

UFO

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HIGHLAND RANCH HERALD, Littleton, CO - April 7, 1995

Area woman has encounters of the alien kind

By Karin M. Heath
Herald Staff Writer

Mary Wunder didn't want to be abducted by extraterrestrials. But life doesn't always give her what she wants.

The Littleton-area mother of three said she was taken from her California home Feb. 6, 1991 — and the experience changed her life.

"I don't look at life the way I did with closed eyes anymore," she said. "There is so much we don't know."

Wunder, 50, has lived in Littleton for about a year. At the time of her experience, she had a successful business in metaphysical art and psychic reading in California.

"I didn't need this in my life," she said. "Being accepted as a psychic is one thing, but as a psychic with ET encounters is something else . . . A lot of people treat me differently than before."

Wunder will host a meditation and skywatch at Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs at noon April 28 to kick off the First Annual Pikes Peak UFO and New Age Expo.

She attends UFO conferences now because she believes it's important to relate to others who

have had similar experiences. She also wants to let people know what she learned. She wrote a book about her experience, "A Message From The Stars," in 1993.

"I was scared," she said of her experience. "But I realized it was because of a fear of the unknown. It was meant for me to tell about it."

All Wunder remembers about the fateful day four years ago was stepping outside to water the flowers on her patio at about 9:30 a.m. The next thing she knew, it was 11:30 a.m. and she was sitting inside, staring at a clock. She felt exhausted and went upstairs to sleep until her husband came home.

Her husband noticed two small bruises on her arm the next day. One looked as if a wire was planted under her skin. But it wasn't until four months later, after other unusual bruises and wounds appeared, that Wunder decided to be hypnotized and regress to the experience.

Under hypnosis, she recalled being in a round room with a large man and a being with huge dark eyes. The being communicated with her telepathically, telling her not to be afraid.

Wunder's experience is not



Mary Wunder, who lives in the Littleton area, says she was abducted by aliens. Photo by Betsy Bradfield.

isolated, according to Tim Beckley, who is organizing the Colorado Springs conference.

"There are a growing number of people now in this country who maintain that they've been abducted by extraterrestrials," he said. "Mary's story is one of the few . . . where she's actually been given some evidence, both in physical scars on the body and also information in the way of

diagrams and symbols which she has deciphered and given various prophecies which have come true. In her case, you do find the extra quality that you don't find in a lot of these other cases."

Beckley added skeptics wouldn't believe Wunder's story regardless of the evidence.

Bela Scheiber, president of Boulder-based Rocky Mountain Skeptics, agreed. The evidence

does not necessarily prove Wunder's story is true, he said.

"Wounds can be explained in prosaic terms," said Scheiber, who founded his organization 13 years ago to provide alternative explanations for unusual experiences and stories. "So far, all we have is a story. It makes for a great story, but they're only stories until the evidence substantiates it."

Explanations of unusual occurrences take on lives of their own, depending upon the popular culture at the time, Scheiber said. "I'm not discounting that she experienced something," but bruises and unusual experiences could be attributed to something other than alien abduction. "I'm not about to give up on simple explanations just because the unusual explanation is more fun."

But to Wunder, the unusual explanation isn't necessarily more fun.

Since the experience, she has written five newsletters about symbols that flashed in her mind as she was trying to fall asleep.

"I would have to be a genius to concoct such elaborate symbols, let alone tell people about it," she said. "This goes against everything I've been taught all my life."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 3, 1995

Colored Lights In The Sky

Family Witnesses UFO 'Fireworks'

By Carole Baker

While they had always been open-minded about the existence of UFOs, the recent experience of a Pensacola family has left no doubt in their minds. They were, indeed, witness to a spectacular UFO display.

On Friday, April 14, the family of three was driving toward Holt from Baker on Highway 189 South. It was about 7:30 p.m. and not fully dark. They initially saw three yellow lights that came up from the tree line to the west. These lights appeared to be coming toward them.

As they watched, the three yellow lights each split into one red and two yellow lights, forming a triangle with the red lights at the southwestern corner of each triangle. These lights then just went out and were replaced by a circular configuration of a "hundred little points of yellow light" which also just "went out" after several seconds.

Amazed and excited about what they had seen, they continued driving south, all talking excitedly about their experience.

You can imagine how amazed they

were when the yellow lights appeared again in the eastern sky to their left, and repeated the same performance as before.

They stopped their vehicle near the junction of Hwy. 189 and Hwy. 90 to see if they could see anything else in the sky.

After watching for a few minutes, they observed the same pattern again - three amber lights, the triangle shapes with red lights on one corner and the circular pattern of little yellow lights. After this all went out, they thought they had "seen everything," but they were wrong.

Instead of disappearing completely from the sky, the circular pattern, or ball of little yellow lights, appeared to have "closed up" into something that resembled a fireball with each of the little lights looking like a spark.

This "fireball" shot across the sky in front of them at tremendous speed for a couple of seconds, leaving a trail in the sky like a comet, and then appeared to come to a dead stop and go out. In the sky where it had been, however, there remained a line of "black dots in the sky, in the shape of a letter

'L' " which slowly faded out.

The whole sighting lasted about 10 minutes from start to finish, and occurred at about 20 degrees from the horizon.

All three of the observers were extremely excited about what they had witnessed and are totally convinced that what they had seen was a spectacular UFO sighting.

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group is currently investigating this sighting, and therefore the names of the witnesses are being withheld at this time in order not to prejudice this investigation.

If anyone reading this report was in the area where this sighting took place at around 7:30 p.m. on April 14 and saw anything unusual in the sky, or if you have seen anything unusual in the sky at all anywhere in our area, please come forward and call the MUFON hotline and 438-3261. Keep looking up!

Extraterrestrial Highway Bill Lifts Off From Nevada Assembly

Associated Press

Carson City

If tourists have as much fun driving on Nevada's "Extraterrestrial Alien Highway" as the Assembly did passing the bill giving it that designation, the state could make a lot of money.

AB533 would change the name of State Route 375 in an attempt to lure tourists and exploit the tales of UFO sightings in the remote southern Nevada town of Rachel.

The bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Roy Neighbors, D-Tonopah, said the name change would give an economic boost to Lincoln and Nye counties, where the highway runs 98 miles from Hiko to Warm Springs. Rachel, about 140 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is halfway between the two towns.

The fun began at the measure's Las Vegas hearing when proponents donned space alien masks, antennae and pointy ears as they made their pitch.

Backed up by spacey sound effects, Neighbors said on the Assembly floor that reported UFO sightings "are part of the fantasy and the excitement of the tourist attraction that is Nevada."

If Rachel, Nevada, becomes the state tourist center, "we're in a lot of trouble," wisecracked Assemblyman John Carpenter, R-Elko.

The fun was almost cut short by Ways and Means Chairman Morse Arberry, D-Las Vegas, who reluctantly but seriously suggested the measure needed to be put on the chief clerk's desk for amendment because as written it would force the state highway fund to pay for signs marking the highway.

Testimony from the Transportation Department indicated that the approximately \$3,300 for signs already is in its budget and would not cause a problem, Neighbors said.

The measure passed unanimously and, at the request of its sponsor, was ordered "beamed over to the Senate."

CHRONICLE, San Francisco,

CA - May 30, 1995

Possible UFO's observed in Barrow skies?

By Earl Finkler

Barrow residents had an early 1995 treat—or mystery, in a UFO sighting out over the Chukchi Sea Sunday night and early Monday morning. (January 1 and 2) “There were orange and blue lights out over the ocean southwest toward Wainwright,” said Barrow Volunteer Fire Chief Tom Opie. He said the lights would appear in layers, kind of like when people can see ocean ice far on the horizon, and that they appeared and disappeared from around midnight to around 4:00 a.m. “They were quivering and moving—not real distinct,” he said.

Opie said about 60 cars and trucks came

to look on the road to the gravel pit near his house just off the beach area at the edge of town. He said he drove over to look, and then came home, and then went back out to try and figure out what they were. “It bugged me for a while and then I started eliminating various explanations,” he said. “Finally, I looked closely and saw that they resembled the lights from the DEW line station and the village of Wainwright,” he said.

Opie said he figured it was some kind of mirage or reflection off the clouds. He said hunters have reported seeing similar lights from Barrow 80 miles away out on the tundra, but that people have not expected such lights from the villages until more

recently when they have been getting more street lights and other lights.

While Opie was satisfied, others in Barrow were not, and called North Slope Borough Search and Rescue Director Chuck Caldwell a number of times at home. “We went over to the airport and took off around midnight and flew to 500 feet to look around,” Caldwell said. “But as soon as we took off, the lights disappeared, and then the reappeared as soon as we landed. He said he agrees with the idea that it was some sort of natural phenomenon reflecting the lights of Wainwright. He said there was also a call about four weeks ago about some lights over the ocean, but that nothing developed on that

one.

“I’m not prepared to believe it was a UFO,” he said. “But that raises an interesting question,” he added. “What would we have done if it was something up there? I’m glad we didn’t have to find out.”

Opie said he had such thoughts as well. “I wanted to believe it as much as the next guy,” he said.

Local free-lance writer Elise Patkotak said if there is something alien up there over Barrow, she wants to make contact. “I want to get to a different world—to try a different planet,” she said. “Some place where there are no Republicans or Rush Limbaugh.”

Scientists say mystery more likely mirage

By Ed Myers

On Sunday night people gathered on the beach in Barrow to gaze and to wonder at mysterious lights maybe thirty miles out on the pack ice in the direction of Wainwright. At one point there were about 30-40 cars gathered by the gravel pit. People were wondering if the lights were from UFO's or a submarine or other military activities.

Public Service Officer Larry Owen of Barrow was curious so he drove along the beach road toward Wainwright until he could see both Wainwright and the lights out on the ice. The lights of Wainwright and the lights on the ice seemed the same, but reversed. The flashing green light in Wainwright airport was on the right side of town but the flashing light out on the ice was on the left. Owen wondered if the lights were reflected off the clouds to something far out on the ice

and then back to shore, but why were they reversed?

Larry called the Wainwright Public Service Office where his brother John Owen is on duty. John received his brother's call about 2 a.m. A dispatcher in Wainwright went outside to see what she could see, but there was nothing to see.

“It was probably a mirage,” said Dr. Glen Shaw, an atmospheric scientist at UAF who studies arctic haze and who knows Barrow and Wainwright. Shaw said that mirages are common in the arctic and Antarctic, even more common than in deserts.

Atmospheric conditions that night were probably good for mirages, Shaw said. Warm air had crossed the Brooks Range from the south. It is very possible that little jets of warm air had pushed themselves into the pancake of cold air that sits over the pack ice. When that happens, there can be layers of air

with greatly differing density. As the light passes from one layer to another the light bends because the layers act like lenses.

There can be strange effects. Early scientists and explorers on the island of Novaya Zemla in the Arctic Ocean reported inverted mirages, which are now known as the Novaya Zemla effect. The layers of air act like mirrors to turn images backward and even upside down. That is perhaps what caused the spectacle at Barrow.

Barrow is about 85 miles from Wainwright, and light can travel just about that far through the atmosphere under good conditions, Shaw said. Conditions were good. The same night a woman from Atkasuk said she could see the lights of both Barrow and Wainwright. Meteorologist Carl McCutcheon at Fairbanks airport reported that he saw the lights of Eielson Air Force base, lights which he could not see on

normal nights.

Glen Shaw said that he'd like to have two more pieces of information. One is the direction of the lights from Barrow. If the lights were a mirage from Wainwright, he'd expect Barrow observers to be looking toward Wainwright. Layers of air bend light down. There is a limit to how much the light is likely to be bent in a horizontal direction. If you look at a map, you'll see that people at Barrow can look across pack ice toward Wainwright because the shoreline curves south between Barrow and Wainwright.

Shaw would also like to know the temperatures of the layers of air over Barrow that night. The Barrow station sends up weather balloons and transmitters twice a day to measure pressure, humidity, and temperature. A report of sharp temperature inversions would support the mirage theory. But you may prefer the UFO theory.

PLAINSMAN, Auburn University, AL - May 4, 1995

Lecture discusses 'provocative' topic

By Colette R. Glass

Staff Writer

For years people have claimed to see UFOs or aliens. Some even claim they have been aboard alien spacecraft.

Last Thursday night, addressing a restless, overflowing crowd, Michael Lindeman, UFO and alien expert, said there is definitely something going on in the skies.

“What may be considered nonsense by many when reported, if not always accurate, it is at least provocative,” he said.

The provocative idea there may be something to investigate has compelled him to spend the last six years studying the UFO phenomenon.

As a writer, researcher and lecturer, Lindeman presents the facts.

“I try to report evidence — evidence that means something is going on, and there are people in the government who damn well know it.”

After studying thousands of cases, Lindeman is convinced the people who report these cases are sincere.

“Calls come in from all types of people. These are not nuts,” he said. “I have learned from a great many who are more expert. I have learned from people with no experience.”

The one thing they all have in common is they believe they saw something.

Lindeman said he was not speaking to establish what was or was not true, but to share information.

“Number one, real UFOs do exist. The assumption of real UFOs does not equate with alien spacecraft, but it might,” he said.



The Auburn Plainsman/J. THURSTON

“Number two, some sightings and reports seem to be unexplainable.”

Ninety percent of all reports are categorized as weather phenomenon, aircraft or hallucinations, he said.

In 1987, citizens of Gulf Breeze, Fla., called in more reports than any other area. However, calls have come in from all 50 states.

“(UFOs) have been sighted by people of professional standing, children and well-educated white-collar workers,” Lindeman said.

The concentration of UFO activity changes.

Many of the “hot” areas are close to military installations, but the government denies any of this activity is related to secret testing or other research, he said.

The Roswell Incident of 1947 left many unanswered questions. People claim to have seen the

crashing of an alien spacecraft in the Arizona desert.

Shortly afterward, government agents converged on the sight, loaded all of the evidence into government aircraft and flew off. The media was told it was a weather balloon that had crashed, Lindeman said.

A photograph and a story about the crash were printed in *The Roswell Daily Record* the next day. However, the newspaper story did not satisfy everyone. Witnesses said what they had seen was not a weather balloon. Also reported was the discovery of alien bodies, he said.

“The number of witnesses does not make it true, but it does make it interesting,” Lindeman said.

Some former government employees believe the government is not telling all, he said.

In his book, *Blank Check, The Pentagon's Black Budget*, Tim Weiner writes about the \$35 billion yearly budget which “no one talks about.”

Lindeman said, “It seems that we have alien technology. Have we hidden it, denied it, studied it and now reproduced it? Are we building these spacecrafts?”

Lindeman said the military denies they are responsible for any of these sightings.

“There has been a long history of cat-and-mouse between the United States military and UFOs,” Lindeman said. “They even conducted studies on how to convince the public UFOs were not real. It was called ‘Project Blue Book,’ but they kept coming across unexplainable cases.”

Photographs and videos from unusual sightings are often classified as fakes, even though there have been thousands of documented UFO sightings, including those in Russia, Belgium and France, he said.

Lindeman said there were probably people in the audience who had similar experiences, but would not admit it “for fear of being labeled a nut.”

He said these stories might be taken more seriously if the government had not adopted the practice of dismissing these claims. In 1953, the CIA told President Eisenhower, “UFOs do not pose a threat to social order.”

Being open-minded to the possibility of UFO existence has changed Lindeman's life.

“I changed my career in July of 1989. I had lived for 40 years without a thought of UFOs. It is a phenomena. It is changing lives, and, therefore, it is important.”

ADVERTISER, Lebanon, IL

April 19, 1995

Lebanonite notes strange aerial light

Ralph W. Powers, Jr., of Lebanon spotted an unusual light in the skies over town several weeks ago about 10:30 p.m. as he was walking on the McKendree College campus near the corner of Alton Street and College Road.

He said the phenomenon lasted up to half a minute as it made its way from north-northwest to the southern horizon in a zigzagged pattern. He also said the light went off and then reappeared before being lost beyond the horizon.

Powers told the Advertiser the image appeared oval in shape, with red underneath it but no following trail. He estimated the size of the visible image as that of a “ball across a street.” He said he has lived much of his life near airplanes and feels sure it was not an airplane.

He was subsequently on St. Louis television channel 30 telling of the sighting, which he said was also witnessed by sheriff's department personnel in Jefferson County as it was said to have circled trees in the vicinity.

Another light show mystifies observers

By ERIN SMITH

The Pueblo Chieftain

DEL NORTE — The lights on Greenie Mountain, up Rock Creek Canyon southwest of Monte Vista, are back.

Rio Grande County Under-sheriff Brian Norton said his office received calls Wednesday night from two people regarding strange lights around the mountain so he and sever-

al others went to check out the situation.

Norton identified the others as another sheriff's deputy, a detention officer, a search and rescue member, a volunteer fireman from Del Norte Fire Department and two Monte Vista police officers.

What they saw from about 11:45 p.m. Wednesday until about 1 a.m. Thursday were

three different lights glowing red, blue and white, although not in sequence.

The lights were hovering, stationary and at treetop level, before moving off and vanishing, Norton said.

The three lights separated and were located at three different points of the area, at the southeast corner of Greenie Mountain, near the mountain midway from Rock Creek, and at Bishop Rock, Norton said.

The lights "stood still. They made no noise. We were close enough that if there had been noise, we would have heard it," Norton said.

The undersheriff said at one point the lights were "as bright as a lightning bolt, but would last as long as a flash on a camera."

They put out a beam of light lighting up the ground" but it was too dark to see whether there was any shape behind them.

"I won't speculate what they were. I enjoy people calling and reporting them, but I don't know what to do. We have no equipment to track them," Norton said.

There were no reports of downed aircraft and the lights, which Norton de-

scribed as "like a yard light sitting out there" were not consistent with what is seen on aircraft.

Norton said he thought about calling NORAD as he did when strange blue lights were spotted in the same area in January 1994 but decided there was no point because NORAD "wouldn't tell us anything and they'd deny it's on radar."

THEY'RE STILL HERE!

UFOs Over Topanga

THE SIGHTINGS OF '94

By Preston E. Dennett

In 1988, I wrote a Messenger article UPOS OVER TOPANGA, which told four accounts about Topanga residents who had seen UFOs. That was the beginning.

Then, on the evening of June 14, 1992, the Malibu/Last Hills Sheriff's station received four calls reporting UFOs over Topanga. One call came from a couple who stated that a bright object lit up their bedroom. Three other calls came from people who were driving through the canyon. Two of the callers said they were chased down the boulevard by UFOs. One of the callers reported that their car was lifted up.

The office of the MESSENGER also received calls, and the results were written up in the July 2, 1992 edition, "The Sixth Encounter: They Came Once More." This prompted more witnesses to step forth, and since then, I have been conducting an ongoing investigation of UFOs over Topanga. I was able to find several other witnesses to the June 1992 incident, and to my surprise, the sightings have continued. It was as if Topanga was experiencing some type of wave of UFO activity. Topanga residents continued to report seeing all kinds of UPOS, from star-like lights that dart at right angles to disk-shaped metallic craft that swoop silently through the canyon.

This activity continued unabated all through 1993. I kept expecting the reports to slow down, but the year 1994 proved to be as active as ever, with at least seven solid cases.

CASE ONE

This case comes from UFO investigator Don Waldrop. On the night before the January, 17 Northridge quake, at around 9:30 pm, Marcellina and her roommate Mike (not their real names) were driving by the Top O' Topanga, to their home at the trailer park. At this point, they saw an object floating over Henry Ridge, over the water tanks. As Waldrop's preliminary report states, the object was "rectangular with the front end coming to a point" -- she called it crystal shaped. "It had many red lights and there was a cluster of red, yellow and green lights in the bottom center. It looked as if it was towing another smaller structure in the shape of a half-circle that was also lit with red lights."

As they watched, the craft passed low over their heads and moved slowly off to the south east.



ART BY KASARA FOR THE MESSENGER

"Suddenly it was over us, we lost control of the car and it lifted us up in the sky. I'm telling you, I've never been more frightened in my life."

CASE TWO

This case occurred one evening in early February and involves a Topanga resident who wishes to remain anonymous. As she says, "I was driving home around midnight, up Entrada, along Muertago. There's one place that has a curve, a panorama to the west, a really good view of the sky. I stopped my car and looked up and I saw a red light. It was pretty far up, just floating and bobbing up and down. And then it would disappear and it would reappear. It was like it was coming in and out of dimensions, into this dimension. And then it would cross really fast, and I would just see this stream of light where it would cross. And it would appear again. And I'd see it just kind of bouncing and blinking, and kind of appearing and disappearing. The main thing that blew me away was how it could move that way. It was pretty interesting. I knew that a plane couldn't move that way...I didn't see it turning. It moved in straight lines and yet

made patterns. It would move so fast that I would see streams of it. It looked like it was almost drawing. I could see the streams from the way it was moving. I would think, 'Oh, my God! What was that?' It looked like something from geometry or something. The streams were sometimes shapes...I've seen a UFO before, so it didn't surprise me so much to see one. But it did surprise me to see the way it moved. It just challenged my whole thinking that something could move that way. It was just mind-boggling."

CASE THREE

In March of 1994, an anonymous male Topanga resident called me to report his own encounter. One evening he was driving near the Top O' Topanga when he saw a large rectangular-shaped craft hovering over the ridge, surrounded by helicopter-like objects. "This thing was like a jet, but it had different lights. It looked like it had wings, but it was going too slow.

It was way up in the sky. It was going somewhere, cruising, and it turned. It did an arc. It was just going really slow. I think there was another one before it, because there were at least ten escorts flying, just buzzing around...little ones. They were flying around every night, just the escorts. They were like helicopters, but they were silent...they looked like helicopters, but they didn't make any noise. And there were so many of them, and every night they were flying."

The resident states that the escorts looked like helicopters, except they were totally silent. He is sure that the large object was not a plane. It was moving too slowly and made only a soft buzzing noise. As he says, "I did hear the big one once, because that was like the second time. I did see it two times. And one time I didn't hear any noise. But one time I heard like a humming sound, like mmmmm...that's what it sounded like. When I saw this, I thought, 'Wow, there must be a lot of people seeing this!'"

