskets by officials of the local air force base. Three days earlier, the force's general dismissed the sighting as a weather balloon.

John Mack, a psychiatrist in the department of medicine at Harvard University, says the search for physical evidence is a sign of human fear and naivete.

"The loss of control at every level is where the resistance to believe comes and the need to prove this in a purely physical way."

Perhaps aliens are too smart to leave clues.

FREE PRESS, Rossendale, England - Sept. 4, 1992 CR: T. Good

'Frightened' teenage girls tell of UFO sighting on Bacup hillside

We've seen flying saucer

By NEIL GRAHAM

THREE Rossendale girls claim to have had a close encounter with "aliens" on a Bacup hillside.

They say the green and red flashing disc hovered above Broadclough before accelerating towards Sharneyford late on Monday evening.

The sighting is the first in Rossendale for some months and comes at a traditionally busy time for UFO spotters in the Valley.

The 15-year-old girls Joanne Ellidge of Stacksteads, Sarah Wolfenden of Weir and Lisa Howarth, also of Weir are convinced that what they saw had other-world origins.

Joanne said: "We watched it for at least five minutes from about a half-mile away. It was hovering silently about a metre above the ground."

"It had lights all round like a circle. There was no way we could guess the size because of the distance. We were too frightened to get closer because it was getting dark."

"It suddenly sped up to about 40MPH and disappeared into the woods as if it was going towards Sharneyford."

The girls ran towards another group of friends on the road who also claimed to have seen something.

A police officer said there had been no other reported sightings on Monday

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE, Essex, England - Sept. 9, 1992 CR: T. Good

UFO disc sighting mystery

UFO buffs were excited today after two sightings of mysterious yellow "saucer-shaped discs" over the Colchester area last night.

But the Meteorological Office and the police believe there was probably a more down-to-

earth explanation — laser lights.

Night shift worker Karl Groome, 34, of Ipswich Road, Colchester, was sitting outside the nearby Betts factory having a tea-break at 12.20am today when he said he saw "seven to ten luminous yellow discs" flying together in an

oval formation overhead.

He said he and three colleagues saw the objects again at 3.20am.

Ron West, chairman of Essex UFO Research Group, based in Colchester, said a woman in Copford reported a similar sighting at 10pm last night.

KENT & SUSSEX COURIER, Tunbridge Wells, England
Sept. 25, 1992 CR: T. Good

UFO sighting leads to new look at the meaning of life

THE ETERNAL questions that beset mankind are addressed by local author Derek Sheffield, from Rolvenden, in a new book called A Question of Reason, which was published last month.

Mr Sheffield has been interested in astronomy for many years and he said that his book was partly inspired by a sighting of what he and friends believed to be an unidentified flying object about 30 years ago.

Mr Sheffield said: "It looked like a bright star, it was a perfect triangle seen through binoculars but changed shape after about three quarters of an hour."

In his book, Mr Sheffield recalls sightings of UFOs which have been reported all over the world including one in Papua, New Guinea which he says was witnessed by 38 people.

Mr Sheffield has put forward new and challenging theories about the origins of the universe and mankind, and he said: "Many years ago the realisation came to me that you should never accept the dogma and the facts of life without question —

indeed it is very stupid to accept blindly, without question, everything you have been taught."

The book is published by The Book Guild and is priced at £11.95. Mr Sheffield has recently completed a book on flying and is working on two others about country life.

Mr Sheffield is not new to writing and has had articles published in the national press on his experiences in Africa as an aerial surveyor, in Nigeria with the RAF and later as an employee of the West African Airways Corporation.

Mr Sheffield was a skilled aerobics pilot and for 13 years and he was chairman of the 600 City of London Squadron Flying Club.

Mr Sheffield also runs his own consultancy business which deals with ink and print manufacture.

However he said that writing is beginning to take precedence and he added: "Over two thirds of my life are now taken over with books."

Catherine McNulty

WREXHAM & MOLD MAIL, England
Sept. 11, 1992 CR: T. Good

Keep an eye on the sky — UFO seen overhead

ATTENTION all Wrexham and district Ufologists!

A strange object was spotted on the Wrexham skyline at 11pm on Monday by Mrs Pat Chaloner, of Hightown.

"I was walking home with a friend of mine when we spotted what looked like an aeroplane in the sky."

"We didn't take much notice at first, but after a couple of minutes looked up again and noticed it hadn't moved. Also there was no sound at all coming from it," Mrs Chaloner said.

"We kept watching for about half an hour, and no-

ticed that whenever it disappeared behind a cloud, it reappeared almost instantly, as if it was forcing itself through the cloud covering."

"It's difficult to describe the object, but it looked something like a star, only larger and brighter," she explained.

"Also, there seemed to be a light which repeatedly shot out of the object, and then returned to it - that's about the only way I can describe it, like a beam of light flickering on and off."

"I watched until midnight, and the object hadn't moved at all and was still flickering. It was a really strange experience."

EVENING NEWS, Edinburgh, Scotland - Oct. 8, 1992

Plaque at UFO site vanishes

A PLAQUE marking the spot of the first claimed UFO landing in Britain has mysteriously vanished into the night.

It was set into a large rock in woods on the slopes of Dechmont Law at Livingston earlier this year, more than a decade after forester Bob Taylor hit the world headlines with his account of an encounter with a 30ft high flying saucer.

Now Scotland's top UFO expert is urging Livingston Development Corporation to erect a suitable replacement.



JIM POLLOCK

for the disappearance.

"I am disappointed this has happened. The plaque was erected on a site of international interest, but it's a chance to consider some form of sculpture which would not be so easily removed."

"I hope Livingston Development Corporation will give serious consideration to erecting a more appropriate memorial."

"The site is of considerable importance to UFO researchers and there are always people going up there to visit it."

LDC chief executive Jim Pollock said the missing plaque would be replaced in the near future.

CR: T. Good

Furious energy from beneath the corn

AS ALWAYS at this stage of the summer, excitement over crop circles is rising to fever pitch. Hardly had I arrived in the hamlet of Beckhampton on the Wiltshire Downs before rumours began to crackle like lightning: a new formation had appeared during the night in a field behind Silbury Hill; lights had been seen in the sky over A; Farmer X was demanding £50 from anyone who wanted to inspect the circle on his land.

As my companion, Ted Fawcett, remarked, it was as if everyone had been drinking far too much black coffee. Ted - a distinguished garden historian, and now in his retirement an increasingly skilled dowsing - had come from London for a day's circle-hunting; and we could have had no livelier guide than Lucy Pringle, membership secretary and treasurer of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, who had donned a stylish pair of shorts for the quest.

