

UFO

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Close encounters of a different kind?

More UFO sightings in DeKalb Sunday

(Editors' Note: Times-Journal Staff Writer Steven Stiefel has been a skeptic of all the UFO sightings in the past few weeks around DeKalb County. But Sunday it was his time. Is he a believer now? The following is his first person account.)

By STEVEN STIEFEL
The Times-Journal

You're probably reading all of this about the Unidentified Flying Objects and thinking it's contrived by folks with active imaginations. So did I, until Sunday evening when I saw the object everyone is talking about.

I was as much of an armchair skeptic as anyone before driving South. Like most of you, I wondered if the folks who had claimed to see it knew what they were talking about, but now I think there really is something unusual above DeKalb County. Now I know how the people of Fyffe felt when television stations made fun of what they claimed to see.

First thing you must know is that I wasn't out looking for little green men, and I still don't believe that's what I saw.

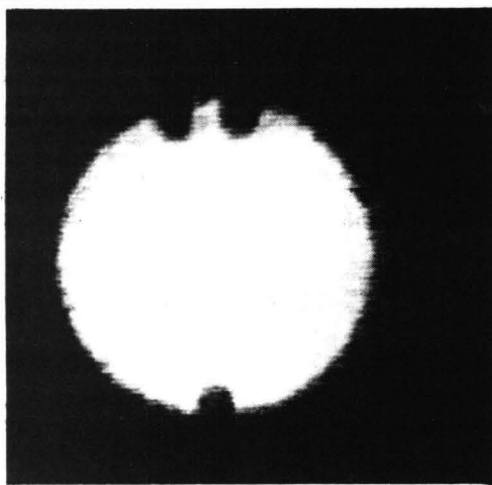
I responded to a call from someone who claimed to be looking at the object in question and wanted to give someone from The Times-Journal the opportunity to see it.

I hurried toward Collinsville, hoping to get a good, clear picture of whatever this object was so the public would know once and for all what it was.

I figured the Air Force was either testing some new plane, pilots were having fun with civilians or perhaps it was some optical effect like the Aurora Borealis.

I saw a trooper's blue lights come on ahead of me at the South Y and knew I was headed in the right direction to see something.

I looked for the caller's home, but I finally gave up and searched for the object myself since it was too dark to look for an unfamiliar house along the highway.



I drove a good piece toward Collinsville but didn't see anything unusual initially. There was a bright light to the west, not very high in the sky. I discounted it as being the planet Mars reflecting sunlight and wondered if people were seeing this shimmering and thinking it was something more.

I turned back and stopped at the Portersville Church to look at the sky to see if I'd missed anything. It was a beautiful, starry night with surreal flashes of lightning behind Lookout Mountain.

I drove over the Interstate and toward Lebanon. The bright light appeared to be stationary above Sand Mountain, much brighter than any of the hundreds of stars twinkling across the starscape. I noticed multiple aircraft moving across the sky toward this light. Anyone could tell that these were airplanes.

Heading back to Fort Payne, I noticed the bright light move North above the peak of some ridge.

At the entrance to someone's pasture, I pulled out from the highway. There were no streetlights near—only the stars. Occasional cars would pass, and I would stand by the car awkwardly. Crickets made noises in the fields, and I saw several of the aircraft moving

eastward. One went over Lookout Mountain, turned and headed back toward I-59.

I didn't even have time to set up my tripod before something passed overhead. No matter because it was too dark and elapsed too quickly. I caught a glimpse of the outline delineated by lights beneath, indicating a diamond-shape, although I couldn't tell whether it was an airplane or not. It made no noise, but just glided over the highway and disappeared over the ridge just as quickly.

It was very exhilarating and more than a little startling, although anyone could easily have missed it if they weren't looking up. I wondered if people would believe it when I told them, and I cranked the car to follow it.

In the distance, I saw it circle back again. This time two objects emerged from the top of the mountain, and with the lightning bursts, it looked like the London blitzkrieg or the air war over Iraq.

The one in the rear was definitely an airplane because its lights were different and I heard its engine. It's possible they could have all been aircraft and I just didn't hear their engines.

The temperature dropped quickly. A fog covered the highway. Since I'd been

Shape of UFO was distorted by lens

A video taken last Thursday night by Fort Payne resident Susan Eads that depicted the DeKalb UFO as 'a fat Batman emblem' has been re-classified as yet another filmed light that is extremely bright and behaves like no known craft.

Sgt. Ron Ogletree, commander of Alabama State Trooper Post E in Attalla, says the film that was taken from Grand Avenue South took on the shape of the Batman emblem because of the shape of the shutter of the zoom lens on Ms. Eads' camcorder. "This was discovered after we had an expert look at the film; and also after Ms. Eads took other films of known lights, such as street lights. Those produced the same shape," he explained. The shape was a circle with two notches at the top and one at the bottom.

"Ms. Eads does not want people to think the thing was staged," he added. "It was not ... The presence of the abnormally bright light still has not been explained."

Betty McBryar of Fort Payne captured the latest video (at left) of the UFO Sunday night with her mother's video camera from her home near I-59.

Noticeable is the same distortion from the camera's lens. McBryar contends the object looks like a bright star.

-- LaRue Cornelison

out there for close to two hours burning up gasoline, I decided to head home.

I called the young woman who alerted me and asked her to describe what she'd seen. She described it almost exactly—both the bright light on the horizon and the triangular shape she saw through her binoculars.

I asked her to call me the next time she saw it, and I told her I'd be prepared to get a photograph.

I felt terrible because I'm always on guard for that one-in-a-million shot when it happens my way. It's aggravating to miss a shot when folks are getting it every night with their point-and-shoot cameras from their back porches.

I called a friend of mine who was in the Air Force for 25 years. He's going with me next time, and I'm fairly sure he'll be able to identify what type of craft it was.

I asked the director of the local airport about the airplanes I'd seen, and he said he knew of no aircraft that were flying at that time of night or any that would attempt to fly during a lightning storm.

Now I'm determined to get another glimpse at whatever it was, if only to remedy the looks from disbelievers.

When the sun sets on your home, look to the skies if you don't believe it.

HERALD, Boston, MA - March 14, 1993

Memories of close encounter with UFO 'victim'

By IVOR DAVIS

When I first met Travis Walton 17 years ago I thought he was a genuine flake.

I was a foreign correspondent for Britain's London Daily Express and my editor had sent me to the remote town of Snowflake, Ariz., to track Walton down. Covering America from Hollywood I thought I'd heard it all. But the earnest, gangling, 22-year-old's story was an incredible yarn indeed. He'd been returning to town from the Sitgreave National Park with a work crew of tree-trimmers on Nov. 5, 1975, when they all saw the same startling phenomenon—a burning light in the sky. It looked like a flying saucer hovering 15 feet above the trees.

Stopping the truck, Travis got out for a closer look, walked

toward the light and was poleaxed by a brilliant blue and white flash from the strange object. His pals took off in panic and when they returned to find him, Travis had vanished. The police questioned his workmates, suspecting murder. But a massive police hunt turned up nothing—no scorched earth, no saucer and no Travis.

Five days later Walton reappeared almost as mysteriously as he had vanished. He was naked, cold, blubbering, disoriented—and 10 pounds lighter.

He had, he said, been abducted by a flying saucer.

I was the first journalist he talked to after his return. Over breakfast and hot coffee he recounted his amazing story, describing the "aliens" and the medical experiments they performed on him.

It sounded like something

straight out of a cheap sci-fi novel as he nervously but vividly described his frightening encounter with hairless creatures that look like 5-foot-tall, apparently mute fetuses with skin as white as mushrooms. Their foreheads were domed, their eyes were large and their ears tiny. When he woke up, he told the aliens, "Many people will be too scared to believe me. I know they'll say I'm deranged or I'm on drugs. But I know what I saw."

This week, I met Travis again, this time in Hollywood, after seeing his story played out on the big screen in Paramount's \$30 million "Fire in the Sky."

The movie's cast is led by D.B. Sweeney as Travis, James Garner as a cynical investigator, Robert Patrick ("Terminator II: Judgment Day") and Craig Sheffer ("River Runs Through

It") as the workmates who were with Travis the night he disappeared.

Travis has never wavered in his story despite being labeled "loony" by friends, neighbors and writers who have flocked over the years to talk to him. Finally, he wrote the book on which this film is based.

Despite the passage of time, he still seemed uncomfortable trotting out his story and embarrassed at being the centerpiece of a big-budget Hollywood film.

At times, Travis says, people treated him as though he was a creature from another planet.

"We all lost our jobs after the incident. Now I'm the only one of our bunch who still lives in Snowflake," he said.

"I was angry and outraged at people's disbelief. Back then, a lot of that had to do with the fact there were so many falsehoods

being told about me. Now I've gotten more philosophical about people's skepticism."

Travis says his four children—two boys and two girls, ages 4 to 6—are still taunted at school by kids who call their father crazy.

"I was worried that the film could make things worse for the kids. But now their playmates think it's cool."

Travis—reluctantly—finally saw the film of his strange adventure: "They gave me a seat near the back door so I could take off if it became too tough. I was able to stay to the end, but it knocked me out. By the time it was over I was trembling and overwhelmed, even though I'd gone in to see it with my brakes on. It was like reliving it all over again only worse."

Solutions offered for 'Bat signal'

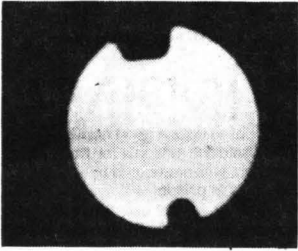
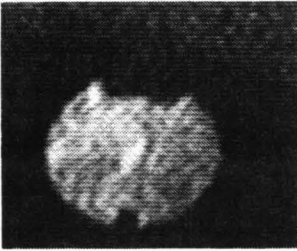
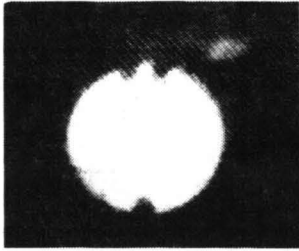
By Donna Maithe
Times Staff Writer

An Etowah County woman thinks she has solved one of North-east Alabama's UFO riddles.

Last week, Susan Eads videotaped a bright light over her Fort Payne home. When she used the camera's zoom lens on the light, the result was an image with some similarities to the light used to signal Batman, the fictional superhero of comic book, television and movie fame. Law enforcement officials who viewed the light agreed it was unusual.

Sunday, a Hokes Bluff woman videotaped a similar light near her home on U.S. 278.

Also on Sunday night, Mary Buffington saw what she and her husband determined was a bright star in the sky over their Duck Springs Road home. She had taken her video camera outside after Sunday's severe thunderstorms in hopes of documenting some of the hail that had fallen.



All three of these photographs were taken from videotape made with the zoom lens of a video camera. At left is Susan Eads' tape made in Fort Payne on Thursday. In the center is Marie Edwards' tape made Sunday near Hokes Bluff. At right is Mary Buffington's tape of a neighbor's

She decided to tape the bright star. She was surprised when she zoomed her video camera on the light.

"It looked exactly like the image that was in the newspaper," Mrs. Buffington said. "I was panicking. I thought 'I've seen the space ship, or whatever it was.'" A photo from Ms. Eads' videotape ran in

Saturday's *Gadsden Times*.

Then, by accident, Mrs. Buffington moved the camera and caught a neighbor's security light in the lens. She focused. The "Batman" signal appeared. She tried another security light. Again, the "Batman" signal appeared.

Mrs. Buffington thinks it's just the effect of zooming a video cam-

era in on a bright light in the night sky that somehow creates the strange image.

While Mrs. Buffington described the light she taped as a bright star, Ms. Eads and Marie Edwards don't think they saw a star.

Ms. Eads said the light was much brighter than any of the

stars in the sky over Fort Payne last Thursday night. Ms. Edwards said no stars were visible Sunday when she saw the light in an area near Calhoun County.

Until the Sunday sightings, all reports of strange lights in the night skies had come from DeKalb County. Reports began in late January and have continued this month.

Ms. Edwards also went outside Sunday night to check on the result of a hailstorm. She saw the light about 8:30 p.m. She said it stayed in the same place for about an hour before it appeared to move behind some trees. Ms. Eads also had reported that the light she taped stayed in one place for a long time.

According to a report in today's Birmingham *Post-Herald*, some people may be mistaking the planet Venus for a UFO. Thomas Wdowiak, a physics professor and astronomer at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said the planet is very bright right now and atmospheric conditions could make it resemble a spacecraft. He said Venus will be right next to the moon on Wednesday night.

Those making earlier reports of strange lights in DeKalb don't buy Wdowiak's explanation, the *Post-Herald* reported. Sue Johnson of Dog Town said what she saw outside her home on Jan. 28 after hearing a humming noise was a long, oval-shaped aircraft hovering below the treetops.

Geraldine police dispatcher Susanne Austin said what she saw and videotaped wasn't a star because it was moving. A photo taken from her tape appeared in the *Gadsden Times*. The image was compared by some to the light pattern of a Stealth bomber. The Air Force discounted the possibility that it was a Stealth.

STAR-TELEGRAM, Ft. Worth, TX - March 25, 1993

An invitation to something that's truly alien

By LAURA VOZZELLA
Special to the Star-Telegram

DALLAS — Nine years ago, Cheyenne Turner started believing in UFOs.

She didn't actually see a flying saucer. But at a Dallas hotel, she heard a speech by Travis Walton, an Arizona logger who says he was abducted by a UFO in 1975. Walton's story is the subject of the recently released movie *Fire in the Sky*.

"He was not an all-showbiz type that gets up there and talks a blue streak," Turner recalled. "He was so visibly shook up about it still and hated public speaking. It was like torture for him, so I knew that the man was sincere."

Maybe that explains why Turner has never been able to persuade Walton to speak to the Dallas group she formed a year and a half ago, The Eclectic Viewpoint — Forum of Extraordinary Science, Unusual Phenomena & Diverse Perspectives. But Walton's case will be examined Saturday when the group

WHERE: Addison Conference and Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road
WHEN: Saturday, 8 p.m.
SEES: \$12
INFO: (214) 601-7687

sponsors an appearance by Tracy Torme, screenwriter and co-producer of *Fire in the Sky*. The speech is open to the public.

To Turner, Torme is the next best thing.

"I was amazed, talking with him," Turner said of Torme. "He's very skeptical about a lot of them [purported UFO sightings], but he met Travis. He was convinced."

This may be the first time Torme has believed in aliens, but it's not the first time he has written about them. Torme wrote several episodes of *Star Trek — The Next Generation*, winning a Peabody Award for *The Big Good-bye*. He has also worked as a comedy writer for

Second City Television and *Saturday Night Live*.

Walton's case has convinced some doubters because fellow loggers claimed to have witnessed the alleged abduction. The workers, who passed lie detector tests, were suspected of killing Walton. He turned up five days later.

"This is the most documented case of all of them," Turner said.

Turner, a research biologist who has worked at the Cell Research Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, knows that many people think anyone who believes in UFOs is nuts. "I come from a very scientific background," Turner said. "I don't just believe anything."

But Turner stresses that she isn't trying to win over skeptics with Torme's presentation. She said Eclectic Viewpoint simply wants to provide an alternative forum for speakers. The group has covered such diverse topics as alternative medicine, Earth energies and an al-

leged cover-up of the health risks of Nutrasweet.

"If they have an open mind, that's all I ever ask [of audiences]," Turner said. "I don't ask them to believe anything."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - April 28, 1993

UFO Loves Publicity Appears For TV Crew

By Bland Pugh

Gulf Breeze continues to be a hotspot for UFO activities. They have been occurring at South Shoreline Park for the past week. On Thursday evening, of last week, there was a three minute sighting. Again, on Sunday night, we had a very brief glimpse of the Gulf Breeze UFO.

On Thursday evening, I went to Shoreline Park. After setting up my video camera and making sure the date was correct I happened to look in the direction of the water tower on Pensacola Beach. Guess what folks, there it was in all of it's glory.

On Sunday evening, the camera crew for the TV program "Sightings" and a few of the regular skywatchers were at Shoreline Park. We received a report from an individual telling us of his seeing the UFO to the east as he was stuck in traffic at the northern foot of the Bob Sikes Bridge. Unfortunately, we were not able to see it because of the trees. Also, the fog and clouds that were rolling in at the time.

While we were talking to this witness the UFO popped in again. He and Art Hufford were able to see the UFO on this appearance.

I have just about convinced myself that this UFO is a publicity hound. It seems that every time a TV crew or someone from the media shows up this thing appears.

One of the most interesting things about what I do is receiving constant updates from all over the country. I just received one from Colorado. It seems that the cattle mutilations have begun once more up there. Just as in the Fyffe, AL area, there are reports of UFOs, mysterious helicopters, and unidentified men cropping up in the area. These are some of the most macabre mysteries connected with UFOs. For those of you that have been keeping up with the mutilations in North Alabama, they are still going on to the best of my knowledge.

I also received a call from a gentleman in New Orleans. It seems that he had read a newspaper article that was written by Priscilla Vayda about Gulf Breeze in the New Orleans *Times Picayune*. Several years ago he and his wife were on a trip in Texas. Very early in the morning he ran into a fog bank and was slowed down. He looked out his rear window and saw his CB antenna moving around in a circular motion at a rapid pace. As an 18-wheeler passed him, he noticed that his antenna was doing the very same thing. All of this lasted for about 15 minutes. After arriving home he decided to wash his car. While doing this, the antenna broke off when he touched it.

I guess that about covers the UFO phenomenon for this week. Keep looking up and behind you. You never know what is watching.

First UFO Sightings Bring Tears, Cheers, Thrills, Chills...Even Disbelief

by Bland Pugh

There have been no sightings to report for the past two weeks. I have been wanting to write an article that covered this material for quite some-time. So, here it is.

One of the things I have learned over the past two years is that no two people react to their first UFO sighting the same. I've seen some struck stupid, others I've seen laugh, I've seen them talking to themselves, and I've even seen them cry. One in particular was an old man sitting on a bench at Shoreline Park. A UFO appeared out over the Sound, everyone there was hollering and pointing to the thing. I and several others were taking pictures. This old man turned his back to the UFO and put his head in his hands and covered his face. One of the group walked over to him and asked if he'd seen the UFO. His reply was "there ain't no UFO up there, there ain't no such thing." Yet 30 people around him saw, filmed, and videoed the Gulf Breeze UFO.

I had the privilege of being present at this sighting and watching Bill Ford's reaction, I asked him to

write a short piece about it for the *Florida MUFON News*, I liked it and I'm going to share it with you.

First Sighting
By Bill Ford

Prior to the sighting, I had been scanning the skies all around. There were occasional aircraft but this light was different, in the unexplained way it showed up and behaved.

It appeared in the middle of a broad expanse of clear sky, fairly stable of position, it dimmed and brightened with no particular rhythm, pulsating from a bright to brighter red.

A small pair of binoculars I had (3X) separated the one red light into three very close lights in a triangular pattern.

We heard the noise of a helicopter, but it was coming from behind us. As the helicopters approached, the light in the sky changed to a very bright white light and it emitted a series of rapid flashes as if it was

sending a coded message at a high rate of speed.

As the helicopter passed overhead the light slowly faded away roughly in the same area where it was first observed. Others who were watching, including my wife, said it turned to green before fading to extinction. Estimates of the length of time of the sighting were from two to three minutes. What did we see? A light, that's all. A clear bright light that appeared suddenly, varied in intensity, changed from red to white, blinked what appeared to be a coded message, then dimmed and disappeared. If I hadn't been looking for something, and hadn't been with others who saw it, I probably would have missed it or dismissed it as unimportant. This was not the visible craft of more significant Gulf Breeze sightings but it was, by the bystanders accounts, typical of the lights that have been seen before and characterized as a UFO. It even has an affectionate local name. What did we see? A light. My first sighting.

As Hollywood relives
a Snowflake man's strange
encounter, Arizona again
comes under the spell
of space aliens



David Petkiewicz/The Arizona Republic
Brian Myers of the International Center for UFO Research stands amid cabinets full of data on sightings. "It's very hard to laugh off" the flying-saucer phenomenon, he says.

UFOs? WHO KNOWS?

By Joyce Valdez
The Arizona Republic

The Scottsdale headquarters of the International Center for UFO Research is decorated with the type of art one would expect in the office of a ufologist.

A poster of Earth in space. No surprise here.

Grainy photos of metallic saucers frozen in flight. Uh-huh. Stonehenge. OK, next.

Wait a minute, what's that over there?

"This is my favorite," the center's president, Brian Myers, says of the framed print that, at first glance, appears to have been left by the suite's previous tenants.

The painting, from the school of Florentine artist Domenico Ghirlandaio depicts the Madonna and St. John, but it is the Renaissance piece's background that is intriguing.