It was the way the object moved that impressed the resident. "It was moving like it was just lifting, like it was just hovering. But it was moving. It had some speed, but not much...It was so big that you'd think it would have to have more speed to get enough lift. It just kind of cruised. It went by and was gone. I was getting all scared when I was watching it. It was weird-looking...it was strange whatever it was. It could have been like a disk that's not really round. It looked like some kind of flat thing, but it was long. To me, it looked like a bus, but flatter, not really tall...like if you were close, it would be really wide -- like a type of rectangle or something."

The witness is sure the object was not a plane because "jets don't come up through the Canyon, not that low. It was just going right up through the middle of the Canyon. There's a ravine between the mountains, and it was going through there, at the top of the mountains. It was above me, but it was below the mountain tops. It was in the Canyon."

CASE FOUR

The above report is corroborated by another sighting in virtually the same location. On July 16, 1994, at around 9:00 pm, Bruce Merrifield and Reina Massey were driving south into the Canyon when they saw a large object hovering over the Top O' Topanga area. "We were driving down the road and I turned around and I looked, and I saw this thing with a bunch of bright lights. All of a sudden, it was appearing over the side of a hill. And then all of a sudden, it just stopped."

Then it pitched itself sideways and all I saw was the bottom of it...it was kind of strange. It was only like a hundred feet above the ground and it didn't have any noise. It was really bizarre...it was huge. And it had a weird shape to it. It was like

(continued on page 4)

the roof of a house...it tapered to the bottom, yet it was bigger at the top. It had five sides to it. It was huge. When I first saw it, it had like sixteen lights on the bottom. And then as I turned around to figure out what it was, and they quadrupled in number...it was quite an amazing experience. It was something that I never thought I would see."

Reina Massey reports the same details. "It just turned on its side and we saw the bottom part. It was facing us, the bottom. It was like tilted. Bruce said, 'What's that?' I'm all, 'Oh, nothing.' I didn't really look. And then I started looking because it was so big, and we were getting close to it. And I'm like, 'Wow! I don't know what it is!' I kept looking over at it, and it was just so odd. I've never seen anything looking like that. It was really big, and it was like a triangle shape -- not really a triangle shape, maybe an octagon...it was very unusual. I don't know if it was a spaceship, but what else could it have been? This one wasn't round as everyone says it should be. It was like a flying boat."

Bruce and Reina had pulled over to watch the object. After it left, they drove back to the Top O' Topanga to look for it, but by then it was gone.

CASE FIVE

One evening in mid-August 1994, at around 9:30 pm, two San Fernando Valley residents were driving through Topanga when they saw a large white globe of light hovering over Henry Ridge on the northern edge of Topanga. Phillip (not his real name) noticed the light first. "I looked over to the left and there was a bright light that looked almost like a landing beacon of an air-plane hovering in the sky...and we pulled over and popped the top of the car. And I got out and took a look. And it just sort of hung there. But the thing that was peculiar was, we got back in the car and continued our ascent into the Valley, and it seemed as if it was following us parallel. I know this can be a visual phenomenon, but it continued long enough for me to say that it wasn't a light sitting on a pole or something like that...it was definitely not a planet. I know what Venus looks like. I know what Jupiter looks like, and it wasn't an airplane because it was relatively stable in the sky for quite some time...but it was interesting and unusual enough that we did stop and look."

Phillip's girlfriend, Mandy (not her real name) reports the same details. "What was really odd about this thing was that it was extremely bright, just extremely bright, and relatively low in the sky as compared to the stars, and completely motionless and silent...it was very clear to me that it wasn't a star and it wasn't a planet. It was just too big."

Mandy was even more impressed because the evening before she had seen the exact same thing from her backyard in Reseda. Although I am tempted to label

this case as a close encounter with Venus, the witnesses insist that what they saw was definitely not Venus. It is also true that Venus had already set by that hour, so the Venus theory is insufficient. Their story is also supported by the following case.

CASE SIX

Therapist Linda Jordan has a friend who owns a house up Old Topanga Canyon and they often spend evenings together in there. She had always been interested in UFOs, but had never seen one. Little did she know that she was in the right place to have an encounter.

One evening in mid-August, Linda and her friend were in the bedroom when their attention was drawn to a huge bright globe of white light hovering outside. It was 11:30 pm, Linda says. "There's a lot of windows in my friend's house, and through one of the side windows in his bedroom, all of a sudden, there was this huge bright light. And I said to him, 'Look at that!'. And he sat up and he said, 'Wow! What's that?' And I got up out of bed. And he said, 'You're going to go outside, aren't you?' And I said, 'Yes!'

The two witnesses stared at the light through the trees, but neither of them were able to identify it. Linda says "We watched it for a few minutes, and it was not moving. And it was much, much too bright to be a star. I was just about positive about that fact...it was bright enough to make us both get up and go outside to look, and we've never done that before. It was not a plane, because there are always a lot of planes that we see from his deck, and a lot of planes I've seen from his deck coming towards me. So I ruled that out after a few minutes. You see, the thing is, he's very

skeptical, and he thought it was unusual. It wasn't just me saying, 'Wow! Look at that!' It was him feeling the same way."

After several minutes of watching the light, the two of them returned inside.

CONCLUSIONS

What are these people seeing?

- Secret government aircraft?
- Hallucinations?
- Alien spacecraft?

It would be easy to discount these reports if there weren't so many.

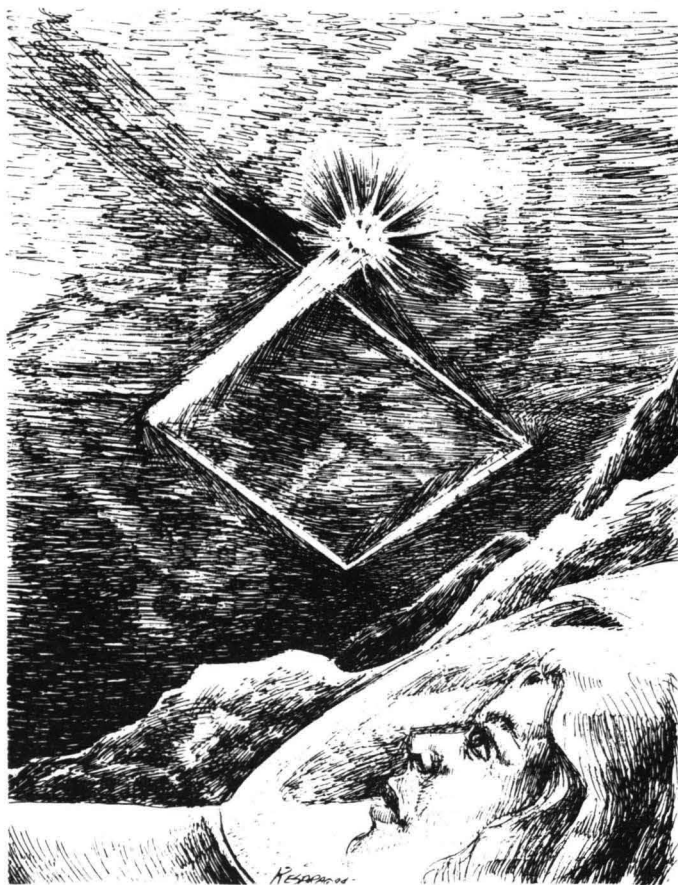
To date, I have investigated over seventy separate UFO encounters over Topanga Canyon. The witnesses have included doctors, pilots, teachers, truck drivers, housewives and even vagrants.

The encounters involve metallic ships casting down beams of light, landing in the fields, chasing cars, and darting through the sky at unbelievable speeds.

With the number of witnesses well over a hundred, Topanga has gained quite a reputation as a UFO hot spot.

In early July, 1994 the television program ENCOUNTERS ventured into Topanga Canyon with a local UFO group to attempt to contact a UFO. To everyone's surprise and delight, a globe of orange-white light bobbed up and down over Henry Ridge before disappearing from view. The segment appeared on the Fox Network October 15. None of us was able to identify the light. KTLA news has also ventured into Topanga in search of UFOs.

As can be seen, Topanga, for whatever reason, has become a UFO hot spot. If you or someone you know has seen a UFO over Topanga or elsewhere, or if you just want to know more, please feel free to call me at (818) 348-3892. ■



Bo Poertner

ACROSS VOLUSIA

Disney encounter lifts UFO believers

Within the next five years, we might be exploring the universe in an alien spacecraft.

That's what believers in UFOs say — the aliens are coming. Walt Disney World wants us prepared for the experience.

Disney is revamping its Tomorrowland attraction and the cornerstone of the \$100 million project is The ExtraTERRestrial Alien Encounter.

To help spread the word about its new attraction, Disney produced a film about UFOs, alien abductions and a government cover-up. The hourlong film was broadcast locally on WOFL-Channel 35 in Lake Mary on March 18.

Alien Encounters from Tomorrowland attracted little attention from the public, perhaps because it ran at midnight. But it captivated followers of the UFO phenomenon.

They are in a frenzy of delight over the film, which promotes the new attraction but wraps it in a boldly written documentary that leaves no doubt about the existence of alien intelligence — at least in the minds of believers.

"No one believes Alien Encounters has anything to do with Alien Encounters at Disney World," said DeLand resident Don Zanghi, who counsels UFO abductees.

"We believe the purpose of it is that the government is doing a controlled release of information and the best way to do it is through Disney," he said.

Disney recruited free-lance filmmaker Andy Thomas, a UFO believer, to research, write and produce the film, which is narrated by televi-

sion actor Robert Urich. Word of the film and its contents is spreading quickly throughout the national UFO community, Zanghi said.

In the film's opening scene, a "spacecraft" flits across the sky while Urich intones:

"This is not swamp gas. It is not a flock of birds. This is an actual spacecraft piloted by alien intelligence — one sighting from tens of thousands made over the last 50 years on virtually every continent on the globe."

"Intelligent life from distant galaxies is now attempting to make open contact with the human race and tonight we'll show you the evidence."

The next sequence is classic Disney — Mickey Mouse and dancing paint brushes, Tinkerbell and fireworks exploding around Cinderella's castle. Disney CEO Michael Eisner even appears on camera.

Then there's Urich again, explain-

ing that America unintentionally invited aliens to Earth by exploding the atomic bomb in 1945 and creating a "cosmic calling card."

Retired Air Force intelligence officer Kevin Randle explains that the federal government found it imperative to withhold UFO information. Technologically superior civilizations invariably undermine the social structure of technologically inferior civilizations and cause their collapse, he said.

So was the film created for the government to confess to past misdeeds, to let the public in on its secrets?

Nah. "The government has nothing to do with the television show. It's strictly a TV vehicle to promote the new attraction," said Tim Klein, senior producer for broadcast marketing at Disney.

A huge financial incentive exists for Disney to get as much market-

Film of 'alien corpse' gives UFO fans a boost

The Guardian

LONDON The British UFO Research Association announced last week that a U.S. government film had come into its possession which shows evidence of the existence of alien life forms.

According to the association — which will show the film at a conference in Sheffield in August — the footage shows U.S. military scientists examining the corpse of an extra-terrestrial whose spacecraft crashed near the New Mexico town of Roswell in 1947.

The newly-publicized Roswell incident, which has been attributed to rocket-testing and a crashed weather balloon as well as aliens, occurred when interest in 'flying saucers' was growing in the United States. (The

SPACE BEINGS

term UFO was introduced by the U.S. Air Force in 1953.) During the Second World War, rocket technology had developed so fast that space travel appeared to be within people's grasp.

Toward the end of the war, U.S. pilots and civilians had reported moving lights in the sky known as 'foo-fighters'. Although these reports were probably caused by the atmospheric effects of battle damage, they continued after the war and some ufologists — people who study UFOs — attributed them to visits from aliens. This became known as the 'extra-terrestrial hypothesis' or ETH.

By the late '70s, more people had were reporting encounters of a fourth kind — abduction by alien beings. By the start of the 1980s, thousands of cases had been reported, 90 per cent of which were in the U.S.

Usually they involved someone travelling late at night, seeing a bright light in the sky and ending up in a different place a few hours later. Over a period of time, sometimes under hypnosis, the "contactee" remembers the lost hours, which involved being taken into an alien spacecraft and having some kind of medical examination.

Doctors who have examined these people have no doubt that their trauma is genuine.

But their experiences are often explained as dreams or powerful flights of imagination. As with every other type of close encounter, no hard proof that they really happened has yet been provided.

Although the film from New Mexico may not convince the skeptics, it may persuade scientists to look more closely at the claims of ufologists. □

ing mileage as possible. Steve Barker, a theme park consultant in Orlando, told The Orlando Sentinel in January that the new Tomorrowland could draw up to 1 million visitors — depending on the strength of Disney's marketing.

Perhaps Zanghi and Disney both will get what they want. Disney wants more visitors at the Magic Kingdom.

And Zanghi is glad to see the UFO story told in a strong, positive forum. "What is there [in the film] is what we have been saying all along, only in stronger terms."

UFO Abduction Tales Not Quite So Alien

Mainstream Society Finds Space for Supernatural Storytellers

By Karl Vick
Washington Post Staff Writer

The first time anyone reported that a spacecraft stopped his car on the interstate between Frederick and Baltimore, took him aboard and fiddled with his manhood, there were no alien abduction support groups waiting back on the ground. It was the early 1970s, and whatever may have actually happened to Michael Bershad late one night on Interstate 70, he knew of no one else who claimed to have experienced anything like it.

But that was 20 years ago.

Today, even tabloid TV shows find his story of

alien abduction passé. "Now," Bershad said, "you have to have alien babies."

What changed was not Bershad's bizarre account, always a source of wonder even to him. What changed was how people looked at him when he spoke of it. Lately, Bershad has the eeriest feeling that his story has crept into the realm of the accepted.

The scientific establishment considers alien abduction no such thing, of course, and really would rather not consider it at all. UCLA researcher Ronald K. Siegel has explained everything about the abduction phenomenon—including the impressive anguish of self-described abductees—as a consequence of "normal

hallucinatory powers of the brain." But last year, he declined an invitation to say so on national television, thinking at the time that alien abduction was a fad that had already passed.

"Apparently, it's not," Siegel said. From supermarket tabloids to TV talk shows to network prime time, the notion of alien abduction moved from oddball subculture to a unique place in American culture—neither quite believed nor dismissed out of hand, but treasured as a mystery.

"I get a lot of people who, I don't know if they believe me or not, but it sure seems like they want to believe me," Bershad said. "There's obviously something going on that people respond to."

The marketplace agrees. The centerpiece of Walt Disney World's revamped Tomorrowland exhibit will be the ExtraTERRestrial Alien Encounter. To promote it, Disney invited reporters and self-described abductees to Orlando this spring. In March, the company's television arm nationally syndicated a one-hour special that set out "to show that these alien encounters do take place," in the words of Disney publicist Barbara Warren.

A Harvard psychiatrist swallows the idea whole in a controversial book. Kellogg toys with the premise in a Rice Krispies commercial. And at the close of an episode of the hit sitcom "Frasier," the title character, a psychologist, gazes into the night sky. "Anything's possible," he says.

Longtime alien abduction believers are understandably elated. To the extent that popular culture reflects what they call "consensus reality," the possible now appears to encompass small gray beings with big eyes borrowing millions of ordinary Americans, harvesting their reproductive cells, then returning them to Earth to tell their stories to therapists.

"This once lightly regarded phenomenon has slowly but inexorably moved toward the mainstream of public awareness," Budd Hopkins, father of the abduction "movement," boasted last year. "This is the war we've finally begun to win."

Victory carries a price, however.

After 100 television interviews, Bershad knows he feels better by talking about what he calls "my experience," a therapeutic benefit others find at the roughly 20 alien abduction support groups that have sprung up across the country, including in Washington.

Still, said the actor-turned-producer, he feels uneasy about a society in which a person can be introduced at a party—as he recently was in Los Angeles—as an alien abductee.

"It was blasé," Bershad said of the reaction.

His memory of the abduction, he said, began with a vague sense of discomfort on the drive between his home in Baltimore and his girlfriend's in Frederick. He had a feeling that something had happened there but didn't know what.

At the time, Bershad was an amateur expert on the legendary Bigfoot creature, and Hopkins was known best as an artist (he has paintings in the Hirshhorn Museum and a collage in the Corcoran Gallery). After meeting through a conference on unexplained phenomena, Bershad mentioned his I-70 unease to Hopkins,

who arranged in 1978 to have Bershad hypnotized.

In the trance, Bershad recalled the night in 1973 when he says he pulled his car over after seeing a spacecraft in the rearview mirror. The aliens were about four feet tall, had big black eyes and gray complexions and wore black, he said. They guided him on board and took a sperm sample that left him feeling "raped," he said.

Hopkins was thunderstruck by the fact Bershad had not remembered any of it before. "How many other abduction experiences lay buried and ticking within how many other unconscious minds?" Hopkins asked in his first book on the abduction phenomenon, "Missing Time."

One answer came from Michael Shea, a federal government lawyer in Washington who ran across the book in 1985. "I started to read it, and my whole soul was being exposed," said Shea, who now lives in the Midwest.

Shea claimed to have seen a spacecraft on I-70 on a night in 1973 or 1974, near the westbound exit to Olney. But that was all he could recall, he said, until he met Hopkins and the details of his own terrifying journey—being taken aboard the craft and having sperm extracted—emerged under hypnosis.

About the same time, one exit down I-70, reports of something called the Sykesville Monster surfaced after a claimed UFO sighting above a reservoir was followed by a splash. A group called Center Force soon was staking out nearby Patapsco Valley State Park, on the Howard-Carroll county line, setting out live rabbits as bait and firing live ammo at what members called red-eyed aliens.

The abduction reports quickly reached beyond Maryland. Hopkins said two new reports came to his New York City home each day. He interrupted an interview to answer his other line.

"New case," he said when he came back. "Interesting. Australia."

To get a handle on things, abduction enthusiasts in 1992 commissioned a Roper poll. From it, the sponsors concluded that 2 percent of Americans—about 5 million people—reported the kind of unusual experiences that could mean they had been abducted.

That profile also accommodates the most likely scientific explanation for abduction accounts. Every self-described abductee reports feeling paralyzed during the experience, which often occurs at night in bed. "Sleep paralysis" is a condition medical research suggests may afflict 4 percent of people during their lifetimes. It comes between sleep and wakefulness, "during that twilight zone when the brain doesn't switch very cleanly from dreams to waking," said Siegel, a research psychopharmacologist at the UCLA School of Medicine.

The sensation is vivid and often terrifying. It's a dream experience within a mind sufficiently awake to be chronicled by all five senses and is even logged as memory, Siegel said. Under this theory, the sexual activities that many self-described abductees report could be explained by reduced blood flow to the brain.

Researchers trace the sleep paralysis phenomenon to antiquity. Male

Babylonians swore of being seduced by the female demon of the wind. "In old Germany," Siegel said, "she was known as the Mare, this old ugly woman who sat on the chest of the dreamer and produced nightmares. That's where the word comes from."

Siegel's own experience with sleep paralysis, recounted in the book "Fire in the Brain," seemed so real to him that he bolted out of bed to search his home.

"What people do is they mistake the vividness for truthfulness," he said.

And what about reported abductions on the road? Siegel agreed with University of Kentucky psychologist Robert Baker that drivers often see a bright light before they pull over and nod off, a syndrome known as the Isakower phenomenon.

But the UFO establishment, as it's known, is not about to back off. It has had conferences on the grounds of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Temple University. It has sent copies of the Roper poll to 95,000 therapists and sponsored workshops urging recognition of alien abduction as a valid experience.

"I think there's a good possibility there's something going on here," said Gael McPherson Post, a Baltimore psychotherapist who has treated self-described abductees. "I don't think sleep paralysis goes far enough."

Sleep paralysis does not explain why people seem to disappear for a while, advocates say, or account for marks on flesh said to be made by alien tools. Hopkins, emboldened by the growing acceptance, is writing his next book on what he calls the most prominent case, which he says was reported by eight witnesses in addition to the abductee.

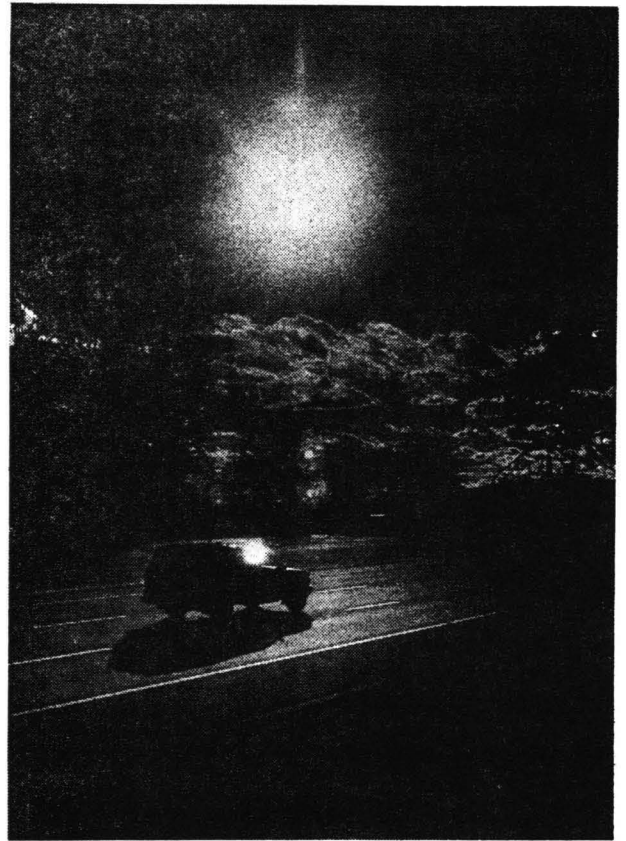
Hopkins said it happened at 3 a.m. on Nov. 30, 1989: A New York woman accompanied by three aliens floated out of her 12th-floor apartment into a spacecraft hovering over the East River.

"One of the witnesses was a very important political figure," Hopkins said, "and it was as if the UFO figures were trying to show off."

