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The lights Joey Graves saw through the window have made him famous and have touched off a frenzy in southwestern Michigan.



GEORGE GRYZENIA/Special to the Free Press

Joey Graves, left, his sister, Michelle, and mother, Holly, keep their eyes on the sky. That's where the Holland family first spotted the strange lights on March 8, and called 911. Since then there have been a series of strange sightings across southwestern Michigan and beyond.

BY DAVID HACKER
Free Press Staff Writer

HOLLAND — Until the night of March 8, plenty of clearly Identified Flying Objects roamed the home of Holly and Daryl Graves: 12 cockatiels and three parakeets, pets that live in open cages in their own room.

But it wasn't birds that the family spotted from their home about 9:30 p.m. on March 8.

"I saw six lights out the window above the barn across the street," said Joey, the Graves' 14-year-old son. "I got up and went to the sofa and looked up at the sky. They were red and white and moving."

He yelled for his parents to come look. Startled by what she saw — the lights, less than a mile away, seemed to

THEY SAW SOMETHING STRANGE

be rotating in a circle — Holly Graves called 911.

"I wasn't thinking UFO or anything like that," she said. "I just wanted someone to come and see what we were seeing."

That call was the beginning of a series of sightings — including several unexplained phenomena that showed up on weather radar screens — of something that has stirred an interest in the night sky over southwestern Michigan.

"We're getting 10 or 15 new sightings a day," Virginia Tilly, a UFO expert in Grand Rapids, said this week. "We have probably 20 people in various stages of investigating these reports."

People have said they saw the Unidentified Flying Objects from as close as 500 feet. One observer, Tilly said, described an object between Holland and Grand Haven that was "larger than a car, round, with room for several people to sit in it."

The Michigan section of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network has had "easily 100 more reports" from Ludington south to the Indiana border, in the Bay City-Saginaw area, in the Thumb and even in Downriver Detroit, said Tilly, one of 200 members of the group.

And the Graves? They're famous. They turned down an interview with "Inside Edition," but agreed to appear Wednesday on CBS' "48 Hours."

UFO buffs say the lights the family spotted fit the pattern of UFO sightings.

Today, a search team from the UFO network will follow up an earlier sweep of the Holland area. On Sunday, they'll take to the air, looking for indentations in the ground, unusual swirl patterns in fields, grasses and weeds, and burn marks where a craft might have landed.

The lights Joey Graves saw are being taken seriously for two reasons: ■ Holland police officer Jeff Velthouse, who responded to the 911 call, also saw the lights. "I took the binoculars Mr. Graves was using and looked myself, and there were two lights, a red one and a white one," said Velthouse. "That's all I can tell you. I don't know what they were. I only saw them briefly."

■ A meteorologist at the National Weather Service office at the Muskegon County Airport 30 miles to the north tracked unexplained echoes on his weather radar at the same moment Velthouse told a dispatcher in Holland that he saw the lights.

"My guy looked at the radar and observed three echoes as the officer was describing the movement," Leo Grenier, who is in charge of the Muskegon office, said this week. "The movement of the objects was rather erratic. The echoes were there about 15 minutes, drifting slowly southwest, kind of headed toward the Chicago side of the south end of Lake Michigan."

Grenier said his technician did another scan with the weather radar, and "hit the echoes between 10,000 and 25,000 feet 50 to 55 miles away, near South Haven. They were like the echoes thunderstorms make."

But, he said, the skies were clear that night. "Whatever it was, it probably was not weather."

About 20 minutes after the first weather service sighting, Grenier said, "the echoes appeared to break up into pieces and disappeared."

He said he had never encountered a similar phenomena in 37 years as a meteorologist.

His best guess? Military aircraft capable of vertical takeoffs and landings.

Lt. Col. Charles Gilbert, an Air Force liaison to the FAA in Kansas City, Mo., said Friday that he was unable to find military aircraft in the Holland-Muskegon area that night.

Most Holland area residents seem skeptical of what the Graves family saw.

"Guys at work want to know what I've been smoking," said Daryl Graves, 37, who works at a Zeeland factory.

"My nerves are shot, and I'm sick to my stomach all the time now," said Holly Graves, 36.

Greg Dushane, an agent with the U.S. Border Patrol office in Holland, isn't ruling anything out.

"If any aliens land here they better have their papers in order," he said, unable to suppress his grin.

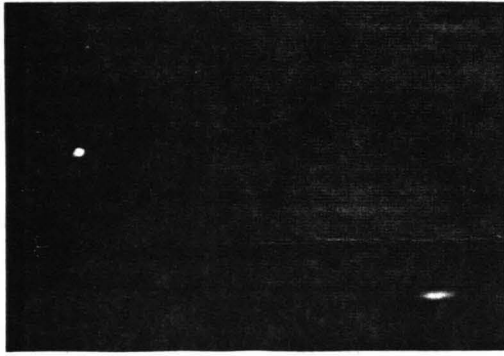


GEORGE GRYZENIA/Special to the Free Press

Holly Graves, left, Joey, 14, and Michelle, 10, look outside their Holland home. Joey first spotted the flashing lights from this window.



Detroit Free Press



A 17-minute tape of a shiny silver disc, zooming around

New Mexico's sky, makes a believer of a Midway video producer



Two frames of Escamilla's tape show a fuzzy, silver disc-shaped object and a bright ball that hovered in the sky.

Saucer Slide Show



Jose Escamilla searches the skies over Midway for a return of the flying objects he captured on videotape March 5.

Story by **Leslie Linthicum** ■ Photos by **Richard Pipes**

M

IDWAY — In the front of the darkened projection room, video producer Jose Escamilla has pulled a chair close to the TV monitor and is fingering the controls. Escamilla yanks at his Hard Rock Cafe baseball hat and swipes at the sweat trickling down his temples.

Now pay close attention, in case this turns out to be history.

Max Littell, one of the founders of the International UFO Museum, sits nearby in a comfortable chair, wearing a suit and twisting a candy wrapper in his fingers.

A happy tourist in wrinkled bermudas and a three-day growth of beard stands against a wall, muttering, "Wow. Oh, that's cool."

What holds their attention is a videotape of something resembling a fuzzy pingpong ball bouncing around the screen while, every few seconds, grayish blobs scoot by.

Escamilla is tapping his feet and pulling at his cap. He slows the tape and runs it frame by frame. What looked

like a blob now looks like a silver disc. It shoots through the frame in approximately 1/30th of a second.

"Could be birds. Could be a plane," Escamilla says. "But I don't think so. This stuff is hauling way too fast."

Littell nods and wraps the candy wrapper around a finger. The tourist says, "Wow." A museum greeter sounds like she has found religion. "I believe," she says. "I believe."

While skeptics scoff and naysayers point to the possibility of weather balloons, secret military aircraft and all the other debunking standards, Escamilla believes this footage, shot with his brother's RCA video camera at the family compound in the town of Midway outside Roswell, shows undeniable evidence of unidentified flying objects.

Escamilla slows his tape again, sweats some more and allows himself to believe he holds evidence of another "Roswell Incident."

Forget for a moment that day in July 1947 when that

(continued on page 3)

famous something crashed near Corona and somehow whipped the town of Roswell, some 65 miles away, into national notoriety. Remember, instead, the name Midway, in case this turns out to be history.

The town gets its name because it sits about halfway between Roswell and Dexter. If it were named based on achievement rather than its proximity to its neighbors, it might be called Flat or Dairy. It is vegetable and dairy farming country, a rural stretch in the road where Jose Escamilla was raised and where he decided to return and try to build Ultimate Dinosaur Productions Inc., a film production business, when earthquakes and high living costs drove him from Los Angeles.

On March 5, Escamilla was at his sister Becky's house in Roswell, in the middle of editing a promotional video, when she called from Midway. She and brother Manuel were selling some things at a swap meet on the family property when they looked up and saw objects swarming around in the blue sky.

Escamilla rushed over, turned on the video camera and pointed it at the sky.

He taped for about 17 minutes. Then he analyzed the tape frame by frame and discovered something like an alien airshow — dozens of saucers, disks and domes zipping past his viewfinder.

The tape has captured the attention of the producers of a television show and of the local gang of UFO aficionados that has grown up in the wake of the 1947 crash.

"There's definitely an object there. There's little things flying around," says John Price, owner and operator of Roswell's UFO Enigma Museum.

"Oh, yes," agrees Littell, "I think he saw something."

But there have been a number of videotapes purporting to show spaceships hovering over Earth. It is too early to tell, they say, whether Escamilla has anything worthy of working up a sweat.

A copy of the tape has been sent to the producers of a Fox Network special called "Sightings," the same company that produced the short-lived series, "Encoun-

ters." Escamilla also plans to send a copy to the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, in Seguin, Texas.

The "Sightings" people will clean up the tape frame by frame, enlarge the picture and, Escamilla hopes, reveal the flying objects in much greater detail. The folks at MUFON will analyze the objects and try to identify them. If they can't, they'll label them UFOs.

Even with all that analysis, says Littell, "You never know if you've got something authentic or not."

Midway sits about two miles off the runway at the Roswell Industrial Air Center. Airport manager Dennis Ybarra scans the airport flight log for March 5 and finds a two-engine turboprop and a German Air Force two-engine Challenger were in the air at about 2 p.m. when Escamilla began taping. The airport doesn't have radar and the workers in the tower reported seeing nothing unusual during that time.

"I can tell you," Ybarra says, "that we don't schedule UFO flights."

There are few places in the world where reported sightings of spaceships from other planets are met with such ho-hum. And there is nowhere else in the world with two UFO museums on Main Street.

So it isn't unusual to hear someone telling, not in hushed tones, about seeing UFOs, knowing someone who saw UFOs, or knowing someone who has found little gray alien bodies strewn beside a crashed spaceship.

Becky Escamilla is in the International UFO Museum, leaning against a wall covered with photographs of reported UFOs and information about the alleged coverup of the 1947 "Roswell Incident."

"I've been seeing them since I was a kid," she says. "Bright lights with others moving around them."

Becky Escamilla, now 30, had her first encounter with what she calls a UFO when she was 8. A bright light shined into her bedroom and she watched it dancing around the sky. About a year ago, she began seeing UFOs much more frequently.

"When they first appeared, they were there every

night," she says. "They'd be there three, four, five hours a night for weeks. After awhile it was, like, common."

On March 5, she says, the difference was the number of objects she saw and that they appeared in broad daylight.

"Whoever they were," she says, "they wanted to be seen and they wanted to be captured on tape."

The tape, Escamilla says, is becoming a hot property. With the Showtime Network movie "Roswell" due out soon, and a General Accounting Office inquiry into questions of a government coverup of the "Roswell Incident," it isn't untimely to have things that look like flying saucers on tape, especially if you are a video producer.

Now comes the time for the direct question: Jose, Becky — is this a hoax? Or are you simply out of your minds?

Listen closely to the answers, in case this turns out to be history.

"If we were going to have doctored it," says Escamilla, "we would have doctored something good."

In fact, Escamilla has handy a promo he did for a local TV station. His Macintosh computer has superimposed neat little flying saucers over the Roswell landscape. It looks nothing like the jumpy, blurry Midway footage.

A tape, purporting to capture alien spaceships, he says, "is not going to help my career."

The Escamillas haven't told many people other than those involved in UFO research about the tape. The whole episode, they say, is a little embarrassing.

"Becky has told me many times about this, and I thought she was wacko," Escamilla says. Until he stood on the dusty side of the road, across from the Midway Assembly of God, and saw it for himself, Escamilla says, he was no believer.

Now, he says, "there's something up there. I just don't know what it is."

TIMES-HERALD, Forrest City, AR - Jan. 31, 1994

Hints of a UFO coverup

For most of us, Unidentified Flying Objects are no longer a front-burner preoccupation, as they were for millions some years ago. Although there is still a kind of mystical-fantastical aura hovering around UFOs, little is heard about them these days.

It thus comes as rather a surprise to learn of an inquiry the General Accounting Office, Congress's sober investigative arm, has on its agenda. The intent is to find out if there was a government coverup in one of the best known UFO cases.

This may strike many as rather far-fetched, given the fact that tangible "flying saucer" evidence is rare as chicken molars. Others think anything that might shed light on the phenomenon, which once prompted many alleged sightings and intensive Air Force scrutiny, ought to be encouraged.

We lean toward that point of view. The true scientific method is not to pooh-pooh even a concept which strikes many scientists as silly bordering on ridiculous, but to test it rigorously.

That's off the subject a bit, though: the GAO investigation is presumably concerned with the reality of UFOs only insofar as this bears on a possible effort to keep the public in the dark. It was requested by New Mexico's Rep. Steven Schiff after he got letters regarding the crash of some mysterious object in that state almost half a century ago.

Just an ill-fated weather balloon fitted with radar-reflection equipment, said the Air Force at the time of the incident in 1947. But there've been insistent allegations, some by people who claim to have seen the wreckage before the Air Force removed it, that what really crashed there northwest of Roswell was a flying saucer.

Such claims have surfaced again in the letters to Congressman Schiff. He adds his own claim - of being told by the GAO that an investigator was "getting stonewalled" by the Defense Department.

One man's stonewalling can be another man's acceptable delay; Defense may just be digging out the records. Still, Schiff's story of obstacles being put in the way of the probe adds a further filip of interest. On with the investigation! What can we lose?



Above: Escamilla, a video producer, screened his 17 minutes of tape for UFO experts in Roswell recently. They are awaiting an analysis before saying whether they believe the tape shows spaceships. Left: Becky Escamilla alerted her brother to the objects in the sky. She says she has been seeing UFOs since she was 8.



SCOTT MOORE
Valley Voices

Valley man has seen four UFOs

Lots of people claim to have seen UFOs, but not me, unless you count those big UGLY brown things that buzz around my head at the beach.

Bob Starbird saw one, not a brown bug, but a UFO.

"My wife and I saw one four years ago here in the Valley!"

Starbird, 57, and wife Vallaree have lived in Valle Vista since 1981, when he retired as a food service supervisor with the US Bureau of Prisons. Previously, he was in the military.

"On Jan. 18, 1990 at 11 a.m. we were at Gilman Springs Road and Lamb Canyon, driving toward Banning. We looked up and saw one right there! It was a BIG ONE! Banana-shaped and three-quarters the length of a football field!"

He stopped the car to get binoculars out of the trunk. Alas, it disappeared.

"It either landed in the foothills or shot out of sight! I didn't report it because I didn't want to be deluged with phone calls!"

Over the years, Bob has seen at least four UFOs.

"We saw two at the same time in Albuquerque, N.M. It was at night and they were moving around fast, too fast to be stars or airplanes. And they weren't the northern lights either! I've lived in Alaska and I've seen lots of AURORA BOREALISES!"

During his military service, he was stationed in Japan, working as a mess sergeant. One morning at 6 o'clock, he saw one in a gray, overcast sky.

"It looked like a CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT, all lit up and sparkling! It kept moving around, that's what was so UNUSUAL!"

About two dozen others observed it also. "After a couple of minutes, it went straight away from us and disappeared, like a shooting star in the sky!"

Back in 1947, he worked in the butcher shop at the Roswell Air Force Base in Roswell, N.M., when a UFO allegedly crashed in a field outside town on July 8. Lore has it that three unearthly bodies were found.

"There was a big coverup! All of a sudden the law came down that no one could fly over the area!"

No, Robert never has come face to face with a little bugger from outer space.

Well, it's all a mystery to me. Has anyone else seen one?

(Scott Moore is editor of The Hemet News).

Deming woman recounts 50 years of real-life UFO 'close encounters'

By EDWIN H. LEUPOLD

Headlight contributor

First of all, her name will not be printed in this article, though some may already know who she is. The reason for the anonymity is that, "Anyone who says she has seen UFOs is immediately branded as a 'kook.'"

Her stories of UFO sightings may be what it takes for others who have had experiences with Unidentified Flying Objects to come forth and tell their stories also.

UFO sightings are not a recent thing with her. When she lived on a farm 30 miles north of Fort Worth, Texas, and her husband came home from work at 2 a.m., she witnessed her first UFO. It was in 1945.

"There were three bright lights in a triangular shape."

At first she thought it might be airplanes from Carswell Air Force Base. But there was no sound of airplane motors or any other sound as the object or objects glided away.

There were others who saw the strange sight, and the next day in a town of some 2,000 souls, she learned that others had seen the lights and wondered what they possibly could be.

Nighttime wasn't the only time the strange objects appeared to her. On a daylight trip to Fort Worth, she spied an orange ball moving slowly, maybe 2,000 feet above the ground. She watched it till it

Her stories of UFO sightings may be what it takes for others who have had experiences with Unidentified Flying Objects to come forth and tell their stories also.

disappeared over the horizon. Her young children who were with her do not remember the incident.

The next round of UFO sightings was in Colorado, where one landed 300 feet away on the fenced portion of the farm. She was alone and scared and didn't venture past the fence on the property line. And her German shepherd companion, who ordinarily would be going wild, evidently did not spot the UFO, acting as if there was nothing out of the ordinary.

"It was a big, orange ball that stayed on the ground for about 45 minutes. And when it left, it went straight up and was out of sight in a matter of seconds, leaving with a 'whooshing sound.'"

On dark nights she was apt to see UFOs. She lived half a mile from her nearest neighbor and would often see objects zip into the sky, show red, green and white lights and suddenly zip away. "They always zipped, went fast."

One night in Cortez, Colorado, where she operated a nursing home that required 14-16 hour work days, she returned to her home between 10 and 11 p.m., opened the curtains to find three lights, red, green and white on the horizon.

They moved too slowly for aircraft. The lights moved up into the sky, where another object joined it and then both quickly disappeared.

"And I wasn't the only one to see the UFO that landed near my home. A lady who worked in a bar in Dolores, Colorado, watched it and wondered what it could be. That lady said it was a peculiar cigar-shaped object silver in color."

Sightings continued in Deming when she observed three "disk-like things" in the sky, wavering and reflecting the sunlight as if made of metal.

Her most important experience was five years ago when medicine she had been taking made her dizzy for a period of two or three months. She was afraid of falling, held onto furniture while walking through her home, drove her car slowly and carefully.

A dream, or was it a dream, produced four little men, probably four feet tall, each wearing gray coveralls. A larger person, perhaps five feet tall, said, "We've been here too long; we'll have to go." The little "men" wore hoods, and their faces were covered. "They had with them a mysterious box which I remember

telling them not to forget when they left." That was when she felt as though she had been slammed onto her bed, but discounted that idea because she was covered by the bedclothes.

She was perspiring profusely, and when she went to the bathroom at 2 a.m., she found that she was no longer dizzy.

"I think those little men took away my dizziness. And I am grateful for that. I think that they will come whenever I need them."

But that wasn't the end of the visit. Now fully awake and her dizziness miraculously cured, something heavy hit the roof of her home, something that may have weighed 30 or 40 pounds, and ran across the roof, retraced those steps and was gone.

The Deming UFO observer is not happy in thinking that others will dispute her sightings and term her a "kook." Still, she is eager to talk with others who have had similar experiences. And that is why she has made her experiences public.

New Mexico Rep. Steve Schiff currently is reopening the Roswell UFO incident, and a November Associated Press article reports that a study has found that people who see UFOs are not odd.

Want to share your UFO experiences with the "UFO lady?" The Headlight can contact her for you.

Schiff on to another coverup?

Jay Miller

Inside the Capitol

SANTA FE — U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., thinks he might be on to another federal coverup.

When last we visited the case of the Roswell UFO crash, Schiff was being shuffled back and forth between the Pentagon and the National Archives with his request for a briefing on what the federal government knows about the July 2, 1947, incident.

At an October meeting with top staff of the General Accounting Office, Schiff complained about the lack of responsiveness by the Defense Department in providing him with information. He asked if there was any way the GAO could assist in determining why no agency claims knowledge of what is known in government circles as the "Roswell Incident."

GAO Controller General Charles Bowsher told Schiff his agency investigates fiscal matters but that the request sounded interesting so he'd take a stab at it. Schiff's membership on the House Government Operations Committee, which oversees the GAO, may also have affected Bowsher's interest.

was prompted by numerous letters from constituents and not by any conversations with Martinek or Pflock. Several recent contacts I've received from New Mexicans, who were involved with the Roswell Incident, cause me to believe Schiff does get such letters.

The Fund for UFO Research has prepared a 130-page briefing paper, filled with news articles, military documents and testimony from witnesses, to give the GAO an idea of the amount of military activity that took place — and on which no government records are now available.

Pflock's contribution to the report resulted from contacts he made with former deputy assistant secretary of Defense in the Reagan administration and a former CIA employee.

Schiff says he originally believed the government's story that material recovered near Corona and taken to the Roswell Army Air Field was from a weather balloon. "But because of the government's obvious disinterest in giving me the information, that leads me to think it might've been something else," Schiff says.

If he had to guess, Schiff says, it might have been a top secret military experiment. That seems to be most people's

At this point, the GAO has nothing to report and has given Schiff no time frame for completing the investigation. Apparently it also is getting stonewalled.

Schiff is quick to note he doesn't believe an alien spacecraft or bodies were recovered at the ranch near Corona. Obviously, the congressman wants to protect his reputation and credibility. But it really isn't necessary.

Schiff has the analytical mind of a trained lawyer along with some traits of an accountant. And he's a colonel in the Air National Guard. (The Air Force is the service branch that conducted the investigation called "Project Bluebook" that debunked all UFO reports.)

In short, the possibility of Schiff jumping on a space alien or government conspiracy bandwagon is very unlikely.

Schiff's request for the GAO investigation was called into question recently with the revelation that Karl Pflock of Placitas, the husband of the congressman's district director Mary Martinek, has spent the past year investigating the Roswell Incident under a contract with the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C.

Schiff says his investigation

guess.

The UFO research group's answer is that if the crashed object was ours, the extremely strong and lightweight materials described by so many witnesses would surely have found their way into our space program long ago. Instead we're still sending up a shuttle that flies like a brick.

But maybe Bill Lyne of Lamy, N.M., has found the answer. In his new book, "Space Aliens from the Pentagon," he claims the government has a top secret "electric flying machine" used for surveillance — and it invented the UFO story to deceive the public.