In a preliminary discussion, which took place in the Waggon and Horses, Lucy revealed that membership of the CCCS rose last year to over 1,000, and also that tonight, at some unnameable rendezvous in Buckinghamshire, there was to be a competition in which the country's finest hoaxers would show what they could do.

Lucy's discourse flashed from one facet of the subject to another when she dowses a circle with rods or a pendulum, she detects terrific energy, especially at the edges. As one man walked into a formation, the chewing-gum in his mouth turned to chalk. During 1981 Ray Barnes, a former aircraft engineer, actually watched a circle form, in only four seconds.

Lucy, we quickly saw, is a pro-

fessional crop circle sleuth. By the time we took to the road, we amateurs were ready to believe anything - and in that part of the world expectations are heightened by the sheer antiquity of the landscape. White horses are hewn in the chalk hillsides and prehistoric burial mounds crown the summits.

Our first target was a circle that had appeared in a 300-acre wheat field the previous Sunday night. The field had been under scrutiny by a posse of crop-watchers perched on a hill nearby, but the night had been very dark and they had seen nothing.

With permission from the farmer, we approached the formation from behind. Because the field was so large and rose in the middle, we could not see the circle from where we left the car, and my companions consulted their instruments as to which set of tractor wheel-marks, or tram-lines, we should turn down. Lucy's wire rods and Ted's forked buddleia stick both reacted at the same set, so down that we went - and came out bang on target.

The formation was not so much a circle as a ring, 40 yards in diameter, with a line of corn three-feet wide laid flat all round its circumference, and the crop in the middle still standing. Also, one straight line, like the minute hand of a clock, ran from the centre to the perimeter.

I felt at once that the whole thing was man-made. It is true that no tell-tale tracks led to it, but it was so big that it crossed one set of tram-lines (which run at 18-metre intervals), and anyone could have walked straight out to it without crushing a single stalk. Besides, as I proved by experiment, it is possible to

Country Matters

DUFF
HART-DAVIS



move through standing wheat without leaving any trace, if one places one's feet carefully between the drills.

It looked to me as if the ring-track had been made by someone dragging a board. I imagined one hoaxer standing at the centre, and an accomplice circling him on the end of a cord held taut, so as to prescribe a true circle. Even on a dark night, one would need no light for such a manoeuvre. Another suspect feature was that the formation lay in full view of a main road, as if placed to attract attention.

Yet just as my scepticism was hardening, something very odd happened. Ted, dowsing on the perimeter, called out that we were standing in one of the prehistoric circles that form the central feature of ancient shrines such as Avebury. Since, on an earlier occasion, I had witnessed his astonishing ability to detect the sockets in which

megaliths once stood, I knew his reaction was both absolutely genuine and likely to be correct.

Further experiments confirmed his diagnosis. He picked up traces of the avenues of stones - always set out in threes - that led in to the central ring of a prehistoric shrine. Was the formation in the corn, then, a natural one, caused by some difference in the conductivity of the ground, or was it a sophisticated hoax, for which the hoaxers themselves had dowsed an ancient shrine before deciding where to work?

We left with the question tantalisingly unresolved, and after lunch, proceeded to another formation, again by special permission. This one was completely different - so far from any road, and so much out of sight on top of a low, flat hill, that the farmer himself had not become aware of it until the pilot of a light aircraft told him it was there. This, surely, was the last place in which a hoaxer would have bothered to operate.

This formation also was in a wheatfield, but the moment I saw it I was overwhelmed by certainty that it was natural. My companions felt the same. The corn had gone down in three perfect circles, whose circumferences just kissed. Each was 30 paces in diameter. The ears had been laid in clockwise swirls, but, far from having been mechanically dragged over, they were still fluffed up and interwoven, some on top of others. The cut-off line, between standing and laid corn, was clean-cut. Towards the middle of each swirl some corn still stood - yet these tufts were not at the centres of the circles, but about a yard from them.

Lucy's pendulum detected

such furious energy that she could hardly keep hold of it. The glass blob flew round horizontally on the end of its chain. Again, Ted dowsed numerous traces of prehistoric stones all round us, and deduced that we were in the middle of a huge processional way, once marked out by standing stones which had marched towards the burial mounds on the horizon.

From the middle of one of the swirls, he elaborated his theory of how stone-age people made circular floors of hard-beaten chalk, over which celebrants - priests? dancers? - could move freely in their ritual celebrations. These ancient floors, he believes, contain special magnetic energy, akin to static electricity, and differ in conductivity from the surrounding terrain.

He surmises that the magnetic force of such places increases as the temperature rises, and that, after hot weather, there comes a point at which the rings suddenly discharge, whereupon a swirl of energy explodes from the ground and lays the corn flat. Flash point probably comes in late evening or early morning, when the ears are full of dew.

Whether or not such an explanation is scientifically feasible, I am not sure. What I do know is that in those three strange circles I felt no fear or apprehension, but on the contrary, a sense of well being, or warmth, or healing, which many other people have reported.

I conclude that although hoaxers are undoubtedly at work up and down the country, they are only elaborating on a riveting natural phenomenon, whose nature will continue to puzzle observers for years to come.

Close encounters of the North-West kind

Moon-shaped object riddle

WEST Australians are not alone.

A small quarter moon-shaped object shrouded in a cloud-like mist has been buzzing the skies across the North-West, leaving many unanswered questions in its cosmic wake.

Up to 40 people are believed to have seen the object, which first appeared near Broome nearly three weeks ago.

The sightings are similar to three reports of UFOs made in the same region two years ago.

Last week Derby residents reported seeing the crescent-shaped object and this week three more sightings were made between Cape Leveque and the Sunday Islands.

Two Nullagine prospectors were among those who saw the UFO which they said emitted a strong blue light before disappearing.

Most sightings have lasted between one and two minutes and all descriptions of the object have matched up.

● RESIDENTS of WA's North-West have had some close encounters with a mystery flying object. SCOTT BRANDRETH reports on the spate of UFO sightings in WA.

Willie Creek pearl farm managers Lella Bailey and Christopher Davis were among the first to see the UFO on August 8 while they were fishing.

They said the crescent-shaped object was travelling in a northerly direction at a "steady and consistent" pace at about 2000ft in the air.

"We could hear a very slight high-pitched droning noise," Mr Davis said.

"The object was shrouded in vapor, fog or mist, similar to the moon behind a light cloud."

Mr Davis said the rest of the sky was clear and the outline of the quarter moon shape could be easily seen.

"The object passed overhead between the Willie Creek pearl farm and our

neighbor one kilometre away and we watched it for at least a minute until it passed out of sight behind the mangrove trees," he said.