The sky behind the subjects reveals a strange disk hovering above a man and his dog. Dressed in peasant garb, the fellow is pointing at the object, and the dog appears to be barking.

Could it be that "they" were among us even then?

"Nonsense!" would be the response from non-believers, who probably would argue that the disk is some

kind of religious symbol.

Whether skeptic or believer, UFOs and space aliens continue to fascinate the stargazing public.

Consider the opening success of *Fire in the Sky*, based on a story by Travis Walton, a Snowflake man who claims that he was abducted by aliens almost 20 years ago.

The film lacks a major star and has been panned by critics, yet it was the second highest-grossing film last weekend.

The movie has rekindled debate about the authenticity of flying saucers and alien abductions.

Arizona long has been at the center of the argument because of its inordinate number of UFO sightings — which says something about our clear skies or residents.

Go ahead and joke about little green men, Myers said. With such people as former President Jimmy Carter and ex-astronauts claiming that they've seen UFOs, the phenomenon is not easily dismissed, he declared.

"If people view it in a scientific context, it's very hard to laugh off," Myers said.

The Walton case is one of the most significant in UFO research.

As the story goes, Walton and six

other members of a tree-trimming crew were riding a truck outside Heber on Nov. 5, 1975, when they spotted a large glowing object hovering above a clearing.

Took polygraph tests

Walton, then 22, bolted from the passenger side of the truck and approached the UFO, which felled him with a beam of blue-green light. His frightened companions drove off, and from a distance saw a light rise from the ground and streak into the northeast.

They returned a few minutes later to retrieve Walton, but he was gone.

The woodcutters reported Walton's disappearance to authorities and later took polygraph tests that determined that they had not harmed him and that they had all seen the object.

Five days after he vanished, Walton turned up unharmed, confused and with a bizarre explanation.

After being zapped with the beam, Walton said, he woke up on a table in what appeared to be a hospital room. The examiners who surrounded him, however, were definitely not human.

Walton described them as small, pale creatures with dome-shaped heads and large eyes.

"Their eyes, that's the thing I

remember most," Walton said last week while in Phoenix to promote the movie. "They were so indifferent. I didn't react well to their indifference."

Walton said he saw other aliens who were tall and humanlike, and he recalled various rooms in the spacecraft, including a large bay where three or four smaller craft were parked.

The 40-year-old Walton has endured years of ridicule from non-believers.

"Some of the comments used to really get me angry," he said. "I was mad at the disbelief itself. Now I'm more philosophical. I realize this was truly an incredible experience, and someone who wasn't there is in no position to understand."

Former Navajo County Sheriff Marlin Gillespie still doesn't buy Walton's story.

"I believe because of the results of the polygraphs and the credibility of the men involved that they did see something they believed was a UFO," Gillespie said, "but in my mind, I am not convinced that Walton was taken aboard a UFO."

A 1991 Gallup Poll indicated that one in seven Americans has seen a UFO, and Ray Maurer, Arizona director of the Mutual UFO Network, estimates that more than 200,000 Americans may have been abducted by beings from other worlds.

Skeptical about technology

George Rieke, a University of Arizona astronomy professor, is among the skeptics.

"There are all kinds of natural phenomena that explain the (UFO) sightings," Rieke said. "The more you investigate, the more you explain."

Rieke concurs that intelligent life may exist elsewhere in the universe, but he doubts that even the most advanced civilization would have the technology to routinely traverse vast interstellar distances.

"One could imagine an expedition once in a while, but nothing approaching the frequency of reported sightings," Rieke said.

The late J. Allen Hynek, who co-founded the Scottsdale research center in 1984, originally expounded similar arguments as a UFO debunker for the Air Force.

But after encountering several cases that defied explanation, Hynek eventually became convinced that UFOs were real.

Hynek, a technical consultant for the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, a phrase he coined, was considered the world's leading UFO researcher when he died in 1986.

The privately funded UFO research center has thousands of files and numerous photos documenting sightings.

Quoting Hynek, Myers said, "The physical world as we know it is not the sum total of our environment."

Even weirder than UFO sightings are accounts of alien abductions, which have become Maurer's area of expertise.

Abductee support group

In addition to investigating sightings, the UFO network sponsors a local support group for alleged abductees.

The group has eight members, mostly women who claim that their experiences began during childhood and intensified at the height of their reproductive years.

Their stories are similar: They are lying in their beds at night when they suddenly feel paralyzed. They sense that someone is in the room, which

■ Ahwatukee, where a 7-year-old boy in 1987 spotted a flying object from the window of his home. He drew a picture of a V-shaped craft with rows of red and white lights. "If a child were making this up, you'd think he'd draw a round saucer," Myers observed. "How would he know that UFOs come in different shapes?"

■ The Payson vicinity in fall 1992, when a Phoenix couple on a fishing trip videotaped a bell-shaped object that shifted direction on a dime, even turning upside down.

Arizona incidents

In addition to the Walton abduction, other noteworthy Arizona cases have been recorded in:

■ Morenci, where a boomerang-shaped UFO larger than a football field was seen in 1980 hovering over the Phelps Dodge smelter plant.

■ Southwest Phoenix, where seven witnesses in 1986 reported seeing triangular-shaped UFOs with multiple white lights planing across the sky.

Encounters of all kinds

Classifications of UFO encounters:

■ LRS — Long-range sighting: An unidentified flying object or strange light observed from more than 500 feet. No interaction or effect on observer.

■ CE1 — Close encounter of the first kind: An object or light observed from within 500 feet. No interaction or effect on observer.

■ CE2 — Close encounter of the second kind: Close-range sighting in which there is some type of reported interaction between the UFO and environment.

■ CE3 — Close encounter of the third kind: Occupants are seen in, on or near the UFO. There is no contact or communication between occupants and observer.

■ CE4 — Close encounter of the fourth kind: Some type of contact or exchange between witness and UFO occupant.

■ CE5 — Close encounter of the fifth kind: Abduction of witness or "missing time" cases. Source: International Center for UFO Research Inc.

suddenly is bathed in bright light.

Small, spindly creatures with large heads appear to transport the "victims" to a spaceship, where they often undergo repugnant medical procedures.

Many say they have found scars or "scoop marks" on their bodies, as if a patch of tissue had been extracted from them. Most can recall their experiences only under hypnosis, but some have full conscious recollection of what happened.

"The evidence is overwhelming that something is happening," said Maurer, a computer salesman who never has seen a UFO.

No solid evidence

Famed UFO debunker Philip J. Klass, contributing editor for *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, says a slew of reports of alien abductions arose after the 1975 broadcast of a TV movie about a New Hampshire couple, Betty and Barney Hill, who claimed that they were taken aboard a flying saucer while driving on a deserted road.

Walton's abduction took place shortly after the TV movie was broadcast, Klass says in his book, *UFOs: The Public Deceived* (Prometheus Books, 1983).

He says even UFO investigators doubted tales of alien abductions during their early years of research.

"Not one of the 'abductees' has returned with a single physical artifact that could instantly confirm his or her story," Klass said. "Not one 'abductee' has returned with new scientific knowledge, say, for example, the existence of a distant, as-yet-undiscovered planet in our solar system. The only thing that has changed is the credulity level of ufologists. . . ."

The ultimate encounter, of course, would be a spaceship touching down in New York's Central Park or on the White House grounds.

Said Walton: "It would be great if they would. It'd make life easier for me."



A farmer in Sweden, Billy Meier, took this photo of what he claims to be one of many UFOs sighted near his farm. Prominent people, such as ex-President Carter and former astronauts, also claim to have seen strange objects in the sky.

Lake watch

People

Close encounter The thing was a globe with bright white lights below, and red and blue pulsating lights above, and it hovered for a good 20 minutes over the Strathmore subdivision.

A UFO in Buffalo Grove.

Geri Getlin, who heretofore was only a marginal believer in the possibilities of such phenomena, at first could not believe it.

"I said, 'There can't be UFOs in a suburban area. They only go to corn fields,'" she recalled.

Nevertheless, on that Monday evening earlier this month when she stood in the cold in her bare feet to see peculiar, silent objects suspended above her neighbor's house, she became a believer.

"I felt either it was a UFO, or the govern-

ment is doing some very tricky research," she said.

It arrived when she was cooking dinner, and her neighbor's daughter was the first to see it. The neighbors aren't talking about it to the press anymore.

Getlin's son, a college student, stood outside watching it with her, but he won't discuss it publicly either. ("He wants to get a job someday," his mother explained.)

Only Getlin will bear public witness to the events of that March 8 evening when one, then another, then six orbs in all silently glided over her neighbor's house.

"We were like, 'Shhhh! Quiet! Let's listen for something,'" she remembered. "It was totally silent."

They stayed for about 20 minutes, then they disappeared through the clouds.

Did you try to communicate with them? someone wanted to know.

She replied, "Who would talk to a spacecraft?"

SPACE CASES

Some have heard about them, others have recalled them through hypnosis, still others have seen them

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS ABOUND

By BOB ALDRICH

There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy, Horatio.

— Shakespeare's Hamlet

No bulb-headed creatures with skinny bodies and wraparound eyes have been seen strolling on N. Santa Cruz Avenue, but there are people in and near Los Gatos who believe they have experienced contact with aliens from outer space.

A few are convinced they have been abducted and taken aboard spacecraft from millions of light-years away.

Abductees are shy about publicity. Some of the information in this article comes through intermediaries, including two local hypnotherapists.

Although he has not had a personal UFO contact himself, Tom Stanton, who lives at Holy City in the Santa Cruz Mountains, has spent 12 years as a researcher for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an organization that gathers information about UFO sightings. His research has convinced him that the U.S. government is concealing what it knows about space contacts and that the day is approaching when it will reveal all.

"When I started, I was pretty skeptical," he said. "But, from all I have read and learned, there's no doubt in my mind that something is happening, and the government knows about it. We are seeing evidence in the media—in the rash of TV shows dealing with UFOs, for instance—that it's preparing the public for what is coming.

"The government has kept us in the dark for 45 years, since 1947," he said. In that year, Kenneth Arnold, a professional airline pilot flying over Idaho and Washington, saw "saucer-shaped" objects moving parallel to his airplane. From the incident, a reporter coined the term "flying saucers." The more scientific term "unidentified flying objects" was created for the U.S. Air Force's Project Bluebook and the Condon Report—studies some devout believers label whitewashes.

A star map drawn by one of the creatures in answer to Betty Hill's question about their origin suggested a star cluster called Zeta Reticula, astronomers said.

Tom Stanton said his research indicates that Zeta Reticula figures in the most notorious (and allegedly hushed-up) of UFO stories—the explosion and crash of a spacecraft near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947. Supposedly, two small aliens were captured (one died) and taken to a "secret air base at Groom Lake, Nevada," Stanton said. "[The authorities] were able to communicate telepathically. They learned they came from Zeta Reticula. Some disaster had depleted their gene pool. They were here to obtain replacements from humans.

"In exchange for technological information about the movement of the space vehicles, the U.S. govern-

(continued on page 6)



Steven DeCinzo

Edith Fiore, Ph.D., a Saratoga hypnotherapist-psychologist and Los Gatos resident, claims to have interviewed "between 300 and 400 people who have been abducted in spacecraft" in 20 years of practice. Fiore said she is convinced space visitations happen. "Many patients have come to me without knowing of the experience, only that they feel something is wrong, or they have bad dreams," she said. "Under hypnosis, the memories emerge."

Fiore is the author of a book, *Encounter* (Ballantine Books), subtitled *A Psychologist Reveals Case Studies of Abductions by Extra-terrestrials*.

Some of her patients bear scars from operations performed aboard spacecraft, she said. "They [aliens] take eggs or sperm. Some people have been shown hybrid babies.

"People may have the feeling they're going crazy because of repressed memories [of space experiences]," she said.

UFO theorists quote a 1992 Roper Report national questionnaire that indicated some four million Americans—one of every 50—had memories that could be interpreted as some sort of UFO sighting or experience.

Astronomer Carl Sagan believes that the universe's size is too vast for interstellar flight. UFOlogists counter that inhabitants of distant planets have learned to "bend space" for swift flight.

Locally, such MUFON researchers as Sylvia Beetistaff, a dental-office business manager, are convinced that people they have interviewed have undergone strange, usually unpleasant experiences. Her own UFO experience is limited to noticing some strange lights in the sky in 1969, she said.

"It is very hard to draw a line between subjective, spiritual experience—or imagination—and objective reality," Beetistaff admitted. "But when you talk to these people, you know definitely

something real has happened to them." Beetistaff's efforts to have her interviewees contact the WEEKLY-TIMES proved futile.

"They are afraid," she said. "Even if their real names are not used, it might get out who they are." Most of those she has talked to "are normal, common people, not mentally unbalanced."

Lester Velez, 45, of San Jose, another MUFON member, has interviewed several persons with UFO memories. He remembers seeing some strange shape in the sky as a youngster. "My dad thought it was only a trick of light, but I was sure it wasn't the light." Today, "something very strange is going on," Velez said.

Santa Clara hypnotist Diana Celeste Cornetto, who, like Edith Fiore, has hypnotized people with "previous lives," said she interviewed Watsonville resident Ann DeSoto, who had a close encounter with a UFO and its crew.

"I am entirely neutral," Cornetto

said. "I know nothing about UFOs. I was asked by MUFON to hypnotize this woman. I know that the experience is very real to her and that she benefited from the hypnosis emotionally and physically." (See related story, this page.)

Hypnosis is a proven method for recovering buried memories. Less certain is whether uncovered memories can be part fantasy. Dr. Fiore admitted that hypnotic subjects may fantasize, but she added that subjects' recoveries from physical ailments after their revelations indicate their reality.

Hypnosis played a part in one of the most publicized stories in the UFO believers' lexicon, the experience of New Hampshire residents Betty and Barney Hill. The Hills' "time lapse" of several hours during a car trip was brought out under hypnosis when they remembered being halted by small, large-eyed creatures and being examined aboard a spacecraft.

WOMAN RECOUNTS MYSTERIOUS EXPERIENCE

Under hypnosis, Ann DeSoto, a 37-year-old Watsonville resident, related the memory of an experience with space aliens when she was only 4 years old. Again, in December 1988, a friend, Cole Dwyer, was stripped naked by "alien creatures" and taken through a solid wall while she watched in terror.

DeSoto's memories came out last December when she was hypnotized by Santa Clara hypnotherapist Diane Celeste Cornetto of Higher Mind Hypnotherapy. Cornetto was asked to conduct the sessions by representatives of Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). Two MUFON members witnessed the hypnosis.

DeSoto acknowledged to the WEEKLY TIMES that her experience "sounds unbelievable" and said that she was unaware of much of the 1988 memory until she heard and saw a videotape filmed during the session.

At about 4:30 p.m.—she is unsure of the precise date—DeSoto and Dwyer, then a state park employee, were driving to Palm Beach, a part of Watsonville's Sunset Beach. The day was clear,

"We were at West Beach and San Andreas Road," DeSoto said. "There was a large hayfield next to San Andreas Road. Suddenly, a thick fog came down around us without any warning. It wasn't something that crept up; it was just there. At the same time, we both felt very strange and uncomfortable."

"We looked into this field and saw burnt-orange lights. We continued to feel strange, as if we couldn't move," Dwyer made a U-turn. "When we looked again, it was gone."

The two went to Dwyer's trailer at about 9:30 p.m. "At the time, we had no feeling of having lost several hours," DeSoto said. "Cole was frightened and wouldn't talk about it." (She later learned Dwyer had experienced unexplainable incidents before.)

Four years later, in hypnosis, DeSoto relived the incident and described "a huge craft, bigger than a football field. It had smaller parts on top and bottom and was thick in the middle. There were many lights all around it."

After arriving at the trailer,

they still felt strange. Dwyer refused to discuss the matter, she said. "I tried to put it out of my mind. I felt very anxious," she added.

Under hypnosis, she recalled being "very frightened." She wanted to end the hypnosis, but was urged to "keep pushing." Suddenly, in an emotionally stressful part of the session, she saw "five beings come straight through the wall" of the trailer. They were hairy all over, with large eyes. I felt one of them recognized me from childhood."

In the trailer, the hairy creatures were accompanied by two others wearing gray, overall-like suits.

The 1992 hypnotic trance brought out a memory of Dwyer, stripped of his clothing, being taken through the wall by the aliens. "He was so terrified he couldn't speak," she said.

Dwyer has since moved from Watsonville, DeSoto said.

DeSoto said she "got out all the books in the library on UFOs," then became frightened again and "shoved them all under the bed."

Her experience at age 4 (also brought out in the single hypnosis session) involved being taken by the hand by "a strange boy" and led to a large, white craft. She was examined "in a dark room."

While recalling the childhood memory, she had a violent headache, "and I never have headaches." As a child, she may have been operated on and had "something planted in her head" so she could be located, she theorizes.

Another experience in December 1992 prompted DeSoto to contact MUFON and subsequently submit to hypnosis. She was smoking a cigarette on her balcony at about 2 a.m. when she saw a bright light in the sky. The light came closer until it was "right overhead." She phoned the police and was directed to a MUFON researcher.

Cornetto, who said she has no knowledge of UFOs, said it was obvious DeSoto had undergone "a very real emotional experience. You can see that from the body language in the tape."

— BOB ALDRICH

TIMES, St. Petersburg, FL - April 21, 1993 CR: G. Meyer

Others describe strange, silent object in the sky

■ More sightings come to light of something big and boomerang-shaped moving above the Suncoast. Some say it hovered. Others say it vanished in a twinkling. No one claims to know what it was.

By WES PLATT
Times Staff Writer

BAYPORT — Ron Chancey, a Hernando County sheriff's deputy, may not know exactly what he saw on patrol Friday night, but he insists he saw something.

A boomerang-shaped something with a wingspan of at least 200 feet. Something that hovered in the starry

other," Chancey said. "The first thing I thought of was the Crystal River nuclear plant. I don't know why, really. And then I thought of that movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, with that big whatever-it-was that played the music. But this thing was real quiet. I would guess it was 200 or 300 feet long."

Chancey said he stopped his cruiser and shined a spotlight at the thing. He saw no markings or numbers. No cockpit. He made out a vague, dark outline that appeared to be shaped like a boomerang.

After watching for a couple of minutes, Chancey drove on toward the park in Bayport. As he accelerated, he said, the object accelerated. The deputy shined the light at it again and it cut west toward the Gulf of Mexico.

sky along Hernando's coast. That could go from still to warp whatever in the time it takes to snap your fingers.

Chancey found six Hernando residents who said they saw the same thing over the coastal communities of Pine Island and Bayport. And on Tuesday, three more sightings of the mysterious thing were reported to the *Times*.

Chancey, assigned to patrol Pine Island after last month's devastating storm, said it was about 9:20 p.m. as he cruised slowly along Pine Island Drive with his window down and left arm on the door.

Through trees to the north, he first noticed blue lights that seemed to follow him. He drove southeast toward Bayport. Then he saw it over the marsh.

"It was like a huge something or

He met with six people at the park in Bayport who told him they had also seen the object.

Baffled, he said he could only come to one conclusion.

"Based on what I know now, no, I don't think it's from this planet," Chancey said. "Nothing on Earth could hover and haul ass like that."

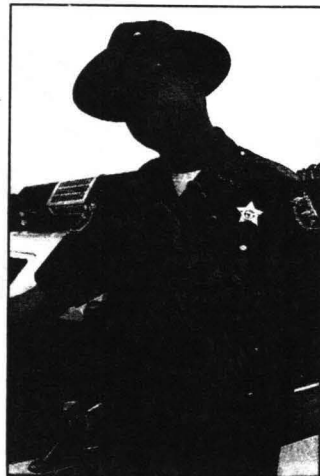
Garth and Sandra Curtis of Brooksville were in Tarpon Springs at 9:30 p.m. Friday when, they said, they saw the unidentified flying object.

"We sat and watched it a good five minutes," Garth Curtis said. "It was moving slowly to the west. I don't know what to believe. I've never seen anything like it."

Mary McCracken of New Port Richey said she saw the same object the night before the Bayport sighting. It was Thursday night. *L.A. Law* was on. The latest storm front was drenching Pasco County.

"Through my bedroom window, over in the southeast, I saw a bunch of real bright lights not too far over the treetops, moving real slow," she said. "I kept watching it. It was really big. I opened the window all the way, even with the rain, and listened. It didn't make a sound."

"The commission has since been expanded to 40 members," said Stanton. "Bill Clinton has been informed of it. More and more is being learned. They can't keep it quiet much longer."



Times photo — ROBERT ROGERS

Hernando sheriff's Deputy Ron Chancey said he shined a spotlight on the thing but saw no features sharply.

McCracken said as the object passed near her house a street light winked off. When it was gone, the light glowed again.

"I couldn't believe it not making a sound and going so slow like that," she said. "It makes me feel better that somebody else saw it and it was somebody credible like a deputy."

Does she believe in extraterrestrials?