Stay tuned for the next exciting episode.

Experts downplay UFO sightings over state

By Hugh McCann
THE DETROIT NEWS

The National Weather Service has begun to backpedal on earlier reports that its Muskegon radar picked up evidence of UFOs in the Muskegon-Grand Rapids area.

"There is no relation between the UFOs and the radar tracks," said Dean Gulezian, the weather service's area manager for Michigan and meteorologist in charge of the forecast office at White Lake.

On March 8, at least a dozen residents reported large, dark shapes hovering at low altitudes in the night sky, whirring sounds and mysterious multicolored lights that moved, stood still, then moved again at slow speed.

Initial reports said a weather service tracker trained radar on the objects after being notified by local police authorities of the UFO sightings and watched the mysterious objects zip 10 miles in just 10 seconds.

and Space Magazine. The magazine calls them Defense Department "concept" aircraft. "I think there's a whole family of them," Scott said.

Steve Douglass, a Texan with an unusual hobby, thinks likewise.

Douglass stakes out clandestine defense bases and tweaks Radio Shack scanners and PCs to eavesdrop on radio transmissions between test pilots of top-secret military aircraft in flight and their ground controllers.

The term "unidentified flying object" is misused, he said. "(Secret military planes) are objects, but they fly, and they are unidentified."

Aviation reporters and hobbyists routinely gather information on exotic airplanes unknown outside the inner sanctum of the U.S. Defense Department. They call them "black-budget" aircraft because they never surface in congressional appropria-

tions. They go by unofficial names such as Aurora, TR3A (Black Manta), Mother Ship, Honey Dripper, Goldie, etc.

Aurora, for example, industry sleuths speculate, is a billion-dollar, 5,000-mpg, high-altitude spy plane that leaves a contrail behind resembling a doughnut on a string. According to some reports, Aurora is capable of making abrupt changes in its flight path.

Because of this capability and its high speed, it is conceivable some observers might report it as a UFO. But Scott said black-budget aircraft are not distinguished by their ability to maneuver rapidly.

Bill Sweetman, a journalist who specializes in aviation for International Defense Review, a Jane's publication, said the recent Michigan UFO descriptions fit none of the black-budget airplanes with which

■ In Holland: UFO sightings a heavenly sign? Page 2C

During a conversation recorded with an Ottawa County 911 operator, the tracker said he saw "something big" on his radar.

"It's moving ... and it looks like a big blob," he said. "Oh my god, what is that ... now I'm getting three of them ... it's something pretty solid, it's not precipitation or anything ... they look like a triangle on my scope."

he is familiar.

"There have been some very consistent reports or large, slow-moving objects," he said. "However, these are consistent with blimps."

Did Randeef Murphy, a legal assistant, see a blimp?

She and her husband observed a "huge" shape for about two minutes. It flew slowly about 100 feet over the woods outside their home in Ada Township. "It had four lights," she said, and "made a soft, whirring noise. It sounded like a single jet engine."

About 9:40 p.m. the same night, Holland police officer Jeff Vellhouse got a call to investigate several reports from the west side of town. "Several people had reported seeing lights in the sky," he says. "It was their color and movement that attracted me."

He said the lights were moving to

the southwest toward Lake Michigan. One light was green, the other was red, green and white. They did not flash or revolve. They kept standing still, then moving.

Vellhouse said he spoke to the operator of the Muskegon radar that picked up the controversial echoes.

"He said he had three things on his radar, and they were in a triangular shape," Vellhouse said. "He said they hovered over Holland and moved southwest. He said that one (light) would move out of the triangular pattern, then move back in."

Could UFO sightings be the products of overripe imaginations?

It's possible, said Michigan State University psychologist Gary Stollak.

"There are people who see the Virgin Mary on a water tower," he said. "Some people interpret things on the basis of their own personal

needs."

Students, for example, deprived of food for several days, then shown a card bearing the word "food," often read it as "food," he said. "You show them the picture of a telephone pole and they will identify it as a banana."

Stollak speculates a "contagion" effect is sometimes present when people observe an unexplained phenomenon, whether it's a UFO or a religious vision.

People who, when alone, are quiet and reserved, he said, "get excited" when in a crowd, "the way people do at a baseball game. It creates a mob perception."

"People with this same need rush out to the water tower."

■ Detroit News Staff Writer Valarie Basheda contributed to this report.

MICHIGAN

UFO sighting reported

UFO investigators are examining witness accounts and radar images of fast-moving lights over Lake Michigan. Leo Grenier, in charge of the National Weather Service office in Muskegon, said radar data turned up a fast-moving phenomenon over Lake Michigan off South Haven late Monday and that he notified the National UFO Reporting Center. "(Witnesses) were talking about red and green sets of lights to the south, oscillating," Grenier said. "The lights did some rather erratic movements at times." Grenier said a weather service radar operator "did pick up echoes in the approximate location of the sighting and moving in the same manner as described by those seeing it on the ground." He said radar showed the object, about 15,000 feet in altitude, zipped from South Haven to about 10 miles off shore in 10 seconds. Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas, said Thursday that four investigators were reviewing the sightings.

UFO sightings a sign from heaven?

■ Angelic interpretations: In heavily churched Holland, mysterious lights may be biblical sign.

By Valarie Basheda
THE DETROIT NEWS

HOLLAND — The heavens are ever-present in the minds of many in this small western Michigan community, which counts more than 40 churches for its 25,000 residents.

So it's not surprising that some of them would attribute the recent UFO sightings to warfare between angels or a sign of the end of the world.

"One reason it captures the imagination here is that it's a heavily churched area," said Dale Kompik, station program manager at contemporary Christian rock station WJQ 99.3 FM.

"These people believe in the supernatural," Kompik said. "(The sightings) make us know there are certain things you can't explain, and now the rest of the world has to pay attention to it."

On the airwaves at WJQ, listeners have blamed the mysterious multicolored lights on everything from

demons flying over Lake Michigan to secret military maneuvers to a sign of the "end times," an event when Jesus is supposed to reappear at the end of the world.

Biblical passages have said that natural disasters, wars, famine and lights in the sky are signals that this end is coming.

Station traffic director Jill DeWitt said she believes God had something to do with making the mysterious green, red, and white bright lights appear that have been sighted by several witnesses since March 8.

"I don't believe there are aliens living on another planet," DeWitt said. "If (God) wants to make lights appear in the sky, then that's wonderful."

But some area ministers in this conservative Dutch community cautioned against supernatural interpretations.

"I do not find anything in the Bible that would cause us to worry or



DALEG. YOUNG/The Detroit News

"I do not find anything in the Bible that would cause us to worry or have fear from the UFOs," said the Rev. Esler Shuart, retired pastor of First Christian Reformed Church in Zeeland. Shuart cautions against supernatural interpretations of the UFO sightings.

have fear from the UFOs," said Rev. Esler Shuart, retired pastor of First Christian Reformed Church in Zeeland.

Since the sightings have happened late in the lull between the summer tourist season and annual blossoming of the tulips, UFO speculation has set the winter-weary town abuzz.

Whatever the theory, most residents don't write off their neighbors as wacky or insane. They believe the witnesses have seen something.

"They're mashed potato and gravy type people," said Wanda Michmerhuizen, church secretary at Holland Heights Christian Reformed Church. "They aren't going to make up a story just to make up a story."

OU community urged to keep open mind about UFOs

Editor, The Transcript:

The past few months the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), has offered a monthly video lecture free to the public. They have been presented at the Norman Public Library. The purpose has been to help inform the public of current research into this ever-increasing phenomena.

While these lectures have had ample attendees, ranging from 40 to 95, there has been a general lack of interest from Norman's "intellectual community." Being one of Oklahoma's major centers of learning, this fact is very disturbing. Certainly the calibre of the educators, scien-

tists and researchers being presented through these video lectures is prestigious and worthy of their time. We can only surmise that the lack of interest is a result of a closed society at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1991, one of our members, a professor at OU, was warned to "back-off" of his open interest in the UFO mystery, presumably due to "appearances." In 1990-91 Richard Seifried, Oklahoma MUFON's highly qualified assistant director and an educator for 25 years, attempted to start a UFO study course through OCCE. At first quite interested, for unexplained reasons they too backed away and let a unique opportunity die. UFO courses are being offered at quite a number of leading

universities across America — yet OU let (go of) a golden opportunity for a highly informative and mind-stretching classroom experience to be formulated locally and taught by an extremely knowledgeable individual.

Recently, the appropriate departments (psychology and physics) have been supplied with personalized notification for their professors and assistants, but, as far as we know, none bothered to open their minds to this very significant problem we term, "the UFO Enigma." Why? Why does the learning community have such a lax attitude toward the greatest mystery of our time? Thank God that things are not always as they seem or I would have to

conclude that they lack the very intellectual curiosity necessary to successfully develop new ideas and areas of thought.

But let's be fair! It's more likely that the truth of their resistance lies in the apparent intimidation which these teachers and researchers are subjected to by the close-minded, "upper-crust" of Oklahoma's university communities. Face it, those who have come out of the closet recently, in an open effort to involve their expertise in looking at and defining the parameters of this overwhelming research endeavor, are those who have admittedly kept their interests

"quiet" for years, until they reached tenure. (Specific examples are Dr. John Mack of Harvard and Dr. Michael Zimmerman of Tulane U.) Only then could they feel really free to pursue the controversial yet overwhelming evidence of UFO subject matter. Now what kind of atmosphere is that to conduct learning in? Nevertheless, it is a fact of life at OU as well as some of the other prestigious universities across our country.

How about it OU? Can any of you convince me otherwise? Show me!

JEAN WALLER-SEIFRIED
Norman

Seeing the lights

UFO sightings reported in U.P.

By The Associated Press

While searchers fan out across the Holland area this weekend to look for evidence of UFOs in Michigan, a new sighting was reported in the western Upper Peninsula.

The Michigan section of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network has received more than 100 reports of UFO sightings in lower Michigan since March 8, said network member Virginia Tilly of Grand Rapids.

"We're getting 10 or 15 new sightings a day," Tilly told the Detroit Free Press in a report Saturday.

Reports have come from Ludington south to the Indiana border along the Lake Michigan shoreline; from the Thumb and just to the west in Saginaw and Bay City; and from a few suburbs south of Detroit, Tilly said.

But this weekend, MUFON searchers will look for evidence in the Holland area, where 14-year-old Joey Graves said he saw six moving, red-and-white lights the night of March 8 near his home.

His parents, Daryl and Holly Graves, saw the lights as well. So did Holland police Officer Jeff Velthouse, who answered Mrs. Graves' 911 call.

"I took the binoculars Mr. Graves was using and looked myself, and there were two lights, a red one and a white one," Velthouse said.

At the same time Velthouse was telling a dispatcher about the lights, a meteorologist was tracking unexplained echoes on the weather radar at the National Weather Service office in Muskegon, 30 miles north of Holland.

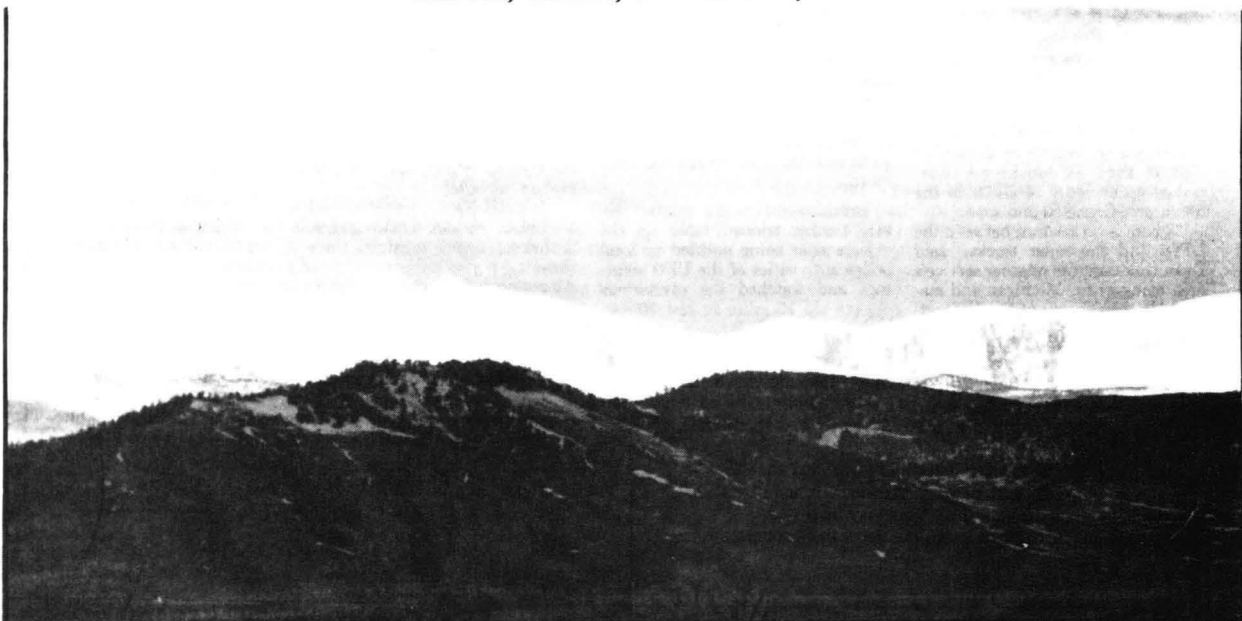
"My guy looked at the radar and observed three echoes as the officer was describing the movement," Leo Grenier, who is in charge of the Muskegon office, said.

A scan picked up echoes "like the echoes thunderstorms make" before they "appeared to break up into pieces and disappeared," Grenier said.

But he said the skies were clear that night.

Grenier said he believed the echoes were caused by military aircraft able to take off and land vertically. Lt. Col. Charles Gilbert, an Air Force liaison to the Federal Aviation Administration, said he didn't know of any military aircraft in the region the night of March 8.

In the Upper Peninsula, Timothy Knapp, 23, of Marquette told police he saw a fireball with red and green lights falling to earth Thursday morning near the county



Strange looking lights, seen by so many different people in this area on the evening of Monday, March 7, were spotted over these Bighorn mountains. The lights were seen by people driving over Powder River Pass, they were observed by others on I-25 just north of Kaycee, seen east of Buffalo and by a large number of people in town. What was the source for

these groups of lights that seemed to fly in formation, become stationary at times and then speed across the land "faster than any airplane could." Was the source of these lights the same as those observed in eastern Michigan the next evening? A lot of people are still speculating and looking for answers. (Bulletin photo)

Many report 'lights'

Whatever was in the night sky over Buffalo and other parts of Johnson County the night of Monday, March 7, apparently was also seen by a number of people in west central Michigan the next night.

More than a dozen people responded to a story in last week's Buffalo Bulletin about some strange lights which appeared over and near this community early on the evening of Monday, March 7.

Nearly every person who called to tell about seeing the lights had one thing in common . . . *they had not reported the incident to authorities or talked much about it because they were concerned others might think they were either inventing a story or over-reacting to something that wasn't all that unusual.*

But after a story appeared in the March 17 issue of the Buffalo Bulletin, a number of people called to tell what they saw.

John Tinnin, a Kaycee teacher, was on a school bus returning from a

Jerry Holt. "They turned to the north. We could tell it wasn't a helicopter, but the sound we could hear was a little like an airplane."

She said there were three groups of lights, and the bright ones were a yellow-white color. Mrs. Holt said they seemed to fly right over the trees in their yard.

When 11-year-old Karen Tysdal went outside after her sister, she looked up and saw some strange and bright lights in the sky. "They looked like they were not much higher than the tops of the trees. It was really strange." Karen says the lights traveled to the east and out of sight.

High rate of speed

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Clark of Buffalo were traveling to Casper when they saw some strange lights west of the highway a few miles north of Kaycee.

"We were near the North Fork oil field. The lights we saw reminded me of the very bright strobe lights you see on the smoke stack at the power plant near Glenrock," says Rodney.

He said the groups of lights did not seem to be connected to each other.

"I really don't believe an airplane could fly that fast and that close to the ground," he said. The Clarks estimate it was between 8:45 and 9 p.m. when they saw the lights.

Children who were in an outdoor hot tub at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wear were so startled by the lights that evening they came running in the house to tell their parents.

"Our five-year-old son was very excited," says Robin Wear. "They said that whatever it was flew from the mountains right over the house."

The children said it traveled very fast and disappeared to the east.

Not any kind of airplane

Dallas and Kassy Sanders were in a car when they saw the strange lights coming from the direction of the mountains. Dallas says the lights were flashing and in a triangle shape.

"We must have watched them for almost five minutes," he says. They finally moved off to the east . . . a long ways away. It sure didn't look like any kind of an airplane or helicopter I've ever seen."

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Garland were driving east on U.S. 16 and were east of Deer Haven when they first noticed the lights. They had just come up

out of some fog in Tensleep Canyon.

"We could see four distinct bright lights high in the sky," says Garland. When we got over Powder River Pass we could see them above the ridge line."

Garland says he has seen the Air Force bombers which sometimes fly a practice route from near Kaycee over the mountains before, but "these lights were much different." He said they did not move at all like an airplane. After they reached their home in Buffalo, Garland said he was still thinking about the lights and looked out the window of his house and saw those same lights going to the east. That was about 10 p.m.

Whether or not these were the same lights observed by a number of other people in this area earlier in the evening is not known.

Most of the callers say they saw the lights about 7:30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holt were playing cards at their home on Klondike Drive in southwest Buffalo when they noticed the unusual lights in the sky.

"The lights were so bright they seemed to light up the whole area," says

out of some fog in Tensleep Canyon.

"We could see four distinct bright lights high in the sky," says Garland. When we got over Powder River Pass we could see them above the ridge line."

Garland says he has seen the Air Force bombers which sometimes fly a practice route from near Kaycee over the mountains before, but "these lights were much different." He said they did not move at all like an airplane. After they reached their home in Buffalo, Garland said he was still thinking about the lights and looked out the window of his house and saw those same lights going to the east. That was about 10 p.m.

Lights were "pulsating"

Several of the people who watched the lights said they seemed to "pulse" or slowly grow brighter and dimmer.

Ginger Harriet said one of her children was putting their dog outside that evening and saw the lights. She called to her mother, and they watched the lights in the sky "glowing reddish-yellow and seeming to pulsate."

Mrs. Harriet said that although the lights appeared to be some distance away, they watched them for at least three or four minutes, and she had a feeling of fear about them.

"None of the family believed it could be any kind of an airplane," she said. "We saw two groups of lights."

Some saw them March 2

Phyllis Sims of Buffalo says she didn't happen to see the lights everyone else spotted on March 7, but she had observed something like this on March 2.

"They were going in a straight line south of town," she said. "I thought it might be several airplanes flying in a row, but it seemed like a very long line and didn't look like they were very far off the ground."

She said it was about 7:30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Levinson, who live north of Kaycee, reported seeing lights that same evening as they were driving into Kaycee for a meeting.

It's obvious there were many more people in the Buffalo and Kaycee area who saw the strange lights in the sky over Johnson County. Were they all from some kind of military airplanes? Was it some kind of natural phenomenon? Or, is there another explanation? For the time being, it appears no one has an answer.

airport. The Marquette County Search and Rescue squad looked unsuccessfully for wreckage.

But, said squad commander Lt. Thomas Mallett, "It wasn't the first time we had

something like this."

Four other Marquette County residents reported seeing lights Jan. 20 in the early morning sky near Big Bay, 30 miles northwest of Marquette, he said.

UFO and ET interests draw a large crowd

By VICKY WILLIAMS
News Banner Reporter

"It's the biggest cover-up in the world," Jim Greenen, of Orlando, Fla., said.

According to Greenen and a book, *Above Top Secret*, written by Timothy Good, there have been over 20,000 documented sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in the

United States.

Last weekend hundreds of people from all over the country and as far away as England gathered at the New Orleans Airport Hilton to share their stories and experiences of encounters with extraterrestrial beings, UFOs and circle formations.

Although Greenen has never encountered a being, he has seen several strange-looking

space ships. His first encounter came in 1957 near an Air Force Base near Southbridge, Maine.

He took his girlfriend home after a date, Greenen recalled. While walking to his car, he noticed something out of the corner of his eye. A large, metallic space ship moved directly in front of Greenen and for the next several minutes moved at a slow, two-

mile-per-hour pace.

"It was floating just above the trees. I wanted to show my girlfriend, so I ran up the steps, pounded on her door and yelled, 'You've got to see this,'" Greenen said. However, once she walked outside, the space ship was gone. "Never mind, it was nothing," Greenen told her.

These space ships, that Greenen and thousands of

others have reported sighting, could not be anything created by a human-being. Greenen said excitedly. The technology, he explained, is far too advanced for any human to comprehend.

The space ships can travel up to 18,000 mph, turn at a 45-degree angle and stop on a dime, he said.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan

have both reported such sightings, he said, both of which are mentioned in Good's book. Actor Dan Aykroyd recently appeared on the David Letterman show to plug his newest movie, *My Girl II*. While on the show, Aykroyd placed Good's book on Letterman's desk and said he saw something in Massachusetts which couldn't be explained.

Several others at the convention reported having numerous encounters with unhuman beings. According to Greenen there have been up to a 100 different races of beings sighted.

Over four million people have reported being abducted by aliens in the United States alone, Greenen added.

Katharina Wilson is one of these. According to Wilson, she has encountered numerous beings since she was a small child. She refers to several of them as doctors. They apparently use Wilson as a human specimen to study the human race, she explained.

Wilson recently published a book which chronicles many of these encounters. Although she is sometimes contacted during the daylight hours, while conscious, she is also visited during the night.

They have taken skin samples from her arms and around her hairline, and they have taken hair samples, she said. Wilson has also been injected, she said.

"I'll feel the prick of the needle and when I awake in the morning, I can see the spot on my arm and blood on my sheet," she said.

The beings sometimes bring children to the visits with Wilson. In her book, Wilson has several illustrations of the men and children who have visited her. She is allowed to hold some of the children, she said. Several sick alien children have also visited Wilson. Sometimes she is allowed to hold them as well. In one visit, a small, black child was placed before her.