"We have no explanation for it, therefore we are keeping an open mind."

WA's UFO Data Collection Centre (UFORM) spokesman Brian Richards said he had spoken to Ms Bailey, Mr Davis and to the Nullagine prospectors.

"They all sounded credible and rational," Mr Richards said.

Mr Richards said well known astro-physicist Jacques Vallee had mentioned similar crescent-shaped objects in his book *Chronicles of The Soviet Union - A Cosmic Samizdat*.

"Apparently there have

been a lot of these crescent-shaped objects being sighted over Russia recently," he said.

Mr Richards said nearly 30 UFO sightings had been reported to and documented by UFORM since the start of the year.

He said WA was experiencing a wave of UFO sightings.

Many sightings had involved strange orange lights, which often moved erratically across the sky. Many reports had come from suburbs, including Como and South Lakes.

Old sightings

"There have been sightings dating back to 1908 in Mundaring, Guildford and Midland which are contained in police records," Mr Richards said.

"Back then the objects were just fobbed off as being Venus or the moon."

Australian Skeptics Association president Barry Wil-

liams said recent UFO sightings in the North-West could probably be attributed to natural phenomena.

He said the society offered a \$30,000 reward to anybody who could produce verifiable evidence of UFOs being spacecrafts from another planet.

A reward which had been put up by broadcaster Phillip Adams and adventurer Dick Smith had so far gone unclaimed.

"Even UFO buffs say 90 per cent of sightings can be put down to natural phenomena," Mr Williams said.

Despite thousands of UFO sightings, nobody had been able to come forward with a genuine alien artefact.

He said a rash of UFO sightings had been reported from the NSW central coast in May.

People had reported seeing lights shining through windows and small lights joining up with "mother ships".

"These sightings continued over a couple of weeks and our initial reaction was that they were probably caused by aircraft of the US Navy exercising with the Australian fleet in the lead-up to Coral Sea week celebrations," Mr Williams said.

"The truth was revealed on the Channel 9 news when a local businessman showed how he had been flying stunt kites, with glow tubes attached, along the beachfront."

Perth Observatory director Mike Candy said recent WA sightings had prompted great discussion among observatory staff.

The object sounded "pretty odd" but was probably a piece of space junk re-entering and burning up in the atmosphere.

He said 3000 tonnes of space junk fell to earth every year.



Bigfoot expert probes sightings

By David Johnson
of the Tribune

PULLMAN — Washington State University anthropologist Grover Krantz Tuesday gave last week's alleged sighting near Lapwai of the legendary bigfoot a "50-50" chance of being authentic.

"It's the sort of thing a very large man could have done," Krantz said, referring to the possibility of someone staging a hoax.

But Krantz, who has spent more than two decades studying the bigfoot phenomenon, said such a hoax would have involved "an incredible amount of work."

■ WSU anthropologist Grover Krantz calls Lapwai sightings 'run-of-the-mill' and gives them '50-50 chance' of authenticity

After being called to the scene Friday, Krantz said he found tracks in a plowed field. While the footprints were only about size 12 or 13 and relatively undefined in the loose soil, the stride between them was fairly long, Krantz said.

What's more, he said he found "three or four lines of tracks" of equally wide spacing. Someone perpetrating a hoax, therefore, would have had to come downhill, gone back up a different route and come down again a number of times, said Krantz. It would be

almost impossible to maintain the long stride going uphill, he added.

Witnesses, of which there were at least eight, said they saw only one hairy creature last Thursday evening, descending a hillside and later hiding in some bushes southwest of the Nez Perce National Historical Park's visitor center near Spalding.

Assuming the creature was "Sasquatch," Krantz said, he speculates it could have been one of perhaps four.

"My best guess, though, is

it's a single Sasquatch that got into the area ... and left," Krantz said.

After spending more than an hour Friday searching for evidence and talking to two people who reported seeing the creature, Krantz said he would rate the incident "run-of-the-mill" among the many he has investigated during his years on the trail of bigfoot.

"This sort of thing happens once a week," Krantz said. He said the media usually ignores the sightings. But he said he has received a couple of calls

from the national media after the story became public Saturday.

Krantz said he was notified of the incident by a Lewiston merchant who knew of his work and had talked to a member of the Nez Perce Tribe who had information about the alleged sighting.

Krantz said he is "quite sure the animals are real." His new book titled "Big Footprints: the scientific evidence for Sasquatch," will be on sale this fall.

He clings to the somewhat controversial stance of killing a bigfoot if the opportunity arises.

"The only proof is bringing in a body," Krantz said, explaining that pictures, videotapes, movies, eyewitness reports and physical evidence like footprints are all subject to hoax. Those who want to save the creature, Krantz said, must accept the demise of an individual as the key to ensuring the future of the species.

Krantz said his pursuit of bigfoot has been like a professional "albatross" around his neck, because so many anthropologists consider the evidence found thus far more fiction than fact.

"I kind of understand how blacks and women must feel," Krantz said.

Krantz said he has no plans to return to the Lapwai area, but will instead go about his professional work at WSU and wait for another reported sighting to investigate.

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - Sept. 17, 1992 TRIBUNE, Lewiston, ID - Aug. 12, 1992



Touchet Valley Ramblings

By Vance Orchard
Waitsburg Times Columnist



Film crew from "Hard Copy" visit the Blue Mountains in search of Bigfoot.

A crew from "Hard Copy," a tabloid TV program, got a booster shot when they showed up in the Blues the other day.

The trio came from Los Angeles to film the area in which Paul Freeman shot some good video footage of a couple of Bigfoots Aug. 20.

A 30-minute documentary is scheduled for early showing by "Hard Copy," they told us. Possibly Sept. 25. This would be 6:30 p.m., Channel 19 (CBS).

With Freeman and I in the lead vehicle motoring up the Mill Creek Road, we were taking them to the pond near Deduct Spring where Freeman had spooked the two creatures in August.

Before we reached the turn-off to the pond, Freeman says: "Go on past (Deduct) up to the junction and on a little way past it. We might spot a print or two if we're real lucky."

We hadn't been parked but a minute in the area Paul sought when I spotted the first of several tracks at the road's edge which led off through the brush, then were picked up in a clearing.

These were 14 inches long and six inches wide. They had been made prior to the day's rain storm, maybe that morning or the night before, we estimated.

After following the tracks for about a block or so, we went back to the cars and returned down the road, thinking to run into the pond, but a prior arrangement to pick up a fourth TV crew member at the airport dictated we go on to Walla Walla.