"I think that it would be ignorant of me not to think there is something out there in this whole universe that has evolved. There has to be somebody out there."

Lisa Curran, 28, also of New Port Richey, said she and her parents saw the unusual object in broad daylight Sunday afternoon. It hovered high above them, rising until it vanished, she said.

Her husband, Tom, who was not with her when she said she saw the object, disagrees. He said he believes it was a military airplane, possibly a Stealth bomber that can avoid radar detection.

"I find it hard to believe it was from outer space," Tom Curran said.

Said Lisa: "If he saw it and I didn't, I'd probably make fun of him, too."

Madison man sues over UFO reports

By Jay Rath

Special to The Capital Times

Flying saucers, little green men, "Take us to your leader" — ridiculous. Not to be taken seriously.

So why is the National Security Agency investigating them?

Why is the intelligence agency tapping phones and possibly trading technology to foreign governments to get UFO information?

Why won't they release documents regarding their research?

It's all true, and so top secret that even the classification status of the documents is itself a secret.

Madison resident Fred Olsen is trying to change that. He's suing the National Security Agency under the Freedom of Information Act, not to gain the release of the documents — at this point, hardly likely — but just to get the intelligence agency's reasons for all the secrecy.

"It's become clear that the government is very concerned with UFOs," says Olsen, a paralegal and mediator. And the concern is just, he argues.

"If UFOs can penetrate our air space at will, and our jets can't catch them, and they can jam our communications and radar," he says, trailing off, leaving conclusions to the listener.

Concern over UFOs from a strategic standpoint came to Olsen after a hitch in the U.S. Navy. From 1972 to 1975 he was a fire control technician on the USS Columbus, a guided missile cruiser stationed in the Mediter-

'I came to the conclusion that I couldn't make conclusions.'

FRED OLSEN

anean. He had no interest in UFOs until 1984, when he heard about UFO intrusions into nuclear weapons storage areas. He was upset.

"I decided to immerse myself in the field," Olsen says. He called up computer bulletin boards, examined government files obtained through other Freedom of Information Act requests, and came away even more frustrated.

"I came to the conclusion that I couldn't make conclusions," he says.

Others may not be so cautious in their assessments, especially after reading the documents to which Olsen and others have gained access through the Freedom of Information Act:

■ Nov. 21, 1950: "I made discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information: The (UFO) matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States government, rating higher even than the H-bomb." — From the Smith Memo, written by Wilbert Smith, head of Project Magnet, a Canadian Department of Transport program that studied radiowave propagation as an energy source

(a theorized power source for UFOs).

■ 1968: "Up until this time, the leisurely scientific approach has too often taken precedence in dealing with UFO questions. If you are walking along a forest path and someone yells 'rattler,' your reaction would be immediate and defensive. You would have to treat the alarm as if it were a real and immediate threat to your survival. Investigation . . . would be geared to developing adequate defensive measures in a minimum amount of time. It would seem a little more of this survival attitude is called for in dealing with the UFO problem."

— Lambros Callimahos of the National Security Agency in his monograph titled "UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions," distributed within the NSA.

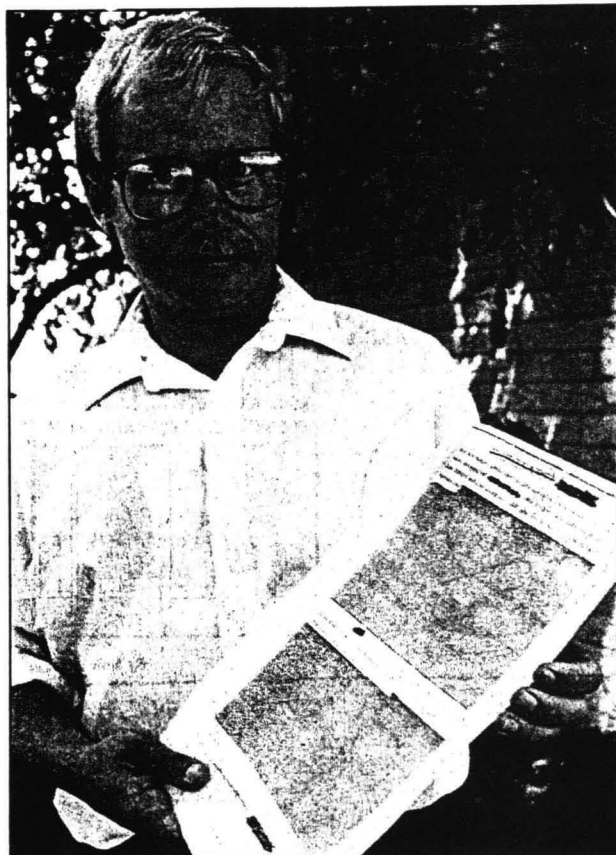
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The most interesting document, however, is the July 1, 1980, affidavit submitted by Eugene Yeates, chief of the NSA's Office of Policy, explaining why UFO documents cannot be released. The 21-page affidavit, filed in response to a separate Freedom of Information Act suit, was released after four pages were completely blacked out, or censored, with many more pages virtually deleted.

Some interesting facts survived, however:

■ The NSA admitted to having 239 UFO documents as of 1980, 79 of which originated with other government agencies.

There may have been more, and



RICH RYGH/THE CAPITAL TIMES

Madison resident Fred Olsen is suing the National Security Agency under the Freedom of Information Act because he wants to get the intelligence agency's reasons for its secrecy about UFOs.

Area 51

ARIZONA DAILY STAR, Tucson, AZ - April 25, 1993 CR: J. Deardorff

Tourists pay \$99 each, hoping for close encounter in Nevada desert

By Carol Masciola
Orange County Register

It is twilight and Sean David Morton is driving 90 mph through the Nevada desert, headed for a dimension where unearthly flashes appear in the sky and the lone local bar serves alien-burgers and a cocktail called the Beam Me Up, Scotty.

He is hurtling toward a sector where he says extraterrestrials prowl the Earth, surgically mutilating cows, conspiring with the U.S. military and watching late-night TV.

He is entering the terrifying Area 51.

The Establishment says Area 51 is a testing site for secret airplanes near Nellis Air Force Base. But Morton insists that it's a U.S.-alien cooperative where flying saucers are tested and grotesque genetic experiments take place.

"NASA is a fake. The real stuff is out here," he says.

Aliens' origins

In the back of his rented van are seven wide-eyed passengers, a few of them alarmed by the warp speed at which Morton is driving. Each has paid \$99 to see the flying saucers that Morton says spin through the desert at night.

The fee also entitles them to an earful of the self-proclaimed prophet's arcane tidbits about space travel and government cover-ups, which he spews forth with a lunar gleam in his eye and a touch of sweat beneath his fedora.

Casually — in a tone you'd use to explain that your Aunt Mavis is from Wisconsin — he explains that Area 51's aliens are probably from Kron-dac, a planet 800 light-years away.

"They're actually bluish-gray and a little bigger than most people think. They're 3 to 4 feet tall."

Morton admits he's never actually seen any aliens in the flesh, but "sources" tell him they're living at Area 51 — those little men with the smooth heads and the wraparound eyes.

TV experience

His fellow travelers are three students of the paranormal from Mexico City, one guy with a video camera who sells material to the Fox Network series "Sightings," one inscrutable Brazilian, and a hairdresser from West Hollywood, Calif.

Morton, 34, makes his living as a psychic, a healer, a predictor of earthquakes and a screenwriter. He just finished a book of prophecy for the next 30 years. He also worked on TV shows about Area 51 for the NBC series "Unsolved Mys-

Sean David Morton admits he's never actually seen any aliens in the flesh, but "sources" tell him they're living at Area 51 — those little men with the smooth heads and the wraparound eyes.

teries" and for Geraldo Rivera's "Now It Can Be Told."

"Hidden here is the technology to end all wars, to end hunger, to provide an endless supply of energy," he said. "I'm outraged that they're not showing it to the rest of the world."

Morton says he was raised in a fundamentalist Christian family "of the most rabid variety" but became a New Age thinker after a spiritual quest that took him from Texas to Tibet and various points in between.

Lights in the sky

"My mother thinks I'm nuts. She thinks I'm the Antichrist," he said. "She has a publishing company, and she won't even publish my book."

Miles later, the UFO van pulls into Ash Springs, Nev., population 11, for supplies. Store owner Goodie Goodman immediately recognizes Morton. He bags groceries and muses.

"I am not a believer, because I have not seen anything; but I know people who have," he says. "You have to understand where we are in relation to Area 51."

More and more desert. More and more darkness. One of the Mexicans nods off. Suddenly, Morton swings the van off the road, kills the headlights and leaps onto the road, screaming, "Look, look, look! Over there, over there! What the hell's that? Oh! It's gone!"

The fellow travelers run down the berm behind him.

There are lights all over the sky. Some look like helicopters, some like flares, some like F-16s. Two huge planes, possibly B-1s, swoop close overhead in the dark, barely making a sound. And something else seems to hopscotch across the sky, leaving an orange flash at each stop.

Testing ground

"You just saw tiny space jumps," Morton declares.

But skeptics say Morton's the one doing the jumping — right off the deep end.

"For nearly 25 years, my specialty has been the field of UFOs, as a hobby," said Philip J. Klass, a senior editor at Aviation Week & Space Technology for 34 years and a specialist in aviation electronics. "In all that time, I've yet to find a 'UFO case' to suggest we have any alien spacecraft in our skies. If there were any credible evidence, it would not be a mystery anymore. I think there's no possibility of that being true."

Area 51 is used for testing new covert airplanes, Klass said, and for staging war games and testing electronic jamming equipment.

He said the "skipping" orange lights are most likely airplanes testing decoy flares that fool heat-seeking ground missiles.

Barry Karr, executive director of Skeptical Inquirer magazine, said con artists are promoting Area 51 to make easy money by giving tours and lectures.

Incentive to deceive

"There are about four or five guys running around the country, and they all have a different shtick about Area 51," Karr said.

Klass suggested that pranksters might be enhancing the military's aerial show with their own bogus UFOs and that local businesses might be perpetuating the myth to bring tourists to an otherwise uninviting corner of the desert.

"If I were the owner of a bar or restaurant or filling station in that desolate area, I would love to have something to attract tourists. If that meant launching weather balloons outfitted with flares or buying radio-controlled airplanes and outfitting that with a special light, I would be very tempted to do something like that."

As midnight neared, the van pulled up at the only bar for 85 miles — the Little A'le'inn, a converted trailer. The signs outside read, "Earthlings Welcome" and "Budweiser."

Genuine interest

"It's not just kooks and idiots that come out here. These people are genuinely interested," said proprietor Joe Travis, standing behind the bar. Within his reach were dozens of liquor bottles; his wife, Pat; a 12-gauge pump shotgun; and an assortment of .357 Magnums. "We had a man in here last night from another planet. He didn't tell me, but I knew."

Travis is serious. He insists that humanoid aliens patronize his tavern, indulging in the Allen Burgers and the Beam Me Up, Scotty (Jim Beam, 7-Up and a dash of scotch).

more may have been generated since.

■ Of the 239, 156 are communications intelligence reports produced between 1958 and 1979. Two of those originated from SIGINT operations (deletion) in exchange for sharing of technology and COMINT information.

Translated, that means that the NSA, CIA or other agencies traded technology and communications intelligence (COMINT) for signal intelligence (SIGINT). And precisely where did our government and others get the COMINT, or communications intelligence?

The NSA chief said 54 of the 156 COMINT reports are based wholly upon intercepted communications (eight lines and two pages deleted here).

In short, our government is spying — possibly on its own citizens who happen to be using international communications links — to gain UFO information, and is possibly trading with foreign governments for similar intelligence.

In summary, said Eugene Yates of the NSA, "I have weighed the significant need for openness in government against the likelihood of damage to our national security at this time and have determined that each record should continue to be classified."

Despite this, on July 14 U.S. District Court Judge John Shabaz granted Fred Olsen's motion for an index to the affidavit deletions, detailing in each instance the reason or reasons for censorship of a document which, in the first place, was an explanation of why 239 other documents would not be released.

The NSA has until Aug. 3 to respond.

Whatever turns up, Olsen doesn't expect to feel vindicated.

"I don't espouse any answers for what UFOs are," he says. "I don't have any answers or hard beliefs, other than that when the government holds secrets this tightly, something is very wrong."

Was Downed Aircraft Report A UFO Sighting?

By KIMBALL HENDRIX
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago tonight, a small army of emergency personnel and volunteers braved near-zero temperatures to search a large area of Connersville, east and south of Roberts Park, after several individuals reported seeing what appeared to be a small aircraft plunging toward the ground.

That search, as well as three conducted from an airplane, failed to locate anything, and no one, or no aircraft, was reported missing.

While those who saw whatever it was are convinced it was more than just a flare or other pyrotechnic falling toward earth, other possibilities have been discussed, including the possibility of it being a meteorite.

adding that state police were contacted.

Several other confirmed sightings in the area - many of them in October 1973 - prompt Worley and others to apply the, it's-not-impossible theory. Some of those sightings include:

- Oct. 15, 1973 - An oval-shaped object with a dome is seen just six blocks away from Worley's Beech Street home at 4:30 p.m. Emitting no sound, the house-sized object hovered over a wooded area for about 45 seconds.

Witnesses said three lines appeared on the bottom of the craft, with the lines coming together. The craft eventually sped off horizontally.

"The trisected UFO was seen three different times in a period of a few weeks but no publicity appeared in the newspaper about what its bottom looked like," said Worley.

At 9 p.m. the same night, workers at D&M (now Frigidaire), while taking a break outside the plant, see an oval-shaped craft hovering behind the facility. Described as having a row of yellow lights and intersecting lines on its bottom, witnesses said the craft journeyed to the west and hovered over the Indiana Ordinance research, development and test area. No evidence of

landing was found at either site.

"There were a lot of witnesses to the sighting at D&M, so something did land up there," says Worley. "One man said he approached beings that were in the craft but he went into total shock, it really effected him mentally, so he wasn't able to provide much helpful information."

- During the third week of October 1973, a gray fish-shaped object with what appeared to be a plastic compartment on the front and port-holes on the side is seen hovering over a field near Fountain Street on the city's east side. At least 25 gold lights were on the bottom of the craft.

"Witnesses experienced heat and their ears hurt from the humming sound as it hovered and passed over that field," says Worley, adding that those witnesses said a pilot compartment contained two dark figures with very large white eyes.

"Seen from the shoulders up, these were of thinner build than us. And two more occupants of the same description were seen in port-holes along side the craft."

While the witnesses said what they saw frightened them, they told Worley that curiosity kept them from running.

- At 10:15 p.m. on Jan. 24, 1968, a pair of orange glowing Saturn-

type UFOs - the frightening type of UFO usually seen in Martian flicks - were seen in rural Fayette County. Approaching from a distance, the objects hovered over a wooded area before one appeared to land as the other began hovering over a house. "Three women who were terrified at the site grabbed their Bibles and began praying," Worley said. "There was no evidence that the crafts landed."

While many may scoff at the idea, Worley - who will have six articles published this year - says it is not impossible that what was seen two weeks was a UFO. And the fact that the area where something appeared to go down is just north of where an object was seen several years ago by many individuals lends credence to that possibility, he says.

Worley has page after page of documentation - including

in circumference. "Myself and another man hid out in those woods to try and see this object but we didn't. And at the scene on the creek bed a small pile of reddish dirt, for which there was no explanation, was found."

That dirt and another sample taken farther away down the creek were sent to Purdue University where tests indicated that nitrates were very high and the sodium content was also high. "But these facts really proved nothing," says Worley.

- At 5:30 a.m. on Oct. 5, 1966, two paper boys see a curved object emitting a sulfur odor and a faint whirring sound in the river bottom, west of the state police post on Vine Street. The boys said they continued viewing the object until they heard something walking in the field.

"Then they made a high-velocity departure up John Street," chuckles Worley, adding that the object left three equidistant cone-shaped holes and a small cone-shaped pile of red substance on the ground. Other witnesses said they believe they saw the same object the morning before flying close to transformers in the area but those transformers displayed no damage. While many say anyone who believes in UFOs is ... well, many adjectives could be used but you get

eyewitness accounts and testimony - of numerous sightings in Fayette and surrounding counties.

One took place at about 8 p.m. on Oct. 17, 1973, when employees at Burger Chef restaurant on Park Road, now the site of New You Figure Salon, watched two objects, bearing red, green and yellow lights, land in the Whitewater River bottom east of the establishment, in front of a rising slope.

Witnesses described the lights as beautiful and Worley says armed hunters approached the area. One object lifted off the ground, hovered a bit and flew northward.

"I learned nothing more about this incident," says Worley.

the idea, Worley says let 'em laugh all they want. Because someone doesn't believe in something doesn't mean it cannot exist.

"These things are real," he says. "The primordial intelligence behind UFOs can manipulate matter, space and time in a manner that is beyond our comprehension. Data indicates it is coexisting ultra terrestrial ... in plain words it can magically appear in our environment - be a physical thing - and then vanish back into its invisible state."

"And we have had much more than just mysterious sightings and landings around here. There have been startling next-to-ground hoverings and occupants have been seen in these objects, people have seen these things."

"And," he adds, "the government is no help. They've always denied these reports because the government has no control over these things. It is a deep dark secret of the government because they don't want to admit to something they have absolutely no control over."

While Worley and others believe a UFO may have been seen near the park on Feb. 18, exactly what the many witnesses saw may never be known.

Sharing the alien experience

Ridicule is among their fears

By Jenifer Hanrahan

STATE COLLEGE — The man from State College worries that the faceless beings in flowing black robes he sometimes sees following him will one day catch up.

The woman from Centre County talks about awakening and finding four V-shaped scratches on her back that she believes a lizardlike alien inflicted when it flipped her over on an examination table.

Both know you won't believe their stories.

So once a week, they meet in private on the Penn State campus with a handful of other UFO Encounters Support Group members who say they've shared like experiences with visitors from space.

The stories are similar to the one explored in "Fire in the Sky," the movie based on a reported alien abduction experience in Arizona in 1975 that opened recently. They are similar to those discussed, and dismissed, by Dr. Carl Sagan in the March 7 issue of Parade magazine.

Despite all the recent publicity for abduction experiences, it is only with members of the support group that these "abductees" say they feel free to discuss the most terrifying and bewildering experiences of their lives.

Most asked that their names not be used for fear of ridicule.

"If I said, 'Yeah, I was abducted by aliens,' people would look at me and say 'What planet are you from?'" said the man from State College.

"I don't think I could tell my wife about this stuff," said another.

Beth Combs of Huntingdon, who allowed her name to be used, added, "We are not lunatics. We are adults, and we want to get to the bottom of this."

On the basis of her own research, Combs estimates that more than 60 species of aliens are now visiting Earth. There are the "grays" - short, emotionless creatures reported to take abductees to sterile examination rooms; and the tall, faceless entities in black who give people information about UFOs.

Combs remembers the night she became a believer. Driving along Route 26 near Huntingdon, she saw what at first looked like a shooting star, "only it didn't fizzle out," she said.

"It started to land, perfectly straight, until it disappeared behind the trees. I was terrified. It changed my perspective on reality. I couldn't go back to believing there was nothing there."

To the believers, the signs of an alien visit are everywhere.

Recurring nosebleeds? Could be a transmitter placed in the sinus cavity by aliens to track your whereabouts.

Difficulty remembering? Probably memory "blocks," courtesy of aliens, to ensure you forget the abduction.

For most, the memories of abductions are vague and dreamlike. Sometimes, they say, they remember nothing at all.

"I wake up in the morning, and I know something has happened," said the Centre County woman.

She tried hypnosis to recall the specifics.

"I couldn't get past the blocks," she said. "I kept seeing the back of its head. That was as far as I could go."

Psychologists have just recently stopped dismissing claims of alien abductions as fabrications, said Robert Baker, a retired professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky who has studied "strange human phenomena" for more than 40 years.

Baker published two books last year, "Hidden Memories" and "Missing Pieces," both of which focused on bizarre human phenomena, including reported alien abductions.

Psychologists acknowledge that the abduction experience seems real to the person involved, he said.

"It really is a terrifying experience," he said. "You can't move, yet you feel aliens poking and prodding at you."

Baker said therapists and hypnotists who supposedly help abductees "remember" by using "suggestion and relaxation" techniques are inducing false memories and "should really have their rear ends kicked."

The danger, he said, is that people already traumatized by what they recall as a first abduction experience live in fear of being

abducted again.

"We need to psychologically explain to them that this didn't really happen, and there is no reason to worry about being abducted by little green men," he said.

Baker's explanation for the images of spaceships and aliens is that people sometimes believe they are awake when they are really sleeping, which is called a "hypnopompic" experience.

"Sometimes they see ghosts; sometimes it's demons; sometimes it's aliens," he said. "People see all sorts of things. Many normal people have these delusions."