Hopkins refuses to "out" this mystery witness, but if the man ever chooses to come forward, Hopkins says the movement can expect its biggest boost yet—bigger than Look magazine's 1966 article on Betty and Barney Hill, the first self-described abductees; bigger than Fox TV's "X-Files" and the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (during which Bershad remembers telling his wife, "They got the faces wrong"); even bigger than the arrival on 1987 best-seller lists of two abduction books, Hopkins's "Intruders" and Whitley Strieber's first-person "Communion."

A major political figure might even let enthusiasts move beyond John Mack. He is the Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer whose publicity tour last year for his book, "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens," set the high-water mark in the subculture's mainstreaming. To the embarrassment of the nuts-and-bolts crowd, however, Mack embraced their stories as evidence neither of sleep paralysis nor of extraterrestrial invasion, but, rather, of another consciousness.

"The question really to ask is, what is there in us, what worldview, if you



BY BILL O'LEARY—THE WASHINGTON POST
Lawyer Michael Shea says he saw a UFO and was abducted by aliens in the early '70s while driving along this stretch of Interstate 70 east of Route 97.

will, are we encased in that requires that we reduce this to some kind of brain physiology?" Mack said. A student of Eastern religions, he argues for "layered notions of reality."

"Layered notions of reality" is a theory that tends to be reinforced by interviews with people who believe they've been abducted by aliens. As society has grown more accepting of their claims, they speak more and more freely about stranger things.

"Most of the time it's being in the craft, your typical abduction," a woman named Kerry said of abduction experiences she has come to regard as routine. Her breakthrough, she said, came when Hopkins helped

her realize that what she saw late one 1987 night in Northeast Washington was not a six-car pileup, but a spacecraft. Today her parents remain reticent about alien abduction (so no last name).

Some of her best friends are abductees, she said, which is why she would like to find a support group in Cleveland with the same bonhomie of the 40 or 50 people she used to gather with in Washington.

"I enjoy it," Kerry said. "You just mingle and talk to people who have similar experiences..." and stopped, not quite saying "experiences."

"Interests," she said.

METRO, San Jose, CA - March 23, 1995

Polis Report

Alien Cooties

Say you shook the hand of a person who had shaken the hand of a person who was once beamed or transported aboard an alien ship. Until very recently—under the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 14, Part 121—you would have been subject to forced quarantine without a hearing.

According to George Sloup, attorney adviser to NASA's Ames Research Center, these codes have been rescinded. But the codes are still a solar flare for UFO conspiracy buffs, who recently posted their text on the Internet, hinting that they were meant to "squell attempts to communicate or fraternize with UFO occupants."

Whatever their

motivation, the codes make for a fascinating read. The definition of the "extraterrestrially exposed" includes any "person, property, animal or other form of life or matter whatever" that has "touched directly... the atmospheric envelope of any celestial body." Would that include Brad Pitt?

According to Dr. George Lenahan, chief counsel for NASA-Ames, the 1969 regulations stemmed from concern that astronauts "would have been contaminated" by alien microbes on the moon's surface.

But critics of space policies, some of whom believe the feds are concealing information about alien contact, think the regulations were designed to intimidate astronauts and others who might make contact with UFOs. In response, Lenahan retorts with a odd guffaw. "Ha! There is nothing that NASA would like more than alien contact. That would really increase our budget."

AMI CHEN MILLS

UFOs: Familiar sightings in our county?

Local group formed to search for answers

Bright lights cross our skies every night.

Are they alien spacecrafts? An invasion from outer space? Or just high-flying airplanes? A group just formed in Castle Rock is seeking answers.

The Castle Rock chapter of the UFO Institute had its first meeting March 10, at the Village Inn in Castle Rock.

About 60 people showed up. Not bad, considering the meeting received virtually no publicity. A few people drove down from Boulder and Littleton. One couple came all the way from Nebraska.

But the room was filled with an interesting cross-section Douglas County residents. There were old-timers and recent arrivals to the area. Attendees ranged from a junior high student who came with his mother to a couple in their 80s.

One young man explained it would be impossible for him to receive the institute's monthly newsletter because he had no permanent address other than his Volkswagen bus.

The most remarkable aspect of the meeting may have been how unremarkable it was. Apart from the charts and photographs on display and the T-shirts, ball caps and UFO paraphernalia for sale, the gathering could have been a church or civic organization get-together or a meeting of the chamber of commerce.

Douglas County has a rich history of UFO sightings and unexplained events. The "paranormal" events don't make it into the official history books, but mysterious lights in the sky and unusual goings-on are as much a part of the county's heritage as cowboys, sod-busters, stagecoach stops, 4-H clubs and the county fair.

A headline clipped from a 1963 Denver Post and laminated to a table in the B & B Cafe reads, "30 citizens report UFO flight over Castle Rock."

One of the most pervasive components of Douglas County's UFO "lore" is mysterious, unmarked black helicopters which appear like clockwork about 20 minutes after every sighting.

Several people at the meeting told identical stories of helicopters buzzing their houses and shining spotlights through their windows.

"We're not nearly as bothered by them (UFOs) as we are by the helicopters," said one Sedalia woman.

Attendees differed as much in their lifestyles as in their beliefs and extra-terrestrial experiences. A Boulder man

said he is convinced that as a child he was abducted by aliens.

Two Sedalia women meeting for the first time, discovered they were neighbors and exchanged remarkably similar stories about unusual lights in the sky and the mysterious black helicopters. One of the women brought a mysterious cylindrical rock that she found near her home shortly after she observed unexplained lights in the sky.

Some people were open about their experiences. Others asked that their names not appear in print.

Steve Alexander, founder of the UFO Institute explained the only requirement for membership to the group:

"You may think the person sitting three chairs down from you is out to lunch, but you don't have the right to say it," Alexander said.

Alexander, who in 1993 founded the UFO Institute in Colorado Springs, admits his close encounters have primarily been limited to those of the television kind.

"I watched a couple of episodes of the X-Files and said, 'This is something I want to learn more about,'" Alexander said. "I took out a three-line classified add in the paper and got 50 calls the first day. We held a meeting and 80 people showed up."

Since then the institute has grown to about 135 regular members in six states, with chapters in Denver, Pueblo, Colorado Springs and now in Castle Rock.

The institute takes no official

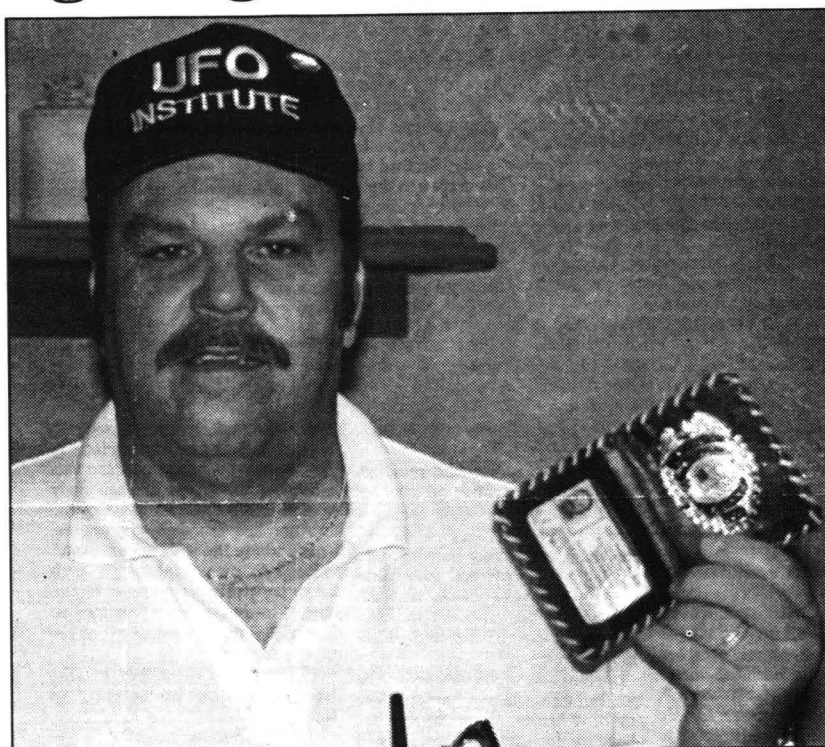
'Not judging is very important...'

position on UFOs and makes it clear that no individual is its official spokesperson.

Rather it encourages members to share information and opinions.

"Our door is open to everyone," Alexander said. "We've got members who believe and we've got skeptics. We've got plenty of members like ex-military men and engineers who say, 'I'll believe it when I touch it.'"

Jack and Jeanne Stover fall firmly into the believer category.



Chuck Stansbury, director of UFO Institute of Denver and a driving force in the institute, presents his official UFO investigator's badge.

ry. The Sedalia couple became involved with UFOs about nine years ago after a mysterious man knocked on a neighbor's door, dropped off a video tape and disappeared.

The tape was of William Cooper, who claims to be an ex-CIA agent with proof of UFOs and a government cover-up. The tape was enough to convince the Stovers, who since have done extensive research on the phenomena. The couple also is committed to educating others. They have made hundreds of copies of video and audio tapes and which they distribute all over the country.

"All we want to do is find answers," Jeanne Stover said.

"The government has done a good job of labeling UFOer crackpots, but all we're seeking is the truth."

The Stovers are excited about heading up the Castle Rock UFO group.

"There is so much information out there and so much misinformation," Stover said. "I see our group as becoming several small groups within a larger group where people with similar interests can share information. There may be a group that focuses on different types of aliens or on mutilations or abductions."

Some people may want to become involved in investigating sightings, but not everyone wants to tramp through the woods looking for little gray

men."

Differences between UFO enthusiasts were evident at the Castle Rock meeting. Some attendees were clearly put off by what one man called the "predatory" nature of another's attitudes.

"If you're fear-based you bring in negativity," he said. "If you're positive, you'll draw that out."

"Putting labels like good guys and bad guys, just complicates it," a woman said.

About half the attendees at the meeting said they have seen UFOs. Many said they see them regularly.

"We sit in our hot tub and watch the lights," said one woman. "We wonder about them, but we're not bothered by them."

Attitudes at the meeting ranged from those who believe in a full-blown government cover-up and those who are convinced aliens have already taken over the world, to people who view a close encounter as an opportunity for spiritual enlightenment, to those who are just plain curious.

"Not judging is very important," said Ted Bergemann. "It allows people to be open. When you put a label on something, it's no longer a UFO. If you can't identify it, it's a UFO."

It can be a satellite or a meteor or a spaceship. To a child, an airplane is a UFO.

"When I see lights in the sky

the possibilities are limitless. When I see lights in the sky, it means my eyes are open."

Why so many sightings in Douglas County?

A few attendees talked about a "fold in time," somewhere above Sedalia that allows space crafts easy access to the area.

Another man had a less esoteric explanation.

"You've got to take the time to look up at the sky at night and become familiar with it. Most kids never see the stars."

Cities are too bright and a lot of people don't get out into the wilderness."

The UFO Institute will meet on the second Friday of every month at the Village Inn in Castle Rock. The next meeting is April 14. Meetings start at 7 p.m. People who want to eat should show up at 6:30. Everyone is invited. All that's required is an open mind.

Anyone who wishes more information can call Stover at 688-3093.

*Story
and photo
by
Pete Lewis*

Man to talk about UFOs

An Aberdeen police officer who investigates unexplained sightings in his spare time will talk about UFOs next Wednesday at the Reed Library in Shelton.

Jim Clarkson, 41, first became interested in the subject as a teenager while listening to an expert talk about unidentified flying objects on a radio talk show in the San Francisco Bay area. His first and only sighting came in 1971 when he saw "strange

lights" at a lovers lane in Northern California.

"These would be lights that I have trouble explaining but I can't tell you for sure what I saw," he said.

HIS INTEREST was refueled after a Japan Air Lines cargo ship spotted a large UFO while flying over Alaska. He has since joined MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network.

"This is my hobby," he said. "I get to meet a lot of really interesting people and I get to hear a lot of really interesting stories. I also believe there is something to all this and that we may be on the track of the greatest mystery of the age."

Since joining MUFON, Clarkson has investigated a number of local sightings to see whether they meet the two criteria for classification as a bona fide UFO: highly credible witnesses and a highly strange episode.

Just a few weeks ago he rushed out to Elma to investigate reports of a UFO seen by people living on a cul-de-sac. The sighting turned out to be of Sirius, the Dog Star,

rather than of a spaceship or some other inexplicable phenomenon. More intriguing, in his view, is the story of a family on Hanks Lake Road who reported seeing three very large objects that looked like boomerangs and sounded like Darth Vader's ship in *Star Wars* - "not when it was in battle; when it was cruising," Clarkson said.

"I AM CONVINCED that this is an event that had high strangeness and high credibility, so this was a good sighting. What it was, I don't know," he said.

Clarkson's presentation is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room.

UFO fans land at Beach

Believers put heads together at conference

By Jim Stratton
Daily Press

VIRGINIA BEACH

The parking lot at the Association for Research and Enlightenment overflowed with license plates from far-away places: Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, Ontario. One car even had a "Starfleet Academy" sticker stripped across its rear window.

But nowhere in the lot was there a plate or sticker from the horsehead nebula or Andromeda galaxy. There was nary a sign of extraterrestrial visitation.

Which is too bad, for had an ET zipped into Virginia Beach this weekend, he? she? it? would have been greeted with open minds and open arms. The interstellar traveler would have become an interstellar star.

"I tell myself I'm ready for them," said Joan Leone, a mother of nine with a unshakable belief in benevolent space creatures. "I'm just waiting for them to come."

Leone was in town with more than 100 other true believers and truth seekers for a three-day conference on UFOs and extraterrestrial visitations. Sponsored by the Edgar Cayce Foundation's Association for Research and Enlightenment, the conference attracted people from as far away as Switzerland and Canada, according to event organizers.



James Mullaney, an astronomer and self-described "celestial evangelist," kicked off a three-day conference on UFOs and extraterrestrial visitations in Virginia Beach Friday. The conference, sponsored by the Edgar Cayce Foundation's Association for Research and Enlightenment, ends Sunday.
Joe Fudge/Daily Press



Illustration from flier courtesy of the Association for Research and Enlightenment Inc.

They paid more than \$250 to hear some of the country's leading researchers on UFOs and to swap stories of otherworldly sightings. James Mullaney, an astronomer and self-described "celestial evangelist," kicked things off Friday with a slide show and two-hour lecture on "The Search for Extra Terrestrial Life."

The seminars continue today and Sunday with experts in the controversial field of UFO abduction. The sessions include presentations by author Budd Hopkins and Harvard psychiatrist John Mack. Mack is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer whose latest book presents 13 case histories of people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

At Harvard, Mack's book and his assertion that people are indeed being beamed into saucers and subjected to medical exams has colleagues wondering whether the professor himself is a little spacey. But to UFOlogists, he offers a heavyweight name and a degree of respect to a field struggling to shed its whacko image.

"This is our first UFO conference," said organizer Cheryl Baer. "We wanted to wait until we had really reputable people with impeccable credentials."

While Mack is the event's marquee name, the big draw Friday seemed to be the opportunity for believers to revel among like-minded thinkers.

The group was a casually dressed collection of slightly more women than men. Most appeared to be in their 40s and 50s, and many spoke with an intelligent sincerity about their views. Several made a point of saying they were not "nuts," and almost all firmly believed that aliens from other galaxies — or dimensions — regularly drop in for visits.

Many, like a retired Air Force officer from Florida, think the government has stacks of material proving the existence of UFOs, but withholds it for fear it would set off a worldwide panic: "The evidence is overwhelming that they know about it. They just don't think we could handle it."

Many at the conference also mix in a dash of New Age spirituality, saying the creatures are here to help raise mankind to a new level of consciousness.

The aliens, believers say, are more than intergalactic tourists or spacebound thrill seekers joyriding through a remote corner the universe.

"They're here for a purpose," said Leone to the enthusiastic nods of two other women at her table. "They've been where we are, and they're putting out their hands to lift us up."

Darlene Cody doesn't know if that's the case, but she does know what's she's seen.

It was more than 20 years ago, says the Asheville, N.C., resident, and she and some friends were walking along a quiet country road. Suddenly, an object appeared over the hill in front of her.

It was a disk, she says, silently dropping to Earth.

"It was spinning, it had lights, it was just like you see in picture," she says today. "Up till then, I'd been a skeptic, but not after that. Once it happens to you, you have to believe."

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - May 12, 1995

KEAY DAVIDSON DOWN TO A SCIENCE

SKEPTICS CORNER: Yet another scandal is sweeping the anarchic world of UFO researchers. A few years ago they discovered that crop circles — those geometrical formations in cornfields that many blamed on flying-saucer landings — were hoaxes.

Now their most sensational theory — that a saucer crashed in Roswell, N.M. in 1947, and that its dead occupants may have been secretly recovered by Pentagon investigators — has suffered a body blow, with the revelation that one of the theory's chief champions seriously misrepresented his background.

Some details appear in Phil Klass's superb Skeptics UFO



Newsletter, the only publication anywhere for those of us who don't believe in saucers. (It's available for \$15 a year from Philip J. Klass, 404 N St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.)

The Roswell legend has been around for years, and has inspired a handful of bizarre books that purportedly tell all. The most thorough account was the 1991 book "UFO Crash at Roswell" by Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt. Schmitt's

reputation was enhanced by his claim that he had done undercover narcotics work for the Sheriff's Department of Washington County, Wis. He managed to become director of special investigations for the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois, a semi-scholarly organization founded by the late astronomer J. Allen Hynek. Last summer, Randle and Schmitt's book inspired Showtime's made-for-TV-thriller "Roswell," which starred Kyle ("Twin Peaks") MacLachlan and depicted a government UFO cover-up reminiscent of "X-Files."

But now, after a six-year collaboration, Randle has publicly



broken with Schmitt. Randle learned early this year that Schmitt had lied about his

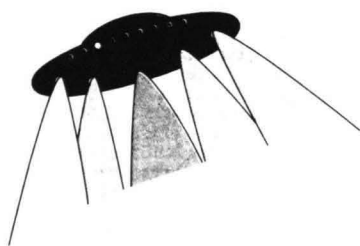
career and educational background. Far from being a dashing former narcotics informant, the 40-year-old Schmitt is — and has been for 14 years — a mail carrier in Hartford, Wis. A reporter for Milwaukee Magazine, Gillian Sender, also learned that Schmitt wasn't working on a doctoral degree in criminology, as he claimed; in fact, he hadn't even finished college.

"I was stunned," Randle says. "It hurts our credibility." He still believes that a saucer crashed at Roswell, and that Schmitt's work on the alleged crash remains valid, but adds that "any work we do in the future is tainted by what he's done. . . I think all that can be done is that we separate."

I called Schmitt, who was reluctant to go into certain details but admitted that he had "made false statements about certain things." As a result, he has resigned as the center's special investigations director and sent fellow UFO buffs this apology over the Internet: "I would like to offer my sincere apologies for any false or misleading statements I made about my background." I called the sheriff of Washington County, Robert Schulteis, who confirmed that Schmitt has "never worked for us in any undercover capacity."

Schmitt still calls Randle "my best friend," and hopes to continue investigating the Roswell case. But Randle bitterly says: "I went out on a limb for this guy . . . and he sawed the limb off . . . The scientific community (doesn't take UFOs seriously) because they don't want to be associated with a field full of kooks and nuts. And the fact is, it is full of kooks and nuts."

Keay Davidson is The Examiner's science writer. His column appears on Fridays.



When it comes to UFOs, there are believers ...

WENATCHEE — Thought you saw an unidentified flying object?

It was probably something far less exciting, such as a meteor, satellite debris or a view of the planet Venus, says Walter Andrus, a founder and director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a Texas-based nonprofit organization with almost 6,000 members. MUFON was founded in 1969 to study and investigate UFOs.

But take heart; Andrus also estimates that 10 to 20 percent of all sightings cannot be explained by natural phenomenon. Andrus said he believes those sightings are of extraterrestrial beings.

The following stories from North Central Washington residents seem to back that up.

In October of 1990, Ron Pettit, 39, of Chelan Falls, was working in an orchard near Wells Dam with another man one afternoon. Suddenly, he said he saw a flying disc moving up the river.

"The other guy said, 'Oh my God, it's one of those UFOs,'" Pettit said. "It was as smooth as an aluminum can and shaped like a Frisbee. We watched it fly up the river."

After that, Pettit sent information about his sighting to MUFON and joined the group. Now he's a state section leader for the organization, responsible for gathering information when sightings occur.

He firmly believes that the truth about UFOs will come out eventually and that it will change the world.

"I try to find out everything I can about it," he said. "It's the most important thing, except for family. It's what's coming."

Before his sighting he thought believers were a bit odd.

"People have been conditioned to think this is a joke," Pettit said. "I wasn't very interested, but after I saw one I said, 'Whoa, maybe there is something to this after all.'"

Earl Demarest of Omak earned his pilot's license in 1946. He also served in the military. But what he saw about 12 years ago near the Omak airport still has him stumped.

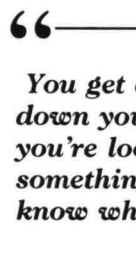
"I was driving on Johnson Creek Road when I saw it coming from the west at an altitude of about 2,000 feet," Demarest said. The unidentified flying object appeared as a bright green light. But this was no standard aircraft anti-collision light, he said. He watched as it traveled about six miles, then disappeared behind an orchard near the airport.

"I'm used to seeing strange aircraft, but I do not know what that was," Demarest said. "The things that impressed me were speed, lack of noise and the brilliance of the light. It wasn't a normal aircraft light. That thing



There's no doubt in my mind we're being visited by people from outer space.

— Tom Nickell



You get chills up and down your back because you're looking at something and you don't know what it is.

— Joe Merz



...and there are skeptics.

“



I put this in the same category as the Loch Ness monster.

— Arnie Clarke

”

WENATCHEE — Hogwash. That's Arnie Clarke's opinion of UFOs. Clarke is the manager of Pangborn Memorial Airport.