The child, obviously ill, sat within a glass box, she said.

Debbie Jordan and her family have also experienced numerous encounters in her hometown of Indianapolis, Ind. A book, written by Budd Hopkins, called *Intruders*, chronicles several events of the Jordan family. In the book, which was also a TV mini-series, Jordan uses the name Kathy Davis.

Her story begins on June 30, 1983, when a space ship landed in the Jordan's backyard. Jordan and her dog walked into the yard, curiously looking at the strange object which left a huge burn mark on the ground.

Jordan fell to the ground and recalled six figures, with pointed chins and huge, beetle-like, black eyes walking around her. They poked, pricked and prodded Jordan as she lay motionless on the ground.

Soon after the encounter, Jordan and her dog lost all their hair. Both became ill. Eventually the dog developed large, black spots on his back which began to ooze. He later died of some type of cancer, she said. Jordan lay in bed extremely sick for an entire year.

LaVida FerDon recalled being abducted by beings, which when described are similar to the ones Jordan encountered.

"I looked up in my room and there they were," FerDon recalled.

FerDon said she was taken into a space craft. When leaving the craft, she saw several humans being transported within the craft. They were in a glass cylinder compartment as they swept past FerDon.

One night, while in bed, FerDon said she felt something jump onto her and her husband's bed. She thought it was the cat; however, after opening her eyes, she found herself face to face with a small, "ugly-man," with a bent

and distorted face, wearing a brown robe.

The little man began tugging at FerDon's feet, she said. She recalled kicking him in the face several times. The next thing she remembered was being held by her feet, as she dangled above her bed. Suddenly, FerDon was hurled violently onto her bed.

FerDon said she thinks she was abducted into another craft for several hours, but could not recall what happened.

FerDon, years later, shared some of her stories with a friend, Gina Laurent. Laurent also recalled many of the same experiences.

Laurent has several childhood memories of being abducted into similar space crafts as FerDon. One day, while sitting in her church, the sight of the communion plate's cover jarred several of these memories.

Similar experiences were excitedly shared by others at the conference, organized by Project Awareness. One of the directors, Buddy Crumbly, along with his wife, Pat, and Vicki Lyons formed the organization as a way to bring people with UFO interests and encounters together.

Their mission, Crumbly said, is to educate the public about UFOs.

"We're just trying to educate the public that they (UFOs) are here," he said.

Gulf Breeze, Fla., has become somewhat of a haven for UFO sightings and ET encounters. The town has gained fame over the years for the vast number of reports.

Encounters and sightings can take place anywhere, the abductees and contactees say. FerDon had an encounter as close to home as Mandeville several years ago.

As people move from place to place within the country, some abductees say their ET friends follow, continuing to drop in to further their research or to just have a visit.



PHOTO BY VICKY WILLIAMS

TELLING THEIR TALES — Several people who have experienced ET encounters have written books about the events. Katharina Wilson (left) wrote, *Alien Jigsaw* and Budd Hopkins' book, *The Intruders*, chronicles Debbie Jordan's story.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Feb. 8, 1994

CIA chief denies U.S. has secret spy plane

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — CIA Director R. James Woolsey on Monday denied that the U.S. government is building a new-generation spy plane to replace the SR-71 Blackbird, which was retired during the Bush administration.

During an appearance at Wichita State University, Woolsey was asked to comment on recent news reports that a top-secret plane dubbed the Aurora is being fielded to provide the high-speed reconnaissance missions that the Blackbird performed.

"That is a scam," Woolsey said. When he said that neither he nor the secretary of the Air Force nor the secretary of defense "have ever heard of Aurora," the questioner in his audience wanted to know if Woolsey was implying just that the name was incorrect.

"The name, the project, the notion," is wrong, Woolsey responded in perhaps the most categorical public denial by a senior Clinton administration official.

Some in Congress have questioned the wisdom of retiring the Blackbird and leaving the United States with no high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane to supplement the intelligence-gathering contributions of spy satellites.

PRESS-ENTERPRISE, Riverside, CA - Feb. 27, 1994

Was that a UFO? Probably not

The Press-Enterprise

No, it probably wasn't a UFO flying over the Riverside area yesterday morning. At least airport officials don't think it was.

They believe it was an experimental aircraft bound for Rubidoux's Flabob Airport, site of an open house that continues today.

"I saw it sitting there (at the airport) and I thought 'What the heck is that?'" said Ron Caraway, a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, the group hosting the open house.

Those who saw the craft with the triangular shape flying through the

hazy morning skies may have mistaken it for a UFO, said Tim Smith, a supervisor at Riverside Municipal Airport's control tower. He said the airport had not received calls from concerned citizens or observed the flying object, but officials did notice more activity in the skies, apparently from aircraft attending the event. Riverside police reported no calls about a strange flying object.

"It's a real unique design," Caraway said.

UFO researchers investigate Michigan sightings

Reports continue to filter in from witnesses

MUSKEGON (AP) — Darrell and Holly Graves of Holland would like to know more about that huge round aircraft with the white and red lights they saw hovering over a neighbor's home last week.

UFO researchers are descending on southwestern Michigan this week as reports continue to filter in from dozens of people who say they saw something unusual in the night sky March 8 from Grand Rapids to the Lake Michigan shoreline between Muskegon and South Haven.

"It is, right now, the hottest case we have in the country," said Wal-

ter Andrus, director of the Texas-based international Mutual UFO Network.

What makes the case so unusual, Andrus says, is that the sightings seem to coincide with unexplained radar trackings from the National Weather Service office in Muskegon.

"It was the weirdest thing I saw in my life," said Holly Graves, who ran to the window with her husband after their 14-year-old son screamed.

Hovering just above tree level across the road was a huge, rotating globe-shaped object with white and

red lights.

"What we saw was not a whole craft, but the bottom of it, turning in a clockwise motion," Mrs. Graves said. "People might think we're nuts, but we're not."

The family called police and a responding officer saw lights in the distance and contacted the National Weather Service office, which, in turn, notified the Mutual UFO Network after picking up signals on radar.

Lee Lamberts, sports editor for The Holland Sentinel newspaper, saw intense lights flying in a boomerang-shaped formation about the same time.

"It is, right now, the hottest case we have in the country."

— Walter Andrus, director, Mutual UFO Network

"The formation (of lights) stayed perfect," Lamberts said. "It sounded distinctly like one jet, but there were half a dozen lights, up to 10."

Randy Murphy of Ada said her husband awakened her Tuesday night to tell her "there's a UFO

outside." She said she and her husband saw a slow-moving, low-flying craft hovering about 100 feet above the treetops.

Some reported the object or objects to be slow moving, but radar trackings showed it to move 10 miles in just 10 seconds.

Shirley Coyne, state director of the Mutual UFO Network, said that of the hundreds of sightings reported each year, most are resolved with conventional explanations. However, a number remain unexplained.

"We've had some very good cases in the state," Coyne said. "We know things are going on up and down the lake all the time."

Is that just a twinkle in your sky, or is space

invading?



LARRY POWELL

Are flying saucers making a big comeback?

That's right. A big comeback — beyond the covers of tabloids and cheesy sci-fi movies.

For some people, they never went away. There are people who still don't know what they saw. Whatever it was, it still casts a shadow on their lives. Unidentified Flying Objects — UFOs? Who knows?

It's easy for those of us who have never seen a UFO — THAT WE KNOW OF! — to scoff. Those lights slowly passing overhead on a lonesome Texas blacktop way after midnight probably belonged to airplanes. Surely, but when you read about a sighting, does the label "nut case" come to mind? Oh, my, that's a harsh snap judgment considering that (a) we probably don't know the people involved and (b) we didn't see what they saw.

Each year the Fund for UFO Research in

suburban Washington, D.C., gives a prize for the best UFO-related journalism. This year's winner is a Santa Barbara (Calif.) News-Press report on the mental health profession's debate over UFO abduction phenomenon. Think about it. You'd have to be awfully sure of yourself to report a UFO.

Locally, Cheyenne Turner, who runs The Eclectic Viewpoint, an organization which describes itself as a "forum of extraordinary science, unusual phenomena and diverse perspectives," has booked a UFO-cattle mutilation lecture Friday. (It begins at 8 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, LBJ at Midway Road. Call 601-7687. Tickets are \$15.)

The guest speaker will be Dr. John Altschuler, a hematologist and pathologist from Englewood, Colo., who first encountered alleged UFO-cattle mutilation cases in the late '60s. Some people think occupants of UFOs are responsible for strange cases of animal mutilation in remote areas.

Well, maybe beings from UFOs come down to earth, cut up critters and drain their blood. Maybe they don't. Maybe UFOs do zip into rural areas and beam puzzled humans aboard to perform experiments on

them. Maybe they don't. Maybe those flickering things in the sky are our taxpayer-supported experimental flying machines. Maybe it's just the neighborhood prankster having fun with a helium balloon and a spotlight. Who knows?

Based on recent developments in the field (maybe above the field), Cheyenne says, "There's much more official interest in UFOs."

What have we got to lose by looking? Maybe something will turn up that we didn't expect.

Here are a few recent UFO-related items:

- On March 8, there were reports of huge, strangely lighted objects hovering over western Michigan. These sightings, near Holland, Mich., were reported by Reuters and The Associated Press. At first it was reported that the National Weather Service radar in Muskegon spotted unusual echoes at the same time. A few days later, however, the Detroit News reported that the weather service had decided to withdraw comments equating the blips with UFOs.

- In January, U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff,

requested a General Accounting Office investigation of the famed "Roswell Incident," the alleged 1947 crash of a flying saucer near Corona, N.M. — some contend the wreckage was taken to Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth. Mr. Schiff asked the GAO to step in after he felt the Defense Department was stonewalling him by telling him to go ask the National Archives. The Archives responded that "we have not located any documents related to this event in the (Air Force's) Project Blue Book records or in any other pertinent Defense Department records in our custody."

Project Blue Book was the Air Force's 21-year study of UFOs. It ended in 1969, concluding that, after investigating 12,618 sightings, there was no proof that anybody "out there" was threatening national security.

- Omni magazine, described as "the nation's leading consumer science publication," has begun "Project Open Book," sort of a rebuttal to Project Blue Book. The lead story in the magazine's April issue claims that a 40-year conspiracy has kept Americans in the dark about UFOs. The magazine plans five more issues exploring UFOs and alleged cover-ups. Also, its Project Open Book will catalog UFO sightings and encounters through the America Online computer network.

Any reader reaction? An Omni staffer said, "There's been a lot of response," before insisting that all official comment should come from magazine spokeswoman Ailiki Besson in New York. Ms. Besson said, however, that the issue hadn't been on the stands long enough to gauge the response. Surely this isn't part of the UFO cover-up — just kidding.

- In March in New Orleans, Project Awareness, an abductee organization, sponsored a convention for people who claim to have been abducted by UFOs. It drew more than 300 people. And, April 1-3, Eureka Springs, Ark., will host the sixth annual Ozark UFO Conference.

So, here in Dallas, where things are always out of this world, I guess we should heed the advice of the 1951 flying saucer movie classic, *The Thing From Another World*: "Keep watching the skies."

UFO Event Starts Friday In Eureka

Stuart S. Penn
Special to The Morning News

EUREKA SPRINGS — Mysterious crop circles in Florida, human abductions by flying saucers, cattle mutilations and more will be the lecture topics during the three-day UFO conference being held at the Inn of the Ozarks beginning at 1 p.m. Friday, April 1.

If the topics aren't amazing enough, then how about the over 500 participants and attendees who last year traveled from over half of the United States — and a few foreign countries including Russia — to participate in this annual update on visitors from other planets and beyond.

"The first year we had 26 states," said conference coordinator Lucius Farish last weekend regarding the gathering's 1989 beginning. "George Wingfield from England speaks every year."

In addition to Wingfield (a former systems engineer and computer analyst for IBM-UK, plus editor of *Cereologist* and a leading crop circle researcher) this year's scheduled speakers includes Robert Emenecker (filmmaker and author of the book "UFOs: Past, Present and Future"),

Linda Moulton Howe (film producer and author of the new book "Glimpses of Other Realities, Vol. I: Facts and Eyewitnesses"), Lynn Bishop (an abductee from northern Arkansas with the manuscript "A Fearful Symmetry" being considered for publication), Antonio Hueeus (journalist and UFO columnist for *Fate* magazine), Katharina Wilson (an abductee from Oregon who will discuss her lifelong involvement with alien beings) and Robert E. Reid (a retired Air Force colonel with an update on the Gulf Breeze, Fla., UFO events).

"I've been interested in the subject for over 35 years," the 57-year-old Farish said.

Bill Pitts of Fort Smith organized the first regional conference in 1988 but chose not to coordinate the next year's gathering. As a result, Farish, Ed Mazur of Mena and a number of others brought the conference to Eureka Springs and called it the Ozark UFO Conference.

"Ed Mazur was instrumental in starting it," Farish said. "He's just been interested in this subject for a long time, as I have. Ed has seen various things both here (in Arkansas) and in Florida. I've seen some unusual lights and distant objects that I couldn't identify."

However, seeing unusual objects the size of football fields hovering in the sky and being abducted are two totally different things. Bishop, of northern Arkansas, and Wilson will both give talks on their experiences.

"And we have other people in the state who have been abducted — a

number of them," Farish said.

Author and Emmy-winning film producer Howe is probably one of the better-known speakers. "She conceived the idea for the program 'Sightings' on the Fox network," according to Farish.

"She was responsible for the concept, which led to the (television) pilot," he said. "She'll talk about cattle mutilations, crop circles and UFO abductions."

People may have seen her video "A Strange Harvest," while her book, "Glimpse Of Other Realities," has a second volume due out this summer.

Lecture and panel sessions begin Friday, continue all day Saturday and wrap up with a Sunday morning panel discussion. Farish considers the annual gathering "a cross between a UFO conference and a family reunion."

While the UFO conference is an annual event, the contacts people make go on throughout the year in Northwest Arkansas and around the country.

"We have at least a couple of discussion groups that meet," Farish said. "There's one in Springdale that meets monthly. Shirley Riccardi organizes them, and she tells me she has a number of people who attend who have had an (alien) abduction experience."

For more information on the UFO conference, call 354-2558. To contact Shirley Riccardi about her monthly UFO discussion group, call 751-4287.

Unsolved mystery rattles Congress

Lawmaker seeks answers: What landed in Roswell?

By Will Schermerhorn
Special to the Times

WASHINGTON — Exactly what happened on that summer day in 1947 in Roswell, N.M.?



Schiff

Steven Schiff, a Republican congressman from New Mexico and a colonel in the Air Force Reserve, wants to know. But he is not getting any answers.

A year ago, several constituents asked him to look into a July 1947 crash near Roswell Army Air Field. At the time, an

Army Air Forces spokesman said a "flying disk" had crashed in a rancher's field. The service quickly changed that explanation and said a weather balloon had landed in the field.

But many people still believe the initial assessment was correct and that an alien spacecraft crashed, complete with the dead or dying alien crew. The government, they believe, has kept the discovery secret.

A weather balloon, or a flying saucer? Schiff figured the Defense Department would reaffirm its balloon story and "that would be that."

But in the year that has followed, Schiff has gotten nowhere, and his search for information has created a stir in Congress and the media.

Schiff has tried to get information and has asked for help from Congress' investigative arm, the General Accounting Office.

In March 1993, Schiff wrote to then-Secretary of Defense Les Aspin asking for a personal briefing and a report on all actions taken on the Roswell matter. Schiff received replies from Col. Larry G. Shockley of the office of the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs and from Rudy de Leon, special assistant to the defense secretary.

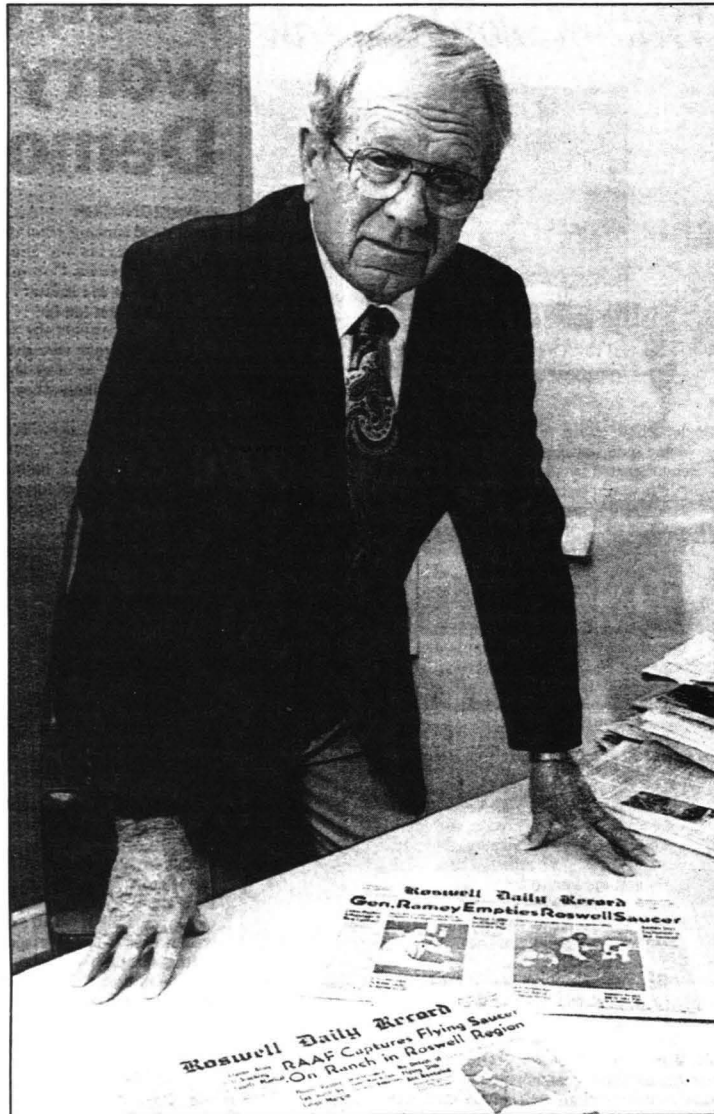
Sent to the Archives

Both referred Schiff to the National Archives and Record Administration. De Leon said the records Schiff sought are too old to be available at the Pentagon.

Schiff was not satisfied and wrote to Aspin in May and August, demanding that the Defense Department conduct the research into the incident and produce a detailed report for him.

In May, Schiff also received a letter from R. Michael McReynolds, director of the textual reference division of the National Archives. McReynolds said the Air Force had turned over to the archives all records of its investigation into unidentified flying objects, called Project Blue Book, but nothing related to the Roswell incident was among them or any other Defense Department records in the archives.

Until last year, Schiff said, he never had any trouble getting help for constituents from a variety of government agencies. His request and failure so far to find files on the Roswell crash have ignited a flare of



'Flying disk': Former Lt. Walter Haut made the announcement that the wreckage of a "flying disk" had been discovered at Roswell Army Air Field, N.M., in July 1947.

"This is not a UFO hunt. This is a file hunt. . . . [A]lien spacecraft is not my first explanation. — Rep. Steven H. Schiff, R-N.M.

publicity in the press that he said rivals almost anything he has been involved with in his five years in the House of Representatives. By mid-February, he had received about 50 letters from New Mexicans and others on the matter plus numerous requests for interviews with reporters.

A large part of the reason for the attention is that the 1947 Roswell incident is, to some, the Holy Grail of UFO incidents. Many believe the wreckage of an alien spacecraft and the remains of its occupants are being kept under wraps by the military. Others believe the controversy surround-

ing the incident is the result of human gullibility and the ineptitude of a few military officers.

James Oberg, a space engineer and author in Houston, suggested in a Feb. 22 telephone interview that those who claim to have been witnesses sincerely may believe that what crashed at Roswell was of unearthly origin. The Roswell debris was discovered just weeks after the first modern observation of what came to be known as flying saucers, and there were reports of UFO sightings from around the world.

In the midst of flying-saucer mania, excited civilians and military personnel probably jumped to conclusions about unusual debris and "off they went," Oberg said.



Oberg

Robert Sheaffer, a writer for the Skeptical Inquirer, the journal of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, said in a Feb. 23 telephone interview that he suspects the early misidentification of a weather balloon as a "flying disk" shamed Army Air Forces officials.

"They spoke before they had their brains in gear, and it was embarrassing," he said, adding that it is not surprising the files cannot be found. "Do you keep every file you've worked on for 50 years?"

'Sensational speculation'

Schiff said he has not come to a conclusion about the incident. His letters to the Department of Defense did not mention the theory that the crash was that of a spacecraft; but he did say the department's silence has led to "sensational speculation."

"This is not a UFO hunt," Schiff said. "This is a file hunt. The idea of alien spacecraft is not my first explanation for any of this. . . . It's possible it was a weather balloon, attended by a public relations fiasco."

The man who made the initial announcement that the wreckage of a "flying disk" had been discovered was Lt. Walter Haut, public information officer at the air field. He had been told to release a statement about the wreckage by Col. William H. Blanchard, commander of the 509th Bomb Group (Atomic). A few hours after Haut's announcement, Gen. Roger M. Ramey, commander of the 8th Air Force, told reporters in Fort Worth that the wreckage was that of a weather balloon.

Haut, now 71 and a resident of Roswell, said in a telephone interview that Blanchard and his superiors in Texas and Washington had had the materials for two days before the press release was ordered. Certainly, military personnel could have determined within two days whether the materials were from a weather balloon, Haut said. That makes the retraction a few hours after the first announcement even more suspect, he said.

Haut said he has contacted the Air Force, the Department of Defense, the CIA, the White House and the National Archives in a fruitless attempt to get answers about the incident.

Schiff, Haut predicted, "is going to run into a stone wall. Somewhere, there is material. Somewhere, there are communications, photographs and the like. But where?"

UFO rumor still hovers over Wright-Patterson

By James Hannah
Associated Press

DAYTON — Walter Haut did what he was told.

After a mysterious crash in the desert near the Army air field where Haut worked as a public relations officer, he was told by higher-ups to prepare a news release announcing a flying saucer had been recovered.

He wrote it and sent it to local reporters.