About 11 to 13 percent of the population experiences this at least once, he said, adding that abduction stories are nothing new. "In the Middle Ages, it was demons and fairies doing the abductions."

Not all psychologists agree with Baker's approach. Aphrodite Clamar runs a private practice in New York City and treats people who believe they have had run-ins with aliens. She is concerned not about whether the abductions occurred or not, but with helping people "integrate the abduction experience into their lives."

"They have to accept it as unusual," Clamar said. "They shouldn't have to hide it."

At the support group meeting, members share stories and fears.

The man from State College is afraid his daughter is also pegged for abduction. The woman from Centre County says her contact with aliens began in childhood, but that until now she has been unable to talk about it. A teen-ager from

Huntingdon tells about recurring dreams of squadrons of white disks flying over his house.

After more than three hours, the group decides to call it a night. They have divulged more about their experiences with extra terrestrial beings than ever before.

"I'm surprised all of this came out tonight," said the woman from Centre County. "Part of me likes the affirmation, knowing that I'm not the only one. But part of me just wishes I was nuts."

Clamar said support groups like the one in State College were "quietly popping up around the country."

"People are looking for someone who will help them with it, not dismiss them as psychotic," she said.

But to Baker, support groups may unwittingly make things worse. "Their experiences are validated. It makes dealing with it worse because they believe they really were abducted."

Jenifer Hanrahan of State College is a Penn State student and freelance writer.

Look! Up in the sky! It's a ... what?

■ Hernando County residents and a sheriff's deputy say the boomerang-shaped thing hovered silently and was bigger than a jetliner.

By WES PLATT
Times Staff Writer

BAYPORT — It looked like a giant boomerang, the witnesses said, dotted with blue and white lights. Larger than a commercial jetliner, it hovered silently only 300 feet above the moonlit marsh along the Hernando County coast.

Then, in a blink, it was gone.

Whatever it was, it remained a mystery Monday as the Hernando County Sheriff's Office reported sightings of an unidentified flying object — a UFO.

Whatever it was, the Dortch family of Brooksville is pretty sure what they saw about 9:20 p.m. Friday.

Whatever it was, Deputy Ron Chancey and two other Brooksville residents saw it, too. Here's the story.

Durwood Dortch Jr., 30, brought his wife, Vickie, 29, their two young children and his parents to the popular Bayport park and picnic area for fishing and crabbing, unaware that the pier had been blown away in the storm March 13. They turned to leave.

"Do you see those lights up there? That airplane's huge," Dortch told his wife as they sat in their pickup truck in the darkness.

"Me and him both said there's no way that's an airplane," Mrs. Dortch said Monday. "It's way too big. It didn't make a sound. It just hung there. We looked away, and when we looked back it was gone." She said they didn't hear it leave and had no idea in which direction it traveled.

Chancey, a sheriff's deputy who previously worked for the Florida Highway Patrol, saw it about the same time over Pine Island Drive. In his report, he said it flew south, toward Bayport, "at a moderate speed."

As the Dortch family left the park, Chancey stopped them. He seemed uneasy, Mrs. Dortch recalled.

"How long have you been out here?" Mrs. Dortch said Chancey asked.

A few minutes, Dortch replied.

"I'm going to ask you a strange question, but I don't know how to ask it," the deputy said.

Dortch said he needed no further prompting. "Yeah, we saw it," Dortch said he told the deputy. "That thing in the sky."

In his report, Chancey said he talked to two other park visitors, Donald Brown and Cassandra Smith, both of Brooksville, who said they also saw the mysterious thing, which Chancey said stayed in sight for about two minutes.

Smith and Brown were unavailable for comment Monday night.

Chancey returned to the Sheriff's Office in Brooksville to report an incident involving "unusual sightings of unidentified type, low-flying aircraft."

Chancey was off duty Monday and could not be reached for comment.

Officials at MacDill Air Force Base, which hosted an air show during the weekend, said all its aircraft were on the ground by 9 p.m. that night. The U.S. Coast

Harvard professor to discuss alien abductions at UFO conference

By BILL BOWDEN

Times Staff Writer

There was a time when John Mack thought something was wrong with researchers who spent their time investigating reports of alleged UFO abductions.

But not any more.

After a meeting on Jan. 10, 1990, with Bud Hopkins, a New York artist and sculptor and leading investigator of such reports, Dr. Mack changed his mind. Now, Mack spends much of his time talking with people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"I encountered something here, very early on," Mack said, "which I saw did not fit anything I had ever come across in 40 years of psychiatry."

Mack, 63, is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard University and founder of the psychiatric department at Cambridge Hospital in Massachusetts. In 1977, he won the Pulitzer Prize for his psychoanalytic biography of T.E. Lawrence, the famed Lawrence of Arabia.

Not the kind of credentials you would expect from a man who believes his patients when they tell him they've been taken by aliens into a UFO.

"When people remember an experience with powerful feelings, whether it be under hypnosis or not," Mack said in a recent tele-

phone interview, "they're describing something they really experienced."

"We don't know who these beings are or what this power is, but for these people, it's powerfully real. I don't have an explanation, but it appears to be what it looks like. These people have nothing to gain by not telling the truth."

Mack is scheduled to discuss alien abductions at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ozark UFO Conference, which will be held today through Sunday at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs.

Mack said he has seen hundreds of patients who claim to have had some sort of brush with aliens or UFOs. But 66 of those patients fit his strict criteria of full-fledged abduction experiences: they are of otherwise sound mind and report they were taken by small humanoid beings against their will into an enclosure and subjected to medical tests.

Typically, Mack said, abductions are very traumatic experiences, often repressed and usually called forward only with great psychic pain and distress. Almost always, he said, the alleged abductees report seeing small, gray beings with huge, dark eyes who transport their immobilized bodies to a spacecraft, where the captives are probed in a battery of

tests that appear to relate to sexual and reproductive experiments.

Many abductees report a long history of abductions, Mack said. Often, their children become abductees as well, he said. In almost every case, these people are reluctant to face what happened, he added.

Mack said visits by aliens have been documented throughout history, from carvings on the walls of ancient pyramids through early writings. But the wave we've been going through since the 1940s is different, he said.

Many more abductions appear to have occurred since the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, said Mack.

During the abductions, most people report being shown "films" of environmental disasters on earth, he said.

"I think it's because we're destroying the earth," said Mack, adding that destroying our atmosphere may effect the cosmos as well.

Mack said people don't believe in UFOs and aliens because they are afraid.

"I think people are scared," said Mack. "We're not in control. We are quite more helpless than we had thought."

For information about the conference, call the Inn of the Ozarks at 253-9768.

SUN-COMMERCIAL, Vincennes, IN - Jan. 15, 1993 CR: S. Patrick

Local group seeks to find answers to unexplained phenomena

Due to an editing error, the remainder of the following article was omitted from Thursday's newspaper. The entire story is reproduced as follows.

By DEBBIE LEONARD

staff writer

Questions arise in Knox County on a routine basis concerning unexplained phenomena in the area. A local group pursues answers to these strange happenings and will present a course at Vincennes University for further study.

Kerry Teverbaugh and Jerry Sievers, members of the Unexplained Phenomena Research Organization, conducted a public lecture Wednesday to give an overview of material to be used in the eight-week course offered by the Adult and Continuing Education office at Vincennes University.

The UPRO was founded in 1975. UPRO members conduct investigations and research of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), Bigfoot and other strange creatures, hauntings, psychic phenomena and many other areas.

Lucky Point, southeast of Monroe City, is an area of continuous reports of explained phenomena, Teverbaugh said.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, this area of upper flood plains of the White River was reported to have been visited nightly by UFOs.

Guard station in St. Petersburg reported nothing unusual.

Ditto for air traffic controllers at Tampa International Airport, said Paul Anderson, assistant director of airport operations.

A phone call to the National UFO Reporting Center in Washington state reached an answering machine with a message that said no one was there "due to circumstances beyond our control."

"It got to be a circus," he said.

On any given night, especially weekends, six to 12 cars would line up and wait to see anything out of the ordinary, he said.

"When we get reports, we anticipate a lot of hoaxes," he said of the sightings.

But Teverbaugh and Sievers also have heard something unusual at Lucky Point. There is a mile-long section of high tension power lines in the area that seem to always make a loud noise during the times UFO reports were made, Teverbaugh said.

A group of experts from all kinds of professional fields have studied the noise, but walk away shaking their heads in question, he noted.

"They have never been able to collaborate the noise with any natural phenomena," he said.

The sightings at Lucky Point slowed considerably during the 1980s, but during the last three or four years, they are on the rise, he noted. Most reports are sightings of lights in the sky, but one spectacular report came from a local deputy who stopped about 9 p.m. one evening to stretch his legs, Teverbaugh said.

"As he looked over the hood of his car he saw a black triangular object about 100 feet long," Sievers said. "It was 25 feet from the ground and 200 feet from him."

Five silhouettes were seen by the deputy through windows of the object, Sievers said. As if he were getting a mental message from the object, he was asked why he hated Iranians. Mentally he thought, "I don't hate Iranians," Sievers said. Two of the silhouettes looked at each other, then the object disappeared, he noted.

If that sighting wasn't strange enough, there are reports of Bigfoot in swampy areas of Decker and Lucky Point, Teverbaugh said.

During the spring of 1979, a Knox County farmer heard strange noises on his property and later found huge footprints. He made a cast of a "Bigfoot" imprint

from the ground, Teverbaugh added. There are sighting reports of such a creature in Hillcrest Park, Camp Arthur and on the Wabash River levy by water department workers, he noted.

Then there is the issue of haunted houses. One such report is a former funeral home in Wheatland, Teverbaugh said.

"This night was not a hoax," Teverbaugh said of a personal experience.

During this night, Teverbaugh said he and two of his friends were outside when one of the men began to appear intoxicated.

"Within a couple of minutes, this guy changed," he said. "We found out later he had been possessed."

The man's pulse had doubled and his voice changed to that of a small girl, he said. Later, Teverbaugh learned a girl that been murdered at the site and thrown down a well, he said.

Crop circles, although none have been seen locally, were briefly addressed during the lecture, as well as Teverbaugh's research into the Bermuda Triangle.

Additional material will be presented in the VU. It will consist of more in depth discussions on a variety of unexplained phenomena.

For additional information, call Teverbaugh at 743-5137 or Sievers at 882-1862.

TRUE

Below, UFO researcher Ellen Crystall with geologist Bruce Cornet in a cornfield between Pine Bush and Walden.



ERIC KRIEGER/The Record

Story
by
Stephen
Israel

BELIEVERS

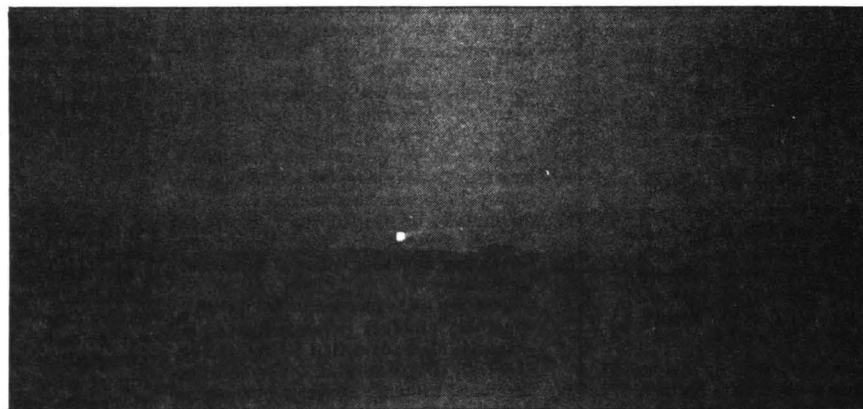
Ellen Crystall has always believed. When the other girls in Milford, N.J., were playing with Barbie dolls, she was clipping articles about Unidentified Flying Objects. As a 21-year-old in Hollywood, Calif., she looked up at the night sky and watched silent flying objects stop on a dime, make right-angle turns and, she says, zip off when she said something like "Gee, nothing moved in a while."

But Crystall says it took a close encounter with a UFO to make her a true believer. This is how she says it happened in her new book about UFOs, "Silent Invasion":

One night in Hollywood, she was walking alone down an empty, palm-tree-lined street, when something made her turn around and look up. There, just over a rooftop, moving towards her at a few miles per hour, was a flying object shaped like a wedge of Brie cheese. Through four windows, each larger than a car, she saw a being. It was wearing a rust-brown knit jumpsuit. It had a large, bulbous head and broad but very thin-boned shoulders.

For a few minutes, Crystall stood and watched. She knew she could stay and wait, or she could run. She ran — with the craft bobbing along above her — into her apartment. Sobbing, she packed her miniskirts and leather dresses. The next morning, Ellen Crystall called her parents to say she was coming home.

She kept quiet at first, only telling a few close friends about her UFO. But she kept on seeing UFOs in the New Jersey sky. She felt a strange sensation, as if she were being watched. Then she saw the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." She read a UFO column in Omni magazine. When



Bruce Cornet

Above, an object appears above the horizon to the east at 10:07 p.m. Sept. 13. Photographer Bruce Cornet said it "then shot away to southeast, and appeared to 'blink out.'"

she called its author, she discovered there was a UFO hot spot within an hour's drive of her home.

The place was Pine Bush, N.Y. That was in 1980. Since then, Ellen Crystall has hopped in her Toyota with the "Aliens Just Wanna Have Fun" bumper sticker to drive up from her parents' home in New Milford to the Pine Bush/Walden/Montgomery area. In a field on Route 52 across from the Congregation Beth Hillel Cemetery of the Walden Jewish Community Center, Crystall says she's seen spaceships flying and landing. She also says she's seen a yellow-eyed, three-foot-tall alien. And because of some mysterious mechanical and vacuum-suction sounds she heard in the woods, Crystall thinks the area is home to an underground installation of aliens.

Ellen Crystall isn't alone.

From a Columbia University geologist and a Pine Bush barber to the deputy clerk of Putnam County and a field representative for Kodak, the mid-Hudson and Hudson Valley region seems to be loaded with as many believers as the night is full of stars. They say they've seen everything from the flying, football-field-sized "city of lights" documented in Philip J. Imbrogno's book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings," to the cigar-shaped craft that barber Butch Hunt and student Tracy Byrne say they've seen, to that most famous V-shaped object, reported by Deputy Clerk of Putnam County Dennis Sant and too many other people to mention. Talk to the believers long enough and you hear about more than UFOs. You hear tales of alien abductions and underground installations, of government coverups and

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10 - TIMES HERALD-RECORD, Middletown, NJ - Jan. 3, 1993)

alien experiments — on animals and humans.

Talk like that is why the believers often aren't believed. "People look at you like you're funny," explains Pine Bush's Bill Wiand, the Kodak man who claims he's been abducted and physically probed by aliens. "Even my wife says I'm dingy."

But the believers know what they've seen — and what they believe.

So when a non-believer like the senior air traffic controller at Stewart Airport, Tom Matthews, says the Pine Bush area is surrounded by at least five airports and that a UFO may actually be an airplane — or several planes — flying in formation, believers like Bruce Cornet will point to the squiggly, stop-start pattern of time-lapse photos and say no plane could move like that. Besides, the believers will add, what better place for a UFO to blend in than an area filled with airplanes? Why, some believers even say the aliens disguise their craft to look like planes.

Tell a believer there's not one shred of proof that an underground installation exists, and geologist Cornet will point to the abnormally high magnetic readings from his proton magnetometer and say, "They have placed their equipment in a place with high-level magnetic activity to camouflage their activity."

Even when you mention some of the more unbelievable believers — like a guy named Vinny who claims a UFO landed in Middletown last summer — the believers still believe.

"The phenomenon does bring out the weirdest people," says Sant. "But I know what I saw."

To understand just what it is believers like Crystall, Cornet and Wiand see, you have to know why they believe.

Looking back to that fateful night in Hollywood, 42-year-old Ellen Crystall thinks her life was planned to lead up to that first close encounter.

As a little girl, she was always different — and it wasn't just because she clipped UFO articles and read Hans Holzer's books on flying saucers and ghosts. At Camp Wishe in Slate Hill, where Crystall spooked her bunkmates with ghost tales, she says she watched a book fly — by itself — from the top bunk to a bottom bunk. In high school, her classmates taunted her and threw heavy combination locks at her because she was different; she wore granny glasses, miniskirts and leather dresses and got straight A's.

So, fed up with life in the East and forced to move from her grandmother's rent-free Greenwich Village apartment, Crystall and her "another-jerk-in-my-life" boyfriend headed to California, where she reports having had her first close encounter.

She returned East, began studying music and headed to Pine Bush, where she met lots of fellow believers — like Butch Hunt, who now has a UFO wall at his Pine Bush barbershop that's lined with such books as "Aliens Among Us" and "God Drives a Flying Saucer." She listened as Hunt told about the time in 1968 when he and his pals were driving in his Chevy Biscayne by Red Mills bridge and saw "a regular flying saucer," flying about 50 feet overhead — or so close that "if you had a slingshot, you could hit it." Hunt also told Crystall about the other object he says he saw — in broad daylight — that looked like "a brown floating cigar with figures in it and windows all around."

It was the same "bigger-than-a-house" craft that Orange County Community College student Tracy Byrne says she saw hovering across from her Indian Springs Road home.

Crystall also met a couple who took her out on Hill Avenue to the field where they report the ships were landing. As she writes in "Silent Invasion," she was immediately surrounded by "a dozen large triangular crafts with amber-yellow lights in the form of a plus sign." She shot picture after picture of the crafts with her 35 mm camera. But when the photos were developed, the images were of lights and lines, not spaceships.

Today, Crystall says she knows why:

"They (the aliens) were deliberately preventing it by disturbing the emulsion of the film through means of which we were unaware."

Still, Crystall, who felt "a strong pull to be in Pine Bush," kept looking. One moonless night, she says she saw a fully lit ship among the trees. Shining her flashlight, she saw two legs, a skinny neck and a beige body with huge yellow eyes wrapped around the side of its head. The being was, she says, three feet tall. It had a worried look on its face. At first, Crystall just stood and stared. And then, just like she did in California, she panicked — and got in her car and drove away.

But all through the mid-'80s, when some 5,000 sightings in the Hudson Valley were documented in Imbrogno's book — and the flights of UFO-mimicking groups of prankster pilots were also reported — Crystall kept looking. She says she discovered animals, such as a lemur, that did not belong in the Pine Bush area. She heard strange noises, like drilling. Last June, right next to the cemetery, she heard a loud pop, "like a vacuum seal."

That's why Crystall thinks the aliens have some kind of underground installation where they may be conducting experiments in interbreeding — and implantation — in an attempt to save their dying civilization.

But even though Crystall has these theories, she doesn't have physical proof.

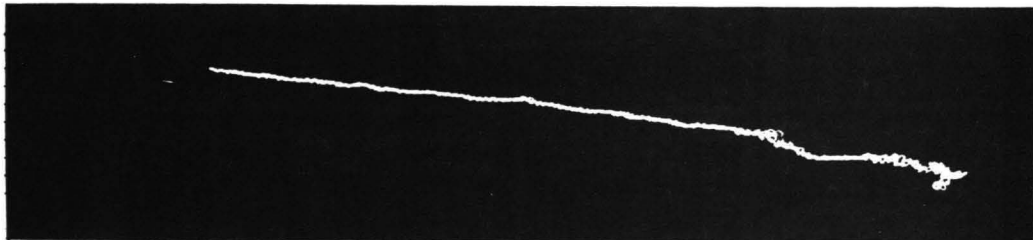
That's where Cornet comes in.

The mustachioed geologist for Columbia University, who's been using his proton magnetometer to detect abnormal underground magnetic activity near the cemetery, shares one characteristic with Crystall and many UFO believers — a belief in the paranormal. In fact, he says, his late wife was a "very psychic" person who had "an energy field around her that was capable of shattering glass."

But Cornet, 47, had never really been interested in UFOs until his wife died of cancer in 1991 and he saw the TV miniseries, "Intruders," based on the Budd Hopkins book about alien abductions. That's when he drove to B. Dalton to look for books on the subject. That's where he heard that Crystall's "Silent Invaders" was flying out of the store. He liked the symbolism of their last names — hers is Crystall, and he's a geologist; his is Cornet, and she's a musician. So he tracked her down.

In June, they met in that field across from the cemetery. Cornet reports being immediately awed by the objects that seemed to stop dead in the sky, make right turns, dip behind a treeline and emerge again — in silence. He was also amazed when he heard the vacuum sound and saw a cluster of lights explode in the sky. So he began taking time-lapse photos, which revealed those jagged patterns.