"I put this in the same category as the Loch Ness monster," said Clarke, a retired U.S. Air Force fighter pilot. "I'm surprised we don't have a monster for Lake Chelan."

Not that he's received all that many calls about sightings. He estimates he's had 20 in 13 years.

Those, he said, are attributable to satellites, meteors, strange-looking airplane lights or lens-shaped clouds that are caused by the way the jet stream comes over the Cascades. Reflections from the sun can make the cloud appear fast-moving.

"They're fairly thin and stationary and people attribute things to them because they're saucer-shaped and you can't tell how far away they are," he said.

Bud Fritz, head dispatcher for the Chelan County sheriff's office, said he hasn't had any sightings reported for several years or heard of any from other agencies.

But if someone calls to report strange lights, officials usually check with Pangborn first to see if any planes are overdue.

"Otherwise we have nothing to work with," Fritz said.

It was the end of March 1955. Tom Nickell and his partner were pruning trees in an orchard about a mile and a half south of Methow. The time was about 11 a.m. and the sky was clear. The two were up on ladders working when Nickell saw something unusual. He described it as a perfect disc, hanging in the sky.

"I just stopped," he said. "It was just sitting there."

Nickell said he pointed it out to his friend.

"I said, 'What is that?'" Nickell said. "He was just as surprised as I was."

"It was at about 15,000 feet, near as I can guess. There was no movement, no light, it just sat there. We discussed it for about two minutes. All of a sudden it went from zero speed to who knows how fast. It went about three miles due north. Then it turned abruptly — not like an aircraft — and within three seconds it disappeared. Just that quick, it was gone. I said, 'That's from someplace other than this world.'"

Nickell, 76, was a pilot during World War II in the Air Transport Command. He grew up in Winthrop, and at the time of the UFO sighting he worked as a contractor, flying for the U.S. Forest Service. He said he has flown over 20,000 miles and is familiar with aircraft.

"There's no doubt in my mind we're being visited by people from outer space," he said. "There's some reason for them observing us. Maybe they're curious."

Former Douglas County Deputy Joe Merz was on patrol, heading east out of Waterville on Highway 2 in the summer of 1967. About a mile outside Waterville, he looked toward Douglas and saw a light hanging about 300 to 400 feet above the Douglas store. At first he thought some enterprising farmer had erected a giant light. But that didn't seem to make sense, especially after he got closer.

Please see OUT THERE, Page A2

Story by KATHLEEN GILSTRAP

"It started moving, about 5 or 6 miles per hour," he said. Merz said he was able to follow along on the highway as the object traveled over the wheat fields. He kept increasing speed to catch up. When he could no longer keep up, he looked down and saw he was going 100 mph. He watched as the object faded from view.

"I called it in (by car radio to dispatch) — I'm sure they thought I was nuts," said Merz. After that report, he never mentioned the incident to co-workers and they never asked about it.

But that was only the first sighting for Merz, 70, who worked in the Douglas County sheriff's office for 14 years as a deputy and undersheriff. He was sheriff of Lincoln County

for five years.

The second sighting was corroborated by his wife.

Merz and his wife, Vera, were on their way to Wenatchee from Waterville to do some Christmas shopping on the evening of Dec. 15, 1967. As they came down Pine Canyon, they noticed a light over the Columbia River. They turned toward Wenatchee and pulled over near the present site of Lincoln Rock State Park.

"We watched it hanging over Rocky Reach Dam," Merz said. He said it hung motionless over the dam for about a minute and a half. Whatever it was, Vera said, it was extremely bright — too bright to allow them to identify any specific shape. Together, they tried to describe what hap-

pened next:

"All of a sudden, it went straight up and over part of Burch Mountain," said Merz.

"It lit up the mountain," said Vera.

"Just like a rocket," finished Merz.

They resumed their trip but pulled off the road again near the Odabashian Bridge when the object came back into view, traveling south across the valley, over the Wenatchee ridge. It lit up the trees and disappeared. Right then, a Wenatchee merchant police officer saw them parked and stopped to see if they were having car trouble. They told him what they had seen. He was skeptical.

"About that time, that sucker came back over, headed north," said Merz. "As it came

over the mountain, it lit up the trees again. He said, 'Is that it?' I said yes, and we watched as it took off north between Monitor and Cashmere."

Like the others, Merz remembers his UFO sightings distinctly.

"You get chills up and down your back because you're looking at something and you don't know what it is," Merz said. "I can still see it like it was yesterday. It made an indelible impression on me."

For the Merzes, their experiences with the unknown were not life-changing. Merz does like to read and watch documentaries about UFOs. But the two are no longer skeptics about other life in the universe.

"This confirmed it for me," Merz said. "There's something out there."

Is anyone out there?

In 1958, UFO sighting excites Brewster residents, Air Force

There were mighty strange goings-on in North Central Washington in the beginning of September 1958. First a flying saucer was spotted over downtown Brewster, and then a murder victim on Burch Mountain surrendered himself to police.

On Sept. 1, about 1:30 in the morning, Jewell Dean Riggan, described by reporter George Richardson for the Daily World as "an earnest young town policeman," saw a flying saucer while patrolling downtown Brewster.

"It was going northwest pretty slow," Riggan said, "and it seemed to be a big round circle. It was real bright. Just like looking into a spotlight."

Riggan couldn't tell if it was making any noise because of the whirring of a nearby air conditioning unit.

"But it went level for awhile," he said, "then it dipped, flashed real bright three or four times and then went out of sight behind some buildings."

He estimated that the saucer was about the size of a washtub, some three feet in diameter and 50 to 75 feet up in the air. But because distances are hard to gauge at night, it could have been higher and larger, he said.

Riggan followed the object in the direction of the airport. "That's where it looked like it either crashed or landed," he said, but he couldn't find any trace of it.

Riggan called the Okanogan sheriff's office and asked whether there had been any "sputniks" passing over.

Riggan got a call from the Air Force pressing for details. About 7 a.m. Major George Cambridge and other Air Force personnel arrived in Brewster. Helicopter and ground crews searched the area for the next few days. The Air Force didn't find anything, Riggan said.

"It could have taken off again, though," he said. "When I was heading back to town from the airport I saw a little funnel of smoke in the moonlight over where I figured it had landed. And all of a sudden the car motor acted like it was going to stop and the lights got dim. It might have been from using the radio. I don't know."

Riggan said that he did not know that other people who had reported seeing such



Time Was

Steven B. Smith
World Special Writer

objects had sometimes reported similar problems with their cars.

"I've got no idea what it was," he said. "I've never seen anything like it. It had no tail, and it wasn't a ball of fire. I didn't before, but I believe in flying saucers now."

People around town had differing views on the reported sighting.

Jack Doty, a Brewster attorney, said, "What impresses me is the terrific interest shown by the Air Force. There must be something there."

"They said they definitely were not looking for one of our missiles that had somehow gone astray. They were looking for something metal because they used mine detectors. And they were looking for something radioactive because they used scintillators."

"There is no question in my mind that Riggan saw what he described. It's obviously something beyond anything in our experience or knowledge."

But Bob Sheets, Brewster druggist, was not impressed. "Possibly a reflection of a headlight from a car; perhaps a meteor. Whatever it was, though, I'm sure it could be explained naturally if we could find any physical traces."

Dick Bennett, hardwareman and vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, was also skeptical. "I just can't put much faith in the flying saucer stories. I'd have to see one to believe it. Even then, I don't know whether I'd believe it."

Brewster School Superintendent A. J. Haugland was inclined to believe in extraterrestrial visitation but doubtful about Brewster as its locus. "I see no reason why this planet should have a monopoly on life. We're going to be projecting ourselves into space. There is no reason why someone on some other planet should not be doing the same thing."

"As far as our local sighting, I'm very skeptical. If there had been something



Jewell Dean Riggan



Dick Bennett

here, it seems logical that we would have found some trace, some scar. As dry as things are, it seems that something would have burned."

Don Adams, chief clerk at a local bank, put the matter into historical perspective. "When we were kids — about 1949 or 1950 — we did some research on the saucers. It seems that people have been spotting things like that since at least the 1800s."

"And, by gosh, if they've been around that long without doing anything, I'm not going to get worried now."

Meanwhile, back in Wenatchee, three teen-aged boys took two of their friends up Burch Mountain promising them "a rendezvous with a beautiful woman," according to the Daily World.

There was a car there waiting when they arrived, but as they walked toward it a man with a shotgun jumped out.

"What do you mean, fooling around with my wife," he shouted and fired the shotgun.

One of the boys fell to the ground, moaning, "I've been hit."

The two friends of the boys took off and ran to a farmhouse where they called the police.

The Chelan County sheriff and four deputies sped to the scene and found — nothing. No body, no blood, no gun, no cars. The officers told the boys that they would most definitely like to talk to their friends.

The "murder victim" turned himself in that night and admitted the hoax.

ISLANDER, Pensacola
Beach, FL - May 24, 1995

UFO Witness

Responds
To *Islander* Article.

By Carole Baker

After reading the article that appeared in last week's *Islander*, Bob, a tenyear Gulf Breeze resident sought out the skywatchers at Shoreline Park on Thursday evening to relate his recent experiences.

On Thursday evening, May 4, at about 7:20 p.m., Bob was driving home on Highway 98 after making a trip to Foodworld for milk. In the sky to the northeast he saw a triangle formation of lights which he described as being "the size of a 747." These lights were mostly red in color with "white lights coming down." They were behaving like chaser lights on a Christmas tree and Bob slowed his car to watch them as he drove, observing them fully for two and a half minutes before losing sight of them.

The following evening, May 5, around 9:30 p.m., Bob and his wife were driving on Highway 98 near Villa Venyce when his wife pointed out a light formation by asking Bob "What's that - that looks strange?" Again, it was a large triangle pattern of lights, "mostly red with a couple of white lights on one tip, like the chaser lights on a Christmas tree" Bob's wife said.

They watched it cross Highway 98 and go south towards the Gulf of Mexico over Villa Venyce. As it disappeared over the tree line, they decided to try to follow it and turned into Villa Venyce but were unable to catch sight of it again. "I don't know if it just blipped out or what happened" Bob said. Bob's wife told the group "I guess it could be described as a chevron shape."

It would appear that Bob's sighting of May 4, may confirm the sighting described in last week's *Islander*. It fits the criteria in terms of shape, size and proximity of place and time. It is interesting that he and his wife witnessed the same pattern on the following evening. The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group has received two other reports in recent months of large chevron shaped objects or light patterns being sighted along Highway 98.

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze group will add these sightings to its list of ongoing investigations and as always, would urge anyone who has seen anything unusual in our skies to come forward and call the MUFON hotline at 438-3261. Confirmational information such as Bob's is invaluable to our research team, so please, keep looking up!

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 10, 1995

Sightings Continue

Area Skies Filled With UFO Lights

By Carole Baker

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group is being kept busy as the local UFO flap appears to be continuing. Sightings have occurred this week both at Shoreline Park, the regular spot for local skywatchers, and in Pensacola.

At Shoreline Park on Saturday, April 29, skywatchers observed an extremely fast moving "bright white flash" travel across the sky above the Sound and almost overhead of the beach at the Park. One observer was the first to spot it, then about six others observed the subsequent action.

Twice the flash appeared almost overhead and at a height of about 100 feet, then the next flash appeared further down the Beach to the east. It then zipped back out over the dock where the flashes appeared in rapid succession forming a circular pattern. A split second later, the last flash was seen west of the dock.

The speed with which the source of these flashes moved was incredible, and the ball of light appeared to be about the size of a tennis ball each time it flashed on and off. Witnesses compared the brightness of the flashes to

those of flash bulbs on a camera. This sighting was fairly close to the witnesses, being between 100 and 300 feet away.

A call was made to the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON hotline by a Pensacola resident to report her sighting of Sunday, April 30 at 10:15 p.m.

After watching videos at a friend's house, she was driving home on Lillian Highway near the junction of 65th Avenue. To her left (east) above the tree line ahead of her, she observed a flashing red light "the size of a stop sign." At first, she thought it was a light on a radio mast or antennae, but soon realized it was far too large.

She was driving with the windows down and the radio off, and there was no noise detectable from the object. As she drove up level with it on her left, it changed light patterns and she could see "a shadowy circle with a red light on each side flashing on and off alternately."

Convinced by now that she was not observing a normal aircraft, she slowed her car almost to a stop to watch the object. As she did so, it changed light patterns again to a pulsating white light. She became nervous at being alone observing this

object and drove home to report what she had seen to her family.

Subsequently she called the Navy base, Pensacola Airport and Baptist Hospital Life Flight, all of whom advised her that nothing was flying in the area at that time. The sighting was of about three minutes duration.

On Wednesday evening, May 3, a visitor from Louisiana witnessed a bright light in the western sky which he felt at first could have been a star, but as he watched it grew in luminescence and size and then just blinked out.

He observed this from his vantage point in Shoreline Park at about 8:25 p.m. This sighting was confirmed by one of the veteran skywatchers who had seen the same thing while driving to the park. This witness observed the brightly flaring object as he drove west on Cervantes Street towards the Bayou Texar Bridge. He too had first thought it was a star, but as he watched, it grew very bright and larger in size and then just "blinked out."

As always, the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group is not releasing more details of these sightings until investigations are complete. We would like to thank the witnesses for coming forward and calling the MUFON hotline and encourage anyone who witnesses anything unusual to please call the hotline at 438-3261.

Keen Looking Up!

Abducted!

Why are alien beings roaming Brooklyn, Irish Hills?

By Steven Hepker

Staff Writer

Aliens abducted her, impregnated her, took her fetus, and gave her healing powers.

Judy would have laughed and flipped the channel if someone claimed such a story on television. But not after 1989, when what seems a whopping tale became her life.

"I do not blame anyone who doesn't believe me. I wouldn't believe it if it was not happening to me," said the Irish Hills resident. "If it all would stop today, I'd be very happy."

But Judy (that is not her name) cannot stop the alien visits nor call them at will. Nor can several family members and about 35 other area residents who claim aliens abducted them regularly, she said.

She will tell her story Saturday in an episode of the television show "Sightings." The program

"I never even watched 'Star Wars.' I had a family to raise, three children, a husband, a business. UFOs weren't part of it."

— Judy

airs at 7 p.m. on WLNS-TV, Channel 6. Several other area residents also were interviewed.

"It's pretty hard not to believe people are being abducted," said Eastern Michigan University sociologist Ronald Westrum, who ap-

pears on the show.

He said he has interviewed about 20 Brooklyn-Irish Hills area residents who have been abducted, apparently as guinea pigs.

"The experiments are almost always reproductive in nature," he said.

Judy's experience began in July 1989, starting with what she thought were fantastic dreams.

"A week after the dreams started I woke up late one night on an examining table being examined by a gray being with large, almond eyes," she said. "I couldn't move. I was paralyzed."

The visits have occurred several times a month since then, she said. Typically she finds herself floating out of her house, sometimes through doors, escorted by tiny gray creatures. She also has seen white and tan beings, about the

size of kindergartners.

They take her through the air to a spacecraft, to a room that is full of light. They perform mental and physical tests on her and others, and seem to be rearing a race of half human-half alien babies, she said.

"About three years ago they removed something from me that appeared to be a fetus," she said. "I drove straight to my doctor. I was lactating and my cervix was dilated."

Both are indications she was pregnant, but her Fallopian tubes had been cauterized in the 1970s, she said. She is in her 40s.

The aliens later showed her an infant who appeared to be half human and half alien. They told her, through telepathy, they have been doing such work for generations.

She has seen many other hybrid babies during abductions, and about a dozen times she has noticed neighbors and family members aboard the ships.

"The next morning I'll get a phone call from a neighbor who will say 'I saw you last night,'" she said. "Usually, after an abduction, my phone rings all morning from all over."

Pulsating lights, fog around her home, flashing mercury lights, spacecraft, balls of light, barking dogs, strange rings in her yard and helicopter traffic all have coincided with alien visits, she said. Sometimes Judy and her husband wake up with grass in their beds. Once, she woke up with her night shirt on backward, with a large spot of blood on the back.

Aliens, she said, also gave her an energy source that heals the sick.

More than 500 people have come to her for healing, and some have been healed, she said. Through touching she transmits the energy to those seeking help. Because of the demand for her free service, she has limited healing attempts to terminally ill children, she said.

A retired Brooklyn Exponent reporter said she does not doubt the accounts of Judy and other alleged abductees.

"They are just regular people," Holly Cogan said. "It's not something they asked for, and most didn't even have an interest in flying saucers."

Said Judy: "I never even watched 'Star Wars.' I had a family to raise, three children, a husband, a business. UFOs weren't part of it."

Cogan is often contacted by alleged abductees, and she puts them in touch with Westrum and with each other.

She started reporting on extraterrestrials in the early 1980s when she sat in while Westrum interviewed two Onsted boys who said they saw a mysterious little man with a grapefruit-sized head.

The typical alien reported by people across the globe is sort of a cross between insect and human: frail, grayish with a smooth head, tiny nose and mouth, and large, dark eyes with no pupils.

Westrum, Cogan and Little Wolf Lake scientist Dr. W.C. Levengood said the Brooklyn-Irish Hills area is a hotbed of unexplained activity.

Rose Smith of Norvell attests to that. She has seen unidentified lights and spacecraft for many years, including pulsating lights she videotaped two years ago. She said she is friends with Judy and believes she has been abducted.

"She went on the show to help people understand what is going on, that it's not someone's imagination," Smith said.

Judy said she turned down several TV offers, but agreed to do "Sightings" because the people associated with it seemed genuine. Her name, home location and other personal information will not be included.

Although Cogan does not see UFOs, her neighbors report seeing numerous lights and shapes in the sky. Cogan said her neighborhood

is plagued by helicopter traffic, as is Smith's.

"I saw 17 helicopters one night. Why? Where do they come from?" Cogan said.

One theory is that military helicopters are dispatched to the area to jam signals sent by alien spacecraft, she said. Helicopters and UFO reports seem to go hand in hand across the region.

"All the people in Norvell are very familiar with the helicopters and the strange lights," said Smith, who said she is a psychic.

Although military personnel, police and others have reported UFOs across the nation, few people call police after a UFO encounter, Westrum said. Area police agencies say they receive few, if any, reports.

"What can police do for them? And if you go to the press, you are ridiculed," Westrum said.

Those who see UFOs tend to remain anonymous.

One woman, for example, said she was followed home from Jackson one night by a bright light.

"I thought it was an emergency vehicle. I pulled over and looked, and it was above me," she said. "It was about like a mercury light or strobe light, but not blinding. It was like I was under a magnifying light."

"I could see the shadow of my Jeep. It was very bright. When I slowed down, it slowed down. I could have driven without lights, and it was pitch dark. The light followed me all the way home and disappeared."

One family moved away to try to avoid the abductions, but they did not escape. Many talk of mysterious scars, bright lights, little people with bug eyes, and sexual experiments while strapped to an examining table.

"It's no different than rape," Cogan said.

Some abductees report having no memory of time during which they seem to have been abducted. The "missing time" theory is a common theme in UFO literature and accounts by alleged abductees.

Judy said she is awake and aware of abductions about 90 percent of the time. Some abductions last two or three hours, she said. Her husband is sometimes taken on the same night. Her daughter and other family members also have been abducted, she said.

According to a 1991 Roper poll of 6,000 Americans, one in 50 claimed to have been abducted by aliens. Because alien abductions are associated with nighttime, dreamlike visions and "repressed memories" exposed by hypnosis, skepticism abounds.

One member of a local astronomy club, for example, wonders why — with all the time they spend stargazing — his group has never seen alien spacecraft.

Others wonder why a seemingly superior race would need to interbreed with humans or make repeated examinations of the same individuals. Or why there are few, if any, pictures or videos or physical proof of alien spacecraft.

But even skeptical scientists admit something unexplainable is happening here and elsewhere.

Levengood, a former University of Michigan biophysician who has a private lab, is studying strange rings in Judy's yard. He is a leading researcher of crop circles, most of which are reported in England.

"I have observed rings in her yard that are dark green and very rapidly growing," Levengood said. "They are not fairy rings. There are some very interesting alterations in the biochemistry of the plants. There are extremely strange energies here that do not fit the paradigms of science that I was taught."

He is not ready to confirm or deny that the rings could be caused by alien spacecraft or by some earthly force of nature. He said he simply has no proof for or against extraterrestrial life.

PRESS JOURNAL, Vero Beach, FL - June 2 (?), 1995

UFO Report Takes Flight

Investigators at the General Accounting Office are quietly skeptical about whether the U.S. Air Force told the truth when responding to a controversial request for information by a member of Congress in 1993. So far, however, investigators are not planning to voice their concerns in public, or in a report to be released next month.

At issue are events that took place nearly half a century ago in Roswell, N.M., the so-called "Roswell Incident," and whether the Air Force has told the truth about what it knows. Over the years, the Roswell Incident has become a cornerstone of UFO myth, chronicled frequently on television and in at least four books.

It all began in July 1947, when a rancher northwest of Roswell found debris from a crashed object he thought was a flying saucer. Aluminum foil-like bits and pieces were reported to be impervious to burning or ripping, and returned to their original shape after crumpling.

When the Army Air Force investigated, the first official press release issued by local officers declared that the military had found the remnants of a flying saucer. Within hours, however, higher-ups declared the first press release a mistake and explained that the debris was merely a downed weather balloon.

The story died for decades until the late 1970s, when television picked up on the story. Consistent denials by the Air Force, and the disappearance of related documents, only added fuel for the conspiracy theorists.

The issue finally made it to Capitol Hill when a UFO skeptic, Rep. Steven H. Schiff, R-N.M., decided to get to the bottom of things. In March 1993, he asked the Air Force to declassify and provide him with all material relating to the incident. But rather than search through their own re-

cords, Air Force officials referred Schiff to the National Archives, a move that Schiff took as an insult. The Archives promptly told Schiff it had no information.

"Typically, the Pentagon is eager to comply with congressional requests for information," a Schiff spokesman said. "Yet they just shunted us off to the Archives." Seven months later, Schiff called in the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to look for documents and to find out if the Air Force lied to him.