But later that day, base officials announced it was the remnants of a weather radar balloon that had been found.

Haut didn't believe them. He still doesn't.

"I think it was an extremely well-planned coverup," he said.

The military disputes claims by

Haut and others — including a congressman who has asked for a new investigation — that the Army found something more interesting in the desert outside Roswell, N.M., on July 2, 1947.

They believe they recovered a flying saucer and its occupants and hid them at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton.

The Air Force says there is no UFO or alien life form hidden there and never has been. But that doesn't wash with those who have devoted years of investigation to the "Roswell Incident."

Last year, U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., asked the Pentagon for its records on the crash after constituents and others pressed him for an explanation.

Schiff said the Pentagon re-

ferred him to the National Archives, but officials there said they had no records on it.

In October, Schiff asked the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigatory arm, to find the records or find out what happened to them. He said the GAO is working on it but has not reported its findings.

Schiff believes the crash could have been either that of a weather balloon or something the military had been testing.

But Glenn Dennis, 69, then a mortician in Roswell, said an Army nurse stationed at the base told him she attended the examination of three bodies that doctors said were "definitely not from this planet."

The nurse, whom he would not identify, told him the small bodies had large heads and fingers with

suction pads on the tips.

"I know something happened. . . . But I don't know what to believe," he said.

Col. James Miller, commander of the National Air Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson, said an extensive search has been made for records of the crash.

"We haven't found any paperwork on it. Period," said Miller. "That's what's bothersome to us. We can't get any facts to nail it down."

Miller said it was possible attempts were made to keep details of the crash secret.

"But it's not conceivable within an intelligence organization that you would not be able to find some thread of that," he said.

Bruce Ashcroft, historian for

the intelligence center, said he conducted a search but found no evidence that there had ever been a flying saucer or aliens at Wright-Patterson.

'A hermit from his kind'

Travis Walton wouldn't take that journey again

If he had it to do over, Travis Walton says he would stay in the truck. This is the Snowflake resident who five friends say was taken up in some kind of spaceship on a lonely mountain road almost 20 years ago. Walton himself described the encounter when he was found nearby, terrified and disoriented. All the men took polygraphs — and passed.

I believe Walton. This alienates me, as it were, from some bright people I respect who say we don't get visitors from other realms. But it is in line with other equally intelligent views that it would be arrogant to assume we know enough about the universe to tell whether or not we live alone out here.

These are not questions Walton set out to answer when he drove down the rutted dirt road in the White Mountains after cutting slash timber with a crew all day. It was November of 1975. His best friend Mike was the crew foreman. From when Travis disappeared until he turned up, gossip pointed a crooked finger at Mike and the other men as murderers.

An autobiographical book called *The Walton Experience* tells the story as Travis remembers it. But it's almost impossible to find, until it's reprinted this spring. A movie called *Fire In The Sky* tells the story as Hollywood sees it. Is it accurate?

"As good as you can get out of Hollywood these days," Walton says. I watched it, and called him back, horrified. I'd always wanted to believe that a civilization can't achieve space travel until it's no longer wasting energy fighting; only peaceful races working together can make the jump from moon landings to galaxy crossings. Was the aliens' ship really so dilapidated? Were they so cruel when they examined him? And were those catacombs with decomposing bodies of earlier alien finds real?

No. "It was a sterile environment," Walton says. "They didn't actually hurt me. They had larger eyes and smoother skin than in the movie, and they wore coveralls."

But it seemed painful at the time because of the terror; Walton was like a baby being handled by an unknown doctor under bright lights. No matter how compassionate the treatment, it seems horrible to the startled defenseless subject with no context for this experience.

Walton doesn't talk about all this much. He doesn't go to conventions to meet other people with alien-abduction stories, although he's been asked. He works again at the mill where he was foreman before, although he's had to start at the bottom again.

"My way of coping is just to put it in a box, and put it behind me," he says. Does



LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER

Special for The Arizona Republic

he believe stories of space kidnapers — some lurid testimonials about women impregnated by aliens? There's a pause.

"It would be ironic for me, with so much said against me, to be in the position of finger pointing," he says. "I'm not really in a position to comment on other people's experiences."

I believe close encounters of most kinds are as unreported as date rape, because we are afraid of being alienated and typecast as hysterical crackpots. It is that reaction, Walton says, that would keep him from getting out of the pickup to see the huge glowing light up close, if he could live that night 19 years ago over again.

"It just completely changed everything. No aspect of my life could ever be the same again," he says. "To a great extent, it's because of people's reactions."

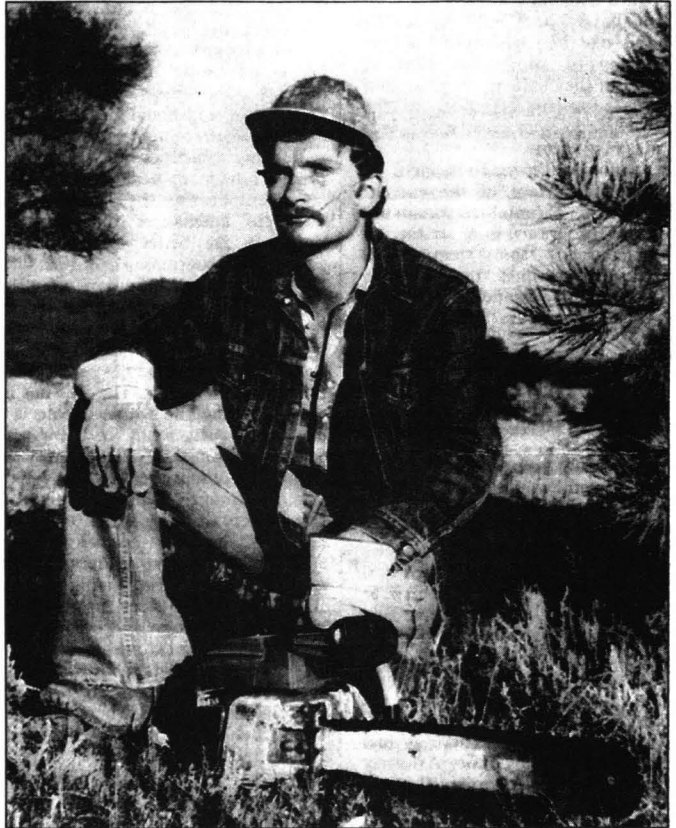
He's lived in Snowflake for about 25 years, and used to be the last to leave a party and the first to start a conversation.

"Now I try to keep to myself; don't socialize. Sometimes, I've thought about getting up and going, but I wasn't about to be run out."

But Walton doesn't blame Snowflake. "Say what you will about small towns, but I would have gotten the same reaction in the city."

Walton isn't a new-age dreamer or a braggart. He speaks simply; he seems humbler, and nicer, than he would have been if his life had continued on its casual rural course. He has a low voice with the flat rich tenor of northern Arizona. He married the woman he was engaged to at the time of the incident, and they have four children. But his friend Mike may have been even more scarred than Walton himself. In the movie, disillusioned that townspeople suspect him of murder and then don't believe the alien abduction happened, Mike becomes a recluse in a forest shack. The real-life Mike has moved to another town, Walton says, but the pieces of his life never fit the same way.

"Our families got together at Christmas and New Year's," says Walton,



Travis Walton: "Now I try to keep to myself; don't socialize."

who married Mike's sister. "He didn't come."

Walton says not a day goes by that he doesn't think of the experience, and he can't calculate how it changed his life.

"It's like the road took one direction, and we don't know where the other ones would go," he says.

I believe Walton when he says he would choose to be cautious instead of curious given the chance again. But I wonder if Cortez wouldn't have stayed out of what is now Arizona if he could have foretold the loss of life and illusions that awaited him. If John Wesley Powell would have turned back from running the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon had he known he would lose beloved crew members. If pioneers who came to Arizona would have stayed in Boston had they been able to see in advance the searing desolation.

Explorers and those who dare have always been ridiculed; told to stay home and get over it. Someday, I believe Walton will rank with the earliest stragglers in other venues we now take for granted that were heretical at their beginnings. I am reminded of another Arizonan who connected with the stars: Percival Lowell. Inscribed on his mausoleum on Mars Hill in Flagstaff, where he did the work leading to Pluto's discovery, is something Lowell said about himself — and I believe about Travis Walton:

"... to see into the beyond requires purity... and the securing of it makes him perform a hermit from his kind... for in common with most explorers, he will encounter on his return... the certainty of being disbelieved."

Lisa Schnebly Heidinger is a Phoenix writer. Her column appears every Sunday.

Rocky Mountain Memories

By Frances Melrose

Requests fly in for UFO information

Flying saucers in Rocky Mountain Memories? Well, we've had about everything else. And now we have a flying saucer story contributed by a reader concerning a UFO spotted by one of her ancestors, May King of Toponas. She enclosed a copy of a letter written by King describing the experience.

The handwriting is hard to read, but we think the month is August. The date is the 14th, and the year 1891. King wrote:

"On Thursday, the 14th of August 1891, just about sunset, there appeared the strangest thing I ever saw. It had been raining, and the sky was covered with thick black clouds when we discovered that a large body was moving about in the heavens.

"We had no telescope to look at

it with, but we could see that it was a large round body surrounded by light. I thought it was a silvery bird, but the rest said it looked like fire. It was traveling a great deal faster than the sun in a slightly northeasterly direction. During the time we watched, it traveled a great distance:

"We could see it revolve. It left a trail of light behind it, and we could see plainly long after it should have been dark. While it was in sight everything looked as if it were surrounded by a yellow light. It was very strange, and we have no one else that saw it, and have never found out what it was."

Now that's one for our readers, isn't it? Maybe someone knows of a comet or other phenomenon that occurred in the area the summer

of 1891.

We heard of another possible flying saucer that was seen over Benkelman, Neb. in 1884. We wrote the Nebraska Historical Society for information on this story, but because we had not addressed the proper person for such data, we received a tirade back by mail informing us of our mistake and offering no information on the flying saucer of 1884.

Any information about the Benkelman episode also would be received gratefully.

Frances Melrose is the Rocky Mountain News historical columnist. Write to her at 400 W. Colfax Ave., Denver 80204.

More See UFOs in K-T Area

Last week, the word got out that a Willow Creek resident and some members of his family has witnessed a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) near Berry Summit and *The Kourier* called them for a statement as to what they saw.

Harold Hough, retired PG&E manager, did not seem overly elated that the news was going to be in the paper, but with some prodding he admitted, yes, he and his wife and grandson had become part of the sometimes maligned group known as "UFO Watchers", for better or worse.

This week, it was learned that others in the Klamath-Trinity

area have seen objects which were unidentified, and thus must be referred to as UFOs.

Jim Reynolds of Orleans and his son have seen more than one and even have a video of one they saw on Dec. 27.

Cleve Bolgrien and his wife, Kathy, of the Western Trinity County area, saw a mysterious, fast-moving craft hovering over Ironside Mountain just before Thanksgiving.

Cleve said they watched the object through binoculars for more than an hour and when it took off, it did so "at a rate of speed no airplane could match."

"I've never believed in them (UFOs) until I saw one," Kathy told *The Kourier*.

The Reynolds and Bolgriens don't have any explanation for they saw, but one thing they know — they saw them.



JOHN R. STANMEYER/Tribune photo

Eugene Brown and his wife, Jean, look over UFO drawings at their Indian Shores home.

Abducted Earthlings find Clearwater haven

By MICHAEL FAY
Tribune Staff Writer

EARTH — Keep an open mind when Yvonne Smith talks about her support group.

Its members need understanding, not lectures about the line between science fiction and fact.

Smith runs the group for people who say they've been abducted by aliens.

"It's a support group like any other support group, except we're dealing with a very controversial topic," she says.

Smith, who works in the Los Angeles area, will help conduct a workshop in Clearwater this weekend for those who claim to have had contact with visitors from space. The workshop is part of a two-day Triad Research conference on unidentified flying objects — UFOs.

Speakers include John Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist who studies alien-abduction cases. Mack won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia.

Other speakers have expertise in government UFO research, mutilation of farm animals by aliens and the psychological treatment of victims of alien abduction.

Triad Research of Springfield, Mo., bills the event as a scholarly study of UFO phenomena. This isn't the stuff of tabloid stories, says Triad's Susan Bedell.

"There's nothing we try to tell people except to stretch their minds."

Joining Smith for the workshop will be Skye Ambrose, who says she became interested in UFOs after aliens stopped her while she and a friend were driving in Colorado.

They communicated to her through telepathy and told her they were the caretakers of Earth and that life on the planet was about to undergo a new phase of evolution, says Ambrose, who lives in Missouri.

She describes the creatures as white, about 6 feet tall with smooth skin, large heads and dark, teardrop-shaped eyes.

At first, her memory of the ordeal remained fuzzy. She saw a hypnotist to help unlock the missing details.

That was about four years ago. Now Ambrose, like Smith, heads a support group for people who say they have had run-ins with space-traveling visitors.

As frightening as it sounds, Ambrose describes her encounter as enlightening.

"I don't consider it a negative experience at all," she says.

But others say UFOs leave disruption and confusion in their wake.

"It's not something they can talk about with anybody," Smith says. "They're frightened and angry."

And treating the abducted — also called "experiencers" — isn't exactly a booming trend in mainstream psychology.

"This is very specialized work," Smith says. "It's not something you go to school for."

Support groups work because they provide a place to talk about encounters without the wall of doubt the "experiencers" face with outsiders, Smith and Ambrose say.

"They are badly rebuffed by families and employers," says Michael Lindemann, a social analyst who studies government research into UFOs.

Lindemann says he had doubts about extraterrestrial life until a colleague prodded him into investigating the U.S. government's interest in the issue.

Now Lindemann is a believer. "The reports are powerful and persuasive," he says. "People have asked this since the beginning — are we alone?"

Those who can answer that

question with a resounding "no" based on personal knowledge aren't irrational crazies, says John Carpenter, a therapist who uses hypnosis to unlock what he describes as suppressed memories of alien encounters.

"These people are healthy with nice jobs and families," he says.

Carpenter studies cases in which two or more people have had a UFO experience at the same time. When questioned separately under hypnosis, they recall the same details — such as the insignia on the aliens' uniforms or the shape of their fingernails.

"In every case the stories match," he says.

Although there is no alien abduction support group in the Tampa Bay area, there is a telephone hot line to report UFO sightings.

The number — (813) 595-7964 — is a service provided by the Tampa Bay Area chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

The group meets monthly in the Clearwater East Library and has 200 subscribers to its newsletters, says Jean Brown, the chapter's assistant state section director.

When the hot line gets a report of a sighting, local MUFON members investigate. If there's no logical explanation, and the investigators are convinced it's not a hoax, they send the report to MUFON international headquarters in Seguin, Texas.

"They're taking all this info and putting it into a computer base," says Brown, who lives with her husband, Eugene, a mechanical engineer, in Indian Shores.

Between 80 and 90 percent of the calls MUFON headquarters receives are things that are explainable, like weather balloons or debris from satellites falling to Earth, says Walter Andrus, MUFON's international director.

"It's that 10 to 20 percent we're interested in," he says.

"You have thousands and thousands of sightings, and the people making these reports are credible people," says Andrus. "For us to say we're the only intelligent life form is ludicrous."

N.C. Cities Report UFO Sightings During Year

UFO sightings were reported from 14 cities in North Carolina during the year 1993, an official from the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, of North Carolina Inc., revealed today.

Nine of the 18 sightings involved disc-shaped or domed saucers with the largest number of reports logged in May and October with more sightings reported during the fourth quarter of the year.

George D. Fawcett, 64, who serves as the public relations director of MUFON Inc., and a civilian UFO investigator and researcher for the past 50 years, found most of the cases were nighttime incidents and others were backed by camcorder films and/or photographs.

According to Fawcett, a Mount Airy native and Lincolnton resident, UFO observations came from Matthews, Salisbury, Lincolnton, Sherrills Ford, Butner, Cherryville, Belmont, Gastonia, Pumpkin Center, Lake Wile, Statesville, Crouse and Lake Norman.

Many involved multiple eyewitnesses and independent observers. Some were well investigated, others are still under investigation. Those encounters involving alleged abductions are not included in this report since they involve confidential information and are being handled by special investigators.

Reports included:

On Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m., four men watched a huge stub-nosed, cigar-shaped object with eight to 12 white lights (that changed to red) as it maneuvered in the area for three minutes about 300 feet above the ground before leaving the area at Pumpkin Center.

May opened with a flurry of activity. On May 2, outside of Butner, a retired man and his wife were driving home from a New York trip when they saw a large triangular UFO that approached their car above Interstate 85 at 8:30 p.m. The object, covered with blue, white and pink with a blue-tinted lights on its dark surface, moved southward slowly about 500 feet above the highway and was seen for approximately five minutes.

On May 5 at 9 p.m., two Mohicans Mill Inc. employees in Lincolnton were startled by a glowing whitish-orange, disc-shaped object that moved swiftly overhead on a straight, level flight and then flew behind the clouds and disappeared.

On May 6 at 6:15 a.m., Diane Wilkins, a vice president of a manufacturing plant in Lincolnton, was on her way to work, when she saw several rabbits in her back yard and decided to go into her house and get her camcorder camera to film them.

When she stepped outside again, the rabbits were gone and this was when she observed what appeared to be a silver, cereal bowl-like UFO overhead. She was able to capture a domed-top saucer UFO on her videotape as it hovered overhead for 11 seconds against a clear, blue sky. Suddenly, she was distracted by a jet plane that flew in the area, and when she looked back, the UFO was reportedly gone. This incident was one of several that occurred adjacent to N.C. 150 North toward Cherryville.

On May 24 at 9:35 p.m., a brilliant white UFO (seen through binoculars) was reported by an ex-truck driver and his girlfriend as it flew north to southwest above Crowder Mountain in Gastonia.

On May 29 at 9:45 p.m., a vice president of an insurance company in Greensboro observed a red, lighted UFO that moved horizontally toward the moon, stopped suddenly and then moved swiftly at meteoric speed. The businessman, along with another witness, observed the object for a minute — part of the time with a pair of binoculars. The round object appeared to be about one-eighth the size of the moon and disappeared in the southwestern sky. Three observers spotted the object.

On Aug. 9 at 5 p.m., two women motorists were startled to see a fat, battleship-gray, cigar-shaped UFO fly directly across N.C. 150 north toward Cherryville. "It was huge and moved just in front of our car — just above the treetops," the women said.

On Oct. 8 at 3:45 a.m., three

eyewitnesses watched a semi-spherical object as it hovered over Lake Wylie. It had from 30 to 40 white lights on it and made a sound like the motor of a jet plane. The object, seen at treetop level, was estimated to be about 45 to 50 feet in diameter. The observers watched the UFO for about three minutes, before it flew away.

On Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m., a college student reported his sighting of a disc-shaped object moving across a cloud at Salisbury. Michael Yates saw the UFO, which appeared to be about two times the size of a full moon.

On Oct. 31 at 6:30 p.m., two textile workers sighted a large moon-shaped UFO above the treetops. When first seen, the UFO had dozens of orange lights on it. After a minute, it moved away behind the trees. This sighting also occurred near N.C. 150 North toward Cherryville, in the Crouse area.

On Nov. 15 at 5:15 p.m., an auto mechanic, while driving to see friends at Matthews, spotted an oval-shaped object (the size of a small house). He reported that the object dropped down from the sky in front of his car and almost ran his car off the U.S. 74. The UFO hovered for about six seconds, then shot back into a cloud in a daylight sighting.

Fawcett concluded his report by asking that others who might have sighted UFOs in North Carolina skies or on the ground may report them to him confidentially or otherwise at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton or call 704-375-5725. Normally, only 10 percent of UFO sightings are reported throughout the year because of ridicule, censorship or for lack of knowledge as to whom and where the witnesses can make their reports.

The Mutual UFO Network is a scientific worldwide UFO organization, founded May 21, 1969, as a Texas, non-profit corporation for the purpose of resolving the UFO enigma through investigation and research. MUFON holds annual symposiums and publishes a monthly, 24-page, MUFON UFO journal.



SCOTT MOORE

Valley Voices

Seems others have sighted flying objects

"Hey, COOOOL!" sixth-grader Jesse Bain, 11, of San Jacinto exclaimed excitedly when I agreed to help him with his science project.

He wanted to find out more about UFOs, the subject of my column two weeks ago.

"I'm doing my science project at Park Hill Elementary School on UFOs!"

So I put him in touch with the Valle Vista man who said he's seen four or five of them.

I asked Jesse if he had ever seen anything odd in the sky.

"No, but my dad says he's seen something STRANGE at night

around here!"

His dad, Roger Bain, 39, had indeed.

"I really don't know to this day what we saw in the sky above our house, except that it looked REALLY PECULIAR!"

Roger said it had blue, red, and green lights. It could be seen moving around over several nights last summer, with the clearest viewing in pre-dawn hours.

Friends and neighbors saw it, too, through binoculars.

"Some other people thought it was shaped like a spaceship!"

Roger didn't talk about the UFO very much.

"I didn't want to be seen as crazy or something, but I just couldn't believe what I was seeing! It was too OVERWHELMING for me, I couldn't handle it!"

But it wasn't Roger's first brush with a UFO.

A couple years ago he and two fellow painters were driving home through the desert from Las Vegas, where they had worked on a custom home.

"It was a full moon night. About 4 a.m. we saw a bead of light pass in front of us that was unbelievably faster than anything imaginable. It was big as a passenger jetliner. All the big rig trucks on the highway slowed down to get a look."

He said the jet-like bead of light went round and round through the

hills about two times.

"It wasn't a falling star, either!"

Roger and Sandra Bain have three children, Jesse, 11, Matthew, 7, and Andrea, 4.

Sandra saw the same "really bright lights" Roger described.

Seems to me Jesse will have an interesting science project.

(Scott Moore is editor of The Hemet News).

Two Marblehead boys report another UFO sighting

By William Wrinn
Another UFO sighting was reported in Marblehead, this time hovering near Abbot Hall Feb. 4.

Ten-year-old Rory Bacon and Tommy McMahon, 12, were playing in a friend's backyard on Lee Street at around 7 p.m. when they first saw it.