One night in July, Cornet says he was driving along Route 211 doing 45 miles an hour when he noticed a craft above him doing 50. Sure, it looked like a jet, he says, but



Bruce Cornet



ERIC KRIEGER /The Record

Center left, Crystall in a cornfield. Above, a UFO seen near Walden and the Hamlet of Walkkill July 7. Left, Butch Hunt at his Pine Bush barber shop. Below left, aliens can be seen in a spray of light. Below, five spacecraft videotaped Aug. 6 near Goshen.



Ellen Crystall



Ellen Crystall

when he slowed down, it slowed down. And then, on Aug. 6 at 9:40 p.m., when Crystall was driving along Route 17 and says she spotted a craft about 500 feet above her, Cornet was in his Middletown kitchen when he got the urge to go outside. He looked up and saw an array of lights — the same V-shaped set of lights that dozens of area residents, including Camille and Fred Jensen of Campbell Hall, say they saw hovering about 500 feet above ground, accompanied by a droning engine sound.

Since then, Cornet says he's used his proton magnetometer to find several areas with what he calls "apparent magnetic fluctuations that seem to be unexplainable as natural phenomena."

Maybe that's because, according to Pine Bush's Bill Wiand, there are things that can't be explained — just as sunspots couldn't be explained in the 1700s. The Kodak field representative says he's been seeing things in the sky since he was a kid in Peekskill and saw a ball of lightning. He remembers walking along the Hudson River and seeing all sorts of flying objects. He even remembers when his baby brother wanted his mom to catch the ball that was in his room. She couldn't see it.

He could.

"But when you grow up and get processed, you stop seeing these things," he says.

Like Ulster County's Whitley Strieber, who wrote "Communion," Wiand feels he's been probed and possibly abducted by aliens. One night, when he couldn't sleep, Wiand lay down on a couch and covered himself with a

loosely knit afghan. He says he felt long, pointed fingers — without fingernails — pick him up and move him. He opened his eyes and saw a small, glowing red light. When he woke in the morning, the back of his legs hurt.

Although Wiand says he knows what he's experienced — "all you have to do is look, listen and pay attention" — he realizes other nonbelievers can be skeptical.

So does Imbrogno.

"It's hard to deny that something's going on," says the chairman of the science department at the Windward School in White Plains, who interviewed hundreds of people for "The Hudson Valley Sightings."

"We have proven the phenomenon exists, Imbrogno adds. "But anyone who tells you what it is, is letting their imagination run away, unless they have proof."

That proof is what the believers are now after. That's why Cornet is measuring magnetism. That's why Ellen Crystall, who is working for a 1-900 psychic phone line and writing a thesis about 20th-century composers involved in the paranormal, travels with a Panasonic Palmcorder video camera and applies for UFO research grants. She wants to find what she calls her "souvenir."

And if she does?

"I can finally find out what's in my life," she says, "and what it's doing here."

Until she does, Crystall will keep searching, fueled by her absolute faith.

Stephen Israel is a staff columnist in The Times Herald-Record's features department.

PIONEER PRESS, Fort Jones, CA - Feb. 10, 1993

Plane? Meteorite? Saucer? Officials say they're baffled

CALLAHAN-- It was a full moon on Saturday night but that was not the only light in the sky.

Around 8:30 p.m., the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department received a report of a strange, red glowing light in the Hayden Ridge area of southern Scott Valley.

According to Scott Valley deputy Mike Gilley, when the reporting party was contacted, they said they had received the information from another person who had been on Highway 3

and believed the object and come in and impacted the ridge, leading law enforcement to believe there may be a downed aircraft in the area.

As time went on, more reports came in regarding the same unidentified phenomenon. One woman who saw it from Highway 3 near Fay Lane said the red glow would get very bright and then fade.

Saturday night Gilley searched the area as best he could from his vehicle

in the dark. He continually monitored the emergency aircraft frequency listening for an Emergency Locator Transmitter tone but never heard one.

On Sunday morning, a California Highway Patrol airplane flew up from Redding and began searching the Hayden Ridge vicinity about 10 a.m.

A CHP helicopter arrived later when the fog burned off and Gilley joined the crew for an extensive search over the ridge. A couple of local "groundstompers" went up the hill on foot, as well.

(continued on page 12)

"It's a mystery," said Gilley upon arrival back from the helicopter search.

He said they could see no signs of disturbance of any kind. Gilley had hoped there would be some evidence of a burned area or other indications something had impacted the ground, but he and the CHP crew saw nothing of the kind.

With no aircraft reported missing or overdue by the Red Bluff Flight Service, Gilley said the search would be called off.

As a small group of southern Scott Valley residents gathered at the landing zone, there were jokes about Big Foot (whose possible foot prints were the source of a story in the Pioneer Press last week) carrying a big flashlight, to speculation of a new "secret military aircraft."

One thing known for sure is that something was glowing near Hayden Ridge on Saturday night. What that was, remains unclear.

OZARK UFO CONFERENCE

Really out of this world

Wingfield: Some crop circles in England not legit, but most are real

By BILL BOWDEN

EUREKA SPRINGS — Circles and geometric shapes that have been popping up in the remote fields of England for the past few years couldn't have been made by human beings, said George Wingfield of Somerset, England.

At least the majority of them weren't, he said.

Wingfield showed slides on Friday at the Ozark UFO Conference here of a couple of crop circles that were made by humans in 1992.

The manmade circles look like the real thing from the air, but are obvious fakes upon closer investigation, Wingfield said.

The force that makes the authentic circles bends, but does not break, the crop stems, he said. Those circles seem to be caused by heat or radiation and usually accompany sightings of lights over the fields the night before the circles are found, Wingfield added.

The fake crop circles were caused by men pressing boards down in the fields to flatten the crops in a particular swirl, he said. But in doing so, they break the crop stems, Wingfield said. Also, he added, they trample the crops in the circle and nearby crops to get to the area.

"We have no doubt at all that many of these circles we've examined cannot be manmade, by boards and planks," Wingfield said.

"What the subject is calling out for is more research and less faking," he said.

Wingfield said the fakers sometimes work all night on a particular crop circle. Some of them do it for the fun of trying to fool people, he said. Others think they are communicating with aliens, Wingfield added.

The authentic circles, which have been popping up in the fields of England since the early 1960s, are sometimes enormous. One that was found in 1991 was 440 feet long, he said.

Elaborate displays of lights in the sky often are spotted on the night the circles are formed, said Wingfield.

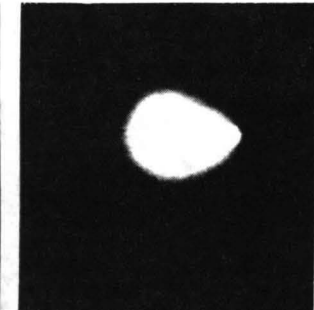
Also, the circles appear in remote areas where no sign of humans walking through the fields can be found, Wingfield said.

So what are all these circles?

Wingfield said he doesn't know. The circles tend to occur in a 15-mile radius in England. The military flies over the area regularly, but so far hasn't found anything there to report, he said.

"The military knows the crop circles are not of manmade origin," said Wingfield, but at this point they don't know what the circles are.

Wingfield said the lights that are spotted over the fields are seldom described as UFOs or spacecraft. He said the lights seem like "living" forms that change colors and shapes and disappear at random.



STRANGE LIGHTS - These are two of the photos of unexplained lights taken last Thursday night in Skirum. Strange lights were reported throughout the county that same night. (Photo by Gary Coker)

Strange lights continue to puzzle area residents

By STEPHEN SMITH

Questions surrounding the sightings of strange objects in the skies above south DeKalb County have abounded since the first reports over four years ago. However, the fact that people are seeing something can no longer be disputed as several residents have recently captured these sights on film.

Gary Coker, a freelance photographer from the Skirum area, has taken still black-and-white photographs of an unusual light he has been seeing from his home off and on for over two weeks. The photos show a bright sphere-shaped light, some with peculiar projections being emitted.

"It looks like a big star," Coker says of the object, "except four times brighter and three or four times bigger than any star in the sky. It gets brighter, it rotates, and it changes colors."

Coker says that the three times he has seen the object, it "appears due west at 30 to 40 degrees off the horizon to begin with, then trails off to the west, northwest."

The object was observed by many in the area Sunday night. Coker says that in addition to the light, helicopters seemed to be flying in close proximity.

"Some say that it's Venus we're seeing," Coker says, "but if it is, Venus sure does move around a lot and go down mighty fast."

He says the light actually appears to be moving away, instead of going down.

Quite unusual are the smaller projections of light that appeared to be emitting from the main object in some of Coker's pictures. "When I made those, it seemed like the thing was firing an engine or something," Coker relates. "There were vapors coming out, and at times it seemed like the vapors almost covered the thing."

Last month, Susan Austin, a Geraldine police dispatcher, also captured a similar object on film. First, she took pictures with a small 35mm camera, but later taped the object with a camcorder.

Sunday night, while Coker and others viewed the strange light in south DeKalb, Linda Furgeson of Sylvania was busy with her camcorder, taping an aerial light in her area.

"It was too big to be a star," Furgeson says of the object. "I watched it for about an hour. It went off and on, off and on, several times right at the end before it faded away."

Furgeson, who described the object as "thick at the top and thinner at the bottom," says she also saw what appeared to be planes flying under the strange object.

Coker was visited Monday by residents of south DeKalb who said they had heard a strange humming sound in the middle of the night, and that their house once vibrated as if something were hovering over it.

"They told me they had heard it this weekend," Coker says, "and that they called the police. When the report came over the scanner, however, the sound stopped." Other residents of the area have also reported hearing similar sounds.

"I can't understand what's going on," Furgeson says of the strange happenings which are occurring around the county. "Whatever it is, I just wish it would go away and leave us alone."

"There's definitely something out there that we don't know anything about," says Coker. "Four years ago I thought it was all something that the government was fooling with. Now, I'm really beginning to wonder."

At Seminar, UFO Believers Track Saucerful of Secrets

By Roy Rivenburg
Los Angeles Times

RACHEL, Nev.—In a tent full of flying saucerphiles, a startling announcement suddenly emanates from the doorway: "There's something in the sky!"

The reaction is instantaneous. Telling UFO buffs there's something in the sky is like shouting "Fire!" in a crowded theater.

The saucer believers stampede outside.

Finally, a beefy guy with a flowing beard zeroes in on the otherworldly object through a pair of high-powered binoculars: "It's a ... it's a ... it's a Mickey Mouse balloon."

Heads drop and hearts sink. Another false alarm at

the Ultimate UFO Seminar, held recently in this tiny southern Nevada town, site of a rash of weird aerial phenomena.

"Please don't make fun of us," pleads a 31-year-old woman. "We're taking a serious, scientific approach to this."

Then, after begging anonymity, she confides that short, gray aliens regularly abduct her and once stole her ovum to breed a "hybrid child." The space creatures showed her the half-human, half-alien youngster when it was 5 years old.

As the two-day seminar progresses, her tale actually becomes hard to dismiss. It turns out to be one of the less unusual stories told.

Other "UFOlogists" link

aliens with Adolf Hitler, President John F. Kennedy's assassination and AIDS. They talk about mysterious cattle mutilations and secret tunnels connecting Nevada to San Diego and New York. And they insist that creatures from the Zeta Reticuli star system are conspiring with humans to form a one-world government.

In Rachel, thousands of spectators have witnessed baffling, glowing objects that zig and zag in the sky.

But skeptics say the lights are easily explained: Nellis Air Force Range tests secret aircraft, such as the Stealth fighter, says Philip J. Klass, a contributing editor at Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine.

Local UFO Stories Appear In New Book

by Bland Pugh

Many of you have asked me on numerous occasions to recommend books about UFOs. Always the first book that comes to my mind is "Above Top Secret" by Timothy Good. If you want to know about government cover-up and involvement in the UFO phenomenon, plus the actual history of UFOs, this is your book.

Today, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter from Good previewing his new release entitled "Alien Contact." It contains astounding new evidence, supported by interviews with key military, scientific and intelligence personnel that reveals startling truth about extraterrestrial visitation: Contact has been established.

His review goes on to describe: Evidence of an alien base in Puerto Rico...Reports from intelligence officers describing communications with aliens and alien anatomy, and the medical examination of a live extraterrestrial...Confirmation by two former U.S. Intelligence directors and other intelligence personnel that extraterrestrial craft are in possession of the government...this is just the beginning.

Gulf Breeze and Pensacola are

referred to on several occasions, especially in connection with Bob Oeschler's experiences (he discussed Ed Walters' photos at CIA HQ, for example).

Timothy's book will be published May 21, 1993 by William Morrow & Co. Price \$22.00 ISBN 0-688 12223-X.

I personally look forward to reading "Alien Contact," I know it will be as informative as "Above Top Secret," this is the UFO watchers Bible.

.....If that sounded like a promotion for this book guess what, you were right.

There have been no major UFO happenings of late, other than rumor control.

One point of interest is the continued request for information on the "Hand" story we ran a few months ago. I have received letters and requests for information from as far away as Italy, England, and Germany. I will continue my request for information on this subject, please write to P.O. Box 6111, Gulf Breeze, FL.

Remember to keep looking up and behind you. You don't know what is watching you.

WEEKLY POST, Rainsville, AL - Feb. 25, 1993

SUN-TIMES, Chicago, IL - May 12, 1993

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 5, 1993

CR: R. Boomer



New book set to highlight woman's terrifying experience

Night the county had a close encounter of the baffling kind...

ONE of Humberside's most baffling UFO sightings is to be featured in a new book by a top space-watcher.

The unexplained, multi-coloured object was spotted by dozens of terrified and bemused residents as it flew over towns and villages as far apart as Willerby, Bridlington, Little Weighton and Leven.

The cross-shaped flying phenomenon, which appeared to be red, green and white, eventually disappeared from view after hovering over farmland for about four minutes—leaving air traffic controllers baffled as to its origins.

Now the sighting, which was exclusively revealed in the Mail, is to be featured in "Alien Update" by top researcher Timothy Good.

Previous publications by Mr Good have headed top-seller lists

By Steve Anderson
NEWS REPORTER

nationwide. His latest extra-terrestrial work contains accounts of the latest developments in UFO research, with reports from Sancton to the United States.

Mrs Liz Ibbotson was one resident who claimed to have spotted the UFO. She said she was petrified after it darted low across the night sky and shot straight towards her home at Grange farm, Sancton.

Speaking to the Mail today, Mrs Ibbotson said she would be intrigued by what the book had to say about "fier" UFO.

Recalling the sighting on a clear August night in 1991, Mrs Ibbotson (41) added: "I wish I had grabbed a camera, but just didn't think at the time. But I know what I saw with my own eyes."

"And lots of other people rang

up to tell me what they had seen as well." Since the sighting, Mrs Ibbotson has been contacted by other onlookers who also claimed to have seen the mystery flying machine. She recently relived her experience for a special feature on the appropriately-named Sky TV.

One man who is not likely to be moved by Mr Good's latest book is top psychic investigator, James Randi.

Speaking exclusively to the Mail from his American home in Fort Lauderdale at the time of the Sancton sighting, Mr Randi said there was a logical explanation.

"People should not jump to the conclusion that we are being visited by squat little men from Jupiter or wherever," he said.

● "Alien Update", published by Arrow books and priced £4.99, comes out on May 6.



ABOVE:
Liz Ibbotson and daughter Nicola pictured after the UFO incident. Mrs Ibbotson was contacted by other people who also claimed to have seen the object and she recently re-lived her experience for a feature on Sky TV.



LEFT:
Psychic investigator James Randi. He said there had to be a logical explanation.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - March 19, 1993

'Yellow eyeball,' other oddities dot Czech skies

By David Rocks
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

PRAGUE - With reports of a flying eyeball, brilliant orange spheres, a nine-foot-tall dog in an immense orb and a 1,500-foot-long silver boomerang, Czechs are in the grip of UFO fever.

"The number of sightings is growing geometrically," says Vladimir Siska, a telephone linesman who in his spare time heads a group of UFO buffs called the Czech Archo-Astronomical Association.

Siska's organization has received reports of more than 350 sightings in the past year that he says cannot be explained by natural phenomena - along with dozens more that have turned out to be shooting stars, planets or other stellar activity.

Before the 1989 "Velvet Revolution," there was an unspoken rule that sightings of extraterrestrials were little more than the fantastic inventions of corrupt capitalist minds.

"Under communism, everything was closed and rigid. Nothing was allowed, so of

course people couldn't speak about such things," says Zdislav Sima, a researcher with the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. "Now, they've taken the lid off the pot and let the genie out. It's like a boom in UFOs."

Helping put UFOs into the forefront of Prague's collective consciousness are a

wealth of new tabloid newspapers, many of which splash UFO sightings in 36-point type across their full-color front pages.

"My son said, 'Mom, come quick and look,' so I ran in from the kitchen and I saw what looked like a large eye with a little window in it," says Olga Voskova, an unemployed cook. "It was yellow and red, and it flew above the house and headed toward

the park. . . I wasn't exactly scared, but it was a very strange feeling."

"All of a sudden, a huge orange sphere appeared in my window. I was totally paralyzed," Zuzka Bohata, 14, from the village of Nahoranech nad Metuji, told the tabloid Expres. "It was like there was something in the room that kept me from moving. I could

encourage humans to change their ways.

"If our planet is visited by intelligent beings from outer space, they probably know about this catastrophe," Vrtatko says. "And that's why they've begun to show themselves more often recently."

Booksellers in Prague, meanwhile, can't keep titles on UFOs in stock; a Sunday morning television talk show has devoted several segments to UFOs; and the publishing house ETNA, which distributes several UFO-related books, says it has nearly sold out three printings of two of the most popular titles and is planning fourth editions.

All the attention devoted to UFOs recently is probably the chief reason for the rash of sightings, Sima says. Voskova, for example, acknowledged that in the last two years - before she saw the flying eyeball in January - she became fascinated with the subject, and both she and her 9-year-old son have read many books on UFOs.

"Newspapers write about these UFOs more, and so people start seeing them more," Sima says. "As far as I'm concerned, it's not little green men, but something natural."

'They've let the genie out. It's like a boom.'

ZDISLAV SIMA
Czech Academy of Sciences

only do one thing - scream."

Roman Vrtatko, who says he is planning to publish a newspaper on the subject, considers the recent wave of sightings to be a warning sign from creatures who have a better understanding of the Earth's problems than humans do. Especially in Eastern Europe, he says, ecological catastrophe is imminent and these creatures are here to

consultation and advice to people who have seen unexplainable objects. "We take all inquiries seriously," he said. "We are particularly interested in possible abduction cases."

Although many people are sceptical, Mr Lake is undaunted. "I don't care what anyone thinks, these things do exist," he said. "By the time the cynics are convinced it will be too late."

The meeting, at 7.30pm, will feature

lectures, slides and film, and sonic investigations from trained investigators.

Tickets are available on the night, or in advance from Roy Lake, 10a Tudor Road, Barking, at £4 for adults and £2 for children and OAPs.

The group has a 24-hour helpline number, 081 594 4797, which members of the public can ring if they have UFO queries.

BARKING & DAGENHAM RECORDER, Essex, England - Feb. 12, 1993 CR: T. Good

TOWN HALL DATE FOR UFO TEAM

IF YOUR IDEA of unidentified flying objects is confined to flying saucers and little green men, go to Barking Town Hall on Wednesday, February 25, and have a close encounter with the London UFO Studies group.

Chairman and founder Roy Lake has been interested in UFOs and aerial phenomena for 34 years. He thinks it is time for local people to discuss their sightings with the experts. He hopes

people who attend the meeting will share their experiences.

London UFO Studies is a non profit making organisation committed to broadening access to government information on UFOs. Mr Lake says he believes that despite public pressure for freedom of information, there is still a lot of UFO documentation to which the public has no access.

He says his group gives confidential

consultation and advice to people who have seen unexplainable objects. "We take all inquiries seriously," he said. "We are particularly interested in possible abduction cases."

Although many people are sceptical, Mr Lake is undaunted. "I don't care what anyone thinks, these things do exist," he said. "By the time the cynics are convinced it will be too late."

The meeting, at 7.30pm, will feature

WE ARE NOT ALONE



The Martians are coming. A Bath editor, who has compiled a book from conversations with aliens, tells TANYA SPRIGGS why they're not happy with us earthlings

IF aliens do land on Earth and need to find writer Palden Jenkins, I hope they have a good map. Better than mine at any rate. Five wrong turnings and an equal number of U turns in the small country village and I was eventually able to find the headquarters of Bath publishers Gateway Books in Wellow, for whom Palden edits. I warn you now that all that follows is likely to blow your mind. "There isn't anything normal about this whole idea," agrees Palden. "It is totally outrageous." He is talking about a book, edited by him and published this month, based on conversations with creatures from outer space and called *The Only Planet of Choice: Essential Briefings from Deep Space* (Gateway Books £9.95).