Jack Anderson



Once the accounting office launched its inquiry, the Air Force suddenly found documents, not in the National Archives, but in its own files. It issued a short report last September claiming the debris was part of Project Mogul, an experiment aimed at detecting future Soviet nuclear blasts by monitoring sound waves in the high atmosphere using airborne balloons and sensors. At the time of the Roswell Incident, however, the Soviets were still two years away from building their first nuclear bomb.

Though the General Accounting Office is not satisfied with the Air Force's explanation, it has confirmed the existence of Project Mogul. Officials add emphatically that no one involved in the audit believes the Air Force is covering up a UFO incident.

"But we do believe that something did happen at Roswell," said one source. "Something big,

We don't know if it was a plane that crashed with a nuclear device on it ... or if it was some other experimental situation. But everything we've seen so far points to an attempt on the part of the Air Force to lead anybody that looks at this down another track."

Enough things were happening around Roswell in 1947 to give the public a mistaken impression that UFOs were landing. Roswell was the home of the 509th Bomb Group, the atomic-weapons unit that bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki two years earlier. Not far away was Alamogordo and the Trinity Site, where the first atomic bomb was exploded. White Sands Missile Range had begun all its top-secret tests as well.

The Air Force predicts it will get a clean bill of health from the General Accounting Office. An office spokesman said we'd be "embarrassed" if we suggested their soon-to-be-issued report was slanted to be accusatory.

Another General Accounting Office source said:

"What we have found so far is that the Air Force has not told Schiff the whole truth. But we aren't pursuing the truth, either. All our auditors have done is verify that some of the information that was given to Mr. Schiff was very wrong. But we may not call it that way in the end, depending on the way you look at it."

While sources said the Air Force has been less than forthcoming, the General Accounting Office may not make the case in its upcoming report, especially since it might imply that the office believes a UFO landed at Roswell. "We will tend to err on the side of not fueling UFO theories," one official said.

You can contact Anderson through United Feature Syndicate Inc., 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10166.

show, actually heard from midnight to 2 a.m. Sunday, explores UFO reports, debates what the UFO community considers a government cover-up of UFOs, and delves into scientific reports about extraterrestrials.

"My point is that UFOs are real, they are extraterrestrial, and that the U.S. government knows about it," says the host, who is a marketing consultant by day, eight-year-veteran UFO researcher by night.

"The UFO community is bursting with information which we've got to share with

the American public," says Ms. Douglass. Her month-old show carries a very serious, conservative tone.

Skeptics are invited to call, and she's hoping for some of "those people over in McLean" to call too.

By Kitson Flynn

Unidentified flying radio

"What in the world could be more interesting than extraterrestrial life?" asks Elaine Douglass, host of WOL-AM (1450)'s newest talk show "UFOs Saturday Night." The



[All foreign clippings courtesy of Timothy Good]

WIDNES WORLD, Cheshire, England - March 2, 1995

Close encounter over Castlefields

A RUNCORN woman claims she saw a UFO "sucking water from the River Mersey."

Karen Conlon says six other passers-by witnessed the strange object last Monday night as they walked along Ferry View Walk, Castlefields.

And the amazing claims come just weeks after two British Airways pilots reported seeing "an alien craft" in Cheshire.

Karen, 31, said she was walking along the verandahs when she spotted a bright light over the Mersey.

"It was orange in colour and at first I thought it was a street lamp. I kept looking at it and realised it was too high to be a lamp - but too low to be an

aeroplane," explained Karen.

"I stopped to have a look and three teenage girls, a boy of about 10 and a young couple also stopped. Everyone was amazed at what they were looking at.

"The lad noticed a black beam underneath the craft going into the water and it appeared to be sucking the water up."

She continued: "We all stood there for about 10 minutes watching in disbelief. The craft was static for a long time and then it moved and looked to be heading towards Warrington."

"The three girls who were watching with us started waving and it turned and headed towards

us. It was then that I got quite nervous.

The shape of the craft changed from circular to rectangular and it tilted and I could see six red lights underneath.

"Then it stopped and headed towards Helsby and disappeared."

Karon said she was very sceptical about UFOs but is now baffled by what she saw.

"I felt more uneasy than frightened but curiosity got the better of me," she said.

"Whatever it is I think the public has a right to know what's going on. I really want the other people who were with me to come forward to verify

what I have said." Air Traffic Control at Liverpool and Manchester say they have no record of a craft being in the area at the time.

But BA pilots Captain Roger Willis and his co-pilot Mark Stuart reported seeing a similar "orange rectangular" craft over Congleton as they were trying to land their Boeing 737 jet at Manchester Airport three weeks ago.

The men said they were both shaken by what they saw. Controllers said their aircraft was the only thing that showed up on the radar.

Did you witness the craft with Karen last Monday? If so, contact the World on 051-424 6677.



UFO SPOTTER? Karen Conlon, who wants to hear from others who saw the "alien" craft (Photo No: B9512/5)

REVIEW, Montrose, Scotland - Feb. 16, 1995

An earthly explanation for UFO sighting?

A ST CYRUS woman believes she might have witnessed some out-of-this-world flying manoeuvres!

The woman - who was anxious not to be named - told the Review she heard a "whirring" sound outside her bedroom window at around 6.30 am last Thursday.

"I got up and heard the sound for about five seconds, thinking at first it was a flock of birds but soon realising it was far too loud for that.

"As I went towards my west-facing window I saw a yellow, oval-shaped object shoot past in the sky, about 60ft. in the air. Before I could get to the window it

had vanished and the noise had stopped.

"It's something I am at a complete and utter loss to explain," she said.

She contacted RAF Leuchars where an official took down details and said the Ministry of Defence would be notified.

"The gentleman seemed to take me seriously enough," she told the Review.

"My husband had left for work ten minutes before and he didn't believe me when I told him. He asked if it might have been his car headlights catching the light."

"Two things which count against that explanation are that he had gone ten minutes earlier and that I know what



by
ANDREW
WALKER

car headlights look like - and they don't zip past 60ft. in the air."

An RAF Leuchars spokesman confirmed they had been contacted by the woman.

"The airspace around that area is quite a busy corridor with quite a lot of low-flying," he added.

The Ministry of Defence's Kerry Philpott, who deals with UFO sightings, also confirmed the reported sighting.

"We have a responsibility

to ensure Britain's air defences have not been breached. When we are satisfied no such breach has taken place, our interest in a case stops".

She told the Review that there were nine reported sightings in the area last year and added that sightings were not uncommon in busy air corridors.

An RAF spokesman in London said he was satisfied a breach of Britain's air defence had not taken place.

"There used to be a lot of this kind of sighting, especially in the north of Scotland, during the Cold War. But there are usually perfectly earthly explanations behind sightings."

EVENING CHRONICLE, Newcastle, England - Feb. 17, 1995

Mum claims alien sighting

UFO expert Gloria Dixon could have found one of the first alien life-form sightings in the North East.

The 48-year-old mum was contacted by a Durham woman who claims to have seen a goblin-like creature with large, black oval eyes and dull yellowy skin.

Gloria is helping compile Tyneside's own X-Files and has been swamped with callers since starting the project last December.

Slowed

Head researcher of the British UFO Research Association for the North, she says the sighting was on a Bank Holiday on January 2 along the A690 road near Brancepath Castle.

Gloria, of Woodlands Park, Wideopen, said: "She had slowed down in her car and was about two yards away from it, she thought it's movements were funny."

"There's no way she would invent a story like this, she's a very down-to-earth person. "She



● UFO EXPERT - Gloria Dixon

wasn't shocked but was later apprehensive about what she had seen and contacted the police who put her in touch with us at BUFORA."

Other reported sightings include spacecraft in Lobley Hill, Gateshead, Felling, and over Monkseaton and Tynemouth.

Gloria has previously helped complete a new book Without Consent, about alien abduction. The latest reports will be put together for a follow-up book.

Anyone with more information or sightings can contact Gloria on (091) 236 8375.

SODBURY & YATE GAZETTE, Dorsley, England - Jan. 13, 1995

UFO reports continue to come in to The Gazette following the spate of sightings throughout North Avon reported last month.

Several people claim to have spotted a slowly-moving yellow light in the sky above Rangeworthy bank in 1983 on Christmas Day.

Monty Ellis, a retired senior postal worker and telephone exchange superintendent, told The Gazette that he and his wife saw the light at 5.05pm.

"It took the form of a moving yellow light in the sky," he said. "It was very similar to sodium street lights. As we watched, the light went out, but as it did so, the body emitted a short streamer of light."

Mr Ellis (78) estimated the light was about 1,500 ft above Barn Hill Quarry.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that the thing existed, but what it was I haven't the foggiest idea. It was a thoroughly unidentified flying object."

Roger Townsend, also of Rangeworthy, believes he saw the same object at the same time.

"It just looked like a light in the sky," he said. "But I thought it was very strange at the time and told my wife about it. Several other people rang me

More strange encounters . . .

and said they had seen the same thing."

Even further back in time a Yate pensioner saw a big leaden ball hovering in the sky between Chipping Sodbury and Wickwar in 1955.

Norman Buckeridge (80), of Bennetts Court, Yate, was among five people then living in Chipping Sodbury, who stopped and stared at the strange metallic globe as they prepared to go to work one morning. "We were all perplexed about it," he said.

By

JON ARMOUR

"Nobody knew what it was because this was something that came completely out of the blue.

"But I eventually realised what we had seen. There was no question that we saw something that was out of this world."

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England Dec. 12, 1994

Courting couple in UFO sighting

A UFO described as a swirling green light in the sky was reported by a South Ockendon family who watched it for 10 minutes before it disappeared.

Miss Jenny Palmer was outside her home saying goodnight to her boyfriend when they saw the strange phenomenon overhead. Jenny's mother Mrs Valerie Palmer said: "It was luminous green - not fluorescent like a teddy boy's socks, but more like the phosphorescent figures you used to get on watches."

The sighting occurred last Wednesday at about 11pm.

Police at South Ockendon had no UFO reports logged for that evening, but anyone who saw anything strange in the sky is asked to call Tim Stout at the Echo on 0268 522792.

The KFiles

Window to a strange new world

Certain places seem to have more than their fair share of paranormal activity. These places are known as "Window Areas".

In the early hours of a November morning, Mr LG was driving to work along an isolated country road. As he approached a diversion around a bridge that was under repair he noticed two bright white lights in a field off to his right.

Thinking that perhaps a farmer was out there with a tractor, he began to turn off the B road and saw something that would change his outlook on life.

Looking through his side window he saw a huge and complex machine hovering silently about seventy feet above his car.

In shock, Mr LG slowed down and studied the object, which he described as a sixty-foot disc with a curiously "cut off" and "indented" rear end. The underside of the craft appeared to be covered with an intricate mass of detail, which Mr LG called "plumbing and stuff like car exhausts and silencers".

At what he considered to be the front end were two recessed headlights, no doubt the lights he had first seen in the field.

Mr LG turned north along a minor road and the object appeared to pace his car for a few minutes before wheeling round and vanishing towards the north east at high speed.

high speed.

He arrived at work in a state of shock, which was not helped by the amused reaction of his workmates to his story. Checks were made with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence, who confirmed that nothing was flying in the area that night.

I personally interviewed the witness on two separate occasions and in my opinion he was telling the truth. In fact, he seemed



relieved that someone was finally listening to what he'd got to say without treating the whole thing as a joke.

Although Mr LG couldn't have known it at the time, his description fitted several other unpublished sightings that had taken place across the country.

In Buxton, a craft with two headlights and a complex mass of pipes on the underside had been reported, and at Darwen,

Lancashire, a huge ribbed diamond with two headlights had been seen.

A bit coincidental to say the least.

Reports were coming in thick and fast. Strange electric flashes were being seen, rotating pillars of light were reported and odd sounds were being heard and it all appeared to be centred on an area of rolling countryside and woods between Bretby and Repton.

The object seen by Mr LG had departed in the direction of the Bretby/Repton area. Perhaps this was unimportant, but then again...

Myself and a fellow investigator were completing our report on this area of high paranormal activity when someone who actually lived in the area told me a story of his encounter with something strange as he

'Strange electric flashes were being seen, rotating pillars of light were reported and odd sounds were being heard and it all appeared to be centred on an area between Bretby and Repton'

was walking back home late at night.

I have spoken to many people about their eerie encounters and have managed to remain fairly detached, but this one made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. A window had opened and something very nasty had come through...

— KF

Tales of the unexplained

NEWS, Stourbridge, England - Jan. 26, 1995

Lights spark UFO alert

Lights streaking across the West Midlands night sky sparked a fully fledged UFO alert last Thursday.

Police said a flood of 999 calls at 6.42pm reported mysterious bright red and orange objects overhead.

A police patrol in Moseley reported 'lights on a large rectangular object, longer than an aircraft' which 'disappeared' after a few seconds.

Another call came from Quarry Bank, where a Mr Clarke saw orange lights in the sky.

Inspector Geoff Tomkins of Brierley Hill police said: "At first we thought it might be an airship, but most reports spoke of the lights moving very quickly."

Officers consulted air traffic controllers and RAF Strike Command but drew a blank.

News/Express journalist Ben Jephcott saw the UFO himself from Shifnal in Shropshire.

He said: "A burning bright object crossed the sky overhead in two seconds, leaving a glowing trail."

"I am sure it was a meteorite or a satellite burning up in the atmosphere. It was not an alien battlecruiser."

CHRONICLE, Chester, England - Jan. 27, 1995

UFO investigation starts into 30-year-old mystery

OFFICIALS from a hush-hush Ministry of Defence department will next month be asked to shed light on a 30-year-old UFO mystery.

Dozens of young members of a wolf cub pack and their leaders witnessed the 'close encounter' at Hawarden in the summer or autumn of 1966.

Researchers from the British UFO Studies Centre at Winsford have already taken a detailed statement from one member who was 10 years old at the time.

But the investigation has hit a snag. A cub pack mistress and her daughter, also thought to be key witnesses, recently suffered a bereavement and are unlikely to be available to give evidence.

'This is one of the most promising sightings we have checked out in years,' said UFO Studies Centre director Eric Morris.

'But we desperately need more peo-

Exclusive by MIKE GREEN

ple to come forward to tell us what they saw.

'Details we have pieced together so far tend to discount suggestions that the UFO was an out of control weather balloon, a conventional aircraft, freak cloud formation or meteorite.

'There is no evidence either that witnesses were subject to some form of mass hypnosis or illusion.

'The more facts we can gather, the better the chance we have of assessing whether the object sighted was man-made or alien.'

Witness Ron Lalek, now a teacher and father-of-three living at Forest Drive, Broughton, remains convinced the craft seen hovering over the now demolished Red House, near Hawarden Station, came from another world.

'It made no sound arriving, but gave

out a mechanical sort of rumbling as it hovered overhead before veering away at a terrific speed,' he said.

'It was immense in size, dwarfing the buildings below it, cylindrical in shape, tapering at one end, luminous green in colour and appeared to have no doors, hatches or windows as seen in conventional aircraft.

'The sighting caused terrific excitement at the time. It was well within striking distance and we began throwing stones at it, but they were all deflected without making contact.

'Our pack leader got us away as quickly as she could, telling us that what we had seen was light shining from a low cloud.

'But I met her eight years later and she admitted reporting the incident to the police, who confirmed a number of similar sightings across the area over a three-day period.'

The UFO Studies Centre has pledged that evidence supplied by any other witnesses coming forward will be treated in strictest confidence.

'We are hopeful our meeting with MoD experts will clear up the mystery one way or another,' said Mr Morris.

'Our organisation takes great care over all research projects and is not given to fanciful speculation.

'In nine out of 10 cases a rational explanation can be given to explain away sightings and if that is the case on this occasion we will be happy to accept it.

'But on evidence gleaned so far we believe youngsters who made the sighting at Hawarden in 1966 may well have experienced something very special indeed.'

Witnesses prepared to volunteer statements to the UFO Studies Centre are asked to call 0606 553116.

GAZETTE, Clacton, England - Jan. 6, 1995

'We saw a UFO over the house'

A CLACTON couple claim to have spotted a UFO near their back garden.

At 2am on New Year's Eve, Linda Britton of Page Road was watching old gangster movies and went to make a cup of tea.

However, when she arrived in the kitchen, she said it was completely lit up by a large, round object hovering just above her house.

She called her husband Eddie and they looked at it for ten minutes before the object, which they said made a booming sound, shot off towards the town centre.

Stranger still, Mr Britton claimed that when he returned to his bedroom three ornaments and a large picture had fallen on to the floor, despite the room being empty and there being almost no draught.

He said at first he thought the UFO was lightning or the police helicopter.

A police spokesman said its helicopter was not in that area at the time.

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - Jan. 28, 1995

Hunt goes on for trousers with alien past

by Jane Findlay

A NATIONWIDE search was continuing yesterday for trousers taken from a Tayside pensioner as evidence in an international alien investigation.

And it was revealed the breeks were last seen at TV studios in London last summer.

The police-issue trousers were held by officers in Lothian and Borders after Bob Taylor (76), of Blairgowrie, claimed to have encountered aliens 15 years ago.

They have since gained celebrity

status among the world of UFO experts, being passed from country to country for examination.

But recently it was revealed that the trousers had gone AWOL and nobody knew where they were.

Mr Taylor said he was attacked and knocked out by the smell of "two round spiky things" while checking woods at Dechmont Law, near Livingston.

The retired forester claimed he was badly bruised and too weak to stand when his dog woke him up by barking.

An intensive police investigation followed and MI5 were rumoured to have been involved, and no satisfactory explanation has ever been offered.

After the attack, the trousers were initially held by forensic officers in Edinburgh.

Yesterday a spokesman for Lothian and Borders Police admitted: "We've not got them any more."

"The recollection is that they were returned. Unfortunately, as there are no records dating back, we can't prove this."

"We would generally only hold evidence until an accused has been charged. In this case there is obviously very little chance of this happening," he said. "The trousers should have gone back."

He added: "It's our belief they were passed on to London Weekend Television at some stage."

The trousers were featured on Michael Aspel's Strange But True series last year as part of a documentary into UFO sightings in Central Scotland.

Last night, programme editor David

Alpin said: "This is strange, but is it true? Where can Mr Taylor's trousers have got to?"

"I'll admit we had them when we were filming but that was last summer."

"As far as I was aware they were passed on to some UFO organisation after that but I don't know which one."

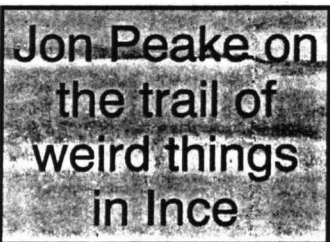
Mr Taylor was yesterday unavailable for comment at his Berrydale Road home.

His wife said: "Jings, this is going from bad to worse. Those trousers have been all over the place."

Brilliant light just dropped to Earth!

A BRIGHT orange flame soared towards the ground at a hectic speed. It looked like a plane but according to air traffic control reports, no plane had come down.
It was visible from miles around, so dozens of people must have seen - something.
This is the account of a handful of people from Higher Ince who are baffled by events which happened just over three weeks ago.
On the night of Monday, January 23rd a handful of people saw something come crashing to earth, landing in the park on Manchester Road, Higher Ince.

Police raced to the scene after being told what had happened by a local taxi driver, but found no debris and no evidence whatsoever of a plane crash.
They received absolute confirmation that there was no such crash from air traffic control and the air force.



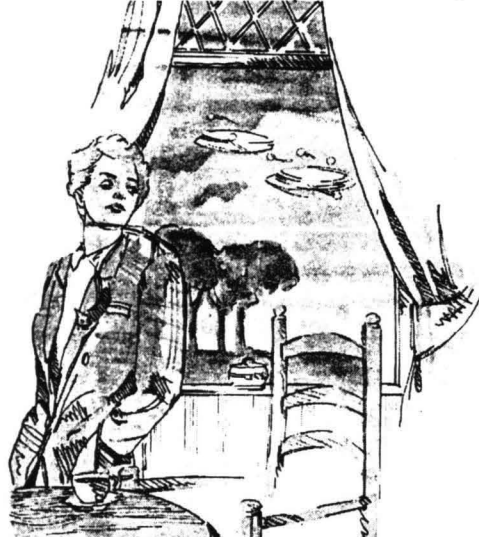
Jon Peake on the trail of weird things in Ince

So what was it?
Thirteen year old Sebastian Willerton was delivering papers with his friend Anthony Bayliss at the time of the incident.
Sebastian told The Reporter: "At first we thought it was some-one mucking about with fireworks in the field but Anthony realised it wasn't and said it looked like a plane had crashed."
"I didn't pay much attention but he kept going on saying it was a plane crash."

Another observer who gave a more vivid account of the incident was John Walthew of Higher Ince.
John recalled: "It was close to eight o'clock and I was walking up Manchester Road, not paying much attention as it was very cold, and I was well wrapped up."
"I couldn't help noticing something not so far in the distance though, dropping out of the sky."
"It looked very

much like a light aircraft and it went down in the vicinity of the park on Manchester Road.
"I didn't think much else of it and I didn't investigate further because it was a very cold night, but when I read the story in the Reporter entitled 'UFO's in Higher Ince' I recalled the incident in my head and remembered something that I had found a little odd at the time.
"Before the object crashed (if it did crash), it seemed to pause above the ground for a split second. It was only a split second though and I can offer no explanation as to why that might have happened if it was an aircraft.
"But with no debris or evidence to suggest it was a plane that had crashed, I - having seen it with my own eyes - refuse to rule out the possibility of it being a UFO, which could very well have

landed on the park in Higher Ince.
"I am not one to make things up - that is what I saw and it is very likely that there is



▲It looked like a firework display or a plane crashing - but there were no fireworks over Wigan that night, and no plane had come down.

a perfectly rational explanation - but maybe there isn't."
Just after the New Year period, a resident of Wigan Road, Standish saw something in the skies above her house early one morning.
The woman, who doesn't wish to be named, woke up at around 6am and looked out of her bedroom window to be greeted by two large objects quite low in the sky, surrounded by flashing lights.
There was no sound whatsoever, it was completely silent ... the objects flew off in the direction of Winter Hill.
A short time later the women heard helicopters outside, obviously looking for whatever it was she had seen.
What are these strange sightings? Could the Higher Ince lights simply have come from a flare or a firework?
Are there UFOs monitoring Wigan? Are there other beings watching us? Whatever it is these people have seen, until an actual craft lands and a seven-eyed, three-legged creature steps out speaking in an unknown dialect, stories such as this one, will be read-but swallowed with only a morsel of belief.
If UFOs were planning their assault on the Planet Earth would they really choose Wigan as their landing place?
It seems they might.