"It had a triangular front, and then the rest of the body was shaped kind of like a stop sign, and you could see through it," said McMahon, who lives on Lee Street. The craft also had three lights, one on the front and two on each side. They could not hear any noise coming from the object.

The boys both described it as "bigger than an airplane." It descended upon the Abbot Hill area near Washington Street and hovered "slightly

higher than the top of Abbot Hall," said McMahon.

Bacon, a resident of Gregory Street, said at first they figured it was an airplane, but since it was flying unusually low, they were not sure what it was.

"I was in the house and then (my friends) saw it and then started yelling to come out and look at it," said Bacon. "It was flying really low and everyone was saying, 'Let Rory suffer with the aliens.' They were kidding around. It was only out there for a short period of time, then we started talking. We looked up and it was gone."

Bacon's mother, Margaret, said the boys didn't tell their parents about their adventure until last week. She said she could tell her son was affected by something, and it wasn't until she sat the boys down and demanded an

explanation that they finally revealed the sighting.

"It went completely unmentioned for two weeks," said Margaret Bacon. "He had asked me what I thought of people who saw UFOs, and at the time I didn't take it seriously. So he didn't tell me about it."

The boys' sighting is the fourth reported sighting of a UFO in Marblehead since January. Others have reported seeing similar crafts hovering above different locations around the North Shore.

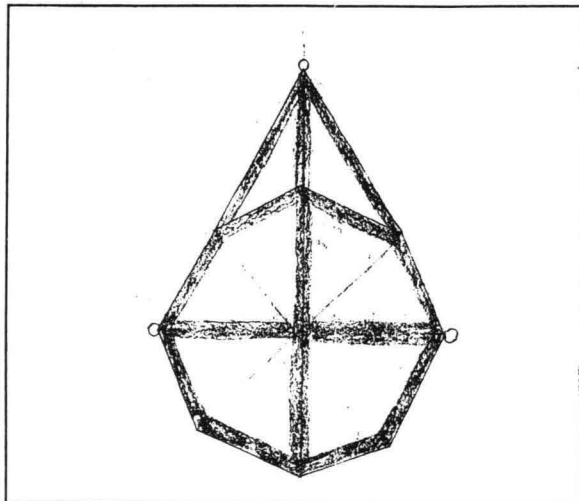
Manataug Trail resident

David Altshuler and his wife and son, first reported seeing a strange object hovering above the football field behind the middle school on Jan. 21. Asked to look at the drawing to compare sightings, Altshuler said "it wouldn't do any good" since all he saw was a bright glow and could not make out any structure.

A former Marblehead resident, who lives in Peabody, also reported seeing an object 11 days after the Altshuler's sighting. She said she was leaving her Beverly office Feb. 1 and watched the object

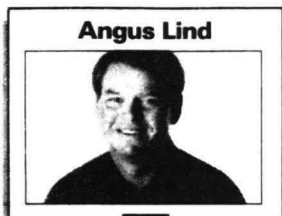
hover three stories above her as she sat in her car. Alone in the parking lot, the woman said it "zig-zagged" for about three minutes, then instantly "warped out" of sight.

The sightings in Marblehead and around the North Shore have prompted the state bureau of the International Mutual UFO Network to investigate the sightings. According to network state director Diane DiSimone, the group's first priority is to "rule out" all other types of aircraft that could have possibly been in the area during those nights.



UFO illustration — A pencil drawing done by Rory Bacon and Tommy McMahon shows a pentagon/triangular shaped craft with a light on each side and at the point. The boys said they could see through the object, which was seen hovering near Abbot Hall Feb. 4.

TIMES-PICAYUNE, New Orleans, LA - March 13, 1994 CR: E. Rager



Angus Lind

Expert on aliens has heard it all

We've all seen headlines on supermarket tabloids that read, "Woman Married on UFO in Nightgown Honey-moons in Space!"

Those sort of stories make Budd Hopkins cringe. "Supermarket tabloids are to journalism what professional wrestling is to the Olympics," he said, acknowledging that even though the barriers of skepticism are being broken down, the public's view of UFO sightings and abductions is based way too much on trash publications.

Hopkins for 18 years has been investigating UFO reports and working with people who say they were abducted by extraterrestrials. He and many of his colleagues are in New Orleans this weekend for a Project Awareness UFO Convention at the New Orleans Airport Hilton Hotel.

Recognized as the world's leading abduction-by-uneearthly visitors expert, Hopkins has at his New York office hundreds of case files that detail the experiences of people who were apparently lost for an hour or more and didn't know where they were, nor could they explain what happened. There are also people who describe having seen unusual lights that defy explanation.

Were I back in my bar-hopping honky-tonk days when I used to stare at Budweiser signs and glitter balls hanging from tavern ceilings for hours on end and experience not only lost hours but lost weekends, I might have a possible explanation for him. You can be sure he's heard the "This Budd's for you" routine. But

Hopkins and his colleagues are past that sort of humor.

There's the case of the young couple driving back from the Jersey shore one weekend about 2 in the afternoon on a clear sunny day; in the next instant they found themselves in their car in the middle of a field at nighttime, with their engine and lights off. They were terrified and disbelieving, but eventually found their way back to the road they were on, some five miles away. They had "lost" five or six hours of their lives.

Flashbacks and panic attacks followed, the marriage came unglued, and 14 years later the wife related the story, which fit the pattern of UFO abductions.

There are also cases, said Hopkins, of people who were abducted and then woke up to find themselves wearing someone else's clothing: a woman who went to sleep in a sweatsuit and who did not own a nightgown awoke wearing one; a child with another child's pajama bottoms. A woman who was two hours late for work didn't know where she had been, and when she arrived discovered that her multi-button blouse was on backward.

In most of the cases, victims talk about shadowy figures with large heads and huge black eyes. They describe feeling naked and helpless on a table, or physically paralyzed. People who have experienced this often develop fears, phobias and other symptoms similar to post-traumatic stress disorders. One man told him he walked down the streets holding onto fences and other objects because he feared he would "fall up," which is pretty bizarre.

The stories no longer can be explained away, because there are frequently bruises, cuts and other strange markings on victims' bodies, Hopkins said.

None of it seems plausible, he said. "It defies logic and everything else. It goes against all of our belief systems. But the evidence is extraordinary."

Even the skeptics have backed away, he said. They are now down to their last line of defense. They rely on only one argument: Until somebody hands them a physical object that could not have been manufactured on Earth, they're still saying it's all a fabrication.

To which Hopkins replies with this: Dr. Allen Hynek, a one-time Air Force consultant on UFOs, is now an ex-skeptic, explaining his conversion by saying, "There are a lot of aborigines in the Australian Outback who see 747s fly over every day and none of them has a piece of one."

"There is still 5 percent of the population that doesn't believe we walked on the moon," Hopkins said. "That same 5 percent can't tolerate the thought of another form of intelligent being"

A UFO expert examines 'The X-Files'

ORANGE CO. REGISTER, Santa Ana, CA
March 6-12, 1994 CR: A. Snow

In one episode of Fox's "The X-Files," FBI Agent Fox Mulder mentions the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill. Although the series never dramatizes actual UFO incidents, the Center is real, if not exactly in Evanston.

"They got it wrong in terms of the city," says Center spokesman Mark Rodeghier. "We just moved across the border into Chicago."

Founded by a group of scientists in 1973, the Center for UFO Studies gathers and analyzes UFO reports. While staffers are not above having some fun with UFO lore, they take their subject seriously. Says Rodeghier, "We treat this like the Salk Institute treats its research. This is a research problem. At the Salk Institute, you don't ask a researcher if they're having fun. You say, 'Are you making progress?' The answer is, 'They are.' We're not, to be honest."

Considering all the media interest in the subject, why not? "The number of UFO sightings has dropped dramatically since the early 1980s," Rodeghier says. "Sightings, as we've long suspected, don't have anything to do with media interest, media hype or public interest. It's an independent phenomenon, whatever

it is. This is not something that's subjective, that can be generated by another Geraldo Rivera special. This is a real phenomenon, whatever it is, that needs to be explained. We don't know why they've gone down. It's the biggest mystery right now in UFOs."

Rodeghier feels that "The X-Files" is positive "in terms of information about UFOs. It certainly says there's a mystery there. In terms of education, we're always reluctant to say that any fictional show is education. That's not just in UFOs, that's in life." He does find the concept of FBI agents investigating paranormal phenomena to be a little far-fetched.

According to series creator and executive producer Chris Carter, the FBI has had no comment on "The X-Files." "I'm sure they wouldn't," says Rodeghier. "All agencies of the government now, if you ask them, will say, 'We are not interested in UFOs. Please go away.' In fact, if you get to the right office of the Department of Defense, they will send you to us. ... The establishment, of course, thinks that UFOs are a bunch of hooey, but they're wrong. It may just not be evident in my lifetime."

FRONTIERSMAN, Palmer, AK - March 23, 1994

Mystery craft reported

In what sounds like a St. Patrick's Day version of the War of the Worlds, about 15 Valley residents reported that they spotted a cylinder-shaped unidentified flying object hovering in the sky Thursday night, police said.

One Palmer resident, who said she saw the UFO Thursday from her apartment window, described it as a cylinder-shaped object with lights all around that was flying above Palmer at about the same altitude as a high-flying plane.

Police dispatchers said more than a dozen reports of

one or several UFOs came into dispatch between 10 and 11 p.m. Thursday. Dispatchers called the Division of Emergency Services at the Federal Aviation Administration but got no response, they said.

Police officers from Palmer and Wasilla who investigated didn't see anything, according to reports.

A representative with the Unidentified Flying Object hotline in Seattle said they received one call last week asking about the Palmer sightings, but hadn't heard from any of the witnesses.

CR: J. & L. Nicholson



UFO RESEARCH INSTITUTE

By Dorothy O'Brien

To the skeptical, these scenarios sound far-fetched. Unbelievable. Like the sensational headlines you see splashed across the supermarket tabloids. But, to Lorne Goldfader, explaining the unexplained is just part of the challenge facing the Vancouver-based UFO Research Institute of Canada.

Founded by Goldfader in 1989, the Institute is one of only two or three truly Canadian study centres committed to substantiating any reported "close encounters" with UFOs. Goldfader regularly communicates with the YVR operations centre reporting "sightings".

A postal employee who operates the Institute out of his west end home, Goldfader was prompted to open the Institute after two incidents shattered his skeptic's view of UFOs, the first, in 1977, was the sighting of a large, fluorescent, egg-shaped object pulsating in the sky above his balcony. Eleven years later, he saw a circular object surrounded by a band of rotating lights over Vancouver's Sunset Beach.

"The night after the second sighting, my TV exploded and then the lights in my apartment dimmed. I know it sounds unbelievable, but I had read about the link between UFOs and power outages. I figured there had to be a connection," remembered Goldfader. "At that point, I realized I was committed to finding out the truth. But, finding out the truth would require more than just reading books or watching videos."

To understand the phenomenon and make scientific sense of sighting reports, Goldfader began collecting

ALIENS ABDUCT UNBORN CHILD! UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT TERRIFIES SURREY CHILDREN! PILOT SPOTS FLYING OBJECTS OVER GROUSE MOUNTAIN!

and analyzing data. Helping him conduct his research are a nucleus of six enthusiasts, plus a number of volunteers from around the globe, including former NASA, military and CIA employees, as well as local pilots and astronomers.

The public also plays a key role. In 1993, the Institute's 24-hour hotline received 300 calls. Of these, more than 50 were what the Institute believes to be reports of genuine UFO sightings.

"People often misidentify search and rescue flares, bright stars, meteors, aircraft lights or weather anomalies," said Goldfader. "But, many other sightings have no logical explanation."

Although many eyewitness accounts can be puzzling, patterns emerge from the data the Institute collects. For example, early reports described exotic spacecraft to be disc-shaped or circular. Now, they're hearing about objects that are more triangular, hexagonal, square or platform-shaped.

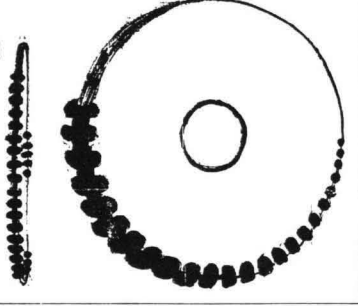
Times and geographic locations of unusual sightings are also tracked. British Columbia, especially Surrey, and the Great Lakes in Ontario, seem to be hotbeds of UFO activity in Canada. More specifically, sightings occur most often in the vicinity of military bases, radar installations and hydro pylons.

Goldfader reports that there was a clear wave of UFO activity in B.C. in 1993. It began in Kamloops at the beginning of the year, and by sum-

SURREY, NEAR-LANDING

September 10, 1993
Object flew at a verticle angle into the sky with red lights flashing on and off.

(Rendering of UFO witnessed by many local people)



mer, had moved to the Vernon/Kelowna area. In September, the UFORIC received an eyewitness account of a near-landing of a massive circular object at an apartment complex in Surrey.

To substantiate its findings, the Institute gathers video, audio and other physical evidence, such as soil and metal samples, for analysis. But, the best way to achieve results, according to Goldfader, is to go out in the field and see craft.

"Working on the assumption there are genuine nuts and bolts spacecraft out there, we are formulating methods to attract and signal UFOs at known hot spots. We have been partially successful using lights, sound and broadcast transmissions."

In addition to documenting sightings, the Institute's volunteers consider themselves pioneers in the field of abduction research and regularly provide new information to

major world UFO organizations.

Although some of the Institute's methods sound more like science fiction than genuine scientific research, Goldfader says the public is very supportive of his work.

"We have found that people are becoming more open-minded about UFO's than in the past. Interest in the subject is escalating," said Goldfader, who gets 20 to 40 calls on his info line and upwards of 20 letters daily.

Like many other volunteer organizations, the Institute's biggest challenge is funding. Keeping the Institute afloat has cost UFORIC's director \$30,000 since 1989.

"There's no doubt it's difficult. But, by controlling the pursestrings, I believe there is less chance the truth will be censored or distorted. The public has a right to access our findings," insists Goldfader.

Aside from educating the public, he also feels strongly about the Institute's future role. "I can't quit now. Our work could have historic significance in the event of a major UFO landing. If it occurs in the public domain and a panic situation results, we may find ourselves in the position of explaining the phenomenon." ←

RADAR & AIRLINE NEWS, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - March 1994 CR: L. Goldfader

Crop circle views unfairly attacked

By Chad Deetken

Following is the personal viewpoint of the writer, a Vancouver resident.

The SP's Aug. 21 story *Aliens putting stamp on Prairies?* was partially based on information I provided during a lengthy interview. It dealt with crop circles, a mysterious phenomenon which has been occurring since 1978 in at least 10 countries around the world, including Canada.

On Aug. 26, a scathing criticism, *Stories about crop circles not responsible journalism*, by I. W. Kelly attacked not only well-documented evidence and me personally but the SP.

Because of the odd nature of the phenomenon, I am no stranger to criticism. Normally, I enjoy fair comment. But in this case, due to the acerbic nature of Kelly's attack, I must respond. Kelly begins his tirade by accusing the SP of "irresponsible journalism." Nothing could be farther from the truth. The responsibility of a newspaper is to print news and, sometimes, opinions.

Crop circles have been appearing in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba for years. This qualifies as news. Since no rational explanation has been found for this phenomenon, it is natural for people to want to hear opinions, as long as these opinions are identified as such. This is responsible journalism.

What Kelly objects to is the printing of something with which he strongly disagrees. In so doing, he is advocating press censorship. This is supposed to be responsible journalism?

What makes this issue even more disturbing is that Kelly is in a highly respected position. He has a Ph.D. and has been teaching in the department of educational psychology at the U of S since 1980. I find it a bit worrisome that someone in a position of trust should hold such precarious views.

It was clear in the story that the opinions expressed were my own and nothing more. I have no problem with having my opinions criticized. However, I take exception to Kelly's misquoting me and taking much of what I said out of context.

While my opinions are based on four years of painstaking research, it is certain Kelly has never stepped foot in a crop circle, either here or in England. His ridicule of my profession as a student loans administrator and of me personally is totally unacceptable. The whole thing smacks of a totalitarian government's use of "thought police."

The evidence presented in the story is only a fragment of the information available on the subject. More than two dozen researchers, many highly trained professionals with degrees and rational, analytical minds have spent thousands of hours over the last 10 years gathering, documenting and analysing evidence.

I am part of this research network. I have spent hundreds of hours in the fields of England, as well as Canada, and have taken part in several international research efforts, one last year named "Project Argus."

Whether Kelly likes it or not, researchers agree that this mystery cannot be explained by traditional science, cannot be accounted for by acts of nature and cannot be the work of hoaxers.

Admittedly, some hoaxes have been perpetrated. But if one takes the time to study the details of crop lay, read the lab analysis and look at the hundreds of cases of anomalous effects on people, animals and instruments, one will realize human involvement is highly unlikely in most cases.

If Kelly is so sure he is right and that most researchers are wrong, I have a challenge. I propose a live debate on radio. I will present hard evidence (including scientific) and Kelly can present his evidence to the contrary.

I ask for only one rule: The debate must not involve personal opinions. Instead, it must stick strictly to facts.

STAR PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Sept. 16, 1993

UFO fever spreads as more lights seen in sky

by John Brunson

STRANGE lights over Scarborough and unexplained objects in the skies above Pickering in the last week have once again brought UFO fever to North Yorkshire.

The mystery remains: are these lights in the sky the spacecraft of extraterrestrials who have travelled billions of light years for a weekend in Bridlington?

Strange as it may seem, these recent sightings are only the latest in a long history of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects in the area.

North Yorkshire seems to have always had a special fascination for these visitors from distant galaxies. Over the years there have been some strange reports.

In 1984, a York taxi driver claimed to have seen an alien craft set fire to the Minster. The intergalactic arsonists travelled in a flame-coloured zeppelin-like space ship.

In 1986, York City FC had a close encounter of the sporting kind when their team bus was apparently buzzed

by a UFO after a 3-0 defeat at Bristol City.

It was said to be a strange round object, flying at speed, which none of the team could identify - although cynics might suggest it was a football.

In 1988, a "large pumpkin object with several cocktail sticks coming out of it" appeared over York. Experts from the Yorkshire UFO society claimed at the time that it might be a Nazi "flying disc" from World War II. Experts from Practical Housekeeping suggested it might make an interesting centre piece for a dinner party.

In 1992, a York man photographed a Polo mint-shaped object in the sky over Foxwood. Experts examined the photo, but could find no holes in his theory that it was a UFO.

In fact North Yorkshire, the largest county in England, is top for UFO sightings, accounting for more than half the national total in the last decade.

But why do these Extra Terrestrials choose Yorkshire. Is it the beautiful countryside or the clear air - or are they planning an invasion.

Now there's a plot for Emmerdale!

Video study of UFO claim

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE, Essex, England - Dec. 29, 1993 CR: T. Good

A QUICK-thinking teenager may have spotted a UFO - and captured it on video.

The film has now been given to the Essex UFO Research Group and photographic experts are to study it.

Ron West, the group's chairman, said the 18-year-old, who has not been named, was at home in Holland near Clacton when he and his mother spotted a white, triangular light in the sky.

Mr West said the teenager grabbed a camcorder and filmed it for several minutes as it floated and then shot into the sky and disappeared.

EXPERT

He added: "I am convinced so far but obviously we have got to wait for expert analysis."

The group was given a similar piece of video footage at the beginning of November - but later found the UFO was really an old catherine wheel from bonfire night.

The group recently also had about ten reports of a UFO the size of two football pitches floating across Clacton seafont.

It plans to set up a "sky-watch" in the near future.

If you spot anything odd in the night sky you can call the organisation's UFO hotline on 0206 211442.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - Feb. 3, 1994 CR: T. Good

Well, would you believe it?

Jean Endersby pursues a goal which can't be identified

and put it on the bedside table to prove I'd been up," he said. Next morning, Nigel went off to his job as a costings clerk with Sinclair, the Otley stationery manufacturers, intending to tell his colleagues. But before he could do so, the switchboard operator told him about an experience her mother had had the previous night - she had seen a strange, yellow light hovering over the town!

Not surprisingly, Nigel's encounter with the unidentified flying object had a profound effect on him.

This former Ilkley postman is the sort of person who likes to get to the bottom of things so he started researching into UFOs and other unexplained phenomena.

He is a member of the British UFO Research Association and the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group, both of which monitor and record sightings by the public of unexplained phenomena, of which there have, he says, been hundreds in the Wharfe Valley.

And the more he delves, the more he becomes convinced that aliens do exist outside the imaginations of film-makers.

Not that he goes for the idea that all strange sights and sounds are caused by people with long, pointed ears deciding to have a day - or rather night - out in Wharfedale.

He accepts that there are sceptics.

"I am quite a rational person but when you start talking about UFOs, most people think of little green men and flying saucers so they think you must be some sort of crank or nutcase."

Fear of the unknown makes many people back away, he says.

"I find that they either want to know more or they shut you out of their lives completely."

Things could be worse though. Marriages of ufologists have cracked under the strain. But Nigel's wife Debbie, while not sharing her husband's en-

Sometimes there are logical explanations for the appearance of unusual sights. Shooting stars are commonly mistaken for UFOs, as are tricks of the light in certain meteorological conditions. Even Nigel, after 13 years' practice, admits he has made some 'misidentifications'.

But what of the phenomena which do not have a logical explanation? Nigel has a range of theories.

Some are more to do with spiritualism than UFOs, like the one about a Viking ruler called Hakon the Good who was involved in a King Arthur style quest and is responsible for the alleged sightings of a ghostly golden sword.

Or, says Nigel, there could be what he calls 'an outside intelligence' which is either - depending on your point of view - sending a message that 20th-century religions ought to change direction (that doesn't go down too well with church officials), or trying to pass on its superior technology to us earthlings.

More mundanely, the strange objects seen flying around could be top-secret, super-advanced military aircraft on test flights. Nigel thinks it is highly significant that the big orange sphere he saw, took off in the direction of the American airbase at Menwith Hill.