Don't expect pictures of cigar-shaped mother ships or eye witness accounts of meetings with little green men. ETs are a serious subject and this book goes into a lot of technical detail to prove it. The conversations span a total of 20 years and cover every subject imaginable — politics, religion, history, war, pollution, society and the meaning of life.

The aliens are called the Council of Nine. The Nine are a high level circle of great beings who exist outside the Universe of space and time. They are not ETs in the

normal sense, because they don't have physical bodies. Their spokesman, er sorry, should I say spokesperson, is called Tom (no jokes about Jones, Thumb or Uncle Cobbly please!) While he is communicating, Tom consults — and is often corrected by — the other eight members.

Got your head around all that? Good. You'll need a clear mind for the next instalment. The Nine have a rather important job: to maintain the energy balances in the Universe. No mean feat, huh? And we on planet Earth, swaying self destructively to one side of the scale, aren't making things too easy because we are upsetting the balance. So the Council of Nine are trying to help us put planet Earth back on course and redress the balance of the Universe.

Oh, and just one more thing, the Nine only communicates in one way — through an American medium called Phyllis. Palden explains: "The Council of Nine intentionally speaks only through her to avoid confusion, inaccuracies and falsities." The chats take the form of question-and-answer sessions lasting 20-90 minutes. Phyllis Schlemmer counts herself down into a deep trance and Tom takes control of her body.

Palden explains: "It looks as if she is falling asleep in her chair. After a while she suddenly becomes animated, raises her head and hands and announces in a new



□ There are no sinister photos of UFOs in Palden Jenkins's book — it's much more serious than that. Inset — Palden Jenkins

voice, Tom's, that he is present. Her body and mind are taken over by the Nine."

Palden first became involved in the conversations a couple of years ago when asked to edit the book. It was a daunting task. He had to trawl through thousands of pages of transcripts covering 20 years of discussion.

Palden has taken part in some of the more recent conversations, at the Kent home of Sir John Whitmore who has been involved in the project since the beginning. During those two decades various people have drifted in and out of the project 'talking to the Nine'.

Inevitably none of these people want to be named. "They think the attention will be focused on them instead of the message and it's the message that's important," explains Palden.

If that's the case isn't the very form of that message, contained in a 400-page book which has to be bought, a little too obscure a way of spreading an essentially life-saving message? Sending an ET down to earth to spread the word would surely reach more people? The Nine has done that already claims Palden. It sent Jesus, but we didn't listen.

But surely there must be better ways, than book-publishing, of spreading the message widely? "They've tried other ways," says Palden. "The latest attempts to communicate were the crop circles." Ah, so the Nine were responsible for the crop circles. What did they mean then? "We asked them that but they wouldn't tell us," explains Palden. "Giving us the answers would destroy the point of the message. The search was part of the discovery. It's the biggest crossword of all time."

Palden says there are many sorts of ETs in the universe, some good some bad. "The Governments of this planet, predomi-

nantly America, have been working with ETs since the 1940s. And basically they have backed the wrong horse," he says sinistinely. What makes him so sure that the Council of Nine are on our side?

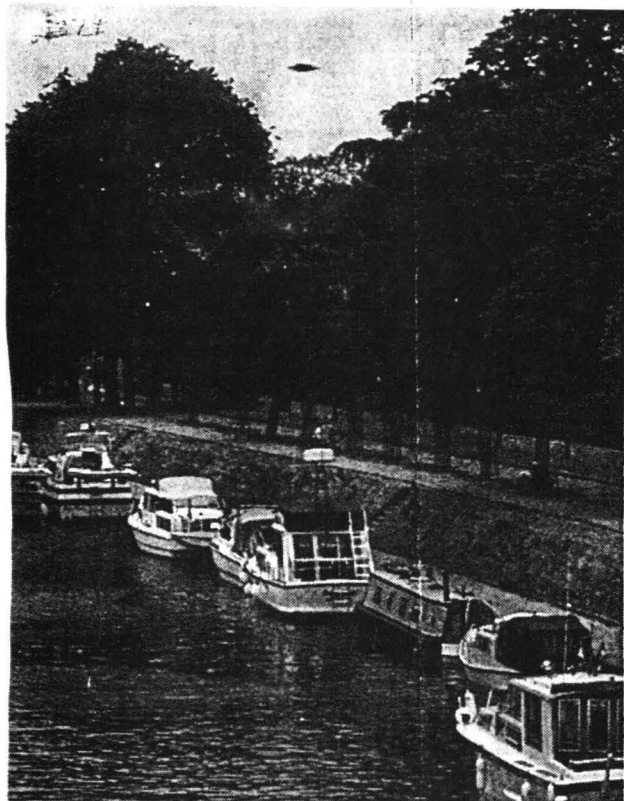
"The thing that makes them different is that they aren't seeking to control people. They aren't demanding that people obey them, believe them or do as they say. They are just asking us to consider the situation. Our freedom of choice isn't in any way being tampered with," he says. "You also go on a gut reaction, applying the same rules as you do with politicians." So, trust no-one seems to be the advice!

Palden expects some scorn about his revelations. He is prepared for what he calls "negative reaction to the book". But the editor is an intelligent and articulate man and he is philosophical about being believed. "It's up to people what they decide. It's submitted for consideration and if it merely makes people think deeply about ETs and the meaning of life then that's all it needs to do."

The message from the Nine is basically that the Earth has become too wrapped up in personal greed and wealth. We should start behaving towards others as we would like them to behave towards us, forget the pressures on us to toe the line and follow our own calling, whatever it is. There's more to life than work, mortgages and climbing the social ladder.

Even if you want to brand Palden, and those involved in the book, utter loonies you can't possibly view the message as anything other than intelligent. It is perhaps a little unnerving that it may take a bunch of aliens to point it out to us though!

Even if we fail to see the error of our ways, all is not lost. "We will not permit the total destruction of the planet Earth," alien spokesperson Tom stresses in the book. "We will interfere at that point."



WEIRD... a UFO hovers over the River Ouse in York in broad daylight

ALIENS TRIED TO KIDNAP US

Top people tell all

COPS, lawyers and industry bosses are to talk at a seminar about being abducted... by ALIENS.

And last night, a former top cop who will speak at the meeting, said: "It will be a real eye-opener."

The bizarre board meeting has been organised by UFO probe group Quest International.

Among the guests will be former TV researcher in Leeds, Maria Ward.

She says her life was made hell after being abducted and examined by an alien.

Maria, who now lives in Kent, said: "It was during the early hours of the morning. A very bright light shone through the window and I ran out of my bedroom."

"I heard a voice telling me to go downstairs and pick up a bright round object on the floor."

"I was taken into a dark room and told to take my nightshirt off. I remember the aliens piercing my stomach

EXCLUSIVE

By SARAH STEPHENS

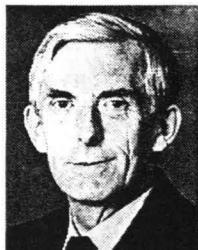
with a needle. At 4.26am I found myself back in my bed. My feet were filthy and my nightshirt had a large slit down the front of it. There was a small patch of blood on the nightshirt."

Spotted

"The worst thing about being abducted is the total isolation you feel."

"Luckily I became involved with Quest International and I realise I'm not the only one and I'm not mad!"

Tony Dodd, who was a police sergeant with the North Yorkshire force for 23 years, first spotted a UFO while patrolling North Yorkshire in his panda car.



STARRED... Tony Dodd

"Another officer and I were on our way to Skipton when a huge ball of light appeared in the sky. We saw this dome-like craft with coloured lights, about 100ft wide."

Tony, 57, who retired with full honours, added: "I stopped the car and we just stared at the thing. It was incredible."

"I've got to say I was your typical cynical cop and the last person to believe in strange visitors from outer space!"

"There are thousands and thousands of people who have actually been abducted by aliens and we will be listening to them at the conference."

The UFO conference will take place at Newcastle Civic Centre on March 20.

Is there anybody out there?

Eyes on the skies

HAVE you ever studied the stars at night and wondered if there is more activity going on up there than is visible to the human eye?

Have you studied the solar system through a telescope and pondered the possibilities of other life forms on distant planets?

Carol Kingsland-Christy, a Cambridge telephonist and mother of two has taken her investigations a step further. She believes alien life may already be on Earth and is researching British and American government reports which suggest people in authority know more than they say about visitors from outer space.

Is ET for real or is it just pie in the sky? Pat Kilbey looks at the UFO phenomenon and meets one local woman who aims to set up the area's first group on the subject



ET: Chris Massey-Lynch and Carol Kingsland-Christy - Cambridge's UFOlogists.

Reports suggest that people in authority know more than they are admitting to

they bother with us? I think I nearly ruined the whole lecture."

But now Carol says her interests have brought her a full circle, back to the question of life on other planets. She visited a UFO group in Colchester where she was impressed by the information and explanations given by speakers and decided there had to be more to the subject than she first imagined.

"I have been a telephonist for 28 years and need other interests to keep me occupied. Through the years of study I have reached a level of awareness and acceptance about some things," she said.

Shock

"The realisation that visitors from other planets are a possibility comes as a culture shock, but I think it would be a marvellous opportunity for local people to study the planets even if they don't prove anything in particular."

Horried that schools do not provide telescopes and study of the stars as part of their general studies Carol thinks this alone would be a completely new experience for some people.

First member of the Cambridge UFO group, Chris Massey-Lynch says his position as caretaker at Cambridge Central library gives him easy access to books and videos on the subject which has fascinated him for several years.

Night time sky watch ventures have produced some unexplained results which Chris has recorded on video, but he would like to meet other people in Cambridge interested in taking the research further.

In particular he is researching possibilities that lifeforms could exist on Sirius and Venus.

Meetings

Anyone who would be interested in attending meetings to study the planets, listen to knowledgeable speakers and link up with other UFO groups across the world can ring Carol on 0223 840626.

"I want to put Cambridge on the UFO map," said Carol: "There is an encyclopedia of all the groups which can be contacted on the subject and I would like Cambridge to be one of them."

THROUGHOUT the ages there have been reports of strange objects in the sky listed in official reports and church registers.

Some enthusiasts say that even the crude wall drawings of pre historic cave dwellers can be interpreted as space ships. Religion itself, they claim, could have been influenced by visitors from other planets and many references in the Bible to strange happenings and voices from the sky could be explained in this way.

The most striking of these is the account of Ezekiel in the Old Testament who said he had been visited by strange creatures travelling from the sky on wheels within a wheel. His account describes the creatures as having four heads and wings and says they came out of a whirlwind surrounded by fire.

He talks of "the terrible crystal" which hovers in the sky while God speaks to him from a throne which emerges from it, telling him to accept the children of Israel.

Other incidents such as Jacob's ladder, Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus where he is said to have heard the voice of Christ from a great light above him, the Star of Bethlehem which led followers to the birthplace of the baby Jesus and Christ's own ascension could all be open to this alternative interpretation.

Modern day sightings of these strange craft and reports of aliens speaking to ordinary people are still coming in. Quest International, the worldwide group which records incidents has a 24 hour hotline for the public to report their sightings and British Telecom in partnership with the British UFO Research Association run an information service which the public can call to find out what the latest sightings are.

Cambridge University professor for the Paranormal, Nick Humphrey says he is not carrying out research into the subject but is interested to know more. He said he has not been convinced, so far, by the evidence of those people who claim to have come into contact with alien beings but he does not entirely dismiss the possibilities.

Intriguing thoughts but no real proof - and if these theories could be proved, would we be ready to believe?

Group

Now, with the help of library caretaker and fellow enthusiast, Chris Massey-Lynch, Carol is planning to set up the area's first UFO group.

"I first went to a lecture about extra terrestrials back in 1978 when I was studying astronomy and was chairman of the Cambridge Astronomical group."

"I have to say I laughed. I thought 'how silly' and at the end I stood up and said that with the state the world was in why should

Author claims contact has already been made

HAS the world had real close encounters of the third kind?

Have extra terrestrials already made contact with the governments of Earth? Or are we victims of our own overactive imaginations?

According to author and leading authority on the subject, Timothy Good, there is evidence that the United States at least has been in contact with visitors from at least one other planet since the late 1940s. He also claims that relations have not always been completely peaceful.

Claims

One of the wildest claims made in his most recent book Alien Liaison is that an underground facility in the Nevada desert houses up to nine flying saucers and that much of the mystique surrounding UFOs has been carefully stage managed with a deliberate policy of misinformation designed to destroy the credibility of any witnesses.

Stories of people being beamed up Star Trek-like into a craft to meet little green men with names full of consonants are always good for a laugh, especially as it destroys any hope of witness credibility with the Hollywood image of space creatures, but there are on record reports from some very credible people indeed that something is going on that most of us are being kept in the dark about.

One such incident happened at nearby RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk in the early 1980s when servicemen witnessed something inexplicable in the surrounding woodland. In another local incident two women on the road from March to Wisbech claim they were chased by an unidentified craft. When they turned the car around and headed back they came across a road block with armed officers searching the nearby fields.

Good goes on to speculate that as early as the 1950s President Eisenhower was appraised of the situation and even visited the complex near to Edwards Airforce Base known as Area 51 or "Dreamland". He claims that the secrecy has been guarded because of the profound effect the admittance of alien contact would have on the infrastructure of the world's societies and not least the religious implications.

But whether of alien or more terrestrial origin there can be little doubt that incidents across the world, and sometimes very close to home have gone unexplained through some veil of secrecy being drawn across them.

In Britain reported sightings are

passed onto the RAF yet leaked memos mention a department within the Ministry of Defence, claims Good, known as DI55 which supposedly handles unexplained cases.

The government denies the existence of DI55 and the Town Crier's own investigations met with a wall of silence until one contact, a police officer in one of the region's forces, told this newspaper that she had been "warned off".

If the department DI55 does indeed exist, what is its purpose? And could the UFO phenomenon be the greatest hoax this millennium; a smokescreen for something even less palatable to the "civilised" world than ET and Mork from Ork?

US in liaison with aliens since 1940s claim by authority on UFOs

Over 20 report UFO sightings

UFO investigator Doug Cooper says he has had 23 independent civilian sightings, many in the Taunton and West Somerset area, of two large unidentified objects flying over the area on Tuesday, March 30.

Mr Cooper, manager of Taunton's County Walk shopping centre, is now going to collate all information he has received on the two objects which he says passed over the area that night, as reported in the Somerset County Gazette earlier this month.

West Country police first alerted him to the objects, about 500ft wide and 200ft long, and sighting reports have been coming in from people in Taunton, Minehead and Wellington. The objects, which were emitting light

beams, first appeared over Wales at about 1.10 pm, moved across the Bristol Channel to Lynton and then down to Cornwall, said Mr Cooper, who is an investigator for the British UFO Research Association. "They then stopped and hovered at about 2,000 feet," he said. The objects then moved back over Devon and Somerset, ending up at their last sighting on the Dorset border.

"We are classing them as UFOs," said Mr Cooper, from Honiton. They were not necessarily alien spaceships though, he said - but possibly unknown natural phenomena.

He is appealing for anyone who thinks they may have seen anything to write to him at 21 Cotfield Close, Honiton, Devon EX14 8QX.

Driver tells of UFO mystery

A WEST Hallam man saw strange lights in the shape of a triangle hovering in the skies above Willington.

He tells his story in this month's issue of the Phenomenon Research Association's newsletter.

The world-renowned group, run by Omar Fowler, of 12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, investigates sightings of unidentified flying objects and corn circles.

The self-employed man - who is not named but is said to be a keen aircraft-spotter - says: "I was driving along and something just caught my eye. I looked up and saw this shape - a configuration of lights. It was like two pyramid-shaped triangles. They were together, almost, but staggered."

"The height, I suppose, must have been 500ft to 1,000ft up and it appeared to be about 100ft long."

He wound down his window to make sure he was not seeing things and saw that the shape was

keeping pace with him as he drove. It made no noise, he says.

"I couldn't figure out what it was going to do. I eventually found a turning. By the time I pulled in there and jumped out of my car, it had vanished, there was nothing there at all. Even at that distance, a plane of that size, I would have seen it in some direction somewhere. There should have been something showing but there was nothing."

His sighting took place just eight miles from where a Sandiacre man spotted a "flying triangle" at Breadsall in November.

Pictures taken by him are being studied by scientists in America. UFO investigators say there have been numerous sightings around the world of large triangular UFOs, which may belong to aliens known as the Grays, who are said to stand about three-and-a-half feet tall. It is claimed they have abducted humans and given them medication to blank out their memories before returning them to Earth.

Pint-sized aliens in flying triangles!

SCIENTISTS in America are studying photographs taken by a Sandiacre man which are thought to show an alien spaceship.

UFO investigators say it may have belonged to aliens known as the Grays, who are said to stand between three-and-a-half feet tall. It is claimed they have abducted humans and given them medication to blank out their memory before returning them to Earth.

The man was driving through Breadsall when he saw what appeared to be a bright light approaching.

"The object was about 1,500 feet up and doing about 200mph. It made no noise at all and had a triangular configuration of lights," says Omar Fowler,

leader of the Phenomenon Research Association.

The driver managed to take pictures with his 35mm camera and contact prints produced by laboratories at Kimberley indicate that the object was "extremely large, although no shape could be discerned at the time" says the association's newsletter.

It adds: "The negatives were subsequently passed on to the USA (believed to be the Jet Propulsion Laboratories) via a reliable source. We have since received a request for additional information on the type of camera used, the exposure, film process, etc."

"It appears that the American agency has succeeded in producing prints from the last two negatives, showing a large black, triangular

craft, described as a black wedge-like body."

Mr Fowler, of 12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, says there have been numerous reports of large triangular UFOs.

Association members saw a video of NATO aircraft intercepting a "flying triangle" over Belgium in 1991.

And from Sweden came reports of "a black triangular object which flew at unusually high speeds". Two men were frightened by what looked like a hot-dog bread roll "which passed over them six or seven times in 45 minutes."



Convinced... Mike Parsons, who says he spotted a UFO. Argus picture

Mystery on the hillside

FORMER UFO sceptic Mike Parsons says jibes that he is "a wally" will not change his mind that there is "something out there" after reporting a sighting.

Mike was so convinced that something had landed on the mountain opposite his home in Glenview, Ynysydu, that he reported the incident to the police and went to the site at 7am on a Sunday to investigate.

Mr Parsons, who is a self-employed gardening contractor, claims his sighting on Saturday January 16, was genuine, what-ever cynics may think.

Mr Parsons was taking his dog for a walk at about 10pm when he saw a big orange and red light hovering in the sky.

He described the object as "a great big red massive thing", perfectly round, and about 15ft in diameter.

"It couldn't have been a plane's lights

because it was too big. It moved across the sky one way and went out of sight behind some trees then it came back.

"There was a big red glow and then it went black," said the 47-year-old bachelor.

"I never believed in anything before and have never believed people who have told me stories about sightings, but I know I saw something strange - I was amazed when I went up the next morning and there was nothing there."

Mr Parsons only came to the Argus because he thought the sighting had already been reported, and phoned to make inquiries.

"I told a few people and they don't believe me. They think I'm a wally, but what I can't understand is why nobody else saw it," he said.

Blackwood police confirmed that the incident had been reported.

If YOU spot one...

THE vice-chairman of the British UFO Research Association, John Spencer, said that thousands of sightings around the UK were reported each year.

Mr Spencer, who has written many books on UFOs and the paranormal, said 95 to 98 per cent of sightings probably have a reasonable explanation, such as aircraft, weather phenomena or meteorites.

The UFOs expert said he doesn't believe in flying saucers or aliens but keeps an open mind, as there are still two per cent

of sightings which are unexplained.

This is what to do if you see a UFO:

■ Although you may be stunned by a strange sighting, react quickly.

■ Try to get photos - this may help in identifying the object.

■ Make some notes about the sighting and give as accurate a description as possible - the mind often play tricks after the event.

■ Report it as quickly as possible - if an investigation is launched, it is difficult to get information if details are too dated.

Report on UFOs has no answers

Michael Kelly
Staff Reporter

Government inspectors today noted the "remarkable" consistency of the UFO reports, in a detailed account of the objects spotted by civil and military pilots all over Ireland last week.

The Department of Transport said that it is keeping an open mind on the cause of the sightings of unidentified flying objects in the wake of its preliminary report.

It stressed the importance of not causing unnecessary alarm.

A Department spokesperson said the sightings on the night of 30-31 March had been the subject of a preliminary investigation by the Air Navigation Services Office (ANSO) at the Department of Communications.

She released the following statement from ANSO:

"According to the reports received, including those from civil and military pilots, the objects were seen as two or more bright lights moving across the sky at a steady speed.

"The objects were seen to move silently, emitting con-trails as they did so.

"The reports varied widely in their

estimates of height, ranging from a few hundred feet to 25,000 feet.

"Reports were received from most areas of the country, except the extreme north and extreme south.

"Reports were also received from an aircraft over Northern Ireland and from an aircraft over Wales.