Scientists may study 'UFO photo'

SCIENTISTS at US space agency NASA could examine what experts think are some of the most exciting UFO pictures taken in Britain.

The photographs - showing a mystery alien face at the window - could be analysed by ufologists all over the world.
Hull UFO expert Chris Lawson believes the strange sightings near Withernsea could hold vital clues for scientists trying to explain the phenomena of outer space.

Withernsea pensioner Muriel Rowbottom and her daughter Sandra Walton could not believe their eyes when they saw giant orange balls in the sky.
They took photographs which they claim later showed the outline of an alien face peering through the window.
"They are convinced alien forces are following them, after a series of unexplained events."
"We know what we saw and we are convinced they are UFOs and that what we saw were aliens in the sky," said Miss Walton.
"NASA will only tell us what we already know but the pictures might help explain things in research about UFOs."

By Kath Knapp
NEWS REPORTER
Miss Walton is considering hypnotherapy in a bid to remember more details about the bizarre display of lights and shapes.
Chris Lawson, a member of the British UFO Research Association, believes their experiences match other reported sightings of UFOs in the Holderness area.
He wants to send the pictures for enhancement and light-blasting treatment at American laboratories with links to NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
MUFON - the official American UFO group - also wants to examine the prints.
"Miss Walton has confirmed other important UFO phenomena that have happened elsewhere and it is of major importance."
"I intend to have this lady go through a hypnotherapy session to give more clarity to what she saw."
"These things could take some time but I am very interested, particularly in the photographs."
Miss Walton and her mother Muriel (68), of Queen Street, Withernsea, were staying at a bungalow near Sproatley when they had their first encounter with a UFO.
Then they saw a UFO from their Withernsea flat window.

Another UFO seen in skies over Perth

ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED flying object has been observed in the skies over Tayside.
An object described as a "perfect white circle" was spotted in the sky near Perth by a Pitlochry man and his two work colleagues on Wednesday.
The man, who does not wish to be named, said that he was in a car travelling to the village of Stanley just after 4.30 pm, when one of his colleagues called his attention to a huge, circular object in the sky.
"At first I thought a pilot had been messing around 'drawing' circles with the vapour trail of his aircraft, but the three of us got out of the car and stared at it for about half an hour and, unlike vapour, it didn't disperse," he said.
"It was very clear and bright on Wednesday, so it couldn't have been a cloud and it was about twice the diameter of the moon," the man continued.
Brian Kelly, resident astronomer at Mill's Observatory, Dundee, said he knew of no astronomical phenomenon on Wednesday that would account for this sighting.
"At 4.30 the sun and the moon were still visible in the sky so it would have been too bright to see anything else," said Mr Kelly.

A spokesperson for Dundee Airport said they had received no reports of unusual objects in the sky on Wednesday, but the low position of the sun at this time of year - when it is almost on the horizon - could cause reflections from satellites or aircraft to appear as unusual apparitions.
The Pitlochry man said he often worked until late at night and had witnessed a whole range of night-sky activities from shooting stars to comets and meteors.
"This was like nothing I've ever seen before," he commented.
"It reminded me of a huge hula hoop - just hanging there in the sky."
"It must have been floating at over 30,000 feet because I saw a commercial aircraft flying underneath it."
The sighting is the third unidentified object spotted in the Tayside skies in the last two weeks.
Shepherd Peter Lambie saw two shiny oval shapes hovering near Aberfeldy on January 30 and a Forfar woman described seeing mysterious blue and white lights on January 29.
Neither of these sightings has been satisfactorily explained either.

Another report of UFO in Tayside

THERE HAS been another report of unexplained lights in the skies over Tayside, this time by a woman in Blairgowrie.
The woman, who does not wish to be named, claimed she saw a brilliant oblong shape hovering to the south of Blairgowrie.
This is the latest in a series of sightings and it was only after hearing of others that the woman decided to report her own experiences.
"I saw it on February 1 at 8.45 pm," she said.
"It was a very brilliant salmon pink colour - more brilliant at the edges than in the middle - and it was there for about 30 seconds before it went fuzzy then disappeared."
"It was a clear oblong shape about a third of the size of the moon as we see it from the ground."
When she contacted the

Mills Observatory in Dundee they said the sighting was not connected to anything astronomical.
"I never believed in UFOs or anything like that but I do now," she said. "There is definitely some kind of phenomenon."
Dundee Airport said they had not heard of any reports of this nature.
However, a sighting of a white circle of light on Wednesday by three men in Pitlochry prompted an airport spokesman to comment that the low sun in winter can cause reflections from satellites, or aircraft can appear as unusual apparitions.
Other sightings include blue and white lights above Forfar on January 29 and two shiny oval shapes hovering near Aberfeldy the following day.
Nobody from the Mills Observatory was available for comment last night.

Mystery sighting in Ashbourne skies

A BELPER man claims he spotted a UFO hovering around the Ashbourne area, nearly 24 hours before a second reported sighting over Broadhome Cemetery.
John Cadman explained that he saw the mystery craft at around 10pm on New Year's Eve while visiting his daughter's house in Bradley, near Ashbourne.
"I just happened to look out of the window and saw a round object covered in about

50-60 very bright green lights," explained John.
"It seemed to be about 2,000-3,000 feet up in the sky and was the size of normal full moon, with a yellowish glow above it."
John watched the stationary object for about two or three minutes before it began to move slowly away in the direction of Belper.
"I've no idea what it was, but I'm certain it wasn't any type of normal craft. It made

no sound what so ever and was perfectly round, I've never seen anything like it."
Mr Cadman said he hadn't thought about reporting the incident until he saw the report in the Dales Trader last week of a second sighting near Belper on New Year's Day.
A Derby couple spotted an object, which was also covered in 'very bright lights' hovering above Broadhome Cemetery just off the A6 at 5.55pm.

Mystery face at the window

By Kath Knapp
NEWS REPORTER

AMERICAN scientists are examining some of the first UFO pictures ever taken in the county.

A Withernsea family claim mystery aliens have been following them for the past two years.

And experts say they know of similar sightings in parts of rural Holderness.

Sandra Walton and her mother Muriel Rowbottom couldn't believe their eyes when they saw giant orange balls hovering in the sky above a bungalow in Sproatley.

An enormous white ball - with a mystery shutter - loomed above them and they ran to their house.

The sky changed colour, they heard a loud noise like an aeroplane taking off and house alarms started to ring.

"It was very frightening. We were scared to look but I pointed the camera at the window in the hope of catching a picture of it," said Miss Walton (38), who lives with her mother in Queen Street, Withernsea.

She later found huge dents in the grass outside the house where she

Experts study 'aliens' picture

believes the white spaceship would have landed.

During her stay at the remote property, she claims the volume on the hi-fi system mysteriously turned itself up and other members of her family witnessed strange goings-on.

The bungalow was badly burned in an unexplained fire shortly after one of the sightings.

"I couldn't stay there any more - weird things kept happening and it was very frightening. People will think we are nuts but we know what we saw," she said.

"We checked with military and civil authorities to see if they could explain it but there was no scientific or natural explanation."

Then earlier this year, they watched an enormous UFO ball shoot in front of the window overlooking the sea at their property in Withernsea.

Mrs Rowbottom (68) said: "It was shooting over the top of Teddy's Club really quickly. It lit up the sky and stayed there for almost two hours."

They called the police who told them to keep taking pictures of the mystery objects.

A spokesman for Hedon police said they treated all reports of UFOs seriously.

The pictures have been sent to a photo-analytical laboratory in America where scientists will check them for authenticity.

UFO expert John Holman, who has seen three flying objects, said: "Both women are very sincere and I believe what they said."

"Other people from Holderness have come forward with similar sightings recently."



TOP: Is this the face of an alien?
The photograph was taken from a Sproatley bungalow and shows the outline of a mystery figure. It is currently being studied by experts in the US.
ABOVE: Mrs Muriel Rowbottom, who claims to have seen and photographed UFOs.

TIMES, Whitstable, England - Jan. 19, 1995

Is town on an extra-terrestrial flight path?

Keep an eye on the sky!

FOLLOWING recent sightings of unexplained clusters of lights in the Whitstable skies, reporter Neil Pickford went to visit UFO expert Mervyn Newell (pictured) at Greenhill to see if he could come up with any answers.

REPORTS of unidentified lights and objects in the sky above Whitstable have captured the imagination of Times readers.

Some are convinced these lights are the planet Venus, while others are certain the lights moved in such a way that they could not be any kind of astronomical phenomena.

No-one seems sure what the lights are, but one man who may be able to help us is Mervyn Newell, from The Grove, Greenhill.

Mr. Newell (52) is the co-ordinator of the East Kent UFO Research Unit and has been fascinated by unidentified flying objects since a boy.

At 12 years of age Mr. Newell read a book about UFOs called *Flying Saucers Have Landed* and ever since he has had a great interest in the unexplained.

Mr. Newell said: "My first reaction to the book was that it couldn't possibly be true but since I was 20 I have been investigating UFOs to make up my own mind."

In his 40 years of research, Mr.

Newell has only had one sighting. He said: "About 15 years ago I was in Deal and saw a large orange ball moving at high speed against the wind. As I watched, it moved at right angles. It was seen by about 5,000 people and was also seen in Calais and Boulogne."

Mr. Newell says his research group, formed about three years ago, has 40 members. He said: "We are not interested in little green men or people that claim to have been abducted by aliens. We simply study unidentified flying objects and try to establish what they are."

Alien spaceships

"Our biggest problem is that there are hundreds of sightings every year and far too many people are willing to say they are alien spaceships."

"We do not know if these things are spaceships, in fact, we do not know what they are. Professional astronomers believe there are suns in our universe far older than our own so, if civilisation does exist on the planets orbiting these suns, the civilisations are likely to have a far greater intelligence than our own. This means there is a possibility that other civilisations could send advanced craft further across space than we can."

One explanation for the Whit-

stable lights is that they may have been a hot air balloon. Mr. Newell said: "We were aware of a lot of balloon activity in the area recently and the flames and lights on balloons could be mistaken for a UFO."

When asked if the lights could be the planet Venus, Mr. Newell said he was not sure but an astronomer in the research unit was looking into the possibility.

Mr. Newell says there have been other sightings of UFOs in this part of Kent in recent years - the most famous being the Canterbury sightings in 1990.

His group is currently working with staff at the University of Kent on video footage shot by a Surrey man that shows an unidentified object with a flat bottom and a domed top flying through the sky. The film lasts about 18 seconds, at the end of which the object doubles back on itself at great speed before shooting off at an angle.

Mr. Newell says there is always the chance footage like this is faked but he has met the man who shot it and he maintains it is absolutely genuine.

One of the major problems facing researchers is that they are often unaware of technological advances that may have been made and have not come to the public's attention.

Mr. Newell said: "We are always dealing with the problem of technology."



"Advances will always be made that the public is not told about."

"The standard Ministry of Defence answer when we make inquiries about a UFO is that if there is no defence implication it is not concerned. This leads us to think that either it knows what the objects are or that it doesn't know what they are and is as much in the dark as we are."

When asked if he thought alien life-forms existed and were piloting craft to earth, Mr. Newell said: "It would be egotistical of man to think that he is the dominant being in the universe."

"It might be a blessing if there are other life-forms out there. It is my opinion that other things, such as aliens, may well exist."

Other life-forms

So there you have it. No-one knows - or will probably ever know - if the lights above Whitstable were an alien spaceship, the planet Venus, a hot-air balloon or an aircraft.

But as FBI agent 'Spooky' Mulder says in BBC2's drama about the unexplained - "the truth is out there".

Mr. Newell is anxious for anyone who has seen an unidentified flying object to contact him. He says that time is of the essence in any investigation. He can be contacted on 364291.

NEIL PICKFORD

Corn field circles the work of alien force, say experts

EXPERTS are now convinced that corn circles which appeared in a Leconfield farmer's field were the work of an "alien force."

An American laboratory has analysed samples taken from farmer Peter Lount's field, after three corn circles mysteriously appeared last summer.

The results from the Pinelandia and Bayville labs have been forwarded to corn circle students in the UK, who are now sure the circles were not created by hoaxers.

The convener of Yorkshire and Humberside's branch for the Centre of Crop Circle Studies, Mr John Holman, said it seems fairly conclusive they were made by "something other than human beings".

Air movement combined with heat appears to have caused the corn circle effect.

"It appears to heat up the plants like microwave energy does," said Mr Holman.

He believes an alien force may be manipulating the energy to make the corn circle shapes.

"My conviction is it is not human beings. I don't particularly want to label it as alien beings. It may be some other intelligence that has not got a physical form. It might have a physical form, it might not."

"It is an intelligence from some other source other than human beings," he said.

The regional group aims to keep an eye on the Leconfield site for any more corn circles this summer.

"In the past, circles, sometimes for two or three years, have come back to the same field," said Mr Holman.

Farmer Mr Lount still believes hoaxers are to blame for the circles but he said he would co-operate if the experts want to carry out further examinations.

Mr Holman said five teams up and down the UK would be taking samples from corn circles this summer.

Last year, Mr Holman claimed to have found a geometrical relationship between circles at Leconfield, Copmanthorpe and Acaster Malbis.

★ A CHRISTIAN Spiritualist from Whitstable believes he knows what the mysterious lights above the town are.

Mr. George Jones (68), of Tankerton Road, Whitstable, is a medium and a spiritual healer and he claims that just before Christmas he told congrega-

tions around the south of England that there would be great, glorious lights over most counties.

Mr. Jones explained: "I have spoken to the great consciousness of spirituality and was told that great lights would come upon the earth just after Christmas to help us live correctly."

"I was told that the lights would be shown to all of us and that by the year 2001 the whole of the earth will be covered by a beautiful light of love and truth."

• For further reaction, see letters on page 6.

UFO mystery in sky

Schoolboy has two close encounters

A SERIES of close encounters with unidentified flying objects has left Port people puzzled.

Schoolboy Steven Farrell heard a strange metallic whooshing sound over his home in Alvaney Road around 7pm on March 11.

When he went outside, he saw an odd-looking craft hovering in the distance.

The 15-year-old said: 'It was quite high in the sky, just below the clouds. It was triangular shaped, with two red lights on the side and a yellow one on top. Then it disappeared in the distance.'

The mystery craft was also seen by Steven's mum Barbara, who watched it for nearly 10 minutes before it flew off.

She said: 'It looked like a large star except for the colours, I could see red and yellow lights. It didn't sound like an aeroplane, it was making a kind of buzzing sound.'

Steven reckons he had a second close encounter three days later on March 14.

By ROB BRADY

'I think there were two craft. There was no sound this time, but they disappeared very quickly - faster than any plane I have seen,' he said.

Steven's first sighting was backed up by another witness, Gary Caslin, who saw a strange light in the sky while driving home with a friend in the early hours of March 12.

The 25-year-old from Greenfield Road, Little Sutton, said: 'I was driving along Rossmore Road West when I saw a bright light in the sky about a mile away. It was flickering very fast like a strobe light.'

'Then it suddenly dropped out of sight behind a row of houses. It couldn't have been a helicopter because it went down so fast and it definitely wasn't a plane unless it had crashed. It's really left me puzzled.'

UFO investigator David Williams, who has recently set up a study group in the Port, believes the two sightings could be connected.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: Steven Farrell and his mother Barbara, who believe they spotted a UFO over the Port.

More than sheep to see

SHEPHERD Peter Lambie could hardly believe his eyes yesterday morning when he was out on the hillside on his way to feed the sheep, for hovering in the sky in front of him were two oval shapes surrounded by bright lights.

"I don't believe in UFOs," he said, "but there was definitely something there."

Mr Lambie, who works on the Bolfracks Estate near Aberfeldy, went on: "I was in the Land Rover on my way to feed the sheep at about eight o'clock when I noticed these shiny oval things hovering over the woods."

"There were two, one slightly to the right and behind the other one."

"I thought at first it was just a heap of stars or a couple of aircraft but after about five minutes they slowly moved away over the skyline. They were completely silent."

Mr Lambie said the objects were high in the sky and from the ground looked about six feet long.

"Obviously they must in fact have been bigger than that."

The shepherd, who in all his time working on the hillside, in all weathers and at all times of day and night, has never seen anything like it before, said, "They were hollow in the middle and glittering round the outside. I couldn't see any detail."

Puzzled rather than frightened, he added, "I don't know what I think now. I don't believe in UFOs, but I definitely saw them today."

A spokesman from RAF Leuchars said they had had no reports of anything unusual yesterday morning and added that they did not have any aircraft flying at that time.

"We often get people reporting sightings and they are always taken seriously. Sightings can sometimes be explained by meteorological conditions."

A spokesman at Aberdeen meteorological office said the incident could not be explained as a weather phenomenon.

"It was completely clear at that time with none of the lenticular clouds—often saucer shaped—which might sometimes cause confusion."

FOREST & WYE VALLEY REVIEW, Lydney, Gloucestershire, England - Feb. 10, 1995

UFO seen at Bridge of Don

A MYSTERY object has been sighted flying across the night sky above Aberdeen.

Photo sales assistant Anne Marnie (42) was left rubbing her eyes in disbelief after her early morning close encounter.

She had gone to her door at 3am to get one of her cats when she saw a bright, white band of vapour in the sky above her Bridge of Don home.

Stunned Anne, Forvie Crescent, traced the vapour to its source - a craft with two or three lights which was travelling at speed.

She said: "I couldn't identify it. It wasn't a plane or helicopter. It also made a deep noise which didn't sound like a plane."

"I looked away for a few seconds, then when I looked back it had disappeared. I can't describe or explain what it was so to me it's an Unidentified Flying Object."

Anne's experience is the latest in a series of strange sightings in the North-east, including reports of a huge luminous cloud spotted above Muchalls last year.

A brother and sister claimed to have

seen white lights moving within it, going left and right, on and off.

The latest sighting is unlikely to have been a plane landing at or leaving Aberdeen as the city airport shuts at 10.30pm.

City aviation expert Jim Ferguson says the object may have been a large plane flying across the North-east en route to another country.

A vapour trail could be seen on a clear night if the moon was bright, he said.

"In situations like this it could be something like a 747 Jumbo flying at high levels between the Low Countries and the US," said Mr Ferguson.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority couldn't say whether a civilian aircraft would have been flying over the city at the time of the sighting.

The Ministry of Defence says many reports of alleged UFO sightings are also proved to be natural phenomena.

■ What do you think? Write to the Evening Express, Postbag, Lang Stracht, Mastrick, Aberdeen AB9 8AF, or fax your letter to 0224 699575.

EVENING EXPRESS, Aberdeen, Scotland

Jan. 20, 1995

A UFO

I AM writing to you with regard to your recent request for information about UFO sightings in the area.

I was fortunate enough to observe a UFO on December 31, 1994, the details of which I have enclosed. These details have also been sent to Mr Tony Dodd of the UFO magazine.

The sighting I refer to happened at around 9.20pm on New Year's Eve. I was standing in my back garden having a quiet puff on a cigar while waiting for my wife to return from work so that we could go to a New Year's Eve party together. The sky was clear and the stars made extremely good viewing.

Suddenly from my right a trio of dull orange lights

appeared. Once I had focussed on these lights I realised that they were on the points of a triangular-shaped craft which passed directly overhead. This craft was either black or dark grey in colour and was obviously solid as the stars were blotted out as it went by.

The only noise to be heard was a rushing air-type sound. It was in full view for around 7-10 seconds. A rough guess as to its altitude would be around 500-700 feet up.

I can't say what it was, but I know that it was not a conventional aircraft, balloon or any other easily explained phenomena.

I hope this will be of interest to you and would be happy for you to pass on this information to Mr Carter of Weston-super-Mare.—Name and address supplied, Caldicot.

NEWS & ADVERTISER, Lynn, England - Jan. 20, 1995

Three see weird red lights in sky

WEIRD red lights hovering over countryside near Swaffham last Thursday night have convinced three West Norfolk teenagers they were out of this world.

The youngsters, all 17, claim they watched the unidentified flying objects for one-and-a-half hours as they drove around backroads towards North Pickenham.

The lights were said to zoom across the sky noiselessly at an incredible speed, then slow to almost standstill, before shooting off again.

One teenager, Nathan Hewitt, of Lynn Road, Downham, contacted RAF Marham when he got home at about 9.45pm. But he said he was told they had no aircraft in the area at the time and nothing had appeared on radar.

Story: KAREN CLOUDESLEY

"It was amazing - like nothing I have seen before in my life," Nathan insisted. He claims he witnessed the lights with friend Nicholas Cade, also of Downham, and another youth, from Shouldham, who wishes to remain anonymous.

"There were three. Each had a red flashing light at the front, fading from bright to dim, and a constant red light at the back. There was no shape to them - it was really weird," said Nathan.

The teenagers, who were driving around in their friend's new car, at one time found one of the lights was flying level with them over some woods.

While trying to follow the lights, they pulled over and

watched as one 'object' hovered over a patch of woodland, then dropped out of sight, followed by the second set.

"We were gobsmacked," said Nathan, adding that there could be no logical explanation. "They were definitely not aeroplanes or helicopters, they were going too fast."

RAF Marham community relations officer Squadron Leader Ed Bulpitt told the Lynn News only one aircraft took off from the base on Thursday night, and there was nothing which could have been attributed to the strange lights.

● Did you see any UFOs near Swaffham? Call Nathan Hewitt on Downham (01366) 384728, or the Lynn News newsdesk on Lynn (01553) 761188.