So, an early start at the pond near Deduct was set for the next day.

But, talk about stumbling into a piece of good luck! Those "Hard Copy" guys really did it!

With plans merely to shoot some background scenery for their documentary featured by Freeman's footage of Aug. 20, they really had a bonus with fairly fresh tracks and lots of them!

A question fired at me as we walked back to the car:

"Have you ever seen those footprints back there before today?"

Since the tracks came as a

complete surprise to both Freeman and myself, you know what I said.

Actually the tracks were a pleasant surprise to both Freeman and I. We'd only been slightly hopeful we'd see something. Oh, maybe a flimsy track several days old, maybe.

But, nothing like what we saw — fairly fresh ones and lots of them to boot!

Well, that was Day 1 of the "Hard Copy" coverage of the episode which Freeman says has closed down his 10-year search for a Bigfoot. That decision came, you recall, when he was jumped by not one, but TWO Bigfoots near the pond. He says the scare he got that day convinced him he'd received a "message" that he had better cease and desist his search of a decade!

The second day of "Hard Copy's" crew began early ... we left Walla Walla at 6 a.m. and shortly after 7 we were filming at the pond.

The occasional call of a raven was "just perfect," murmured the audio man of the two-man camera crew as they set up

their impressive electronic gear. We were right at the spot where we could see evidence yet of a Bigfoot's tracks. Where it had apparently been startled from getting a drink from the pond when Freeman drove up that morning in August.

This was the scene of much of the activity that morning so a lot of time was spent here by the TV crew. They worked real fast and quite efficiently, however, doing no more than two or three "takes," then moving to another setting.

While there had been three guys here the first day, the second day another had been flown in to Walla Walla from Harrisburg, Penn. This was Chris DeRose of Los Angeles, the correspondent, or person who did the interviewing of Freeman.

Those who had come the first day were Joe Tobin, Los Angeles, the director, and Todd Freeland and Eric Van Winkle of the Tri-Cities.

Freeland, who manned the camera, and Van Winkle, on the audio equipment, are "freelancers." Both have other, regular jobs. Van Winkle, whose father was born in Walla Walla, sells advertising for the cable TV company in the Tri-Cities.

As Tobin explained, the practice is to hire camera-sound crews at or near the scene of any action they film around the country.

"There's always a camera crew in any town, practically," he said.

I stayed with the crew till around 11 a.m., when they wanted to head back to Walla Walla to meet a helicopter pilot, flying here from Hamilton, Mont. As we stopped in the road to parlay before heading down to Walla Walla, Tobin's TV crew got its second "break."

They met a bow hunter who turned out to be a skeptic of the entire Bigfoot thing!

And, of course, this fits in like a hand in a glove with anyone, even TV news crews, out doing a story: they got a shot at someone willing to "explain" the Bigfoot phenomena.

Tobin said the skeptic was a local resident, Dennis Carter of Milton-Freewater. Another break, since they were filming a

Blue Mountain story.

That night, the chopper, equipped with the latest military-type infra-red, night filming camera, with heat-seeking devices to do the job, flew sorties over the Mill Creek Watershed and vicinity. The pilot was Ron Carlick, Freeman said.

The target, of course, was to film a Bigfoot, who seems to like the safety of the Watershed.

While deer and elk were spotted — one elk so close and so clear his blinking eyes could be seen, I was told — no sign of a Bigfoot. A split-second glimpse of a bear was also noted, but it got into brush real fast, Freeman told me.

If Bigfoot truly likes the sanctuary provided by the Watershed and he was in there last week on Wednesday night, it likely got to cover when it heard the chopper.

After all, if it has survived all these centuries without being wiped out by man and beast, it must be a little smarter than the average animal!

Anyway, with such TV shows as "Hard Copy," ABC's "Good Morning America" (here in '87) the world will sure know where Walla Walla and the Blue Mountains are on the globe.

And, I hear a third TV crew wants to come here for a filming of this land of the "Bigfoot of the Blues."

Tri-State Spooklight legend lives on

By LINDA WALKER
News-Record Staff Writer

Over the years, the curious have converged on a hilly, dirt road in northeastern Ottawa County hoping to share in the mystery of the Tri-State Spooklight.

The road was once marked by a museum and by scores of cars containing teenaged thrill seekers.

The waves of commercialization, crowds, and believers and skeptics have ebbed and flowed. These days there are no signs of museums, only a remote stretch of county road with an inordinate amount of beer cans lining the ditches.

It seems a strange place to find an answer to the question that hounds the Tri-State Spooklight: What is it?

Headlights, legends, hokum?

Those things have been built into the Spooklight with human help. But beyond that, Tulsan Keith Partain would suggest there is a true anomaly.

Partain would probably also tell thrill seekers they can cease their nightly pilgrimages to Spooklight Road. If they want to see the anomaly Partain believes is the real Tri-State Spooklight, they will probably be waiting more than a few years, and they might have to search beyond Spooklight Road.

Partain, an anomalist who studied the Spooklight for seven years, believes an anomaly does exist in northeastern Ottawa County, but it is not the fanciful legend many have made it to be. In fact, the devoted romantics might be a little bored with the technicalities of Partain's explanation.

Partain is quick to call his idea a hypothesis, an assumption to be tested with scientific rigor. He wants to hurt no one's feelings.

Partain has advanced his explanation of the Spooklight before, but because it is often repeated inaccurately, he prefers to leave the particulars to a book he has written and hopes to have published.

In general, the Tri-State Spooklight belongs to a worldwide class of anomalies called low-level nocturnal lights, Partain said. In his studies, Partain has found certain consistencies with other spooklight sightings around the world.



Tulsa anomalist Keith Partain researches the Tri-State Spooklight.

There's no shortage of eerie tales to explain the Tri-State Spooklight

By LINDA WALKER
News-Record Staff Writer

For a phenomenon that has yet to have a final, universally accepted explanation, there is one certainty about the Tri-State Spooklight: there's no shortage of tales and theories trying to explain it.

The tales and theories make great fodder for writers of books, newspapers and magazines, as well as for area residents.

Who wouldn't be a little fascinated about town of panicked residents or a decapitated Civil War soldier still trying to find his head? Who wouldn't begin to speculate about swamp gas or headlights from nearby Interstate 44?

Some might be content to be entertained with tales. But Tulsan Keith Partain believes the Tri-State Spooklight should be subjected to the same scientific and

journalistic rigor as other phenomena. In his quest to do so, Partain recorded a book's worth of tales and theories and spent months seeking factual confirmation in official records.