"The timings given by the observers are remarkably consistent and indicate that the sightings lasted for a few minutes between 01.10 hrs and 01.15 hours local time.

"A preliminary analysis of the reports indicates that the objects probably followed a flight path across the middle of Ireland essentially in a NW to SE direction and moving towards Wales in the same general direction.

"The objects were not seen to descend to earth at any stage. A check by air traffic control services could not relate the sightings to any known civil air traffic operating at the time.

Neither were any unidentified objects observed on radar.

"London Air Traffic Control confirmed receiving several reports of similar sightings in the Belfast Anglesey Dublin area". They also confirmed that nothing was observed on radar.

WEEKLY NEWS, London, England - March 27, 1993

UFO SHOCK

— WHEN SON SAW STRANGE LIGHTS IN SKY

A SHOCKED family are watching the sky a bit more closely after spotting an unidentified flying object.

And their sighting is just one of many that has turned a small Scottish town into a Mecca for UFO hunters.

Hundreds of locals gathered at the village hall in Bonnybridge recently to discuss unusual sightings with UFO investigators after the news that the area now accounts for more than half the total sightings in Britain.

At the meeting was mum-of-two, Mary Young, who was stunned to see a strange craft in the skies above her Bannockburn home.

Telescope

"I went outside to call my nine-year-old son David in from the back garden where he was playing," recounts Mary. "I followed his gaze as he pointed to the sky and asked whether the lights he could see belonged to a car.

"The lights were moving low across the roof-tops in a neighbouring street and there was no way that a car could be travelling at that height.

"At first, I thought it must be a low-flying plane but the lights were very unusual.

"There were massive white lights at two sides of the craft and a square of red lights with another inner square of white lights.

"I shouted to my boyfriend Kevin, to come and take a look and all three of us dashed to David's upstairs bedroom to grab a telescope he'd been bought for Christmas.

"And from there we could see the machine

approaching.

"It was travelling so fast that we couldn't keep the telescope trained on it and the oval-shaped object passed above us at about 40 feet from the ground.

"Until now, I would have laughed at the suggestion of UFOs but I just can't come up with any other reasonable explanation for what I saw."

Logical

Around 500 locals attended a public meeting to discuss the sightings where they were interviewed by investigators but, so far, the UFO remains unidentified.

"Scottish UFO sightings can account for more than half of all our reported cases," explained Jenny Randalls of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Association.

"We usually manage to find a logical explanation for about 95% of cases.

"But Scotland certainly seems to be a 'window', that is, a place where UFO sightings occur more frequently."

CR: T. Good

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England

Feb. 17, 1993 CR: T. Good

Close encounter!

NEIGHBOURS in Acorn believe they may have seen an unidentified flying object.

Mary Mountain, of Beckfield Lane, and neighbour Harry Prince, last night watched a strong, white light glowing in the sky for ten minutes.

Mrs Mountain said: "We stood watching it. It was a terrific, bright light with radiants coming out of it, the way a child would draw a star.

"We watched it from about 8.50pm to 9pm and it was static. Then I saw it shoot at terrific speed to the north west and the sky became completely black."

Mrs Mountain said there may be a logical explanation

for the light but she was not ruling out seeing a UFO.

"I just do not know what it was. I would like to know if anyone else saw it. I contacted the police and they said it could have been Jupiter because it was low in the sky but I don't think it was."

Chairman of York Astronomical Society Martin Dawson said the object could have been a commonplace fireball.

"Half a million tonnes of dust and matter are swept into the earth's atmosphere every day. When you don't know what you're looking at, it is very difficult to tell what it could be."

EVENING HERALD, Dublin, Ireland - March 31, 1993 CR: T. Good

UFOs spotted over the south east

LARGE numbers of Unidentified Flying Objects were spotted over the south east of the country today.

A group of bright lights were spotted travelling in a south easterly direction between 2 and 2.15am.

The lights did not show up on radar screens at the air traffic control centre in Shannon airport.

The lights were spotted from the ground and by aircrews who radioed the Shannon centre.

"No sounds were reported by anyone which rules out the possibility of jet aircraft," said an air traffic spokesman today.

Cloud cover in parts of the south east may have accounted for differences in the number of lights spotted by observers.

The lights were moving "relatively slowly" but this was no real indicator of their speed as observers could give no fix on the height of the objects.

Mr Robert Kinahan, vice chairman

of Astronomy Ireland, said that the sightings could be an aurora borealis.

"It could look like a giant torch shining down and these sightings can often be quite frightening," he explained.

The aurora would have been caused by magnetic particles in the upper atmosphere being charged by energy from the sun, he added.

Dunsink Observatory said today that the UFOs may have been space debris.



GARY MARX/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Historian Jesus Lanche stands above the mysterious Nazca Lines on a plain near Nazca, Peru.

Mystery persists over lines carved in Peruvian desert

Homage to the gods, or the work of space aliens?

By Gary Marx
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NAZCA, Peru — Lucho Oyola's gut was killing him. He had a hernia, no medicine and no doctor.

That was months ago, before a ship filled with men from outer space scooped him up from his tiny reed shack here and transported him to India, where his hernia was magically cured. The spaceship used the ancient lines etched on a vast plain near Oyola's house as a runway.

"The ship hovered in the clouds over the mountain before landing on the lines," said Oyola, a shaman, or medicine man, in Nazca. "I believe the aliens told our people to build the lines so they could be used as airports."

Nearly 2,000 years after the so-called Nazca Lines were carved on the flat, bone-dry plain called the Pampa de Ingenio, the debate rages on over why they were created.

Some experts say they were astronomical guides to predict infrequent rains; others say they were homages to powerful mountain and fertility gods. Some speculate the curved lines may have been racetracks for athletes, sacred paths for ritual walking, or a kind of huge dance floor for drugged-out priests trying to communicate with the gods.

But some people think the lines and other figures — including a monkey, a dog and an owl-faced man dubbed the astronaut — were commissioned by do-gooders from outer space who visited Earth to teach our ancestors a thing or two.

In his 1970 blockbuster book, "Chariots of the Gods," Erich von Daniken popularized the extraterrestrial theory, seconded since then by a number of films and books. It's a theory that goes down well in Nazca, an impoverished, down-at-the-heels agricultural and mining town with 32,000 residents.

Many Nazca residents can't believe their ancestors could have created things of such astonishing accuracy and beauty. They are so poor and powerless that they believe the lines must have been built by space aliens — anybody but their ancestors.

"It's difficult to believe the pre-Incas were able to do these perfect figures. They couldn't read or write," said Miguel Torres, a top official at the Nazca City Hall. "The plain is too big. The figures go from hill to hill. Extraterrestrials must have come here."

Inherent mysticism

Archaeologists say the widespread notion among Peruvians, especially among the impoverished masses, that the lines were dug by visitors from outer space reflects in part the mystical nature of Peruvian society.

They also say that five centuries of domination by Spanish colonialists and their descendants has largely obliterated the self-confidence and cultural pride of Indians and mixed-raced Peruvians who make up the bulk of Peru's 23 million people.

And they accuse Von Daniken and like-minded writers of ignoring the bulk of scientific data and feeding the Western stereotype that ignorant Indians and other Third Worlders couldn't have carved the Nazca Lines and other ancient monuments.

"Why shouldn't Peruvians think ETs came and built the lines? Why shouldn't they think that their ancestors couldn't do it? They've been beaten down for 500 years," said Helaine Silverman, an anthropology professor and Nazca expert at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "They are bombarded with the message on television, in the movies and in their daily life that to be white is to be advanced and to be dark-skinned is to be at the bottom of the social heap."

Preserving the lines

Adding to the controversy is the struggle over who should watch over and preserve the Nazca Lines.

Maria Reiche, a German mathematician and geographer, has protected them for five decades. Using money from foundation grants and profits from the sale of her 1968 book, "Mystery on the Desert," Reiche has hired guards to keep tourists and others from damaging the lines.

But Reiche is 89 and near death, and she has chosen Phyllis Pitluga, an astronomer at Chicago's Adler Planetarium, to continue her work.

Pitluga said she'll take the job if the Peruvian government wants

her. But many archaeologists say a Peruvian should be responsible for the lines, even though the Peruvian government has little money to do the job.

"I don't know why they are even discussing who should be in charge of the lines," said Elias Mujica, an anthropologist and former director of Peru's National Institute of Culture, the agency responsible for overseeing the nation's museums and cultural treasures. "The only institution that can take care of them is the Peruvian state. The lines are Peruvian."

There are gigantic figures — some more than 300 feet long — of a spider, a hummingbird and a pelican. There is a killer whale, an Amazonian spider monkey, a condor with its wings spread, and the owl-faced man with his right hand raised in an apparent sign of friendship. The figure of a huge lizard is sliced in two by a highway; on the other side of the road is a pair of hands, and a broad tree fit for a Christmas decoration.

The lines and figures, which number in the hundreds, are spread over 135 square miles of desert topped by sand and pebbles that have been oxidized over the millennia into a grayish brown. Below the surface is a bed of white alluvium, which shows through where the carvings are; the dark-light color combination makes the plain a kind of gigantic sketch pad.

Pre-Inca culture

Archaeologists say that from 200 B.C. to 600 A.D., the local inhabitants — known as the Nasca Culture — carved these huge lines and figures into the desert floor.

Not much is known about the Nascas; they left no written record and were wiped out by the Incas long before the Spanish colonialists arrived in the 16th century.

A Peruvian archaeologist found the Nazca Lines in the late 1920s. They were first studied extensively in the late 1930s by Paul Kosok, a Long Island University historian. Kosok believed the Nascas used the lines and figures to track the movements of the sun, moon and stars to predict the progress of the seasons.

Kosok's work was continued in 1940 by Reiche, a solitary — and some say hardheaded — woman

who has spent her life plotting the lines to prove her theory that the agrarian Nascas, fearing drought, etched them as an astronomical calendar to predict the start of the rains in the nearby Andes.

Reiche's 1968 book, "Mystery on the Desert," put the Nazca Lines on the tourist map and made her a cult figure.

Some trapezoids and triangles may have been produced by groups in ritual clearings, something that's still done by some Andean Indians. Many lines also seem to point to underground water sources, or to hilltops where the Nascas may have made offerings to the gods to bring rain for their crops, another custom still practiced in Peru and Bolivia.

The plant and animal figures, which are also etched on Nasca ceramics, appear linked to the worship of mountain deities who the Nascas believed controlled the weather, according to Johan Reinhard's respected monograph "The Nazca Lines."

Archaeologists say many Nazca residents play up the mystical-ET-UFO angle because they want to boost tourism, which bugs Silverman.

"Why is it the Nazca Lines are always called a mystery?" she asked. "There is such a fascination in our society with mysteries. Isn't it more fascinating that these amazing people made these lines and danced and predicted when the rains fell?"

IN TOUCH, Mountain Home, AR

Feb. 10, 1993 CR: L. Willett

Ray Dean Davis'

Strange Arkansas White River Monster?

Over the years, many people have reported seeing some sort of large, unidentified creature or creatures in the cold waters of the White River.

Cloyce Warren of Newport might once have laughed at those reports. If so, he changed his mind during a fishing trip on a hot July day in 1971.

Warren, then an employee of White River Lumber Company, and some of his friends were floating the White on July 28, trying their hand at bagging some of the river's famous trout.

They anchored their boat a bit south of the White River Bridge and had just cast their lines when a large column of water erupted from the river, about 200 feet from the men.

Immediately afterwards, according to what Warren told the *Newport Daily Independent*, "this giant form rose to the surface and began moving in the middle of the river, away from the boat. It was very long and gray colored."

"We had a little Polaroid camera with us to take pictures of the fish we caught. I grabbed the camera and managed to get a picture right before (the form) submerged."

"It appeared to have a spiny backbone that stretched for 30 feet or more. It was hard to make out exactly what the front portion looked like, but it was awful large."

The photo Warren snapped was published in the *Independent* a few days later. It is blurry, but shows what seems to be the long, spiny "backbone" he mentioned. At one end of this "spine," (the end nearest the camera) the photo recorded a large splash, as if something had just hit the water and started down.

River monster? Fish left over from prehistoric days? Some new, developing species? A prank?

If there are such creatures in the river, where would they hide during low water? Are there underground caverns and channels of which we aren't aware? If so, what else is down there?

Those of us who haven't seen such a thing will have to make up our own minds, based on hearsay, but Cloyce Warren and several other people swear there is at least one big, strange creature living in the White River.

Maybe, on some hot, summer day, one of us will be the next lucky one to run into it....

GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR — May 4, 1993

Mysterious shaking draws scientists to Molalla

MOLALLA (AP) — Residents in a rural area near Molalla say they've felt some unnerving bumps in the night in the month since an earthquake shook the area.

And they've convinced scientists to place portable seismographs in the area to try to find out what's going on.

Since the March 25 quake, a handful of rural families reported they've heard strange thuds, felt their houses shake and found

water flowing in places where it never flowed before.

"I'm not saying it's an earthquake," said Paulette Justice, "but something is definitely brewing here."

The residents met Sunday with two U.S. Geological Survey scientists.

"What we find very odd is the increase in thuds, the increase in tremors, now the windows shake," Justice told scientists Evelyn Roeloffs and Nancy King. "This is ominous to us."

The area eight miles south of Molalla is the only place where the unusual events have been reported. People in Molalla have felt nothing unusual.

"I don't have an explanation for that," Roeloffs said.

CR: J. Deardorff

Defense Dept. Denies Link To Taos Hum

FROM JOURNAL STAFF
AND WIRE REPORTS

The U.S. Defense Department has informed Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., it has no projects that might be causing a mysterious hum that has plagued some northern New Mexico residents during the past two years.

Domenici says he's interested now to see what New Mexico's national laboratories and the University of New Mexico will find in their investigations of the hum, which reportedly began in May 1991.

More than a dozen people living in an area from Albuquerque to the Colorado border said in July 1992 interviews with the Albuquerque Journal that they had heard the low-level hum.

A Denver audiologist said she had recorded a steady vibration of 17 cycles per second with a harmonic rising to 70 cycles per second near Taos. The low range of human hearing is 20 to 30 cycles per second.

U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., said recently that he thought an Air Force project might be causing the sound, and that he had asked the Defense Department and the House Select Committee on Intelligence to investigate the source. Richardson hasn't responded to recent calls to his office about a response to his inquiry.

The Defense Department response to Domenici's inquiry arrived Monday in the form of a letter from Undersecretary John Deutch, saying: "My staff has reviewed our defense activities in this area and have concluded there is no program, classified or not, which would cause the hum."

Deutch said Sandia, Los Alamos and Phillips laboratories in New Mexico and UNM are undertaking an investigation of the hum, which several residents have said causes sleepless nights and many a broken train of thought.

Domenici says some people have suggested underground aqueducts might be a possible cause.

WEEKLY POST, Rainsville, AL - March 4, 1993 CR: L. Howe

Cattle deaths draw attention of documentary film maker

By STEPHEN SMITH

A woman who could be considered a leading authority on cattle mutilations visited the area last

week to find out just what was going on in northeast Alabama, and took home a great deal of footage for her next film.

Linda Moulton Howe, who now resides in Pennsylvania, has been investigating strange cattle deaths for 14 years. She has written a

book and produced a documentary on the subject, along with award-winning work on various unrelated topics.

"This has been going on for 26 years," Howe explained during her visit last week. "It's a phenomena that is in the thousands of cases, with reported occurrences in every state (except Maine), all of Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, parts of Europe, and Australia."

According to Howe's extensive investigations, cattle mutilations occur frequently in areas where strange lights are seen in the skies. Intense helicopter activity, she said, is also related to the incidents.

"This is exactly like it has been all over the world since 1967," Howe said of the Marshall/DeKalb incidents she has spoken to local affected farmers about.

"I'm amazed over what's going on here," she continued. "The strange lights, the unmarked helicopters, the helicopter sounds when no helicopters are spotted, and the classic and strange mutilations. It's all happening in northeast Alabama, just like it's been happening in different part of the world for the last 26 years."

Howe utilizes the services of a Dr. John Altschuler, a pathologist and hematologist in Denver, Colorado, who analyzes the tissue samples she sends him from mutilated cattle. "He has found evidence," said Howe, "of high heat at the cuts of some of these animals."

While in the area, Howe did secure tissue samples from a cow that was discovered in DeKalb County. Those samples have been sent to Dr. Altschuler for analysis, the results of which should be released by next week.



ON THE SCENE—Cattle mutilation authority Linda Moulton Howe took many photographs and tissue samples last week of this cow found in the Sylva area. Results of that lab work are expected some time next week. (Photo by Stephen Smith)

DECATUR DAILY, Decatur, AL - March 4, 1993

No clues yet in slaying of goats

An investigation into the slayings and mutilations of five goats at a Brindley Mountain farm hasn't turned up any clues yet, according to sheriff's investigators.

The goats were found Monday on James Gatlin's farm near Oden Ridge with their sexual organs removed, plus eyeballs and tongues missing. There also was no trace of blood in the animal carcasses and no tracks left by the killers. Similar animal killings and mutilations also have taken place in Marshall County recently.

Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences officials said they have not been involved with the investigations and would not comment.

According to Rebecca Peinhardt, owner of Peinhardt Processing near Cullman, there is no market for animal blood. The slaugh-

terhouse washes animal blood down a drain except for samples that are checked for diseases.

Ms. Peinhardt said she has no idea how someone is draining blood from the mutilated animals. She knows how her operation does it. "You would cut its throat from ear to ear ... and let them bleed real good. Usually you have to hang them up to let them drain real good."

J. Hammond Martin, a mortician since 1939, said there is a wide technical range of equipment used to pump blood out of human bodies. The equipment also could be used on animals and not leave a trace of blood, he said. The equipment also can be carried easily, according to Martin.

Speculation on the killers ranges from satanists to UFOs.



LINDA MOULTON HOWE

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 5, 1993

Pig-nabbing cat on prowl

But none can identify 75-pound animal

BY ROBERT CORRIEA
Providence Journal

MANSFIELD, Mass. — Fire Chief Edward Sliney heard the stories about the big cat roaming the area in recent weeks. He even started keeping an eye out for it each night as he drove home to rural east Mansfield, where the cat has been sighted several times.

It was the last thing on his mind at 8:15 a.m. Friday, when he happened to look out the front window at his home. That's when he saw it.

"He was running down the middle of the street. It was strange," Sliney said. "He ran down to the second house, took a right and went through the yard. ... The next thing I hear are the dogs on the next street over barking away."

Sliney said the animal weighed about 75 pounds, had tan coloring and a big fluffy tail.

"It was the size of a good-size German shepherd," he said, "but it definitely wasn't a dog."

During the last two weeks, dozens of people in Stoughton, Easton and Mansfield have reported spotting the cat, feeding growing speculation that a

mountain lion has staked out the area as its territory.

The cat was said to weigh at least 80 pounds — some said as large as 150 pounds — and living off wild ducks. A farmer said the cat carted off the carcass of an 80-pound pig. People said the cat's paw prints were 6 inches across.

A blurry videotape of the animal filmed by a resident of one of the towns, made public this week, did more to debunk the mountain lion theory than support it.

Dr. Charles Sedgwick, director of the Wildlife Clinic at Tufts University, looked at the tape and said the cat could be a cross between a domestic and wild species.

He said it had the fluffy ring tail of a domestic cat, but a square head, reminiscent of a jungle cat native to Europe and Asia.

Sedgwick could not determine the animal's size from the videotape, but he said jungle cats grow only to about 25 pounds in the wild.

"It certainly is not a mountain lion," Sedgwick said. "This cat is no 100-pounder. That's absolutely ridiculous."

State environmentalists say the animal that has been sighted repeatedly may be the same one caught on videotape. Then again, maybe it's not.

"I'm not saying there isn't another cat out there, but nothing to this point has shown me there is," said Lorne Estabrook of the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the law-enforcement division of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We've had people who were adamant this cat was 80 pounds. Some said well in excess of 100 pounds."

Tony Vecchio, curator of Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, said after seeing a short segment of the tape that, based on the coloration, he thought it was a puma, another name for a mountain lion.

Pumas are tan, much like the cat seen on the video and by Sliney and others.

Vecchio said a jungle cat has a combination of spots and bars on its sides, back legs and tail.

More telling than the cat's features is its behavior, said Dr. Robert Deblinger, assistant director of the state Department of Wildlife, who has viewed the tape several times.

TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT, Johnstown, PA - March 1, 1993

Source of haze, odor a mystery

By TED POTTS
THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Cambria County Emergency Management Agency officials and area fire chiefs remained puzzled Sunday over the source of a mysterious blue cloud-like substance accompanied by what many said was a chlorine-type smell to pass over the Johnstown area late Saturday afternoon.

Cambria County 911 began getting calls at about 4:30 Saturday afternoon from people who said they smelled what seemed to be an odor of chlorine, said Brian Feist, a supervising dispatcher. Some callers also said they saw a hazy blue cloud.