He has started giving lectures. He has spent three years writing a book, *The Circle and the Sword*, about local sightings and has started giving lectures.

He is keen to hear from anyone else who has seen unusual phenomena in this area.

However, he does wonder how much interest the general public takes in UFOs.

"If he showed an alien on the television news to prove they exist, I bet most people would react by asking when Eastenders was going to be on," he said wryly.



thusiasm for UFOs, is prepared to tolerate his unusual hobby.

A Todmorden policeman who, a few years ago, claimed he had been abducted and held by aliens for an hour, lost his job. That incident was linked to the story of a miner from Tingley who went missing for a week after popping out for a bag of potatoes, and was found dead of a heart attack on a coal tip, also in Todmorden, in circumstances so mysterious that it led ufologists to think he too had passed through the hands of aliens.

Nevertheless, Nigel is continuing with his research and, now he is no longer a postman, hopes to make a career out of it.

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"If he showed an alien on the television news to prove they exist, I bet most people would react by asking when Eastenders was going to be on," he said wryly.

WHEN a man tells you he has seen a ball of light the size of a Mini, hovering at the bottom of his garden in Otley in the middle of the night, it's difficult to know what to think.

Is he susceptible to strange dreams? Has he a vivid imagination? Is he a fibber?

None of these descriptions seems to apply to Nigel Mortimer. He gives every appearance of being a down-to-earth chap with a wife, a couple of kids and a council flat in Derry Lane, Menston; someone who, apart from an interest in space technology, had never given much thought to what might be going on in the outer atmosphere.

That was until early one morning back in 1980 when he was asleep in his bed in Meagill Rise.

"I woke up in the early hours for no apparent reason and when I looked out of the bedroom window I saw a ball of light at the bottom of the garden. It was like an orange sphere about the size of a Mini with a kind of blue tear-drop shape in the middle."

Hovering

He says that after hovering for a bit, the object floated off over the hills towards Menwith Hill, shrank into just a point of light then vanished.

"It was almost as if I was in a dream state and when it disappeared I felt a great sense of emotional loss, as if something had been taken away from me."

Nigel knew what would happen in the clear light of day. Everybody, including himself, would think he had dreamed it.

"So to make sure I wasn't still in bed and was dreaming the whole thing, I took an ornament from the window sill



Nigel Mortimer scans the moors for alien signs

Seeing the light

SEND for the Hubble telescope - Huntingdonshire has gone UFO crazy.

Last week we called for readers to help us solve the mystery of the bright lights seen by reader Rita Johnson in the midnight sky over Godmanchester.

This week we have received a galaxy of calls from readers all over the area offering their solutions to this celestial teaser.

Theories ranged from lights on MacDonald's burger restaurant to kite flyers on a late night recy; from four escaped helium-filled metallic party balloons in Bury to bright shooting stars.

"You'd be amazed at what's going on in the night sky," said Godmanchester resident Jessie Styles.

A light sleeper, Mrs Styles always sleeps with her curtains open, and has been watching the strange lights over the town for about three months - including the same night as Mrs Johnson.

She told the Crier: "The lights are very bright - like a very bright star - they certainly couldn't be from a plane."

This view is shared by keen

plane-spotters Michael and Sylvia Reid, of Elm Close, Huntingdon who saw "weird lights" over their home at around midnight that Sunday.

Mrs Reid said: "They were flying very low towards Wyton and were very bright, like halogen lights. There was no beam from them and no sound of any engine.

More stories of the mystery lights in the night sky over Huntingdonshire - but there's still no solution

"There must be something wrong with Wyton and Alconbury's radar systems if they didn't pick them up."

Traffic policemen Pcs Geoff Bye and Peter Simpson were so puzzled by the bright red lights they saw while on duty at the Hunts Motors roundabout in Huntingdon - they got out of their patrol car to take a good look.

Pc Bye said: "I would definitely

say it was an aircraft, but it seems strange because they had their lights on as if they were flying from north to south."

Three Huntingdon teenagers, Steffan Head, Matthew Crawley and Scott Burrows, spotted two bright, slow moving lights whilst standing in Kent Road on the Oxmoor estate.

Steffan said they were convinced that they were moving together and part of something bigger.

He added: "I jokingly said that maybe it was a UFO - but my mates said no way. I must say it was a bit strange."

Georgina Hale, of Ramsey, said she saw a very bright shooting star that night as she travelled from St Ives to Wyton.

"It was," she said, "the most beautiful sight I've ever seen. I've seen a few before, but nothing like this."

But a more down-to-earth explanation comes from Ted Fleming, of Great Ouse Kite Flyers, who told our reporter that it was not unusual for kite enthusiasts to fly the kites at night with lights. He commented: "The size of the lights can vary and the angle of view can change."

The mystery continues and all theories will be gratefully accepted here at the newsdesk on (0480) 406555.

Saucer-eyed couple say: We saw UFO

ALISON and Paul Jenner swear they saw a flying saucer hovering near their back garden. They were so startled they nearly fell off the sofa.

The couple said they were watching TV at their home in Main Street, Lambly, on Monday night when they first noticed two bright lights outside the window.

They watched in disbelief as the craft crossed a field behind the back garden and hovered on the brow of a nearby hill before disappearing.

Mother-of-two Alison said: "It was just before 10.30pm, at the close of the news. We saw two lights in the sky - over the trees at the back."

Shocked

"We just looked at each other and said 'what the hell's that?' Planes come over here occasionally - but it wasn't a plane."

"We just sat there shocked and the

hairs started standing up on the backs of our necks.

"We could only put it down to something weird - because of the way it lit up the hill and came towards the ground. Everywhere was so bright."

"It couldn't have been anything else but a UFO."

Mrs Jenner, 25, said she now wondered whether anyone else saw the craft.

Bright

"It was so bright someone else must have noticed it," she said.

It was one of 70 reported UFO sightings in Notts and Derbys since September, according to the East Midlands UFO Research Association.

Tony James, founder of the Nottingham-based association, is appealing to anyone who thinks they may have seen a UFO to contact him on 275623.

Corn circle plot thickens

AMERICAN investigators are excited by strange analysis results from a corn circle discovered in a secret Wiltshire location this year.

Andover's expert, Busty Taylor, told the Andover Advertiser that routine samples sent across the Atlantic led to a request from the investigators for local enthusiasts to return to the site with a magnet. "Stones and corn stalks stuck to the magnet," Busty reveals. "The

situation just gets more and more complicated."

Corn circle stake-outs locally have been kept deliberately low key in a successful effort to allow investigators unhindered efforts to unravel the mystery.

What has hit newspaper headlines in '93 is the frequent sightings of UFOs which happened in the Andover area and also at Marlborough and the ancient Silbury Hill on the Bath road.

● It's the 'ten per cent' factor that keeps Sue going...

Tales of the Unexplained

UFO buff Sue Hembury-Kellow has set up a local network to investigate things that go flash in the night sky... and then disappear.

Scores of unexplained objects have been spotted over Somerset this year, and Mrs Hembury-Kellow wants to log details of UFO sightings to try to solve the mystery of whether there really is anyone out there.

Earlier this month the *County Gazette* reported how a Taunton insurance worker saw a bright rocket-like light streak across the sky in Yeovil.

A spate of sightings this summer included a ring of lights with daisy petals rotating around it, which moved slowly left to right, changed shape and size and disappeared.

"It repeated this pattern a few times and was seen by eight people in Stoke St Gregory and Langport," said Mrs Hembury-Kellow.

She also received reports on October 21 of a rectangular object with red, blue, green and yellow lights which hovered over West Buckland for 15 minutes before disappearing at an incredible speed.

"There is a lot of UFO activity going on at the moment in the South West," said Mrs Hembury-Kellow. "There are stories of lights in the sky and even close encounters."

"Whatever they are, they are here, they are being seen regularly by people who aren't off their heads. We're trying to logically and analytically explore the phenomenon as it happens."

"Ninety per cent of the time there's a logical explanation - it's the other ten per cent that keeps us going."

Mrs Hembury-Kellow, who set up Somerset UFO Research and Investigation Network, has appealed for witnesses to contact her as soon as possible after any sightings.

They will be asked to complete a special sightings form, and anonymity is guaranteed. Mrs Hembury-Kellow can be contacted on 0823 491068.

Report: PHIL HILL

UFO reports flooding in

CALLS from readers who have spotted UFOs in North Cornwall and West Devon, have poured into our newsroom following our story on a sighting last week.

Readers have told us their versions of seeing strange phenomena in the sky and voiced their delight and relief that others have shared their experience.

The startled couple who saw a very bright light pass across the road near Week St Mary, as they drove home, appealed through our columns for other people who may have seen it.

The wife, who asked that they should remain anonymous, voiced her doubts that anyone would come forward because it was such an isolated area.

But, we have received calls about

sightings of a remarkably similar object, on the same night, at Holsworthy, Launceston, Ashwater, Kilkhampton, and Helstone, within three-quarters of an hour of the time of the original sighting on Wednesday, November 17, at about 9.55pm.

Mrs Lillian Lucas, of Coads Green Post Office, also phoned in to say she saw a UFO over the tors, when drawing her curtains at 6.30am, either the same day or the day after the original sighting.

We have also had reports of other UFOs seen in the area earlier in the year.

Many of the callers said they had failed to come up with any rational explanation.

One man, a building worker from the Launceston area, strongly believed the object he saw near

Helstone, Camelford, on November 17, was a meteorite.

It was about the size of a football but, although it "landed" in a field, he and his colleague, who were in a van, did not stop to investigate.

A woman travelling with a friend in the Ashwater area said: "We both saw a very bright light and said 'What on earth was that?'"

"As I turned around, it completely disappeared. It lit up the whole of a field and there were no houses or anything."

Another UFO sighting was made on an earlier date in the Bude area.

"It was like a flying saucer," said the man who saw it. "It looked quite large, like a glowing, oval shape."

"I saw it out of the corner of my eye."

"I did not stop, I

suppose I was too scared. I didn't say anything to anybody."

Another caller who saw a UFO in April, said no one he contacted seemed interested until he spoke to the Plymouth UFO Research Group, but it still remained a mystery.

Sam Pottage, who runs the Southern Aerial Abduction and Strange Phenomena

Unit, based at Poundstock, Bude, said anyone could contact him if they had sighted anything.

There had been many more sightings in Devon and Cornwall in the last 15 to 20 years.

"It is getting to be a hot spot, especially on Bodmin Moors," he said.

He also investigates ghosts and other paranormal phenomena.

UFOs by the thousand

SCIENTISTS are to launch an investigation into thousands of UFO sightings in the Taiwan Straits.

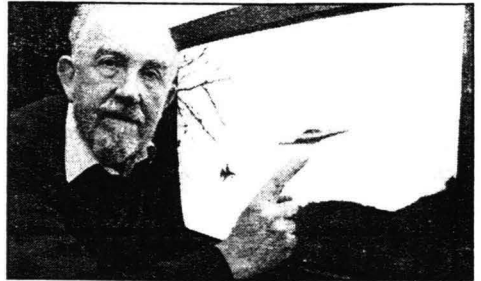
Experts say some 6,000 UFOs have been spotted in the area.

The figure was revealed at the first China-Taiwan UFO conference in Beijing.

The latest sighting was in August, when people saw two rim-linked hat-like objects soaring over Taipei International Airport for 15 minutes.

BRIGHTON EVENING ARGUS, East Sussex, England - Dec. 7, 1993 CR: T. Good

Aliens welcome!



David Cayton

ALIEN visitors are being promised a warm welcome in Stockport - from the borough's very own UFO investigator.

Anyone seeing strange lights in the Stockport sky or experiencing closer encounters can contact David Cayton, from Davenport, who is setting about recording and investigating UFO sightings in the area for the European-wide Quest International UFO investigation group.

The former RAF photographer and British Aerospace boffin believes the number of alien visitations has been steadily increasing since the detonation of the first A bomb in the 1950's.

And with the north west being one of the busiest areas in the country for UFO sightings, he expects to be kept busy in his new role.

"The most recent phenomenon has been crop circles which have greatly increased since 1990," he said. "There have been a lot of hoaxes but some of the cryptographs have been too complicated to explain away as freak winds or cranks messing about."

Former PM Margaret Thatcher was sufficiently

concerned to send out the army to investigate, according to David.

Still unexplained phenomenon in the area include a Heaton Norris woman who under hypnosis said she and her two young children had been abducted by an alien spacecraft for two hours.

"I think many people out there have had experiences that have frightened them or they are reluctant to talk about because they fear being laughed at but it is slowly a subject feel they can take seriously," he said.

"One reason is the number of respected witnesses that have come forward - police men, RAF pilots, air traffic controllers. I'm not interested in the mystical - I'm trying to study these things scientifically."

David says maintaining a balanced approach is vital due to the large number of hoaxers that plague the serious study of UFO investigation: "You have to be cautious but I'll certainly be investigating any information passed on to me."

Anyone with information regarding Stockport UFO sightings can contact David on 483 4956.



● Flying saucers 'spotted' over Albert Bridge.

A UFO ZONE?

It's life Gerry, but not as you know it!

CALLING occupants of interplanetary craft.

That's what residents in Wandsworth are doing after Gerry Noboa spotted a white UFO hovering in the skies above his home in Fairfield Drive.

In fact since the extra-terrestrial object was spied in the sky, the 'brighter borough' has been dubbed an intergalactic fly-through zone.

Ken Phillips, London co-ordinator of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA), said, "There is no obvious explanation for this sighting, such as an aircraft, and it has been logged as a UFO."

It now joins a long list of around 'two dozen' similar spooky sightings over the past 20 years in Wandsworth - now nicknamed UFO City.

The latest revelation comes after Mr. Noboa (25), had a 20-minute close encounter of the kitchen kind with a bright UFO in the early hours of July 19.

He spotted the 'mother craft' at

by ANDY GARDNER

4 a.m. while getting a drink from his kitchen, and stared open-mouthed as two pulsing patrol ships weaved and zig-zagged their way across the night sky.

He said, "It was like nothing I had ever seen and it really spooked me out."

Mr. Phillips said the so-called 'Orbital Theory,' devised by a former aeronautical engineer can now be used to pinpoint UFO hot areas - and one has been found in the middle of Wandsworth.

● Residents have been scouring the skies after a spate of saucer-spotting in Streatham.

At least six sightings of a silver flying saucer floating over rooftops around November 8 have been reported.



● Gerry Noboa.

Experts to probe UFO sightings

AN INVESTIGATION is being launched by UFO experts into a strange object spotted flying over both Scarborough and Ryedale this week.

Experts at the British UFO Research Association say the sighting could well be linked with a sudden rush of reports of weird objects seen in the skies in many parts of Britain.

by ELIZABETH JOHNSON

And they hope to interview some of the local people who reported seeing bright lights in the sky over Scarborough early on Wednesday morning.

The strange flying object seen by three Scarborough workmen was later spotted heading into Ryedale.

Decorator Edward Leng, 53, of Gladstone Street, Scarborough, was travelling with a workmate to Ebberston when he saw something mysterious in the sky near Snainton.

"There were three white lights moving away towards Pickering," he said. "It was an odd-shaped set of very bright lights that I didn't recognise."

"I really don't know what it was, but we kept them in sight to the top of Ebberston."

Mr Leng saw the lights at about 8.20am on Wednesday - just minutes after they were spotted in Scarborough by three workmates.

He contacted the

THE first ever alleged crash landing of a flying saucer is reported to have happened on the outskirts of Scarborough.

According to Phillip Mantle, of the British UFO Research Association, back in the 1950s local residents were driving on Silpho moor when they saw a whoosh of light and something fall to earth.

When they went to investigate, they found an object which they later opened and found it full of pipes, tubing and strange chemicals.

"The object itself was available for many, many years, but this was before there were any structured UFO groups," Mr Mantle said.

He has no idea where the object is now, but would dearly love to hear from anyone who might know what happened to it.

Evening News after reading a report of how three men who all work for Stadium Garage were in different parts of town when they spotted a "weird" object the likes of which they had never seen before in the sky.

Now Phillip Mantle, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, has promised to look into the sightings.

"We have an awful lot of reports coming in at the moment from all over the North of England and down into Wales," he said.

"What these people may have seen, it would be wrong for me to speculate on at this stage, but

CR: T. Good

UFOs are up there watching us all!

A WEEK prior to Mrs. Fishlock's sighting of a saucer shape hovering above the rooftops, (South London News, Nov. 18) I had a similar experience.

Watching the night sky on a sleepless night, I saw a dull red object streak across a completely clear night sky (2.30 a.m.) in a south to north direction.

I believed at first that I had spotted my second meteorite, entering the earth's atmosphere, of that night.

But to my surprise the object came to a halt, whereupon I jumped up to the window for a better view.

Almost above me and the row of houses on our street, it began to aimlessly zig-zag across the sky.

After five-10 seconds it sped off once more.

I have been in touch with Mrs. Fishlock and she has kindly replied, giving me her own first-hand description of the 'metallic' object and a small sketch.

I have also forwarded my description and the newspa-



per cutting featuring Mrs. Fishlock's sighting to the well-known UFO investigator Jenny Randles, who was recently on GMTV.

Quite frankly, it is no use asking people if they believe in UFOs. If you have seen one of them you don't have to 'believe', and if you haven't — well what can you say?

All this leaves me with the feeling that there is a whole new 'ball-game' going on somewhere!

The situation, as it stands, is that the people you tell — wait for it — feel a bit sorry for you.

All I can say is that what I saw wasn't a bird and it wasn't a plane, but what exactly it was beats me — I guess it must have been

a UFO!—Edward Arratoon, Ashvale Road, Tooting.

● I believe Doreen Fishlock.

I came out of my flat one dark morning on my way to work about 1950 and I could hear a humming noise in the sky.

I looked up and saw what looked like a very large modern circular fluorescent light. It was blueish white and it hovered for a while then turned on its side and disappeared at high speed.

I didn't know about UFOs in those days and I have never seen anything like it since.—Mr. B Knight, Credenhill Street, Streatham.



● South London Press, November 19

● I SAW a UFO on January 1, 1991 in Brixton Hill, and I wasn't the only one. I was one of FIVE people who saw it on that clear, bright but cold evening.

It was travelling east from west and was silent. It was a mass of orange light, glowing softly and I watched it for about four minutes.—Alan Clarke, Brixton.

New group to monitor UFO sighting news

MRS Elizabeth Dearman has never spotted an Unidentified Flying Object, but she is dying to.

All her experiences have come from second-hand sightings by friends and acquaintances who are convinced they have seen spaceships travelling in the skies about Mendip.

In the past two months, she has spoken to one woman who, with her grandson, saw a "massive object covered in orange light and seeming to have windows" in the night sky above Norton St Philip.

On January 23, another woman saw objects similar to silver-coloured cigars flash across the sky over Haydon, near Radstock, that "spooked her."

As a result of several reported sightings, Mrs Dearman is planning to form the Mendip UFO Association Network, an off-shoot of the national organisation.

She said: "It is only logical to presume that, in a universe so enormous we cannot comprehend the size of it, that we cannot be the only creatures in it."

As a self-taught astrologist, she became fascinated in the subject the more she read about it.

She said: "Yes, it attracts cranks and loonies but there are some notable people, former President of the United States Jimmy Carter for one, who are convinced they have seen a UFO."

Some of her witnesses have been terrified by the experience while others have felt calmed by it.

She will be collaborating with UFO buff Sue Hembury-Kellow, of Stoke St Gregory, near Taunton, who has also set up her own network to investigate strange flying objects in Somerset after a number of sightings in the last year.

Mrs Dearman is also in the process of gathering evidence which she hopes to eventually publish in a book and would be pleased to hear from anyone who believes they may have seen a UFO.

She added: "I think people feel able to confide in me because I won't poo poo what they say and I can evaluate it, but I can usually spot the hoaxers."

Workmates baffled by mystery object in sky

THREE colleagues at a Scarborough garage had a close encounter of the distinctly unnerving kind when they spotted a strange flying object hovering over the town.

All three were in different places when they spotted an intensely bright light, the likes of which they'd never seen before.

And it was only later in the morning, when one of them plucked up the courage to mention his strange experience to his colleagues, that all three realised they'd seen the same thing.

Mark Beckett, 30, a mechanic at Stadium Garage, Seamer Road, was a UFO sceptic until yesterday morning when he was driving over Oliver's Mount and saw something strange in the

by ELIZABETH JOHNSON

sky in the direction of the football ground.

"It was a very, very bright light," he said. "I just couldn't take my eyes off it."

"It sounds ridiculous, but I'd never seen anything like it in my life before."

Mr Beckett, of Martongate, Bridlington, lost sight of the rectangular-shaped white light for a moment when trees obscured his view, and when he looked again it had gone.

He was so baffled that he drove to the Boro ground to check that he hadn't just seen floodlights.

"But the floodlights were nowhere near the shape, it couldn't have been them," he said.

When he got to work he mentioned his strange experience to his colleagues, and to his amazement he found that two of them had seen the light as well.

Mind-boggling

Forecourt cashier Nigel Holgate, 31, of Hovingham Drive, Scarborough, was already at work when he saw the strange light.

"I saw a circle of light above the trees coming from the Jacob's Mount area," he said. "I saw it rise and then disappear. About five minutes later the same circle of light reappeared in a different

area, moved around and disappeared again."

And 10 minutes later, the same thing happened.

"I'm not saying it was a flying saucer, I'm just saying what I saw and it was certainly weird," he said. "The mind boggles."

Another colleague had been driving over Gladstone Road bridge when he spotted a white light in the sky.

"At first I thought it must have been a plane with a reflection on it, but then I realised it wasn't moving," he said. "And there was no gas trail behind it."

A spokesman for RAF Fylingdales could shed no light on the mystery and said that it had not had any reports of anything unusual.

'NO EXPLANATION' FOR FLOOD OF UFO SIGHTINGS

Space oddity

OFFICIALS were baffled by a flood of UFO sightings over Bristol this week.

Families in Hartcliffe spotted unidentified objects in the sky in the early hours on several nights.

When police officers arrived at Pavey Close to check the UFO story they were convinced that residents watching the unearthly objects through binoculars were simply seeing stars. But they changed their tune when they stared at the space oddity with their own eyes.