Partain did not incorporate the common tales and explanations into his own Spooklight theory because he did not find enough evidence to corroborate them. He did, however, stumble onto some interesting distortions and inconsistencies.

"Every time somebody picked up a typewriter, they made up a new one," Partain said. "Irresponsible reporters would get their typewriters out and they would just tippy-tap out a new version with no cross-references."

The fault lies with everyone, from researchers who failed to do adequate leg work to writers who were content to repeat

old tales without trying to find their origin, Partain said.

While the setting for at least three Spooklight legends was pre-1900, Partain found no published accounts that mentioned the Spooklight dated before 1935.

• **Hornet Panic.** Among the most written-about legends related to the Spooklight is the Hornet Panic of 1880 or 1886.

The Spooklight sighting so frightened residents in Hornet, Mo., that they packed and left. Another version attributes the exodus to deaths of two Indian children, which was blamed on the Spooklight. Still another version lists the death of livestock.

Based on Partain's research, however, "it never happened." Aside from modern-day newspaper accounts of the legend, Partain found no historical documentation.

"A mass panic like that, especially through the Tri-State Mining District, would have been major," said Partain, noting there were as many as 10,000 people living in the area over a century and a half.

"I even had a professional double-check my research. Same conclusion. No panic."

Partain also made another observation on the date 1886: add 50 and you get 1936, the year after the first known Spooklight accounts were published. Partain speculated the date 1886 might have been arrived at by someone listening to an old timer who casually observed that the light was around "50 years ago."

• **Tale of the lost head.** Anyone who researches Spooklight files at Miami Public Library will find at least three

newspaper stories mentioning an apparition who carries a lantern and walks the area in search of his decapitated head.

The ghost has been that of an Indian whose wife decapitated him in a fit of anger and of a man whose head was lopped off by three infatuated women after they found out he was a "three-timer." The most common version is that of the Civil War soldier, who was either executed or accidentally decapitated by a cannon.

Official records, however, do not verify such accounts, Partain said.

"There are good historians that can dig up anything else," Partain said. "Why don't we have the name of that sergeant, his squad, his regiment?"

• **Indian Lovers.** Another tale contends the Spooklight symbolizes everlasting love between an Indian maid and brave. After their forbidden love was discovered, or their marriage averted by an expensive dowry, they killed themselves by leaping off a bluff overlooking the Spring River.

Partain found the first account of the lovers in a 1903 *Chronicles of Oklahoma*. It mentions no spooklight. He questions how the couple ended up nearly 10 miles to the east, over the state line.

(continued on page 19)

As an anomalist, Partain isn't your typical ghostbuster

By LINDA WALKER
News-Record Staff Writer

When a person thinks of an anomalist, the movie *Ghostbusters* might come to mind.

But while poltergeists and Unidentified Flying Objects have been among the studies of Tulsan Keith Partain, a proton pack is not among his inventory of tools. He wouldn't mind having more special software for his computer to better allow him to crunch data from his studies, though.

Analyzing computer data might not sound as exciting as blasting green blobs, but that is closer to the reality of Partain's avocation. He is "not your typical Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, ghost chaser."

"I'm trying to raise the consciousness about anomalistics that we aren't simply ghost busters," Partain said.

"Technically, anomalists are scientists, but I don't want to be called a scientist, per se."

Like a scientist would, Partain collects facts on his subjects, forms hypotheses and tries to test them. He could spend hours in libraries researching literature or maps or in the field observing his subject.

He could use common scientific tools such as magnetometers.

"We use the tools of modern science," said Partain, who holds a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's in natural sciences. "We aren't antagonistic toward science in the least."

Anomalistics is not the study of "weird" things, but rather of things that do not fit the current ideas of science, Partain said. Scientists might not study such phenomena for fear of losing grants or tenure.

Therefore anomalistics is left to devoted amateurs, such as Partain.

It's not that an anomalist automatically believes reports of odd phenomena, Partain said. An anomalist questions why it is fashionable or unfashionable to accept or reject certain ideas.

"We are saying, why can't we ask these questions," Partain said. "It's not that spooklights exist or don't exist. Why are we not permitted to ask that they exist or why is it so important that people believe in them?"

In studying anomalistics, Partain stresses that he does not want to offend anyone's beliefs. He approaches his subject as a neutral party.

"I don't want to be confused with a skeptical debunker," he said.

"We're nothing like that. A skeptic thinks we're a true believer. A true believer thinks we're a skeptic."

"We're a whole separate category."

We do not debunk or believe. We want to examine facts in a friendly, non-judgmental fashion."

"Things did get confused, there's no question about it," Partain said. "But there's no sense in perpetuating the confusion."

• **Car Headlights.** Oddly, the first written accounts of the Spooklight seem to correspond roughly with the creation of Route 66 in 1933, Partain said. The building of the highway added car headlights, which became a common explanation for the Spooklight.

While headlights have muddled the picture and have often been mistaken for the Spooklight, Partain does not believe they can fully suffice as an explanation. The Spooklight should be seen from any direction, he said, not just from the direction of the nearby Interstate 44 or former Route 66.

• **Independent studies.** The most commonly referenced study is one by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from Camp Crowder, Mo., during World War II. According to some newspaper accounts, the group never concluded what the Spooklight was.

Partain's research, however, turned up only an investigation by the Signal Corps from Camp Crowder in 1946, not the U.S. Army Corps in Engineers. The study, which took place a mile north of Spooklight Road, showed how the "phenomenon" could be created with lights.

A theory that the lights are somehow caused by swamp gas, or methane, has also been proposed. However, Partain said no significant sources of methane have been located in the area.

• **Location problem.** Many accounts of the Spooklight, especially those from Missouri, refer to it as the Hornet Spooklight or the Joplin Spooklight.

Partain was unable to verify any sightings over the Oklahoma state line in Missouri. Joplin and Hornet, like Miami and Quapaw, have been reference points to direct people to the Spooklight, but Partain maintains the phenomenon is indisputably located in Oklahoma.

Running west from the Oklahoma/Missouri state line, a road has been named for the Spooklight, but the real Spooklight is not confined only to that road, Partain said. The road became notable when Arthur P. "Spooky" Meadows built a museum at the head of the road.

Meadows, and later his brother-in-law, Garland "Spooky" Middleton, offered a night spot for teens, capitalizing on the Spooklight.

The club offered all the standard fare — a jukebox, root beer and a place to have a dance with a beau. For added thrill, the "Spookys" also offered a telescope and a wall of old clippings and photos.

"Spooklight Road is not special," Partain said. "I suspect it to be where old Spooky One just happened to be able to buy the building for the museum."