Couple keep a UFO diary to solve lights mystery

LIFE has taken a peculiar twist for Martin and Debbie Underwood since they moved to Crowstone Road, Westcliff six months ago.

They have been mesmerised by a series of strange, flashing lights they can see from their windows.

Now they are keeping a log on the sightings for the UFO group, London United Flying Object Studies, whose chairman lives in Chelmsford.

The group says it will investigate and is interested in the strange shape and movement of the lights but has not ruled out the possibility they are from commercial aircraft travelling to and from Southend Airport.

Last week the Underwoods saw strange lights on three consecutive nights, including a pear-shaped light and a triangular-shaped cluster.

Martin tried taking a photograph of one but it shows only a white speck. He has also made some drawings.

Martin, 21, an unemployed shop

By DONNA ADEY

worker, said: "On Thursday at about 6.25 in the evening I saw what at first looked like a very bright star, only there were no other stars near it."

"It was white and pear-shaped just hovering and flashing for about five minutes, then it went upwards in an arc shape and disappeared."

While Martin was watching from his front room window with 19-year-old Debbie he quickly took a snap with his camera. He said the light was about 300 to 400 yards above the house in the Southend/Shoebury direction.

Barry King, chairman of LUFOS, made some checks and found that there was no MOD activity at the Shoebury experimental site at the time. Nor did anything show up on radar at Southend Airport.

On Friday evening at around 7.10 p.m., Martin saw a cluster of flashing lights.

He said: "They were white,

green and red and sort of zig-zagged upwards. They were only there for a moment. They were nothing like aircraft lights."

Very late on Saturday night he saw red and white lights in a triangle shape which just whooshed upwards.

The couple, who have a 16-week-old son, Joshua, have seen odd lights in the sky like these before.

Martin, who used to live in nearby Ramuz Drive, said: "I first saw them shortly after we moved here in October and Debbie saw five lights directly above the front room in January."

Speaking about the three latest sightings, Barry King said: "We have completely ruled out military activity and atmospheric conditions but there was a lot of commercial air traffic in the area at these times and we cannot rule that out 100 per cent at this stage."

"Mr Underwood is adamant that they were not aircraft lights and we are certainly interested in the shapes he describes."



ALERT: Martin Underwood seeks another UFO

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Feb. 16, 1995



SKETCH: Bette and the drawing she made of her pear-shaped visitor

SURE enough, this pear-shaped thing was hovering over Bette Singleton's home for the second night in succession.

Mrs Singleton, 80, first saw it flying over the rooftops at Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh, at 4am on Saturday.

Next night, she stayed up and saw it above a large chestnut tree.

Bette's chestnut tree sprouts a flying pear

And as she looked out of her bedroom window, the object became so bright it hurt her eyes.

"It has taken me a day to get

my sight back to normal," said Mrs Singleton, retired boss of a Southend accommodation agency.

She was so convinced about

the mysterious craft that she decided to sketch it.

Mrs Singleton, who intends to report her discovery officially, said she and three friends spotted a similar object several years ago.

A spokeswoman at Leigh police station said no reports of UFOs had been received over the weekend.

HALSTEAD GAZETTE, Essex, England - Jan. 20, 1995

Touring aliens blamed for mystery sightings in sky

ALIENS have landed in Halstead!

They didn't stay long, but their silver saucer landed in a field near Greenstead Green.

Honestly!

Local UFO expert Barry King has detailed reports of the incident, which was back in 1966.

He claims that a couple in their 30s and their 12-year-old son, who lived in White Horse Avenue, Halstead, saw the landing while they were in their car.

"They saw a silver object in the sky," Barry explains. "The sun was reflecting off it and the object suddenly dropped."

The "disk-like object" which was described

as having a low humming sound, landed in a field just 100 metres away and stayed there for about 40 seconds before flying off.

Mr King also has reports of UFO sightings in Great Yeldham and Sible Hedingham.

Apparently, in Hedingham, alien forces interfered with the area's electricity.

In 1973 two people, again in their car, saw bright red, green and white lights in the sky. When they got out of the car the lights, making a "soft whooshing sound", came towards them.

When they got home they found that the whole village was blacked out, and the clocks had stopped at the exact time they saw the lights.

The electricity board couldn't give any explanation.

A woman in Great Yeldham reported her sighting of a large glowing disc, this time with wings and legs, to the police in 1977.

Although Barry King doesn't have any recent reports of alien life in the area, it would seem that for a while Halstead was a veritable magnet for touring ETs.

Mr King, of London UFO Studies, is holding a public meeting on the subject on Friday January 27 at the Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane in Chelmsford, at 7pm.

Tickets, at £4, can be bought on the door or in advance by writing to Barry King at 27 The Green, Melbourne, Chelmsford, CM1 2BQ.

FOREST & WYE VALLEY REVIEW, Lydney, Gloucestershire, England - Jan. 20, 1995

Flashing lights

I AM writing regarding the article written about UFO sightings.

This experience happened just before Christmas. My daughter was in her bedroom in the evening on this particular night. She came running downstairs shouting "look Mum, come upstairs, look out of the window, there are lights flashing in the woods."

Because she is only young I dismissed it, thinking that it was only a child's imagination. But she insisted and I did go upstairs and looked out of the window. Right enough, way up in and over the woods in the distance there were fast moving lights which at first I thought may be scramblers or even a car.

But after watching for almost an hour, I knew this was no car or scramble bikes. I could not understand what we saw.

I tried to play it down to my daughter but we both stood watching and even opened the window to see if we could hear anything.

The light seemed to change colour and moved extremely fast from one place to another, like a fast moving jet from one end of the wood to the other.

What really made me think was that the light at one time seemed to go up into the air above the trees and back down again. It was very unusual.

I thought it may have been something to do with a few Travellers which are in the area, but it was not spotlights. I can't explain it.

I told my husband, but no-one told anyone else as people would think you a bit crazy saying that we had seen things like this. I certainly do not believe in UFO's or anything supernatural. I have always dismissed other people's sightings as a matter-of-fact, but after seeing what we did, I'm not so sure.

There is probably a simple explanation. In all the years I have lived in this village I have never seen anything quite like this before.—A resident of English Bicknor.

Mystery noise

ALTHOUGH we haven't actually seen a UFO, we have heard something very strange.

I'm afraid I've forgotten the date as it was some time ago, but it was between 5.45am and 6am and still dark. The street lights were on and visibility was down to roof top level.

The car wouldn't start and my husband was looking at the engine with a torch.

I was standing to his left side when out of nowhere a huge whooshing noise went overhead.

It was silent in as much as it had no engine. We both heard it to opposite sides of us, so whatever it was, it was enormous.

If only it hadn't been foggy we would have seen it as it wasn't much above the roof tops. We often talk about the strange "silent noise" we heard that morning and we still can't come up with an explanation.—A Broadwell reader.

Did U C UFO?

A LARGE unidentified flying object was spotted by a local man in Morecambe recently.

Terry Battersby claims to have seen an oval-shaped craft hovering a few hundred feet up over York Bridge on Monday, February 27.

Mr Battersby said: "I think it was a UFO. My girlfriend and I saw it for a few seconds and then it disappeared behind some clouds. We didn't see it again after that."

He is interested to learn if anybody else saw the UFO.

[Paper Unknown], Morecambe, Lancashire, England - March 15, 1995

Lights in the night sky

PERHAPS understandably, he doesn't want to be named.

He's 24 and gave a Stroud phone number. He had driven through Ross-on-Wye from Hereford and was about eight miles from Gloucester. It was 7.30pm; there were flashes of lightning in the clouds.

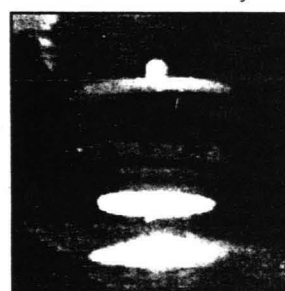
"I looked up and there was a red light in the sky," he said. "It was flashing on and off. I thought it must have been a helicopter but it was too high up.

"It just appeared out of nowhere. It was there for about ten seconds and then in a second it moved about eight miles across the sky, from horizon to horizon, and stopped.

"It stopped for about a second and then went straight upwards. About 30 seconds after that, a low-flying jet came past, going in the same direction.

"I was so excited by what I'd seen that I pulled into a garage and spoke to a lady there. She said nobody had reported anything.

"I was going to find the lorry driver who had been in front of me. I just



■ A UFO... or not? Another inexplicable sighting from national archives.

Report by Mark Patterson

wanted to see if anyone else reported it."

He said he also spoke to a police officer. The officer took his name and phone number and told him that people had reported this kind of thing before. If anyone else reported it, he would ring. But the policeman didn't ring.

What did he think he had seen?

"This is just it. I have no idea. I know for a fact that it wasn't anything reflected in my windscreen. The light was too big to be a helicopter light. It was red, an orange-red colour.

"I even phoned RAF Brize Norton that night and asked them about it. They said there was a lot of meteorological activity up there. It might have been a phenomenon.

"I take my camera wherever I go now. People can make of it what they want but I know what I saw."

The sighting happened on February 15, but the caller didn't contact the Citizen until six days later.

He said he had been desperately trying to make sense of the light that inexplicably shot right to left, from horizon to horizon, in a split second and then stopped dead. He was terribly sorry for wasting anyone's time. But had anyone else seen it?

The moving light will be recorded as one of the 50 reported strange sky sightings in Britain every month.

Michael Soper, of the Oxfordshire-based organisation Contact International UK, found it very interesting.

"It just appeared out of nowhere. It was there for about 10 seconds and then in a second it moved about eight miles across the sky from horizon to horizon."

But he said it was crucial to know in which direction the light had been moving since this would help identify whether it had been normal air traffic moving along the Golf One air corridor over Cheltenham.

"In January 1994, we had a sighting from seven people in Cheltenham of lights moving across the sky in formation from east to west. They were in the shape of Vs, Es and Is.

"This actually went on for about 20 minutes. There were three independent groups of people who saw that. Air Traffic Control said there was not that amount of traffic going west."

Mr Soper said aircraft did sometimes show red lights in the belly, but added: "If the light went straight up it can't possibly be a normal plane."

Around three-quarters of strange sightings can be explained, he said. But what about the rest? The words 'flying saucers' aren't mentioned.

But Mr Soper is entirely convinced – and he stresses that this is a personal view – that humans are not the only intelligent race of beings.

He believes another race has been shepherding the human race down the centuries for its own purposes. This

is the reason for abductions by 'aliens.'

Sometimes we see the other beings, he says. Sometimes they're responsible for apparently inexplicable lights in the sky.

At other times they're the "little beings" flying in trapezoidal-shaped frames which five people reported seeing on Silbury Hill, Wiltshire.

Four years ago, four elderly women waiting for a bus at Whitminster, near Gloucester, claimed they saw huge bright lights coming towards them.

"It looked like a big car in the sky, with two main beams in the front surrounded by smaller light around them," said one. "And I could hear the hum of an engine."

But a somewhat bemused RAF spokesman at Whitehall was sceptical, to say the least, about the latest potential UFO sighting near Ross. He snorted about "little men from Mars" stories.

"The RAF is always active around the Severn Vale and the Malverns," he said. "It might well have been an aircraft.

"We get letters from these people all the time but they don't want a rational explanation. They want to

keep the excitement of it being something interplanetary.

"If you offer something rational they lose interest. Usually they have already made a commitment to belief – that there's life on other planets, no matter what science says.

"These people may be eccentric but they pay their taxes like everyone else so they're entitled to a polite letter from a Government department.

"We just write to them with a list of addresses so they can pursue their hobby without bothering us."

A cover-up

Says Michael Soper: "They (the MOD) always are sceptical. But to be honest the MOD hear hysterical stories which can't possibly be true."

Yet Mr Soper has no doubt at all that there is a cover-up of such matters by the authorities.

"Definitely. We know there's a cover-up because of the British documents which have been declassified."

And the young man who saw the light in the sky near Ross is sticking by his story. He has no idea what it was that he saw but he has since bought a book about UFOs.

"I'm absolutely convinced that it wasn't an aircraft or anything we know about," he said. "I've been looking at every single explanation.

"All I can honestly say is what I saw and draw my own conclusions. Just wanted someone else to see it because it was so bizarre.

"I'm not saying it was a spaceship or anything. All I'm saying is that what I saw was absolutely fascinating. I've always had an open mind but this has changed my views quite a lot."

The KFiles Buzzed by flying pyramid

Not all encounters with UFOs are wonderful, moving experiences. Sometimes the witness can suffer serious adverse effects.

I was looking through my notes on the Bretby/Repton window area and wondering what my next move would be when the phone rang. It was my fellow investigator, CP.

"Drop everything" he said, "we're being sent over to Uttoxeter, sounds like there's the equivalent of a UFO Farnborough air display going on over there."

I looked through my notes. "Family car buzzed by UFO" ... "Rotating column of mist destroys hedge" ... "Motorbike stalled by flying pyramid" ...

Now that sounded interesting. There are many reports of vehicles stalling when exposed to whatever effect is produced in the vicinity of UFOs, perhaps this time I might get a chance to examine such a vehicle first hand.

We made contact with the witness and were immediately impressed by his reluctance to discuss the sighting. There was no way he was after publicity. Bit by bit, he told us his story.

He was on his way to work in the early hours of the morning when his motorbike began behaving oddly.

Although he was on a quiet country road with little chance of finding a phone box in the immediate area from which to summon help, he decided to stop the spluttering bike and check to see if the problem was something as simple as a loose plug lead.

He pulled over to the side of the road and was immediately bathed in a vivid white light. Looking up he saw a huge square, about 30 feet above him, filled with "superstructure and spotlights".

The square dimmed slightly and began to move away. As the object became more distant he noticed that, in fact, it was a

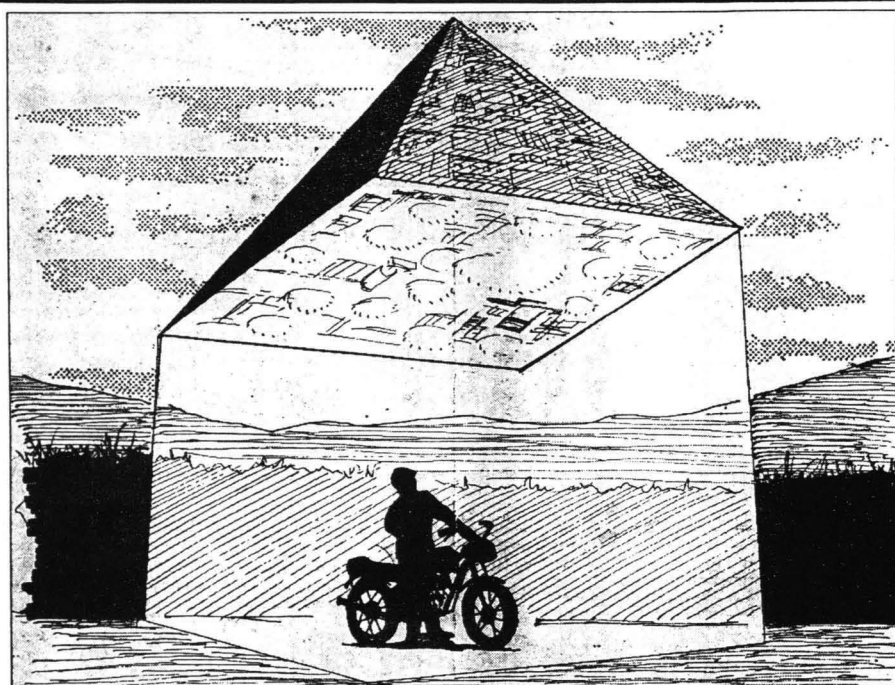
gigantic pyramid and he had been directly beneath its base. The bike refused to start and he had a long, tiring walk home.

The next day he felt ill and within two more days had developed a rash, sickness and stomach cramps. Over the next few days the condition got worse and he developed symptoms of tiredness, tingling in his fingers and distorted vision. These were diagnosed by his doctor as "a virus".

"How about telling his doctor to check for radiation poisoning?" I whispered to CP. "Oh sure," he whispered back, "and what would YOU say if you were a doctor and one of your patients suggested that to you?"

I must admit, he'd got a point. "Have you still got the bike?" CP asked. "Yes," he replied. "It still won't go.

Tales of the unexplained



I'll show it to you if you like."

There didn't appear to be anything unusual about the bike except for the fact that no matter what was tried it wouldn't function. The witness appeared to be getting fidgety, so we arranged to see him again the following week to speak to him again.

In fact, the witness appeared to be avoiding us the following week. He was not available at home or at work. I decided to drop in on him unannounced. Not entirely ethical, I thought, but at least he can tell me directly if he really doesn't wish to speak to me, and if that was the case I would, of course, respect his wishes.

In fact, he did speak to me. His health had deteriorated further and he was worried, he wanted some answers about what was happening to him.

I stood looking at the still immobile motorbike when for reasons which I still can't explain I took my Zippo lighter out of my pocket and held it near the bike, it leapt out of my hand and stuck to the petrol tank, the whole thing was very highly magnetised.

That was the last time I saw this witness. Further attempts to contact him failed. He had joined the ranks of those witnesses who suddenly decide that they want no more to do with the UFO phenomena. Either that or, if you are more paranoid in your outlook, have been "got at" by persons unknown.

It can be very satisfying to find a rational explanation for an unusual sighting, but this file had to be yet another with the frustrating word UNEXPLAINED stamped on it. — KF



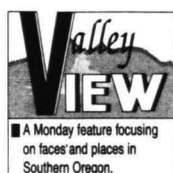
Still on the trail of BIGFOOT

By Doug O'Loughlin
of the Daily Courier

APPLEGATE — More than 20 years after it was first built, the Bigfoot trap still hasn't caught anything except maybe the attention of curious hikers.

OK, so it caught a bear once. And there are rumors that a person once was trapped in the 10-foot-tall structure, either an American Indian or a member of the counter-culture community depending on who you ask.

The trap is now non-functional, its huge metal door bolted in the open position.



A failed experiment? Not really, says the crew at the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest.

"It's something we get calls about all the time," said

Kate Strabbe, a spokeswoman for the ranger station.

Another ranger station employee said a representative for radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh once called asking about the trap. And it was featured in national news stories. But most of the people interested are those from around the area who see the sign pointing to the trap.

The trap is easy to find. Back when it was completed in 1974, there wasn't an Applegate Dam or an Applegate Lake, so it was at the end of a mile-long trail after a long bumpy road. Now it's about a half-mile hike.

To find the trap, take Upper Applegate Road (off Highway 238) and travel south for 16 miles, just past the dam. Park at Hart-tish picnic area and begin the hike at the Collings Mountain Trail, right across the road from Hart-tish Park. Take the left fork at the abandoned miner's cabin and the trap is only a few hundred feet farther.

The trap, a shack-type structure, was built on a special permit from the U.S. Forest Service. It stipulated that someone had to stay in the nearby cabin in case any person actually got caught instead of the elusive man-beast who leaves the large footprints.

The idea was, Bigfoot would take the bait from the inside of the trap, which would release a cable and send a big green metal door crashing down and trap Bigfoot.

It never worked, apparently. One expert says Bigfoot's nature doesn't allow him to just blunder into any old cage.



“

As far as we know, the Bigfoot has got some kind of smarts. It seems he doesn't want to be trapped.

Ray Crowe
Western Bigfoot Society

”

"As far as we know, the Bigfoot has got some kind of smarts," explained Ray Crowe, who catalogs sightings for the Western Bigfoot Society of Portland. "It seems he doesn't want to be trapped. ... We suspect he has a pretty good sense of smell, too, so maybe he can tell when people have been around."

During a recent phone interview, Crowe wouldn't venture to guess how many Bigfoot sightings come from which areas in the Pacific Northwest — supposedly Bigfoot's stomping grounds — but he's always interested in new reports. They usually come in the form of footprints seen by Boy Scouts, he said.

Sightings have been "frequent" this year, Crowe said, but there were very few last month because of poor weather.

Formed in 1991, his is probably one of the only Bigfoot-tracking groups still



The trap won't catch any creatures now, with the door bolted open, (photo above), but it still catches people's attention. At left, a sign points the way for the curious.

TIMOTHY BULLARD
Daily Courier

active since North American Wildlife Research no longer takes the forefront. That group built the trap, but like the elusive Sasquatch, isn't heard from too often.

Another group, the Seattle-based National Cryptozoological Society, sponsored a hunter who spent the summer of 1984 looking for the creature.

For Crowe, it's just a matter of time before empirical evidence of Bigfoot turns up.

"These things have been found dead before," he said. "In Northern California, one was a road kill but nobody knew

about it because the girls who hit it didn't tell anyone until two or three days later."

Crowe complained that a recent Bigfoot documentary filmed in Coos Bay didn't list a reference for his group and that he may be out of touch with Southern Oregon.

"You might have someone down at Mount Ashland see something, but who are they going to tell it to?"

In case of sightings, contact Crowe at (503) 286-6585, or write the Western Bigfoot Society, 8622 N. Lombard St., Portland OR 97203.

STANDARD-BLADE, Brighton, CO - April 22, 1995

More sightings of Horsetooth Res. creature

This column will be of interest to those of you who have been following the controversial story of the Horsetooth aquatic creatures.

A citizen who has lived for many years near the Horsetooth Reservoir's south end called me to talk about the first story I wrote regarding the creatures. During the course of the conversation, she related two incidents she witnessed that I would classify as anecdotal evidence that seems to corroborate the Macias family's claim.

On one occasion, about three summers ago, she was out on the lake in her family's boat, and her eldest daughter pointed out a huge whirlpool at the reservoir's south end and, having no apparent explanation for what they saw, they filed the incident away without explanation.

On another boating occasion, the woman saw something that looked like a very large tree column rising up via the sonar depth finder screen at a depth of 120 feet. The image moved around the screen, sometimes going out of view completely, only to reappear again.

We chatted amicably for a while, and I believe that the woman called mainly out of concern for her two daughters who swim a lot in the lake.