"When they arrived they were laughing and obviously thought it was all a joke," Hartcliffe

By Carolyn Burdet

sky-watcher Jayne Parfitt told the Journal.

"But when she looked through the binoculars, the lady police officer shook her head and said 'that's no star'," said Jayne, 30.

And neighbour Paul Hudson, 38, a former RAF engineer, was convinced the oblong object with flashing lights

was no aircraft either.

"It was definitely not a plane, or helicopter or star, and it's certainly not a craft I've ever worked on," he said. "The only way to explain it is to say it's a UFO."

"I would be sceptical if only one object had been seen in the sky, but there was a formation of seven, changing angles and all with spinning lights. It has to be something out of this world."

Unemployed Andrew McDonald, 25, described how he and his sister Ann were chatting to neighbour Sharon Webb at the garden gate when they saw something glowing in the sky.

Seven oblong objects with red and orange lights along the bottom were hovering among the stars above Ashton and they watched through binoculars and filmed with a camcorder as silver discs

flashed across the horizon.

They roused neighbours, and the whole street stood transfixed as the seven objects disappeared at 3am and a big ball of white light appeared over Stockwood.

Officers

"The police arrived scornful but they left with a £10 bet that they had seen some aliens," said Paul Hudson.

Police spokesman Ian Gibson confirmed that officers had been called out to see something strange... and admitted there was no earthly explanation.

"There were calls from Hartcliffe and Whitchurch inferring some objects could be seen," he told the Journal. "The airport checked their radar and there were no earthly objects it could be attributed to."

Aliens kidnap warning

UFO-logist Sebastian Russell, who runs a UFO Investigations centre, warned Bristol sky watchers that the UFO's will be back this week... to whisk people away.

"This is high season for UFOs," said Sebastian, who who also investigates crop circles and works

at the country's UFO capital in Warminster, Wiltshire.

"There will be abductions as the beings try to find out what is going wrong at the moment with the human race," he warned.

"They have an IQ of 700 and their purpose on earth is peace and tranquillity."

UFO experts investigate lights

TOP UFO experts are probing claims that unidentified flying objects were spotted over Uggelbarnby last week by a resident.

The woman, who does not want to be named, said she saw three bright lights just after 10pm on Tuesday night.

"My daughter called me upstairs to look at the lights which were in a row and stationary," she said.

"There was no noise and we watched them for nearly five minutes before they moved off slowly in a line towards the moors in the direction of Blue Bank," the woman added.

The reported sighting comes as several other people have claimed to see three bright

lights in the Scarborough and Ryedale areas in the last week.

One of those was on the Wednesday morning after the Uggelbarnby sighting by four men who saw the lights heading towards Pickering.

The British UFO Research Association is looking into the

claims and Philip Mantle, director of investigations, said: "We have an awful lot of reports coming in at the moment from all over the North of England and Wales."

Mr Mantle added that he could not speculate but said that investigations are "ongo-

ing".

"We hope that at the end of the day we can say what they are," said Mr Mantle.

A spokesman for Fylingdales early warning radar station could shed no light on the mystery and said that no reports of anything unusual had been received.

Was it a UFO?

A LITTLETON resident has reported seeing a UFO hovering over Chester.

The mysterious sighting in the Dee Banks area on Sunday was described as being a large vertical object, stationary in the night sky with approximately seven bars across it in different colours.

A police spokesman said that parents of the child witness called Chester police station at 9.30pm to report the event.

"We contacted West Drayton Air Traffic Control as per instructions but nothing showed on their screens," said Inspector Andrew Horne.

GUARDIAN, London, England - Feb. 10, 1994 CR: T. Good

Earthing dies

A South African woman who believed she gave birth to an extraterrestrial love-child has died of cancer aged 83, her publisher said yesterday. Elizabeth Klarer claimed an alien named Akon landed his spaceship in Natal, seduced her, and took her to his planet. She returned after four months but left the child there, Ms Klarer said. — Reuter.



Sheriff opens investigation into calf mutilation

By CAROL HOWELL
Bulletin Staff Writer

The Baxter County Sheriff's Department has opened an investigation on a case involving the mutilation of a newborn calf, according to Sheriff Joe H. Edmonds.

The calf — probably born sometime late last week — was found by the cattleman who owns the herd on Saturday morning.

Les Skeet, the owner, said he found the dead black calf early Saturday morning, and later returned to the pasture to dispose of it. It was then that he discovered the unusual condition of the calf.

The calf's skull had been removed, although its face and outer hide had been left intact other than a clean incision which opened

the throat. The skull appears to have been removed through the cut. One of the calf's ear's had also been removed, but the ear was removed through what appears to be straight, surgical-type cuts.

The eyes appear to have been slit — and although the face remains intact except for the eyes — all tissue and bone has been removed from both the head and neck sleeve. The back bone or neck bone appears to have been twisted off and removed and the inner hide is largely scraped free of tissue.

Where Skeet found the calf, there was no evidence of blood or tissue on the ground. Skeet also was unable to locate any blood or signs in the surrounding area of the partially wooded pasture.

The pasture where the mutilated calf was found is south of the proposed bypass, and about 500 yards from a house in Pebble Creek subdivision.

Edmonds, who went to inspect the animal Sunday after patrol supervisor Sgt. John Booker was originally dispatched to the call, said the animal is being preserved to be examined by a veterinarian.

"I don't want to scare people," the sheriff said, "but at the same time I think it's necessary for people to be aware that this has happened and report it to us if they see any activity around their cattle or anyone in a pasture who doesn't belong there."

Edmonds said he had attended several seminars on cult activity and satanic activity, and said the fact the calf had apparently been

bled to the point that the corpse was almost bloodless concerned him.

"The absence of blood is a good indication of some type of cult activity," Edmonds said. "But it could be just dabblers and not necessarily the most dangerous satanic worship groups. It's the just the first time we've had anything like this happen, and I've opened a full investigation."

Edmonds said the sheriff's office has been aware for some time that there are some young people in the area who "dabble" in some aspects of cult or satanic activity, but said the calf mutilation could be an indication of an increase of the actual activities and an indication the "dabblers" were escalating their activity to a point to concern law

enforcement authorities.

"Cattle owners may want to watch their cattle closely," Edmonds said, "and certainly report any suspicious activity around pastures."

The sheriff said he agreed with Skeet, who felt the calf was almost newborn when it was killed and mutilated. He also agreed that a new calf is hard to catch and it may have taken more than one person to catch the calf if it had ever gotten off the ground after it was born. "They run like deer," Edmonds said, "and the cow will try to protect a calf, too."

Edmonds said that dabblers in satanic activity are normally the hardest kind to apprehend because they adhere to a strict code of secrecy. "We just have to make people aware and maybe some of our citizens will hear something to help us solve this case," the sheriff said.

Skeet said that about eight to 10 years ago, the udder was removed from a cow that was in the same pasture, and it was believed at that time that the udder had been removed by someone who knew something about butchering animals. "It's udder was skinned out, with what looked like a surgical cut," Skeet said. No other unusual activity has occurred since then, Skeet said, until he found the calf.

Skeet said he had called several of his friends who are farmers and cattlemen, and none of them had ever seen anything like the mutilated calf. "To tell the truth," Skeet said, "this has us scared to death. I rolled and tossed last night and worried about it. I can't believe we have something like that happening here, I've just never seen such a thing."

Skeet said he doesn't believe the butchering of the calf in such a manner could be the work of a juvenile. "It was done by someone who knew what he was doing, and I just don't know who would be crazy enough to do something like this," Skeet said.

Skeet's wife, Marguerite, said, "It's the weirdest thing that's ever happened, and it's frightening."

Edmonds said he would utilize his investigators, and would also seek additional information about any reported mutilations in the area.

In recent years, the sheriff's department has received additional training from experts on satanic and cult activity, and Edmonds said those experts will be consulted if necessary in an attempt to learn if there are certain groups which would perform the type of mutilation which was exhibited on the calf.

The sheriff asked that anyone with any additional information, or who may have noticed any suspicious activity near the pasture late last week, contact the sheriff's office at 425-2400.

TRIBUNE, Chicago, IL - Jan. 23, 1994 CR: R. Boomer

Shoveling it

A busy week for Kenn Thomas, gatekeeper of conspiracy theories

WASHINGTON—Now, if I understood correctly some things I heard and read here last week:

Bobby Ray Inman, who some thought was "Deep Throat" in Watergate, says he's a victim of a McCarthy-like conspiracy by a senator and a columnist, the latter an old friend of Richard Nixon and William Casey, the latter a former boss of the CIA, which did try to knock off Fidel Castro and might have been involved in killing President Kennedy but most definitely fooled around with Oliver North and the Nicaraguan contras, some of whom used a small Arkansas air field for drug smuggling and money laundering, perhaps with the knowledge of the governor then, Bill Clinton, some of whose former bodyguards sure can't keep a secret.

A bit confused about the above—as well as with any possible links among Inman, the Whitewater Development Co. real estate partnership and Tonya Harding—I just had to put in a call to Kenn Thomas.

Thomas, 35, is an archivist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he processes manuscripts, including diaries and letters, of St. Louis groups and people as part of a collection that emphasizes the social, labor, black and women's history of the city. These days he toils on the papers of a husband-wife team of civil rights activists, DeVerne and Ernest Calloway.

But in his off-hours, he publishes and edits a 5-year-old quarterly, Steamshovel Press, devoted to serious discussion of conspiracy theories, both substantive and wacky. His publication is part of what he calls the "parapolitical underground," of which Inman forevermore will be a subject.

"Given that he apparently takes conspiracies against him so seriously tells me he's more of a conspiracy theorist than many in the research community. Even we don't take things that seriously," Thomas said.

Steamshovel's aim is to present what Thomas, who has a master's degree in 20th Century English literature, terms alternative information, namely "discussion of rumors and new information,

Sunday watch
James Warren

some unsubstantiated, stuff you won't find in the daily papers." It has a mere 200 subscribers at \$20 a year but prints about 5,000 copies, which are distributed to retailers nationally.

The 62-page current issue includes an interview with poet Allen Ginsberg, which offers his thoughts on J. Edgar Hoover ("I haven't seen anybody discussing the consequences of Hoover being a closet queen"); the suggestion by longtime liberal activist David Dellinger that Abbie Hoffman might have been murdered, rather than the suicide previously assumed; lots of stuff on flying saucers; and an essay on "The Usefulness of Conspiracy Theories."

Thomas gets lots of unsolicited manuscripts and tries to do a lot of traveling, to such events as a symposium on the Kennedy assassination, in Dallas last year. He's also been to UFO conferences in Las Vegas and took a field trip to an emerging hot spot for conspiracy theorists, a place called Area 51, a U.S. military base in Rachel, Nev.

They're intrigued by the place since they believe it is where the government may be studying flying saucers that have crashed to Earth, and that it may be home for a secret space shuttle servicing a base on the moon.

Lest one think that Thomas is a 24-hour repository for any and all claims, he has "rejected things as too goofy," including one prospective contributor's assertion that Jack Ruby lives. Still, his tendency is to be tolerant, even when he doesn't quite understand a claimed theory, which helps explain the publication's title.

"We shovel it out," he says about conspiracies.

Thomas had been concerned that there'd be much less grist with the end of 12 years of rule by Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

"For 12 years, we had people who were the embodiment of keeping secrets. I thought Clinton would be more open, but he has ties to some of the same people," says Thomas, who's also writing a



Photo by Margie M. Barnes/AP

Kenn Thomas, publisher of the 5-year-old quarterly Steamshovel Press, devoted to serious discussion of conspiracy theories.

book on "Inslaw," the quintessential Washington conspiracy, which alleges that the Justice Department stole a sophisticated software program, depriving its creators of uncounted millions of dollars. A federal investigation on that continues.

So it seems as if an even grander era may beckon for the subculture to which he caters.

"There's a stronger thrust to conspiracies. People want to know more, get more information than they normally get," he says.

He spoke at the end of a big week: Inman, the Iran-contra final report and the naming of an independent counsel for Whitewater.

And, lest we forget, "even figure skating is immersed in conspiracy."

Yes, Tonya may yet make it into the pages of Steamshovel Press, P.O. Box 23715, St. Louis, Mo. 63121.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - March 17, 1994

Emergency room fumes still mystery

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Blood tests found no insecticide or abnormal drug levels in a woman who died as mysterious fumes felled six emergency room workers, the *Riverside Press Enterprise* reported Wednesday.

Investigators now want to examine the syringe used to draw blood from her at Riverside General Hospital on Feb. 19, the newspaper reported.

Insecticide poisoning initially was suspected as the cause because of symptoms reported by the stricken medical workers and an ammonia-like odor they said came from the blood of 31-year-old Gloria Ramirez.

Initial tests allegedly indicating poisoning by organophosphates, a toxic component of many insecticides, bolstered that conclusion, but the paper quoted an unidentified source as saying those tests were incorrect. (AP)

Mock Ness Monster

Was the beast in that famous snap just a toy submarine from Woolworth's?

By JOHN WOODCOCK

IT looked like flesh and blood . . . but was it just plastic wood?

For 60 years, this celebrated 1934 photograph of a long-necked creature popping its head above water (right) has helped keep afloat the legend of the Loch Ness Monster.

After scientific tests on the film, even sceptics were convinced there was nothing fishy about the creature. It seemed irrefutable evidence that something strange was flapping about out there.

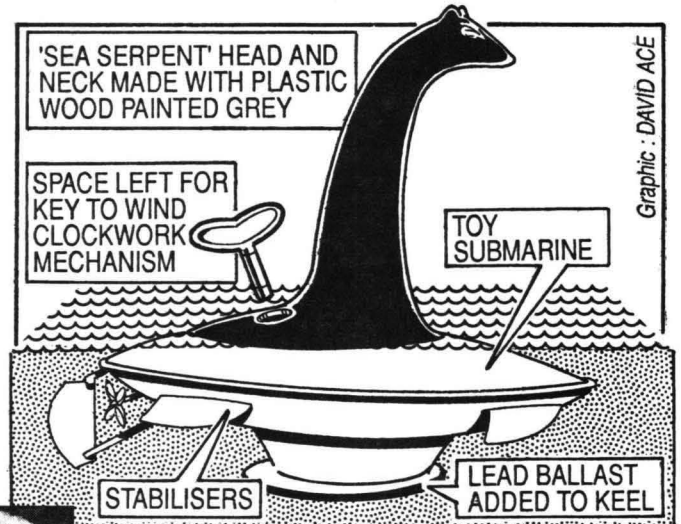
But now, it is claimed, it was all a monstrous hoax . . . and Nessie's money-spinning credibility could be about to take a nosedive.

The creature in the film is said to be nothing more than a 1ft high plastic wood model, painted grey. It was powered not by a pair of huge flippers, but by a clockwork toy submarine bought for a few shillings from Woolworth's.

The 1934 picture became known as the Surgeon's Photograph, because it was attributed to Colonel Robert Wilson, a Harley Street gynaecologist who claimed to have recorded 'something in the water' on April 19 that year. Now it is alleged he was part of a plot to perpetuate the myth of the monster which began as a joke but rapidly spun out of control.

One of the pranksters, Christian Spurling — who died last November aged 90 — allegedly confessed the whole thing to Loch Ness researchers David Martin and Alastair Boyd.

Christian was the stepson of the man at the centre of the hoax, Marjorie Weatherell — who also



Weatherell: Plot



Wilson: Photo



Spurling: Modeller

recruited his son Ian, and insurance broker Maurice Chambers.

Weatherell wanted revenge after being ridiculed over footprints of the 'monster' he had found on a beach at Loch Ness the previous year. They turned out to have been made by a dried hippo foot — perhaps part of an umbrella stand.

Christian, an expert modelmaker, said that in January 1933 his

stepfather asked him: 'Can you make me a monster?'

The creature was created in eight days and underwent sea trials on a pond before being taken to Loch Ness to be photographed. Four snaps were then given to Colonel Wilson, who already had his story prepared.

The picture — first published in the Daily Mail — caused a sensation. But the pranksters were so overwhelmed

Was it real, or did deceit raise its ugly head? Top left: The 1934 picture. Above: How the model monster may have been made

by the deluge of publicity that they decided not to divulge the truth.

Today, all those involved are dead, but the legacy of what they unwittingly created lives on. The Nessie legend attracts thousands of visitors a year to the 23-mile long, 750ft deep loch plus a steady stream of researchers. It is one of the most important industries in the Highlands, generating an estimated £25million a year from tourism.

The nearby village of Drumnadrochit is home to the Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition, which has made its owner, Ronnie Bremner, a millionaire.

And the Government's marketing agency, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, unashamedly exploits Nessie to promote the area as a holiday venue.

Yesterday, its spokesman was undismayed by the latest dent to the monster's credibility. 'The legend has been with us since the sixth century and I can't see its popularity being harmed by yet another controversy,' he said. 'Tourists don't just come here to try to get a glimpse of Nessie. They're attracted by the scenery as much as by the intrigue of what may or not be in the loch. Where Nessie's concerned, all publicity is good publicity.'

Exhibition boss Mr Bremner was also taking it philosophically. 'We show the picture, but don't claim it is genuine,' he said. 'The fact that it may have been proved a fake will not damage the show's popularity, but strengthen it. There are countless other pieces of evidence pointing to a large beast inhabiting the loch.'

FEATHER RIVER BULLETIN, Quincy, CA - Feb. 9, 1994

Was it Bigfoot, or hoax?

By Dave Moller
Managing Editor

Was it Bigfoot or someone playing around?

No one knows for sure but two sets of men who do not know each other saw something strange about the same time and same place five miles east of Quincy last week on Highway 70.

Both pairs of witnesses describe the same thing, a strange, hairy thing on the side of the road that darted across the highway when they approached in their vehicles. All four say it was most definitely not a bear and did not appear human because of all the hair on it. If it was a hoax or a prank, then somebody's running around in a gorilla suit according to all of them.

Pat Farley of Lake Tahoe and Jerry Paradiso were moving Paradiso's belongings to his new Taylorsville home when they saw it about 12:15 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

"My first impression was that someone was screwing around in a gorilla suit," said Farley. "But it wasn't a bear. It had a long gait and was kind of hunched over. It gave me chills all over my body."

"It wasn't big, it was man-size," said Paradiso. "It had a long gait and its arms were swinging way up and down." Both men agreed that whatever they saw was unusually hairy with a rounded, human-like head. There was no snout, they added.

When the pair reached Quincy, they called the local Sheriff's office to report their sighting. They were not intoxicated, both say. Sheriff's

log records indicate Paradiso called the department and a deputy accompanied them back out to the scene, where they found nothing. On the log, Paradiso said he and Farley saw the strange apparition about five miles east of Quincy.

That puts the sighting in the Williams Loop area, precisely where PG&E employees Nate Soileau and Dan Fields were about midnight that same evening when they saw something strange on their way home to Quincy.

Rounding a corner, both men spotted something eerie standing in the road. "It was on its hind legs and was about nine to ten feet tall," Soileau said. "It didn't have a snout like a bear. It had a blunt face like a human or ape. It walked across the road and went up the (steep) bank in nothing flat. It made the hair stand up on the back of my neck."

Soileau said he went back the next day to check for tracks and found nothing.

"It was real strange," Soileau concluded. "I thought someone was in a costume at first but the height and the way it went up that hill just boggled my mind." Soileau added that he does not drink and that he and Fields were not on anything the night of the sighting.

According to Fields, "We were coming around a curve and there was this thing standing on the side of the road. It walked across the road and was about nine to 10 feet tall. I thought I was going nuts."

Fields said "I don't know what it was but it had a lot of black hair. It was clear night and it was just unreal. If it wasn't Bigfoot, it was somebody on drugs in a gorilla suit messing with traffic."

Whatever the men saw one thing is for sure. They saw it 15 minutes apart on precisely the same stretch of road on the same night. Does Bigfoot live or is someone in a gorilla suit scaring midnight drivers on Highway 70? Who knows?

HERALD, Bellingham, WA
March 2, 1994

Serious about his sasquatch

If determination had its rewards, Bellingham toymaker and adventurer Terry Mitchell would be the first person to make contact with the elusive sasquatch.

Mitchell, 52, has climbed mountains, explored caves and collected artifacts in search of the hairy creature for more than 20 years.

Lately, he has expressed dismay that sasquatch searchers' efforts aren't being taken seriously, especially by the news media. He wrote a letter to the Herald criticizing its coverage of the search.

Over the years, he has developed an elaborate scenario explaining Bigfoot's origin. He argues that in the 1500s, Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes visited the future site of Bellingham, built a fort and left about 300 Arawak Indians from Cuba — large, 7-foot men and women. He drew that conclusion, he says, after comparing rock drawings around Lake Whatcom to those made by the Arawak.

Mitchell claims these were the "Stick People" mentioned in Indian legend and the creature supposedly sighted every year or so.

Through extensive research, he says, he has discovered that sasquatch are nomadic, camping periodically on Chuckanut Mountain.

His understanding of the creatures has changed since 1991 when he stated concerns that the sasquatch would attack people who were building roads up Chuckanut Mountain.

"I see them as timid, shy people who just want to stay out of our way," Mitchell says.

Mitchell now predicts construction will prompt the sasquatch to head into the Cascades and up into Canada.

"To be honest, they may not be around much longer," he says.

Loch Ness submarine draws tourists

SCOTLAND (AP) — A mini-sub will take tourists around the murky depths of Loch Ness so they, for about \$102, can see for themselves where the elusive monster does or does not live.

About 500 people already have made reservation for trips in the flat-topped vessel, which made its inaugural dive Tuesday.

A one-hour dive does not include a guaranteed sighting of "Nessie," the fabled sea monster whose existence has never been verified.

But believers and skeptics alike will be able to peer through windows and a transparent floor panel at an underwater world illuminated by the sub's headlights. The 750-foot-deep loch is Europe's deepest freshwater lake.

The 24-ton sub also will be used to take bore samples from the loch floor, for a layer-by-layer study of its ecological history.

Despite years of scientific study and hundreds of reported sightings over the centuries, the monster's existence has never been proven.