In fact, Spooklight Road is one of three parallel county roads that was once part of the original, winding Devil's Promenade Road, according to old topographic maps Partain located.

A Webster's Dictionary definition of promenade is "a leisurely walk for pleasure or display." As Partain puts it, "It wasn't named Devil's Promenade for nothing."

• **Reporting Problems.** In addition to location and origin, the timing of the Spooklight has also been distorted.

From 1935 to 1959, published accounts said the Spooklight was a "frequent sighting." From 1960 to present, after a museum opened and more tour books listed the Spooklight, Partain noted it suddenly became a "nightly mystery."

If Partain's theory is correct, Tri-State Spooklight might more accurately pay a "decade" visit.

By advancing his own findings, Partain is quick to stress that he does not want to offend the beliefs of others. He added that he would gladly hear ghost accounts with certain criteria and that he would welcome any published newspaper or journal accounts of the Spooklight before 1930.

"If we get the facts, we'll get closer to the real anomaly," Partain explained. "Tri-State Spooklight is many things. It's a rumor, it is distorted anecdotes, such as the Indian lovers, the automobile headlights and the real anomaly."

Skeptics meet to test claims

Organization targets paranormal reports

By Matt Crenson

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal is in town, and its members say they've shot down more UFO sightings than the Red Baron did biplanes.

They'll be hunting for more kills at the Harvey Hotel near Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

At least 200 of the skeptics will meet at the hotel for the group's 16th annual international conference. This year's theme — "Fairness, Fraud and Feminism: Culture Confronts Science" — will feature

North Texas Skeptics, said, "I believe there's a quote that's attributed on occasion to Mark Twain or Will Rogers but actually comes from someone else: 'It isn't the things that you don't know that hurt you but the things you do know that just ain't so.'"

The North Texas Skeptics, which came together in 1987 to combat the regional forces of pseudoscience, are hosting this weekend's conference.

Mr. Voelkerling said the skeptics don't reject paranormal claims out of hand. They subject them to scientific scrutiny and make an evaluation based on the evidence.

He cited his recent appearance on a Channel 4 news program, during which he evaluated a videotape of an alleged UFO. Mr. Voelkerling is an aviation consultant, and he felt certain that the object was a commercial airliner.

"I was very careful to pick my words," Mr. Voelkerling said. "What I... said was, 'If it is a UFO, they've at least complied with all the FAA regulations for aircraft lighting.'"

On Friday, the meeting will address multiculturalism and gender

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- **Sponsor:** Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal and the North Texas Skeptics
- **When:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- **Where:** Harvey Hotel at State Highway 114 and Esters Boulevard in Irving, near Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
- **Cost:** \$125
- **Topics of discussion:**
 - ✓ Multicultural Approaches to Science: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly — 9:15 a.m. to noon Friday
 - ✓ Gender Issues in Science and Pseudoscience — 2 to 5 p.m. Friday
 - ✓ The Future of Skepticism: The Price of Reason — 8:15 to 8:30 p.m. Friday
 - ✓ Fraud in Science — 9 a.m. to noon Saturday
 - ✓ Crashed Saucers — 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday
 - ✓ The Paranormal in China — 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday
 - ✓ Tour of Dinosaur Valley State Park — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday

The Dallas Morning News

serious discussions about the role of women and non-Western cultures in science.

Participants also plan to sort through the fact and fantasy of flying saucers, folk medicines and dinosaur footprints.

That discussion will take members on a Sunday morning field trip to Dinosaur Valley State Park near Glen Rose. The valley, about 75 miles southwest of Dallas, is home to legitimate dinosaur tracks — and faint impressions that some say are human footprints.

Some people say the impressions prove that man lived at the same

time as dinosaurs. Committee members say the alleged footprints were only recently carved into the rocks.

The Dinosaur Valley footprints are a perfect target for committee members, who say they want to protect the public from charlatans, quacks and con artists. Members investigate claims of psychic phenomena, UFO sightings, ghosts, miracle cures and other paranormal incidents. Anything that has not been subjected to rigorous scientific investigation is considered fair game.

Joe Voelkerling, president of the committee's local affiliate, the

issues in science. Saturday morning, the participants will discuss fraud before splitting into two groups for the afternoon session. The first will examine Qigong, a Chinese folk medicine.

The second will focus on "the Roswell incident," an alleged flying saucer crash. Supporters contend that a spacecraft bearing beings from another planet crashed in Roswell, N.M., in 1947. "It's quite controversial, even in UFO circles," said Mike Sullivan, editor of *The Skeptic*, the North Texas Skeptics' newsletter.

Paul Kurtz, a New York philosophy professor who founded the national committee in 1976, said there is one paranormal phenomenon he can't explain. "The missing sock syndrome," he said. "I go to my drawer and I find six single socks."

The late Isaac Asimov was a member of the committee, as are astronomer Carl Sagan, Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould and physicist Murray Gell-Mann of the California Institute of Technology.

Notably absent from the committee is the magician and professional skeptic James Randi, also known as

"The Amazing Randi." He has quit the group for legal reasons.

Mr. Randi and the committee were sued last year by Uri Geller, a self-proclaimed psychic who is most famous for his claim that he can bend spoons with his mental powers. Mr. Geller alleges that Mr. Randi defamed him during an interview with the *International Herald Tribune* in which he called Mr. Geller a fraud. To protect the committee from the litigation, Mr. Randi left the group.

Local organizers aren't sure whether Mr. Randi will attend this year's conference.

"I haven't heard from him, and he's not mentioned in any of the literature," said John Blanton, secretary of the North Texas Skeptics.

The public is welcome at all of this weekend's events. Cost for the entire program, except the Dinosaur Valley trip, is \$125, but area residents can attend individual discussions for about \$30 each, Mr. Sullivan said.

Friday night's keynote address, to be delivered by British zoologist Richard Dawkins, will be \$10. The Dinosaur Valley trip is \$31.50.

Spoon-benders bid for respect

Ex-astronaut at Forum on New Science says scientists need to look beyond normal bounds

By Bill Scanlon

News Environment Writer

FORT COLLINS — For ex-astronaut Brian O'Leary, the meaning of science changed forever the weekend he attended a human-potential workshop and learned how to picture and describe through telepathy a person he couldn't see.

He turned his back on an Ivy League faculty and the respect of his colleagues to embrace spoon-benders, UFO-niks and psychics.

Thursday, he was the keynote speaker at the International Forum on New Science in Fort Collins, a colloquium and bazaar for all things beyond the borders of conventional science.

For sale were glow-in-the-dark Crop Circle T-shirts, red lights that promise to soothe sprains, books on everything from past lives to cosmic understanding.