She was anxious for some sort of official inquiry into the allegations that large aquatic creatures are in-

habiting the reservoir, and I am happy to report that the Colorado Division of Wildlife has set up an appointment to view the videotapes recorded by the Macias Family.

I would also like to share another development in the continually evolving story. It seems that a clipping service sent a copy of my article to Unsolved Mysteries, a nationally televised program based in Los Angeles, and they contacted the Macias family's lawyer. A family member will be hand-carrying their copyrighted evidence to L.A. this week, they will be interviewed next month, and the ensuing documentary will air in the Fall.

It occurs to me that their research team will be coming to Fort Collins in the very near future seeking anecdotal evidence or past historical accountings, so any of you

readers who have something to share—get ready.

The Standard-Blade will continue to report on the unfolding drama at Horsetooth Reservoir. If you have a story you would like to share, please call Morris at 659-1141.

Pentagon Fights Secret Scenario Speculation Over Alaska

COMMUNICATIONS: GETTING A BOOST FROM THE IONOSPHERE

HAARP is a research instrument for exploring the ionosphere. Among its practical goals are improving communication with submarines and enhancing the ability to detect enemy underground tunnels or missile silos. The ionosphere, the outermost layer of the atmosphere, absorbs much energy from the sun's radiation. Some gas atoms are ionized, releasing "free" electrons. These electrons move through the sun's magnetic field, creating currents that produce radio waves (part of the sky's "natural background radiation").



HAARP can take advantage of properties of the ionosphere that cause radio waves to bounce between layers of ions of different densities. Signals may travel along these ionospheric "ducts" all the way around the Earth, and, as with radar, scientists can observe the waves returning. If an enemy missile passes through the waves after launch, HAARP instruments on the ground will detect changes in the returning waves. This could warn of an attack many minutes before it would be picked up by other means.



HAARP's ground antennas will beam high-frequency (HF) radio waves into the ionosphere. The waves' energy is absorbed by ionospheric electrons. By varying the transmissions from HAARP's antennas, researchers can alter electric currents in the ionosphere to make them put out large amounts of extremely low frequency (ELF) radio waves.

ELF radio waves penetrate deeper beneath the sea than radio frequencies currently used to communicate with submarines. They also penetrate deep into the ground and can be used to spot discontinuities that indicate buried installations.

BY JOHN ANDERSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

The rumors are buzzing across the Internet that a Pentagon physics experiment on a wind-whipped tract of U.S. Air Force land in Alaska has a secret purpose—digging up bodies of UFO aliens. Another rumor has it that even in black suits and thin black ties are jumping out of a black sedan to beat up Alaskan opponents of the project.

Countering these odd speculations is all in a day's work for Ramon Shanny, president of Advanced Powers Technologies Inc. (APTI), the Washington-based firm building the \$160 million Alaska project for the U.S. military.

"There's this paranoia about sinister things being done there," said Shanny. "It's not true."

The program is called HAARP, or High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project. When finished, it will consist of 360 72-foot antennas in the town of Gakona, northeast of Anchorage. It will transmit a beam of high-frequency energy into the ionosphere, 35 miles to 500 miles above the Earth, to heat and test the ionosphere as a way to improve military communications.

Shanny also spends time addressing the more down-to-earth complaints of some Alaska environmental activists.

Yes, he says, the experiment could disrupt television and radio reception nearby, and federal communications agencies are studying that. And yes, the tests could scramble the electronics of planes flying overhead. That's why HAARP will be automatically turned off when its sensors detect a plane nearby.

Some Physicists Skeptical

But the strongest note of skepticism is sounded by a small group of American physicists, some of whom have aired complaints in scientific journals such as *Physics and Society*. These physicists fear HAARP may not be simply the benign science experiment advocates describe, but possibly phase one of a secret U.S. military program that could be seeking ways to blow other countries' spacecraft out of the sky or disrupt communications over large portions of the planet.

The critics allege HAARP could be, in the words of New Jersey physicist Richard Williams, a consultant to the David Sarnoff laboratory in Princeton, "an irresponsible act of global vandalism."

The Pentagon and APTI deny it, and the critics offer scant proof for their theory.

But the project's advocates fear the attacks by scientists and envi-

ronmental activists, may, along with its price tag, endanger HAARP.

The project has attracted little notice so far, perhaps because it's so arcane. But as odd as it seems, HAARP is scientifically sound, physicists agree. As ionospheric experiments go, it is much bigger than others around the world, from Russia and Norway to Puerto Rico.

The ionosphere interests scientists because this atmospheric layer contains charged atoms and electrons that cause it to distort or absorb radio signals passing through it, or make them bounce—such as when a radio station is heard 1,000 miles from its tower.

'Perturb' the Ionosphere

HAARP's mission is to "perturb" the ionosphere by beaming high-frequency radio waves into it, to better understand its basic properties, HAARP officials said in a report. The Air Force and Navy hope it will lead to dramatically improved communications with U.S. submarines, and the ability to spot incoming enemy missiles much earlier than is possible now.

The physicist critics have little problem with the project if built along those lines. But Williams and other physicists fear the government plans a

secret second stage of HAARP, in which it would beam much more energy into the ionosphere. That could produce "a severe disruption of the upper atmosphere at one location" that "may produce effects that spread rapidly around the Earth for years," Williams said.

The Pentagon said it has no interest in doing the more ambitious tests that critics fear, or in ratcheting up HAARP to even a fraction of the energy level necessary to pull off those feats. "But the critics just don't believe us," said John L. Heckscher, HAARP's Air Force director.

One physicist skeptical of Air Force claims is Bernard Eastlund, who developed the concepts behind HAARP, as well as the Buck Rogers-ish scenarios feared by critics.

"HAARP could indeed be applied to some of the far-out things I talked about," said Eastlund from his Texas office. "The basic question is, is there any intent to do anything like what's in my patents?"

Project Began in '80s

Eastlund was hired in the mid-1980s by Atlantic Richfield Co. to solve a dilemma. It owned 33 trillion cubic feet of Alaskan natural gas, and had no economical way to re-

Antennas

move it. The firm, seeking ways to use the fuel there, tried to think of a government project requiring large amounts of power.

APTI, then a division of Atlantic Richfield, retained Eastlund as a consultant, and he hit on the idea that became HAARP. It would need about 3.6 megawatts of power, a fraction of the power in a lightning bolt, to perform its tests.

But Eastlund also developed more "far-out" ideas, requiring greater surges of power—approximately those in a nuclear blast. The Pentagon got interested and gave him several hundred thousand dollars in research funds. His ideas are embodied in three 1987 patents—one of which was classified, and later declassified in 1991. He said the military was interested because, in the event of a Soviet nuclear attack on the United States, an Alaska site would be under the path of the of incoming warheads.

Eastlund's scenario was to use high-frequency radio waves to beam large amounts of power into the ionosphere, energizing its electrons and ions in order to disable incoming missiles and knock out enemy satellite communications. The military hoped such a missile defense system could be more manageable and less expensive than the troubled Strategic Defense Initiative or "Star Wars" antimissile system.

APTI's Shanny said he dismissed Eastlund around 1989 because "his work was way out." But APTI still owned Eastlund's patents, including his once-classified ones.

In 1992 APTI won the Pentagon contract to build HAARP. It continued to oversee the project after Atlantic Richfield sold the unit to Dallas-based defense contractor E-Systems Inc. last year.

Shanny said Eastlund's assertion that the Pentagon plans to build the system in his patents is "nonsense." Added the Air Force's Heckscher: "Eastlund's patents have nothing whatsoever to do with HAARP."

Scientists who support HAARP say the upper atmosphere over Alaska, including the aurora borealis, is churning with so much electromagnetic activity that HAARP would have only a small and fleeting effect.

But anti-HAARP activists in Alaska have their doubts.

"Many of us are not happy with the prospect of [the military] altering the Earth's neutral atmospheric properties," Native Alaskan activist Charles Edwardsen Jr. wrote President Clinton last year. "We do not want to be anyone's testing ground, as the Bikini Islanders have been."

Sentman presided over a session on the events during this week's meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

In June and July, a group observing from a hilltop in Colorado recorded dozens to hundreds of sprites per night over thunderstorms hundreds of miles away over Kansas. Airborne observations with two small jets at about the same time recorded thousands more in storms over the Midwest. During one 67-minute period, 97 sprites were recorded, said Eugene Wescott of the University of Alaska.

Radio signals generated by the sprites, when played through an audio speaker, "sound like eggs hitting a griddle," Sentman said.

Among the urgent, unanswered questions is whether the sprites and jets pose a hazard to space shuttle astronauts whose route to orbit often takes them over thunderstorms in the Atlantic.

"I don't have a clue what causes these things," said Walter Lyons of the Mission Research Corp. in Colorado, which is studying the sprites and jets for NASA. "But on the other hand, I would not volunteer to be the first astronaut to fly through one."

CR: J. & L. Nicholson 19

Celestial flashes baffle scientists

University of Alaska among schools probing edge-of-space phenomenon

By CHARLES PETIT
San Francisco Chronicle

Pilots of high-altitude airplanes have for years reported sightings of immense red and blue blobs flickering briefly like ghosts in the sky above thunderstorms, extending for miles above the stratosphere.

Now scientists have caught thousands of examples on videotape and have gathered data suggesting that the flashes are mighty surges of energy between the lower atmosphere and the edge of space.

They call the lights blue jets and red sprites, and after reviewing a collection of new data in San Francisco this week, they said the spectacular celestial events may be vital in understanding atmospheric physics—and may be dangerous to high-altitude aircraft or astronauts as they ascend to orbit.

But scientists confess that they are basically baffled by the phenomenon.

"Every explanation has holes in it," said John Winckler, a professor

of physics and astronomy at the University of Minnesota, who was among the first to document the events with a grainy video image in 1989. "We're in on the beginning of a new aspect of science here."

Scientists call the biggest lights red sprites, which tower up to 60 miles into the night sky. Blue jets are smaller, pulsating lights that race upward from thunderstorms at more than 100,000 miles per hour.

Until a short time ago, nobody knew about either, and scientists still are uncertain whether the same thing causes both sprites and jets.

Individual examples have been compared to immense angels, carrots, cauliflowerers and octopuses hovering and glowing briefly in the thin, nearly unexplored fringe of atmosphere too high for airplanes to fly and too low for satellites to orbit.

While blue jets emerge upward from the crown of a storm, red sprites flicker far above them. A large thunderstorm may reach as high as 10 miles, or more than 50,000

feet, but the sprites usually do not start until about 20 miles up and extend for another 40 miles.

Several of the biggest sprites have red bodies with reddish, hairlike extensions on top and blue tentacles drooping below. Usually, each one lasts less than a hundredth of a second.

As long ago as the mid-1950s, Scottish physicist and Nobel Prize winner Charles T.R. Wilson noted that the huge electric discharges from thunderstorms should profoundly affect the upper atmosphere. But while pilots reported occasional strange lights over storms, the events went unconfirmed until high-speed video gear became available.

Technically, they occur in layers of atmosphere called the mesosphere and the thermosphere, well above the stratosphere. "That part of the sky has also been called the 'ignosphere,' for good reason," said Davis Sentman of the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute. "We were ignorant of it."

Some secrets deadly, Nevada plaintiffs say

A group
sues the
government
over toxic
fumes from
a base that
officially
isn't there

By VINCENT J. SCHODOLSKI
Chicago Tribune News Service

RACHEL, Nevada — One warm July evening in 1988, Robert Frost pulled up in front of his home outside Las Vegas, climbed out of his car and started to scream.

"His face was swollen and burning," Frost's widow, Helen, said. Although he threw water on his face, the burning and swelling persisted. Eventually his skin started to split and bleed.

Frost's condition continued to deteriorate, eventually spreading to his internal organs, and 16 months later he was dead of cirrhosis of the liver at the age of 57.

Local doctors never figured out what caused Frost's illness, but a Rutgers University biochemist who examined tissue samples taken shortly before his death concluded that Frost had been exposed to toxic fumes. Had he lived longer, the scientist said, Frost would have contracted cancer.

"He had been exposed to large amounts of dioxins and dibenzofurans," Helen Frost said. "But where? We had nothing like that around the house."

Frost's widow and six other base workers who claim to have been poisoned by the fumes have filed lawsuits against the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency. They say the

fumes appear to have come from the burning of toxic waste on a U.S. Air Force facility in the Nevada desert.

In an affidavit filed with U.S. District Judge Philip Pro last week, Justice Department lawyers asked that the suit against the EPA be thrown out. They contend the issue raised by the former workers and their relatives has been resolved by a recent EPA inspection at the facility.

Jonathan Turley, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, called the EPA inspection a victory for his clients, but he said the issues raised in their suit were not satisfied by the action.

Information withheld

As with all information relating to the base and this case, the results of the EPA inspection remain classified.

The case is shaping up as a test of the extent to which the U.S. military can withhold information from the public on national security grounds.

Finding out anything about the base, where the U-2 spy plane and the stealth bomber reportedly were tested, is difficult. It is so secret that the Air Force does not even admit that it exists.

Although the facility, just 30 miles from this rag-tag desert hamlet, can be seen from surrounding public lands, a nearly impenetrable cloak of secrecy sur-

rounds it.

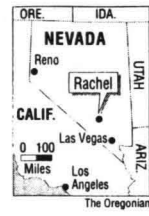
Robert Frost, a sheet metal worker, erected buildings and installed air conditioning ducts at the base for almost nine years as an employee of Reynolds Electric Engineering Co., a civilian contractor to the Air Force.

He and his fellow workers called the place "Area 51," or "Groom Lake," the name of the dry lake bed that lies beside the base. It was here, the plaintiffs contend, that they were routinely exposed to the fumes when hazardous waste was burned in huge open trenches.

The Defense Department, arguing that disclosing information about the secret facility would endanger many lives, has stonewalled since the suits were filed in August 1994.

Using common-law provisions that provide the government the right of "military and state secret privilege," the Pentagon has refused to acknowledge that the base has a name and refused to confirm that jet fuel might be stored there, though jets regularly fly in and out.

Turley, a law professor at George Washington University and director of



the nonprofit Environmental Crimes Project, is representing Helen Frost and the six other plaintiffs who are known only as John Does in the suit.

Their names remain under court seal, Turley said, because the former Air Force contract workers claim the government threatened to imprison them if they went public with their complaints.

Turley contends that the Air Force used the Groom Lake facility not only to test exotic aircraft but also as a dumping ground for toxic waste.

He says he has evidence that government contractors brought truckloads of hazardous waste from as far away as California so that it could be eliminated without having to comply with stringent environmental protection laws.

"Corporate officials have gone to jail for violations that are far less egregious than those involved in this case," Turley said. "This case is about whether the federal government is subject to federal law in the same way as corporations and individuals are."

According to the plaintiffs, trucks would bring 55-gallon drums containing various toxic and hazardous wastes to an area on the fringe of the facility every other week and place them in deep trenches the size of football fields.

The drums were covered with refuse, doused with jet fuel and then set alight.

Scientists study the believers

'Pseudoscience' fans surprising

By NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Who believes in UFOs, psychic powers, Bigfoot and all that stuff? And what makes them believe what they do?

Until lately, scientists didn't care about answers to those questions — they were too busy trying to debunk the beliefs to delve into their roots.

But now they're focusing new research on what they call pseudoscience and coming to conclusions that surprise them: Believers fall into at least two separate categories, researchers find, and both groups have sensible reasons for believing what they do.

"Up to now, most scientists have tended to depict believers in pseudoscience as ignorant, psychopathic, backwoods ignoramuses or something along those lines, but we strongly suspected it was not that simple," says Dr. Raymond Eve, a social psychologist at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The scientists define "pseudoscience" as the belief that there is a scientific basis for things that can't be explained through accepted scientific methods.

In a study of 338 college students, Eve and colleagues first surveyed beliefs on everything from UFOs, space aliens and the Loch Ness monster to the belief that there is scientific evidence for Noah's Ark and for the Biblical account of creation.

Then they tried to see if people who held certain beliefs had anything else in common. Distinct patterns showed up when the results were analyzed. For one thing, there were only two groups of believers. But what surprised scientists most was the lack of overlap between the two groups.

The first group included students who believe that evidence of Noah's Ark has been found on Mount Ararat in Turkey and that there is abundant scientific evidence for the Bible's description of creation. This group tended to have traditional, conservative beliefs in other areas — they were more likely to be against abortion, opposed to homosexuality and in favor of school prayer, for example.

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA
April 13, 1995

When three Bigfoots strolled along the rim of the hillside sloping up from Mill Creek at the end of January, they apparently left more than foot prints.

We've written here of that latest sighting of thousands of footprints in the Mill Creek area above the Seven Mile bridge. But, there's more. There's hair.

Dar Glasgow, breeder of goats for packing, and Paul Freeman, ex-watershed patrol rider, scouted out what they told me were more than 8,000 tracks. They have also reported finding interesting hair samples.

Dar found hers on a tree down on Mill Creek and near the Meiners (Coyote) road junction with the Mill Creek Road.

Freeman found hair higher up, above Five Points, when he picked up the tracks of the trio of Bigfoots after they climbed out of Mill Creek and headed back to the high country and possibly the watershed. Many Bigfoot aficionados, of course, believe the 'shed is the "hangout" of these critters, in large part because mankind is forbidden to set foot within its boundaries.

Freeman, by the way, reports hair samples given to a Wyoming Bigfoot researcher, John Myonczynski, have borne fruit, so to speak. Freeman reports that Myonczynski, who sent the hair to a primate lab in Utah, heard interesting results of the lab's testing. "It's from a primate higher than the gorilla, but it is not from man...it's something we know nothing of."

The lab people seemingly were "real excited" about the tests they'd run on the Mill Creek hair.

Dar Glasgow did not have the refined lab equipment of the Utah scientists but she has come up with something highly interesting all the same.

Dar used copying equipment at her place of employment to "copy" the hair sample she found on Mill Creek. The machine not only copies but can enlarge by several times. Laying a long hair from her own head alongside the hair she found high up on the pine tree (with Bigfoot tracks around) Dar produced the "interesting" copy.

The enlargement copy of her hair comes out as a line as if drawn by a pencil.

The enlarged Bigfoot hair appears as a ribbon, several times wider than hers.

Two samples of hair...seemingly pretty much the same to the naked eye, although one had more curl in it...but each bearing remarkable differences when enlarged.

A recent article of mine in which I wondered why the skeptics of Bigfoot have come down so hard on people who have made assertions about the Mill Creek Bigfoot has drawn some support.

Erik Beckjord, Malibu Beach, Calif. Bigfoot museum operator, has spent as many years as most Bigfoot researchers on this subject. He has penned an interesting "foot-

note" on the matter in the most recent issue of "Bigfoot Co-op," published at 14602 Montevideo Drive, Whittier, Calif. 90605. Here 'tis:

"Regarding the comments by Vance Orchard in the December Co-op about the Mill Creek tracks near Walla Walla in 1982 and the attack on them by the odd couple of Mike Dennett and Rene Dahinden. I can offer some background and a few observations that may bring it all into focus.

"First, I was present at a previous set of tracks in Walla Walla, the Tiger Trail tracks, near where Freeman sighted a Bigfoot. These were authentic in my view, based on my experience in finding both real and hoaxed tracks over many years. They were also very deep, and based on a weight test that I managed to talk the USFS into making, they indicated a very heavy creature, far heavier than Freeman or any man. I also discovered by following them that they went far beyond where Freeman had thought they might have gone, and another tracking group later followed them for a mile or more further.

"The Mill Creek tracks, relating to a later sighting/event by Freeman and his partner on patrol, basically exhibit some paranormal characteristics that a Border Patrol tracker can't accept, and which are too weird to be true in the eyes of some, so they are basically rejected by them. Ho, hum!

"Why do we care? We don't, but as part two, I need to point out that

when skeptics get into the act, they want publicity and notice, and so they pick on the weirdest things they can, to debunk, because it is a cheap shot and easy debunk, since paranormal and weird things are not accepted by science. So, they 'win'...they think. I think not. I've seen weird and paranormal tracks, and know they are out there. I also know how scientists will react. So I stopped bothering to tell them about these, since they won't accept them anyway. Besides, all that counts is a body, and we won't ever get one of those.

"As far as old-time investigators go, why do they join with skeptics to debunk some tracks?

"The answer is that if you don't find, nor even see Bigfoot after X number of years of trying, that the best way to get press attention is to become a semi-skeptic. It is as simple as that.

"Meanwhile, Bigfoot doesn't care and just keeps stompin' along."

Just thought you'd like to know.

Vance Orchard, a retired daily newspaper reporter, has written several books about southeastern Washington and its communities and their people.

Orchard lives and writes in Walla Walla. Readers may write to him at The Times.

Ice meteorites hit rice field

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
April 3, 1995 CR: G. Duplantier

BEIJING (Reuters) — Chinese experts have recovered what they believe to be chunks of meteorite ice that fell to Earth in Zhejiang province, Xinhua news agency said.

Amateur geologist Zhong Gongpei was nearby March 23, when farmers saw three large chunks of ice crash with a whoosh into paddy fields at Yaodou village, Xinhua said late Saturday.

Meteorite expert Wang Sichao of China's prestigious Purple Mountain Observatory in Jiangsu province said two chunks recovered by Zhong are probably ice meteorites but further analysis is needed for confirmation, Xinhua reported.

No ice meteorite has ever been verified by scientists before, Wang said.

"According to witnesses, it fell with a 'whoosh-ing' sound, with a cloudy streak, then came crashing down into three fields

about one kilometre apart," Xinhua said.

Zhong rushed to the scene, recovered two pieces and sent both to Purple Mountain on March 29 with the aid of a frozen-food company, which kept them from melting.

The largest chunk, now about the size of a fist, left a crater about one metre in diameter. The second piece was a bit smaller, Xinhua said.

Wang, a member of the International Meteorite Council, cited strong evidence the ice chunks were from a meteor that crashed from space into the Earth's atmosphere.

"They are white, semi-transparent, with an irregular shape and what are apparently air bubbles on both the surface and inside the ice. Unlike manmade ice, the ice has air bubbles, is relatively light and doesn't have the layered structure of hailstones," he said.