One theory is that Nessie may be a large Baltic sturgeon.

In 565, St. Columba is said to have rescued a farmer from the monster's grasp. The first locally recorded sighting, reported by the Inverness Chronicle newspaper in 1868, spoke of a huge fish.

Nearly a million tourists visit Loch Ness each year hoping to catch a glimpse of Nessie and they contribute about \$37 million to the local economy.

Two weeks ago, The Sunday Telegraph reported that a famous 1934 photograph of the monster was just a toy submarine with a fake sea-serpent head attached. It quoted Loch Ness researchers Alastair Boyd and David Martin, who said one of the conspirators in the hoax told them about it before he died.

C O S M I C

SAVED BY THE LIGHT

By Dannon Brinkley with Paul Perry Villard, \$16

ABDUCTION

Human Encounters with Aliens By John E. Mack, M.D. Scribners, \$22

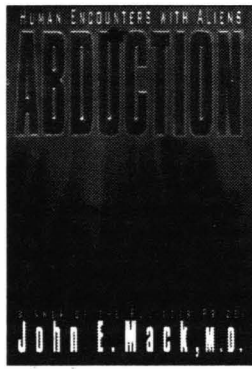
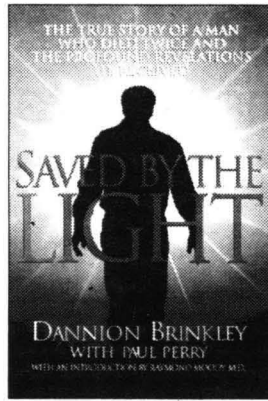
REVIEW BY MICHAEL SIMS

There's a lot of interest in death these days. It's a downright preoccupation if one judges by the number of new books on death, suicide, the life after, and near-death experiences. Newest on the block are these stunners, which make for quick reading and about a million unanswerable questions.

Back in 1975, Dannon Brinkley was talking on the telephone when lightning came through the phone lines and fried him with thousands of volts of raw electricity. Not surprisingly, he died. End of story, right?

Wrong. Brinkley died, yes—for 20 minutes he was clinically dead—but he came back. He was resuscitated. And according to his book *Saved by the Light*, during that 20 minutes he wasn't just lying around smoking, either. He was going through a Tunnel to Eternity and visiting a Crystal City where Light Beings helped him open Boxes of Knowledge.

Although you would think they could have found an easier way to contact



Brinkley (D.B., phone home), the Beings had a job for him. His mission was to return to life and create, yes, stress-reduction centers. These would involve biofeedback machines, therapeutic readings by psychics, and a clinic wherein "people are not only massaged, but they massage each other."

Unfortunately, as so often happens when Beings of Light contact the temporarily dead, they chose a man who had not the faintest idea how to do what they wanted. But they had a touching faith in him. First they showed him, in the Boxes of Knowledge, a series of visions, including children shooting each other because they had no "family units," editorial cartoons of Ronald Reagan, and "dollar signs flying by as people pumped gas." (Remember, this was in 1975.)

Ever since Delphi, oracles have been

frustratingly coy. These Light Beings reveal the word *wormwood* and leave Brinkley to puzzle for a decade before he learns that that's the English translation of *Chernobyl*. Nostradamus would have appreciated that one.

Then the Beings sent Brinkley back to the world to tell

his story. He did so. Along the way he got together with Raymond Moody, prominent authority on near-death experiences. And, perhaps to balance the ongoing pain and blackouts resulting from the lightning strike, Brinkley discovered that he was now able to read minds and predict the future. In his foreword to the book, Moody attests that he has witnessed both these activities.

Then came 1988. While reading minds and predicting the future in his spare time, Brinkley had continued his day job, which involved, among other things, installing anti-bugging devices in the Pentagon. But the stress got to him; he suffered a heart attack and died. End of story, right?

Wrong. Brinkley relived his entire life, received advanced counseling from the Beings, and returned to continue his work. In the recovery room, while unconscious, he was able even to stop his own exces-

sive bleeding. Now, working with Moody, Brinkley continues toward his Centers, with the goal that they will become hospices. He sums up his reasoning: "Having died twice, I know that the world that awaits us when we leave here has a lot to offer a terminally ill person."

Further along the road most cosmic is **Abductions: Human Encounters with Aliens.**

AVAILABLE ON AUDIO FROM SIMON & SCHUSTER, \$17

John E. Mack is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard's Cambridge Hospital. His has written about borderline states in psychiatry, adolescent suicide, the development of self-esteem. In 1977 he won a Pulitzer prize for his biography of T.E. Lawrence.

In his new book, he states his belief that extraterrestrials are capturing humans, examining and even having sex with them, and returning them—understandably traumatized—to face a skeptical world.

Mack has investigated over 60 cases of alleged alien abduction. In this book he presents 13 abductees—"none of whom," in the words of the publisher, "are mentally ill." Mack maintains that these people are neither kooks nor sufferers of hallucinations, that many came forward reluctantly and discovered the specifics of their traumas only through hypnosis.

Mack doesn't expect his book to be welcomed by everyone. He concedes that "virtually no accepted scientific authority has evolved that I might use to bolster my arguments and conclusions." But he feels he must present his evidence because the issue is too important to be ignored.

NEWS-EXAMINER, Connersville, IN - March 10, 1994 CR: D. Worley

Is Great Shake Near?

The accuracy of the 10,000-year-old Hopi Indian prophecies has been astonishing. The first prophecy said that when black ribbons (meaning highways) crossed Turtle Island (USA) and bugs (autos) crossed on them, the first great Earth shaking would come. World War I came.

When a crooked, tilted cross appeared in the east and a sun arose in the west, the second great Earth shaking would come. World War II came. It was also said this time would see the greatest misuse of fire when a funnel of ashes was dumped upon the earth, turning the grass to vapor. Two nuclear bombs were dropped.

Already one Hopi sign of the third great Earth shaking is in effect. You see it as the UPC bar code found on all items you buy in stores. This is the mark of the bear as the Hopi called it. A bear marks its territory by leaving its parallel claw marks on trees. A UPC code always contains the basic 666 code that the bible speaks of. The day is coming when you will need a mark within your forehead or right hand for computerized scanning technology or you won't be buying.

The final Hopi prophecy heralding cataclysmic Earth changes is soon to be fulfilled when the USA puts up a permanent space station. The prophecy says that when a house shall be thrown into the sky and man shall live in the time of great change is

imminent. I have listed just the main Hopi signs of coming upheaval.

When will this time arrive? Ancient physician-seer Nostradamus said 1998. Usually psychics and channelers say 1995 or 2002. The following is a composite scenario of events looking only at North America using biblical scriptures like Matt. 24:29. and information from Cayce, Ford, Toye, Scallion and Canada.

Time, gravitational and magnetic forces will have brought changes deep within Earth's mantle and a tilting of the rotational axis will occur again. The topography and weather of the planet is radically affected. Indiana weather becomes colder or hot and humid depending on where the pole stabilizes. Earthquakes and volcanic activity begin in the torrid zones of the vast unstable Pacific Plate. An unprecedented global meteor shower develops and one large meteor hits our western desert.

An epic quake of 12.5 pulverizes the Pacific Northwest and large areas of the western U.S. drop in elevation. A great shroud of dust is thrown up starting a two-year period of sunless mist everywhere. This causes a greenhouse effect, causing rapid polar ice melting. It is a time of fierce winds, rising seas, panic, anarchy and mass death.

The East Coast is inundated, becoming a series of islands. Much of Maine is gone and New York is a large bay into the Pennsylvania border. The Gulf Coast is under,

along with most of Florida. One huge lake forms in the Lake Superior region and the lower lakes empty via the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

Midwest rivers are huge, with the lower Mississippi a vast arm of the sea covering Louisiana and part of nearby states. Our western coastline will run from the Arizona line into mid-Colorado, up through Wyoming, and diagonal up to British Columbia. The 1,000 year Millennium foretold in biblical scriptures will follow.

Will all this ever happen? Only time will tell. I must say that one of the sources is of the highest order; two have nearly 100 percent right records and the corroborative factor stretching over time is impressive.

My Canadian abductee, who has good communication with the seemingly benevolent type of Ultraterrestrials called the Nordics, has received similar messages describing the destruction and when it will occur. We have the opportunity to test the reliability of her informants soon, for she wrote: "The crisis has in fact begun. Watch for more destruction in California soon, perhaps around May."

She also stated, "I think where you are is a safe zone (so does Cayce). I will try to find out for sure. There will be some great destruction in 1995 and this will be the beginning of the end. California and Japan are the first signs."

DON WORLEY
1051 Beech St.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - March 21, 1994

'Green slime' mystery solved: It was de-icer

BY KEAY DAVIDSON
San Francisco Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO — You can quit worrying about the "green slime" that fell on San Francisco last month — it isn't from Mars.

Nor is it a weird biological growth that threatens to devour civilization, a la "the Blob."

Rather, scientists announced Monday, it's plain ol' propylene glycol, with a touch of fluorescein and boric acid for good measure.

In other words, it's de-icing fluid from an aircraft, say Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists who conducted the analysis. And it isn't harmful, at least not in the trace

amounts that dribbled onto Mission between Eighth and Ninth streets in the city Feb. 17.

Scientists speculate the liquid — which resembles green Kool-Aid — accumulated on an aircraft's wing and froze at high altitudes. Then, as the plane descended toward San Francisco International Airport and opened its wing flaps, the ice may have fallen out, then melted en route to Earth.

The aircraft might have carried an unusual amount of de-icing fluid because of recent cold weather and snow storms back East, Livermore spokes-

man Breck Henderson said.

"We don't know of any other instances of this happening," Henderson said. The identity of the plane is unknown.

Henderson said the material is chemically similar to ethylene glycol, used as anti-freeze in cars. The fluorescein is a coloring agent, added to the de-icing fluid so no one mistakes it for something else and, say, tries to drink it.

Fluorescein is "the same stuff in those 'glow sticks' kids carry around at Halloween," Henderson said.

Boric acid is added as a fire

retardant, and is similar to a chemical used in ordinary eye-wash, he said.

The liquid was analyzed by Livermore's forensics lab as a favor to the San Francisco Health Department. The lab normally analyzes suspicious materials submitted by U.S. military and other agencies, partly as a means of determining whether other nations are developing nuclear or chemical weapons.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS,
Denver, CO - Feb. 21,
1994 CR: C. Carpenter

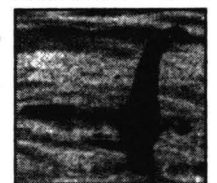
Jungle search

A group of scientists and Indians will embark on an expedition through the darkest corners of the Amazon in May in search of Brazil's equivalent of the Abominable Snowman. According to Indian legend, the Mapinguari is a giant, one-eyed creature covered in red hair, with a mouth in its belly that devours human heads. David Oren, an American zoologist, thinks the Mapinguari is actually a ground sloth, an animal believed to have become extinct 8,500 years ago. "There is just too much evidence that I have accumulated over the past nine years indicating there may indeed be a very large mammal out there unknown to man," said Oren, who has lived in the Amazon for 17 years.

Hands off oor Nessie!

THE revelation after all these years that the celebrated picture of the Loch Ness monster taken in 1934 was a hoax perpetrated by practical jokers all themselves now long since dead may have ended most people's belief in the creature's existence. Not mine.

For hundreds of years Highlanders have



NESSIE: Monstrous hoax? implicitly believed that in the deep, dark depths of the Loch a strange creature existed.

We are not likely to change our minds now. Least of all those who have hotels and bed and breakfast establishments in the area.

MAIL ON SUNDAY, London, England - March 20, 1994 CR: J. Delair

Sheriff 'leaning toward' theory that buzzards, wild animals responsible for calf mutilation

By CAROL HOWELL
Bulletin Staff Writer

Baxter County Sheriff Joe Edmonds said Monday that he had talked to a local veterinarian about a calf which was found with the skull and part of the neck removed from the hide and that he was "leaning toward" a theory that buzzards and other wild animals had done the damage to the calf's corpse.

Several others who have seen the animal, including the owner of the calf, are not in agreement that the mutilation of the newborn calf could have been the work of animals or birds.

The calf was found in a field about 500 yards from Pebble Creek Subdivision on Saturday, and the farmer brought it back to

his home and called the sheriff's office. A patrol deputy was originally dispatched to take a report, and Edmonds and other deputies went to see the animal corpse on Sunday.

Edmonds said there were similar cases in Northwest Arkansas a few years ago, and that he had contacted a state police investigator who had investigated those cases. "They worked it," Edmonds said, "even to the extent of putting video cameras on some cattle, and it turned out to be buzzards. Some of the things which can happen to cattle corpses are just normal post-mortem changes," Edmonds said.

"Blow flies take out the eyes pretty quickly," Edmonds said, "and they will also take out the tongue and the sexual organs."

Edmonds said there had been reports in the Northwest Arkansas cases about a white substance found around the mutilated animals, "but that turned out to be just buzzard manure," the sheriff said.

Edmonds was asked about the absence of the skull and he said that wild dogs or other large wild animals could have removed the skull after buzzards had opened the hide. Buzzards, Edmonds said, have very sharp beaks and are easily able to pierce calf hide.

"I called Sheriff Ralph Baker at Madison County," Edmonds said, "since he has had a similar case. That case turned out to be animals — wild dogs and buzzards," Edmonds said.

A large dog could easily rip the skull out of a calf, according to the

sheriff, as could a number different species of large wild animals.

Edmonds also said that he and Lt. Terry Johnson and Investigator Bob Dickerson had walked through the pasture where the dead calf was found. "We found a blood spot about the size of a half-dollar," Edmonds said, "and that makes us kind of lean toward ruling out a cult, because they don't leave any blood on the ground."

"I'm leaning a lot stronger, after talking to the veterinarian and the other law enforcement officers, toward this being done by buzzards and large animals," Edmonds said.

The owners of the calf said the calf was still in the back of a truck in their driveway on Monday

afternoon. They had expected the sheriff's office to take the calf as evidence, a family member said, and were waiting for a veterinarian they understood had been asked to examine the calf corpse.

The cut from which the skull removed appears to be a straight cut, such as a cut which would be made with a knife. Virtually all tissue has been removed from the inside of the head and neck, leaving a hollow hide upward from the shoulders. With the exception of the large cut in the chin area and the triangular cut where one ear was removed, the neck sleeve and face of the calf appear undamaged. There appears to be very little blood in the calf and the abdomen, rear quarters and limbs appear undamaged.

The owner of the calf, Les Skeet, found the calf Saturday morning and said he thinks the calf was probably mutilated Friday night. A family member said there were no buzzards around the calf when it was found and that there was no indication dogs or other wild animals had been involved.

Several other area residents who have seen the calf said they didn't feel the skull and tissue could have been removed from the calf by animals or birds without damage to the outer hide — especially the face and neck sleeve.

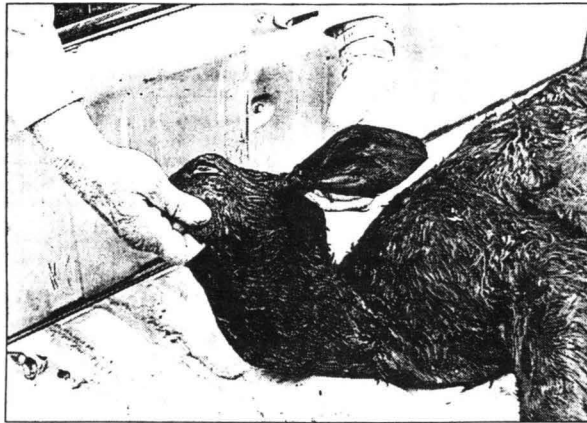
"Buzzards go to the stomach or the intestines, and they might take the eyes or the tongue" one man said, "they don't take bones...that calf has been skinned out with a knife."

Another noted that the calf's body is undamaged. He said that the belly or rear quarters of dead livestock is usually the area attacked by vultures and wild animals.

Several people who saw the calf said they were reluctant to dispute the theory of the sheriff or other experts who have dealt with cattle mutilation cases, but had difficulty believing the damage to the calf was done by animals.

A member of the Skeet family said the family "just wants to get to the bottom of this and find out how this happened." The cattle owner said the warm temperature Monday contributed to the deterioration of the calf and may make it harder to determine how the animal was mutilated.

Edmonds said the investigation is continuing and that he still plans to ask a veterinarian to look at the calf corpse.



Bulletin Photo by Carol Howell

The Baxter County Sheriff's Department is investigating a case involving a calf which has had the skull and part of the neck removed. Sheriff Joe Edmonds said Monday afternoon that information he has received has him leaning toward a theory that the calf was probably mutilated by buzzards and wild animals. The outer hide of the animal is undamaged except for a long cut under the chin and cuts where an ear was removed. Edmonds said buzzards could have used their sharp beaks to cut the hide, and the skull could have been removed by dogs.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,

Little Rock, AR - March 18, 1994

Panel wants limited life on secrets

Millions of papers would be opened

BY TIM WEINER
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — At President Clinton's instruction, the National Security Council has drafted an order that would overhaul government secrecy rules, make public tens of millions of classified documents from the Cold War and reduce the number of new secret records, government officials said Thursday.

The order would create the least secretive policy on government records since the birth of the modern national security apparatus in 1947.

The order would require automatic declassification of secret documents after 25 years. Only the head of an agency, such as the secretary of defense or the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, would have the power to stop a document's release. Newly created secret documents would be declassified after 10 years at most.

The new order also would establish a government-wide database and directory of declassified documents available to the public.

The policy calls for government officials to err on the side of openness when weighing whether a document should be classified in the first place.

That would reverse the balancing act required under the prevailing executive order issued by the Reagan administration in 1981. Today the presumption is that documents should be secret; once secret, they can remain sealed indefinitely.

Clinton ordered a review of secrecy rules last April. After nearly a year of heated debate, the council Thursday sent the draft presidential order to the CIA, the Pentagon, the State Department and other agencies for comment.

If Clinton signs it, as expected, the new rules could begin to take effect by the end of the year.

By the end of the century, most military and intelligence records from the beginning of the Cold War to the end of the Vietnam War would be available to scholars and students

of U.S. foreign policy, government officials said.

Billions of pages of secret records from those decades are locked away at the National Archives, the Pentagon, the CIA's headquarters, the State Department and in classified document depositories throughout the nation. Scholars of the Cold War liken their knowledge of its inner workings to a few islands jutting above the surface of a secret sea.

PIONEER PRESS, St. Paul, MN - April 3, 1994 CR: R. PanLener

JOE SOUCHERAY

The truth spoils Nessie mystery

It had been one of my longest held ambitions to journey to the shores of Loch Ness, Scotland, sit on the banks and wait for the head of Nessie to pop up. As mysteries went, Nessie was among the best. Why, you had all the fixings, dark and stormy nights, wind-tossed seas, shrouded hillsides and a remoteness, physically and spiritually, from the rest of the world.

No, mysteries could not get any better than Nessie, a prehistoric sea monster, swimming the depths of a forbidding lake. In my mind's eye I could always imagine the old, creaking cabin I would rent during my stay on the Loch, a fire at night, and a single malt beverage, too. I'm serious, mind you. Going off after Nessie was something I fully intended to do, possibly as soon as this coming autumn.

So what happened? I'll tell you what happened. Some geezer named Christian Spurling, who died recently at the age of 90, admitted to a couple of Nessie researchers that he helped "create" Nessie back in 1934. Yes, Spurling and three other scamps claimed that Nessie was nothing more than a fake sea serpent head attached to a toy submarine. As I said, Spurling choked out these final words before he keeled over, probably having

lived so long precisely because of the nourishing value of that mystery. In fact, the new theory seems to be that these jokers kept their mouths shut because they were frightened at the huge and sudden impact of there being no Nessie.

Yes, well, people bought it when Orson Welles said the Martians were landing on a farm in Groves Mill, N.J., that famous radio dispatch filed by a "roving" reporter, "That face. It... it's indescribable. I can hardly force myself to keep looking at it."

Now, here in a nutshell is what is wrong with today's world. When the old geezer, Spurling, confessed his prank, the two researchers he confessed it to started blabbing. Alistair Boyd and David Martin couldn't wait to blow the whistle. Actually, they did wait, until this year, Nessie's 60th anniversary, thus making sure that their blabbing would have an audience. The next thing you know it was in all the newspapers and plastered all over People Magazine — Nessie a Fake!

For my money, Boyd and Martin should have kept their mouths shut. We are better off for a few things left unknown.

Not only did these two blokes blow a big Scottish tourism draw, but they ruined the romantic notions of ordinary shmoes, like me, who believe that as long as we have a few unexplained mysteries around and about we'll be all right.

I don't want to know the answer to everything. For example, I have witnessed on numerous occasions a Creature in Highland Park. I dread the day that somebody will definitively prove to me what it is, because I don't want to know. I like the fact that the Creature is out there. It is comforting.

As recently as January, a Scottish naturalist, Adriane Shine, released his papers showing that Nessie was merely a big sturgeon. I could handle that. Sturgeon monsters, what's the difference?



STAFF COLUMNIST

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS,

Denver, CO - March 7, 1994

CR: C. Carpenter

Falling fish



Small fish have been found flopping around in parking lots and on roads south of Darwin after rainstorms in

Australia's desert Outback. Beryl Morris, a zoologist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, theorizes that the heavy rains trigger dry fish eggs to suddenly hatch, and then high winds or updrafts carry the newborns considerable distances. "The first time it happened last week, they were everywhere," said inkeeper Adele Liebelt. "They're only little fish, so the birds took them away." Most of the young desert fish measured from 1 to 2 inches in length.

The point was, Nessie had remained an unexplainable phenomenon, at least until this Spurling spilled his guts.

I don't need to know that every UFO turns out to be an off-course weather balloon, or that Big Foot can't possibly exist. I even went with the crop circle mysteries for a while. Sure enough, a couple of old geezers like Spurling finally confessed one day that those circles weren't made by invading spacecraft.

"Now, we went out there with sticks and wire and made them circles, har, har."

Nuts, another mystery busted. Just once I'd settle for evidence that the likes of Spurling and the crop circle makers are the real fakes.