"We are expanding our box of inquiry," O'Leary said during a break from signing and selling his latest book, *The Second Coming of Science*.

"Western science for 300 years has addressed only the things that have material causes and effects. We seek to make a bigger box and make it OK to ask the questions without a knee-jerk negative reaction."

O'Leary, who was in the space program in the 1960s but never flew in space, believes scientists should look before birth, after death, beyond the normal rules to find solutions to energy, transportation, health and other problems.

"It's clear to me we've ignored some powerful and most beneficial ways of transforming ourselves on

this planet."

He asks: How can reincarnation be a fantasy if 2,000 kids around the world have told a respected Virginia researcher that they recall a former life?

O'Leary said he presents workshops on bending spoons, and typically 95% of the attendees can learn how to do it, too.

"We all have these abilities," O'Leary said. "It's not just for psychics with special gifts."

O'Leary, who co-founded the New Science movement in 1989, said the Catholic church tried to block the expansion of science during Galileo's time, and he, too, must contend with doubters.

The first few forums were more like psychic fairs, drawing flaky people and exhibits, but now the presentations are credible, he said. "I think this is going to catch on like wildfire."

One of the other keynote speakers was Stan Friedman, who be-

lieves the U.S. government has covered up thousands of hard-to-explain sightings of unidentified flying objects.

If the government isn't trying to cover up, why did it take him years to pry a top-secret 1980 document on UFOs from the CIA, and why was most of the 21-page report deleted for national security reasons? he asked. Why did a judge, after reading the uncensored report, quickly agree that national security would be jeopardized if the report was made public?


Friedman, a classmate of Carl Sagan's at the University of Chicago, blasts the non-believer.

"Carl makes these foolish statements about flying saucers, that every UFO sighting, when carefully examined, turns out to be false," Friedman said. "That's absolute nonsense."

The conference continues today and Saturday at the Marriott Hotel in Fort Collins.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C.,
Canada - Oct. 24, 1992

Migration Mystery

 Hundreds of migratory birds have fallen from the sky over Mexico's Yucatan coast during the past three weeks. Members of approximately 16 species plummeted to earth for unknown reasons and died on impact around Campeche. More than 200 birds dropped onto a ranch near the city. The birds were flying from Canada and the northern U.S. en route to winter feeding grounds in Central and South America. The Pronatura environmental group said most of the birds appeared to have died of head injuries from the fall. They ruled out such causes as contaminated air or feather deterioration.

CR: G. Conway

The sky's not falling, that's passenger poop

By Deeann Glamser and Lori Sharn
USA TODAY

WOODINVILLE, Wash. — Gerri Cinnamon figures she had a better chance of winning the lottery than the prize she actually got.

While she was watching a football game Sunday afternoon, a chunk of frozen airline waste fell through the roof of her Woodinville, Wash., home.

"I wish I had bought a lottery ticket," Cinnamon says, surveying beige carpeting stained black and blue, and a ceiling hole bigger than a basketball.

Yes, the odds of being bombed by passenger poop are rare: Jet-maker Boeing says about 80 incidents of "blue ice" — frozen fluid from leaking toilets — have been reported on its planes. Blue ice also affects other makes of airplanes.

The blue comes from disinfectant used in toilets, although the Cinnamons' ice was green.

"I just had time to sit down and put my cup down, when, boom — it sounded like an explosion," Cinnamon says.

"You have to take this seriously, even though there are some humorous aspects."

— John Nance, aviation safety analyst

Frozen waste fell through roofs in Elkhorn, Wis., in 1990 and Westlake Village, Calif., in 1989. Engines have come off three Boeing 727s since 1974 after ingesting blue ice. Other jets have been damaged.

The National Transportation Safety Board urged more aggressive steps to combat the problem in 1990.

"You have to take this seriously, even though there are some humorous aspects," says aviation safety analyst John Nance.

In recent years, the Federal Aviation Administration has or-

dered more frequent checks of drain systems. Boeing payloads engineer Ed Woodward says valves and seals have been improved, and older jets can be modified.

Although insurance will pay for the damage — estimated at more than \$1,500 — Cinnamon says she'd like to know which plane was responsible.

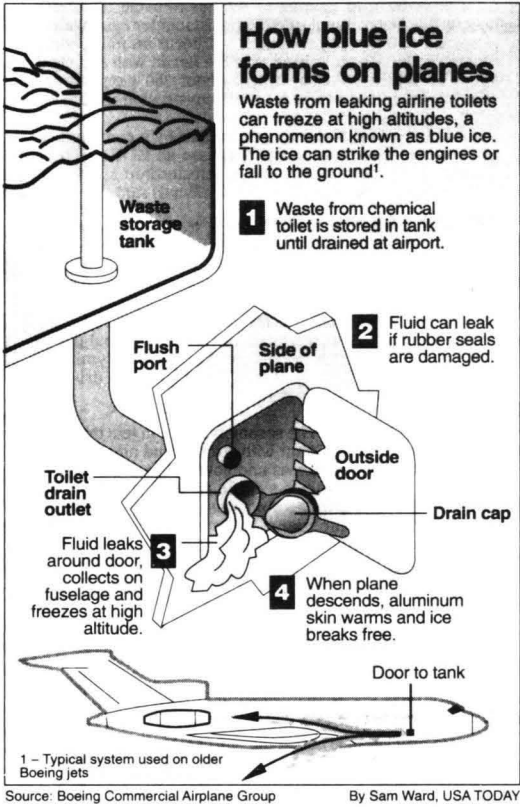
She and her mother had crossed the living room twice in the moments before the chunk crashed through.

"The problem that caused it needs to be fixed," she says. "It could have killed any of us."

The FAA is looking at recorded radar images to determine what flights might have been flying over the Cinnamon's house at about 3 p.m. Those airplanes will then be inspected for signs of leaking.

"It is potentially traceable," says FAA's Richard Meyer.

Although Cinnamon is well-acquainted with aviation — both her husband and father work for Boeing — she saved some of the ice in the freezer anyway: "Whose going to believe us if all this melts?"



Cult host 'alien'-ates nation on cable

By Gabor Komaromy
Glendale News-Press

Glendale's ranking UFOlogist, public access cable TV show host and expert on the inexplicable, Dr. Franklin Ruehl Jr., has gone national.

The eight-year veteran of the strange world of public access television and his show, "Mysteries from Beyond the Other Dimension," can now be seen on the new Sci-Fi Channel nationwide or wherever cable companies decided to pick up the channel.

"No cable system in Southern California currently offers the Sci-Fi Channel, but some are getting ready to," said Ruehl, who has a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from UCLA.