The first calls were from the Westmont and Westwood areas, he said, and not long after calls began coming in from the city and the East Hills area.

The Johnstown Fire Department and volunteer companies from Westmont, Westwood, Richland, Belmont and Solomon Run were dispatched on odor investigations and could not find the source of the cloud-like substance or the smell, Feist said.

He said the National Weather Service near Pittsburgh was not aware of anything that may have caused the incident. He said the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency said they were not aware of any chemical releases in the area.

A Pittsburgh answering service for the state Department of Environmental Resources said Sunday night that agency had not received any calls about the incident.

Jeff Shearman, chief of the Solomon Run Volunteer Fire Company, said the cloud-like substance was visible from the top of Eisenhower Boulevard "for as far as you could see."

He described the smell as that of hydrochloric acid. He said the cloud reminded him of haze associated with large brush or woods fires.

Shearman said that perhaps weather conditions caused particles in the upper atmosphere to be drawn closer to the earth's surface.

CR: S. Gordon

Once-human Urayuli may be watching you

By JOHN ACTIVE
For Alaska Newspapers

KODIAK — You have heard about the legend of "Big-Foot" or "Sasquatch" in the Pacific Northwest and about the "Abominable Snowman" in the Himalayas.

Here in Southwest Alaska, there is talk of a creature we call the "Urayuli" (Oq-ra-you-lee), which roams the vast emptiness of the Tundra — bellowing forth its loneliness and because of its horrific appearance we try to avoid it.

Some who have heard it tell me its cry is much like that of a loon, only deeper.

Those who have seen it say its eyes glow like coals and it runs using its arms, for they are so long they reach down past its ankles to the ground.

It is also said to stand 10 feet tall, and when it cries out, its lower jaw comes loose and drops down to its chest.

I first heard the legend from a little old woman named "Tunguyamaman."

Long ago, we Yupit were a nomadic people moving from camp to camp as the



John Active is a former KYUK radio and television news reporter. He is well-known in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta for his storytelling.

spring, summer and fall presented themselves. We relocated to our seasonal camps to hunt and fish, practicing our subsistence lifestyle.

Once a family was at their fall camp and one night after they had gone to bed, the "Urayuli" visited them.

It was a moonlit night and the husband could not sleep. In the fall, after the first frosts, you can hear everything. The tundra moss is crisp and if you step on it, it crackles crisply underfoot, making a lot of noise.

The moonlight spilled onto the tent and anything passing by would cast a shadow on it. By and by the man heard something walking slowly toward the tent and soon a huge shadow appeared at the entrance of the tent — outside.

The man stared at it, paralyzed with fear. Wondering what it was that had come from nowhere, the man watched as it untied the ties to the tent.

Whoever it was opened the flaps silently and a horrific stench reached the nostrils of the terrified man.

It was huge and with the moon at its back the man saw that whatever it was, it was covered with hair. The creature's arms were long, just like a spiders. Its ears were also very long and pointed at the tips. Its eyes glowed in the darkness.

It looked around in the tent silently. Then with its long hairy arms it felt about on the ground with its hand and long, thin fingers.

The huge hand touched the man's feet and it covered both of them. The man cringed in terror and sensing the movement the creature withdrew its hand. The tent flaps closed.

The man heard the giant run away. Jumping up, the man peered out of the tent.

The surrounding tundra was bright with moonlight and as he scanned about he spotted the creature running away, its huge arms swinging forwards and backwards. Each time its hands touched the ground its feet and body

swung forward.

The man shuddered as he heard its cry, just like a loon's, but deeper. "Tunguyamaman" has since died and I relate this story to you as I heard it.

Located about a mile north of Bethel is "Hanger Lake" and behind it are bluffs where every summer lots and lots of berries grow. Women used to like to go there to pick them every fall, that is, until someone heard the "Urayuli."

Some ladies had hiked to the area and spent the whole day picking. In that area are many willows and soon they lost sight of one another.

While they were picking they heard something cry out. It sounded like a loon, but deeper. Afraid, they called out to each other and decided to return home. No one picks berries back there anymore.

Once, a friend of mine from a town downriver, decided to go to a tundra village by dog team. The moon was full and in winter the snow on the ground reflects, making everything bright.

every time he called to them, the more they whined and snorted, a sign of great fear.

He looked in the direction that the dogs were looking and in the bright moon light could only see the tall trees ... and then one of them moved.

The hairs on the back of his neck stood on end and a chill danced up and down his spine. What appeared to be one of the tall trees had moved to one side.

My friend went to his lead dog and lead him around to go back home. As he did this the dogs began to bark and looking back he saw that what ever it was had moved on to the lake ice and now was running toward him.

He ran to his sled called "Hite!" The dogs took off. He said he had never seen his dogs run so fast. He

was so afraid of whatever was pursuing them that he didn't want to look back. He was frantic and held on to his sled for fear of falling off. When would he be grabbed from behind by the creature?

He says that when he got back to the village he and his dogs became very sick and everything he had eaten earlier came out.

This friend of mine has since died and I can only relate what you have just read.

Let me tell you why I, we Yupit, believe that the "Hairyman" exists.

Once in a while, unfortunately, a young person or child will get lost in the wilderness, here in southwest Alaska.

About 20 years ago a boy was placed in the orphanage near

Kwethluk and one day he ran away from there. Searchers looked everywhere and finding his tracks followed them until they seemed to disappear into thin air.

Elders living at the time said that the boy had become a "child of the wild," no longer human, never to be found again. Oh, he was alive alright but no longer human.

Did you ever see the movie, "Predator?" It was about a being from outer space who could meld into his surroundings. This is what happens to children who get lost in the wilderness. They become a part of the wild.

Years after that boy disappeared, reports came from people in different villages that they had seen him. They said he was covered with

hair and could run very fast.

Not too long ago at a fish camp near Bethel a 10-year-old boy got lost in the woods. Searchers went out and found his foot prints. They followed them, calling him by name. The searchers then began to notice by his foot prints that he was running away from them.

So the searchers began to run too and being bigger caught up with him. The boy's eyes had already become rounded, like an animal. They were larger and filled with fear. The boy had nearly become a child of the wild.

So, you ask if we believe there is a "Hairyman." Yes, there is and maybe he used to be human and out of curiosity he is watching you, if you are alone in the wilderness.

TIMES, Huntsville, AL - April 8, 1993

Cow mutilations are still a mystery

Investigator disputes wild predator theory

By DAVID BREWER
Times Staff Writer

FYFFE — A five-month investigation into more than 30 cow mutilations in DeKalb and Marshall counties since October indicates predator animals were not involved in most of the incidents, said a local police officer.

But Investigator Ted Oliphant of the Fyffe Police Department said in a Wednesday afternoon press conference that the probe did not determine what killed the animals — or why.

Oliphant said that based on the results of two laboratory reports, he and other members of his department "are forced to conclude that predator animals cannot be blamed for the majority of the mutilation cases."

State Department of Agriculture Investigator Jimmy Miller of Arab said Wednesday he could not comment on the case without department approval. But a month ago Miller issued a report stating that natural predators such as coyotes, wild dogs and vultures were the culprits.

Miller said he had investigated 14 incidents in Marshall and Morgan counties and found that only one case might have involved deliberate mutilation.

Oliphant disputed the earlier statement by the state agriculture department that the mutilations had been caused by predators. He said he could not understand how the department could form such an opinion when no one from the agency has examined any of the carcasses.

Dr. Danny Thrash, a veterinarian in Fyffe, said he has seen two dead cows and both appeared to have been eaten by coyotes or buzzards. Similar explanations have been offered in other states since the late 1960s,



David Brewer/Huntsville Times

Investigator Ted Oliphant holds a press conference Wednesday.

when cattle mutilations first gained attention in the media. "If there is something going on, I think it has been exaggerated," said Thrash.

Dr. George D'Andrea of Auburn University's veterinary school said magnesium deficiencies can make otherwise healthy cattle drop dead. D'Andrea, who studied tissue samples from some of the dead animals, said he believes there is a "natural explanation" for most of the deaths.

Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany said Oliphant has taken a lead in investigating the cattle deaths, even though none occurred in Fyffe, site of a highly publicized string of UFO sightings four years ago.

Oliphant said one laboratory report revealed that a "flaky, white material" that he found on one of the mutilated carcasses in January consisted of a "combination of elements" that could never occur in nature.

The officer said the scientist responsible for the lab report deter-

mined the elements to be aluminum, titanium, oxygen and silicon. He declined to identify the scientist until a second analysis of the elements has been conducted.

Oliphant told *The Huntsville Times* following the press conference that there are actually four scientists involved in the analysis. "We just want to have our ducks in a row before we say anything," he said. "... We are entrusted by the public to report things accurately."

The second lab report, Oliphant said, was conducted by Dr. John Altschuler of Inglewood, Colo., a pathologist and hematologist. Altschuler, he said, determined that six tissue samples taken from around surgical-like incisions on a mutilated cow found in February on a Crossville farm "had been exposed to high heat."

Oliphant said the case has been difficult to solve because no footprints or tracks of any kind have been found near the carcasses although many of the carcasses have been discovered in muddy pastures. He also said there was no evidence of blood or other body fluid present on or around the animals.

Oliphant was joined at the press conference by three area farmers who had cows mutilated. They said incisions on the animals were too neat to have been done by wild animals. In most of the cases, they said, bloodless incisions had been made to remove specific parts of the animals such as the eyes, ears, tongues and genitals.

Oliphant, a former spokesman for the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command at Sawyer Air Force Base in Marquette, Mich., said helicopters have been sighted in the vicinity of more than 90 percent of the mutilations.

"They are unmarked helicopters" with the majority of them being Bell Jet Rangers, he said, adding that residents have reported seeing black, dark gray, light blue and light green helicopters.

Because of the suspicion involving helicopters, there is concern in the area about a planned Army exercise later this month involving helicopters. Army officials at Redstone Arsenal said Wednesday the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade will conduct an exercise April 19-25 with 45 helicopters. Because they will fly low over Sand Mountain where cow mutilations have occurred, it is feared some disgruntled residents might shoot at the craft, believing they are involved with the mutilations.

Oliphant said his investigation will continue and anyone with information about a mutilated animal should report it to law enforcement agencies.

The Associated Press and Times Staff Writer Laranda Nichols contributed to this story.



Hairyman tells hunter to 'leave us alone'

Editor's note: When he saw a story in the Feb. 1 Kodiak Daily Mirror about a request for stories of sighting Alaska's Hairyman, Dana Jacallen decided to write down his own experience with the creature, called in other parts of the world Big Foot, Sasquatch or the Abominable Snowman. He subsequently also agreed to an interview. Jacallen, a 40-year-old refrigeration mechanic, lives in Kodiak.

By NELL WAAGE
Kodiak Daily Mirror

KODIAK — Kodiak resident Dana Jacallen is sure he's had several encounters with what some Alaska Natives call "Hairyman," the creature known in the Pacific Northwest as "Big Foot."

He's also sure the creatures have given him a distinct message: "Leave us alone."

Jacallen's fascination with the creatures goes back to a cold morning in 1979 in the remote Etolin Island area near Wrangell.

He and his hunting partner were hoping to harvest some of the deer they knew inhabited an alpine meadow at the head of the fjord.

Jacallen wrote the following about his experience:

"The deer we were hunting were at an elevation of about 700 feet. We arrived in the inlet just before dark in the late fall. My partner did not trust the anchorage or the weather so he opted to stay on the boat, while I climbed up to where we knew the deer to be spending the night.

"I found a bench and folded myself up into a large piece of Visqueen in my sleeping bag on a small outcropping about eight feet above a well-worn trail.

"My friend was to meet me at this spot before dawn the next morning and we knew we would bag some deer easily in the nearby meadow just after it got light enough to shoot.

"We had seen deer here several times, but had never taken advantage of the fact.

"Just before I went to sleep, I remember seeing the mast light on the boat in the inlet and imagining the boom hung with our limit of deer.

"I was awakened before dawn. Around one o'clock my sleeping bag was jerked out from under me — instantly, like the magician does with the table cloth and the glass.

"I awoke the moment it happened, curled into a fetal position and freezing my fanny.

"I laid there for a few seconds trying to figure out what had happened. I figured something had

either happened to the boat or my pal had somehow spotted a trove of fat deer.

"I sat up and pulled on my boots, looking for my mate to explain what was going on.

"I was still not fully awake, but for fear of scaring the deer, I refrained from calling to my friend.

"It had snowed almost an inch since I went to sleep and peering over the ledge I could see people tracks in the snow leading up the hill toward the meadow.

"I grabbed my rifle and slogged

down the trail, peering at the ground in the dark and wondering how and why my somewhat elderly companion had chosen that unusual method of rousing me from the sack.

"I was stepping in the foot prints in the snow — they were dark and easy to see — and was starting to think my partner had not been the one to zip my bag out from under me. Then realization struck me and I was gripped with fear.

"The tracks I was so carefully stepping in were not human. They were the imprints of bare feet but almost twice the size of my own size 10 boots.

"This is not real, I thought. I could hear nothing except the snowflakes falling gently to the ground; every hair on my body was erect, sensing the air for the obvious logical solution.

"I cannot shoot anything, I told myself — this is a very carefully planned prank and all I need is to lose my control and end up hurting someone.

"I double-checked the safety on the rifle and determined that this joke was going to be on them.

"Cool as a cucumber, I walked another few steps up the hill where the rise I was on. There was a large hemlock tree here and I decided to climb it and wait out the pranksters who were trying to scare me out of my wits.

"Checking the sky, I noticed that within a few minutes the clouds would reveal the full moon, providing me with enough light to see what was going on.

"I took a few more steps, marveling at the perfection that these guys had achieved with the foot prints.

"Then I knew it was no joke — I felt an unmistakable sense of warning, as clearly as if someone had spoken. It wasn't logic — it wasn't fear — it was communication.

"I stopped and looked up. Fifteen

feet away, one hand on his hip, the other gripping a branch of the hemlock that was just above my head, was the biggest, hairiest guy on two legs I ever want to see.

"Without thinking I started to thumb the safety off. He turned his head to stare at me straight in the eyes. His teeth were showing, but it was not a snarl or a grin. I want to say it was a knowing smile.

"I knew I could place a killing shot, but I also knew it would be wrong, even criminal.

"He was saying to me with all the power of the spirit, 'Leave me alone.'

"It was as if more than one voice was speaking to me — it was a collective consciousness whispering with the same longing voice: 'Leave me alone.'

"One instant he was there and the next he turned and fled silently into the woods. At first I thought that it was a dream. But then I could feel that spirit like a mist in the forest, wanting to be left alone."

Jacallen said he recalled little as he ran and tumbled down the hill to the beach, hollering all the way. His partner, who was waiting on the beach, insisted he made the trip down in half the usual time.

After daylight, the two retraced Jacallen's steps up the hillside. The footprints he had followed earlier measured 17 inches long and five or six inches wide. The impressions left in the mossy ground convinced them the creature had weighed 600-800 pounds. When they measured from the ground to the hemlock branch the creature had grasped as he turned, they found the distance was 9 1/2 feet.

"My messenger was 7 1/2-8 feet tall," Jacallen said.

He said the creature looked very much like the one portrayed in the movie, "Harry and the Hendersons."

"This one was equally as large, but more lean. He had long, silky hair. On his arm it was a good 6 inches long. He walked erect and he was quiet. He made no sound. He

By Ellie Sutter
Staff Writer

MUSTANG — Owners said no cause can be found for the two mutilated black cattle, which were found dead in fields about 60 miles apart, following a full moon.

The cattle, in Canadian and Blaine counties, had their sex organs removed.

Mustang Police Chief Ron Lewis said his office recently investigated the mutilation of a 1,100-pound Angus cow.

Blaine County Undersheriff Kent Sexton said his office was called to the ranch of Galen Slagell near Hydro the same morning to investigate the mutilation of a 700-pound Angus steer.

Although Lewis said he is not versed on cults, he thinks some type of satanic cult celebration that coincides with Passover might be responsible for the mutilations.

Lewis and Sexton said their investigations turned up some similarities.

No blood was found at the scene of either mutilation, and Lewis and Sexton said both cattle appeared to be "drained of blood."

The interior and exterior sex organs, tongues and one eye from each animal had been removed. The cow found in Canadian County was missing her left ear and a patch of hide over her ribs on the right side.

The cow's owner, who asked not to be identified, said he wonders what "idiots" would mutilate an animal, and he would like to have the cow's death solved. He said he checked his cattle the evening before the mutilation.

"I had just worked them and I knew I didn't have any sick ones. When I went to check them, I saw her and I knew she was dead by the way she was laying."

He said he was angry at first because he thought someone had shot her and left her for the coyotes.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN/OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES, Oklahoma City, OK - April 21, 1993 CR: R. Seifried

Mustang Police Ponder Mutilations of Cattle

A closer look showed him the mutilation was not the work of coyotes. There were some drops of blood on the ground, but no blood came from any of the wounds.

He said this was odd because when someone shoots a cow, a death struggle occurs and there is a lot of blood. He also said the cow was in an area of dirt and there were no tracks, neither human or animal around her.

"When I walked up, I left tracks," he said.

He said he checked the animal carefully and could not find a cause of death. The cow's death will continue to be a problem. Her 4-month-old calf, which would not normally be weaned for another two months, now will not grow as rapidly, and the cow had been bred and was about two months pregnant. Undersheriff Sexton said it had rained before the steer was found near Hydro and the ground was soft.

"There were no prints," Sexton said.

He said he has been around cattle all his life, and "this wasn't coyotes."

Ranch owner Slagell agreed: "I don't know of any coyotes that carry knives."

Sexton said veterinarian Tim Lowry also couldn't find a bullet hole.

"We're baffled," he said.

Lowry said it is possible the steer died of bloat, but that would not account for the mutilations.

Although Lowry said, "There definitely was a human hand involved," Slagell said he was still not ruling out the possibility that the mutilation could have been done by vultures.

But Blaine County Assistant District Attorney George Burnett said the steer "obviously was surgically cut ... If someone saw something, it may help us solve the case."

was graceful, his movements were graceful. I couldn't see his face too well, but it seemed like his skin was leathery, his eyes were dark. He had a glint in his eye. He had intelligence."

A short time after that encounter, he said, the Wrangell Sentinel carried a photograph taken from the air of the tracks of a two-legged creature in the deep snows of the mountains.

Jacallen, who is 40, was raised on a homestead in the Talkeetna Mountains and has spent his share of time in the Alaska Bush. He realizes that telling his story will convince some people he is more in the business of hot air than cold.

But, as he says, "I've spent enough time in the woods to know the difference between when something is scaring me and I'm scaring myself. There is no question in my mind about what I saw."

Twice more during the five years he trapped in the area he became convinced the creatures were nearby and letting him know he was not welcome.

A year and a half after the first incident he set 40 to 50 traps in a new area rich with mink sign, only to come back the next day to find the traps had all been sprung.

Thinking his adversary was maybe a crafty wolf, he moved some and reset some. When he returned the next day the traps were again sprung. But there was a stick left in one, clearly not something one would expect of a wolf.

Again he reset some of the traps, and moved others.

He returned the third day, again beaching his skiff in the same spot and following the same paths to avoid spreading his scent. All his traps were gone.

As he walked along the trail, pondering the mystery, he found himself following in what he thought were his own tracks.

"Then I realized they were alongside the trail and that I always stuck to the trail," he said. "The

stride was 1 1/2 my usual stride, 5 to 6 feet and they left a deep impression in the moss.

"I realized it was the Sasquatch, giving me a warning not to be in the area.

"As I launched the skiff, I heard a rattling down in the water. I looked and the traps were in a pile by the skiff."

Jacallen said he knew the area well and knew there were no other people in the area. In spite of the signs the area would provide lucrative furs, he said, the old "trap sign" he found told him it had not been trapped since 1939.

"I pulled out of the creek. I didn't disturb any other places in that area," he said.

Some time later, in another remote spot in the islands, he was in the process of putting together a "cedar shake shed" as a place to store his gear.

He had felled a hefty cedar and was hand-splitting shakes from it when his dog began acting strangely.

"Henry wasn't afraid of anything, not even a wolf. Most dogs are terrified of even the smell of a wolf," he said.

This time the usually unruffled dog started to whine and crawled on his belly to the skiff. He climbed into the skiff without permission, something he had been trained never to do, and hunkered down under a seat.

Jacallen at first dragged him out, but he dog continued to act terrified.

"That made me think, so I took a rifle and walked in a 100-foot circle. Then I stopped. I knew I wasn't alone in the woods. So I got in the skiff and left."

Motoring back later he found the huge cedar he had been working on had been carried to the bank and dumped into the cove. Without going ashore, he turned the skiff around and left.

"I didn't want to give any indication that I would go against their will."