"Sammons (the cable company that services Glendale) has a full channel-load and will consider putting the Sci-Fi Channel on Jan. 1, when some other channels will come up for renewal," he said.

Ruehl, who, after teaching at UCLA and Cal State L.A., gave up the traditional ways of science in the mid-seventies for the paranormal, undefined and intriguing "dominion" of UFOs, ETs and fantastic theories, hosted hundreds of public access shows and now hosts four mainstream ones.

"Now I graduated from public access to national network," Ruehl said.

"The change is most conspicuous in the outlook: it's really hi-tech with video roll-ins, music, field reporters and special effects. It looks more expensive than it really is."

The first show aired Sept. 27, three days after the channel's debut and has a potential viewing audience of 10 million at its 9 p.m. Sunday airing time.

"Dr. Ruehl has been a cult figure in the Los Angeles area for some time and we are hoping that his cult status will help the show," said Scott Tallman, a publicist with MCI Television, owners of the Sci-Fi Channel.

Tallman also said that since the show and the channel are just getting off the ground, ratings were not yet available. Ruehl, however, is content with the response he has gotten so far.

"I've been getting letters from San Francisco, Portland, Southern Florida, but Glendale will have to wait to see the show," he said.

The show itself is a dizzying barrage of bizarre theories and facts hurled at the audience with merci-

less speed: the main themes are scientific evidence of UFOs and extraterrestrial beings, paranormal phenomena, medical curiosities, weird crimes — some seven or eight subjects per show.

Here's a sampling from Show Number One:

Why don't UFOs land in big cities?

There are several explanations (pick your favorite):

- They are afraid of crashing into skyscrapers.
- They are scared that they'd be killed, mutilated, incarcerated or captured and displayed to the public.
- They try not to interfere with inferior civilizations.

Four shows have aired so far of the contracted 26, all of them of course in the same rapid-fire mystery-hurling vein — and here are some topics that intrigue Ruehl so much that he must share them with his audience:

- The mystery of the mutated forelegs of the tyrannosaurus rex.
- The possibility of life at absolute zero temperature.
- Hotel Willow in Northern California, which is plagued by ghosts.
- The woman who reached under her pillow in her sleep for her asthma inhaler and shot herself in the mouth with the gun she found there.
- The Humongous Fungus, the mushroom that covers 1,500 acres in Washington and the spore that spawned it probably came from outer space and took root in our soil.
- Aliens' involvement in the construction of pyramids that are much older than previously thought — some 9,000 years old at which time there was no civilization in Egypt capable of constructing them.
- The 900 number in South Africa you can use to dial a witch doctor.

ALASKA IN REVIEW ARCTIC/WESTERN ALASKA

Elder recalls "little people"

NOATAK — It may have been 54 years ago that Kenneth Ashby had his first run-in with Inukins, but he remembers what they looked like, right down to their bowl-shaped haircuts.

Ashby, 78, recently told the Arctic Sounder that he and his brother Bruce were grabbed by Inukins, the region's loose equivalent of leprechauns, while fetching water from the Noatak River one summer day in 1938.

There was quite a struggle with the "wild people," who were dressed in caribou skins and sported their straight-bang hairdos, Ashby said, becoming more animated.

Eventually the Ashby brothers got away, but not before their grandfather tried to come to their rescue, and slipped on an icy rock, fell down and knocked himself out.

Ashby is one of a number of locals who still believe in the wee folk and their power.

In fact, one Noatak man who said he encountered the Inukins back in 1949 wouldn't give his name because he was afraid of "them reading the story and coming after me."

But he did say he and some friends tried unsuccessfully to chase one in order to push it into the water.

"That was many years ago, and I haven't seen any since," he said, looking over his shoulder. "(But) they still might be hiding someplace."

But Ashby isn't afraid of the Inukins. He said that, also in 1938, his sister Victoria chased away a couple of them trying to steal drying salmon off her rack.

And nine years later he met up with them again while camping upriver on a hunting trip.

This time the Inukins were stomping around in the dry birch leaves and playing hide-and-seek with the hunters.

Ashby said the small people followed the hunters downriver, staying just out of reach. When the hunters arrived in Noatak, he said, they posted guards around the village to stymie the intruders, who whistled code messages to each other before falling back into the Bush.

But the man and his wife Ruth say they don't buy into everything they hear, pooh-poohing some recent talk around the village about Inukin sightings.

Ruth Ashby said she's sure the strange small folk are moving around the region and she worries about local children. But her husband has advice for fighting back.

"If you encounter them, warn them by throwing a stick or a rock at them," he said.

'Wild men sighted' in Pakistan

By Roger Highfield
Science Editor

NASTY smells, guttural sounds and eyewitness accounts of "wild men" have led two French researchers to make the extraordinary claim at a meeting in Cambridge today that there may be primitive humans living in northern Pakistan.

Evidence to support the existence of "living unknown hominids" in these remote regions will be presented today by Dr Anne Malasse and M Jordi Magraner, of Paris, at the 8th meeting of the Language Origins Society in Selwyn College, Cambridge.

But Dr Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum, London, yesterday said he was highly sceptical. He said: "We need hard evidence such as bones or tissue that we can analyse."

Eye-witnesses shown pictures of a selection of human and human-like creatures, consistently selected the image of a primitive man found preserved in ice some 20 years ago by a Belgian team, said Dr Malasse.

He had a low forehead, lacked lips or a chin, and was covered with hair, she said, but was not a great ape.

On one expedition Mr Magraner heard unusual guttural cries, she said, which could have been made by the vocal box of the primitive man found by the Belgians.

He plans an expedition to Pakistan in December, and will use infra-red cameras to look for the wild men.

In search of the 'face' in space

A group calling itself "the Mars Mission" lobbied long and hard before National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists reluctantly agreed to photograph in closer detail some tantalizing geologic features on Mars.

Photos taken in 1976 by two Viking spacecraft show features bearing some resemblance to the ruins of a city, and to a human face. One theory holds that an ancient civilization carved the "face" into a mountainside in an attempt to let its existence be known. NASA contends the images are nothing more than tricks of sunlight and shadow.

The Mars Observer's \$21 million, highly sophisticated camera will grab a few shots of the site during the spacecraft's two-year orbit of the so-called red planet. The 10,000 photos to be taken are expected to be 40 times clearer than those snapped in 1976.

It's hard to understand the scientists' initial opposition to closer examination of the unusual features, considering that it was NASA photos that started the speculation. But at least they finally relented.

Maybe someone reminded them that solving the mysteries of the universe is what the agency is all about.