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MOUNTAIN MAIL, Salida, CO - Sept. 21, 1995

Wanted: UFO eyewitnesses

by Chris Hunt
Mail News Editor

Jennie Zeidman, a senior research associate with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, is asking that age-old question in the wake of Salidan Tim Edwards' sighting of a UFO Aug. 27: Is anybody out there?

But Zeidman isn't looking for replies from the heavens. She's hoping somebody from Salida will answer her call.

"I am seriously looking for other people in the Salida area who might have witnessed the same UFO as Tim," she said in a telephone interview yesterday. "I want to travel with eye-witnesses to the location of the sighting, and they can just point up to the sky."

Zeidman has been studying UFOs and UFO related-activ-

ity for 40 years. She worked with Allen Hynek, the namesake of the UFO research center, in the 1950s when he was involved in the Air Force's "Project Blue Book." This, Zeidman, said, was the government's "front" when it came to researching UFOs. "It was done to make the public think the government was really investigating the subject," she said. "In truth, the actual research was much more serious than the Air Force let on."

She quit working for the government in the mid-50s, and has been studying, researching and hypothesizing UFOs ever since.

In 1973, Hynek, Zeidman and several other scientists and researchers formed JAHCUFOS. "We don't just have a passive interest in UFOs," Zeidman said. "These

people are experts, and we want to learn about what's happening out there."

Zeidman is planning a trip to Salida next week, and she wants to meet with anyone who saw what Edwards videotaped on Aug. 27 right around 9:30 a.m. Also, if anyone has sighted a UFO in the Salida area in the last few weeks, she wants to meet with them, too. "I'm doing this for any money," she said. "I believe people when they tell me they saw a UFO. I treat them with 100 percent seriousness."

Zeidman lives in Crested Butte seasonally, and travels around the country in search of elusive UFOs. While she's on the board of directors at the center in Chicago, she doesn't make a lot of money hunting flying saucers.

"There's very little money involved with this," she said. "We do it because we want to learn, not because we can get rich. We live from hand to mouth."

But she does have some money, she said, and that's why she's coming to Salida. She's just received a small grant from the Foundation of UFO Research to look into what she calls "Tim's UFO."

"If I can talk to several people, and they can show me where they saw the object, we might be able to pinpoint the location of the UFO," she said. "I want to meet with these people. I will treat them with absolute seriousness and respect," she said. "Here is a genuine mystery that needs to be solved. To ridicule people who have seen UFOs or to brush them off is a real travesty." Zeidman didn't have an answer to the large number of reported sightings in this area recently. But it's not something she's taking lightly.

When asked for theories about the sightings, she couldn't offer one. "We know nothing of these things," she said. "I can't tell you anything about why people have seen them so much over there."

But, she said, she does believe in life on other planets and in other solar systems. "There are millions of solar systems and billions of stars in this universe," she said. "It doesn't make sense that Earth is the

only home to intelligent life." Zeidman really wants to speak with anyone who thinks they might have seen a UFO on Aug. 27 or anytime around that date. She asks anyone who wishes to meet with her to call her at 970-349-1054.

Her request comes on the heels of a press release from Village Labs in Tempe, Ariz. According to a press release dated Sept. 19, Edwards' videotape has been analyzed and found to be authentic. Also, experts at Village Labs believe the object on the tape is three-dimensional and extremely large.

'It doesn't make sense that Earth is the only home to intelligent life.'

— Jennie Zeidman

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Sept. 10, 1995

Science magazine publishes articles on Roswell Incident

Chris Schneidmiller
Record Staff Writer

Science magazine Omni published three articles on the Roswell Incident in its most recent issue, continuing the alien wreck's trend of high media exposure.

The recently-resuscitated Omni devoted 26 pages of prose and photographs in its fall issue to an examination of the alleged crash of a UFO near Roswell in 1947.

Each article takes a sometimes skeptical look at the events surrounding the crash and the researchers who have argued its existence for 15 years. But the writers leave a large amount of room open for the possibility of an actual crash.

The first article, "The Truth About Roswell," is a fairly straightforward account of the reported crash and recovery of the UFO by the Army Air Corps operating out of Roswell.

Base at the same time as the alien bodies. Dennis said a nurse told him of autopsies being performed on three dead aliens.

The nurse, identified in the article as Naomi Maria Self, then apparently disappeared.

The final article focuses on Self and five other nurses at the base in July 1947. Researchers Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt said they spent five unsuccessful years trying to find records of the nurses.

But writer Paul McCarthy tracked the five nurses, four of whom were dead, in only three days, by using government sources. Self does not appear in the Army yearbook from Roswell in 1947 and there are no records of her serving in the military.

Haut said in an interview Saturday he believes Self was at the base. Enough researchers believe she exists that it is likely

it follows through to the 1980s, when researchers began studying the incident, up to the present day and the U.S. Air Force's explanation that the UFO was actually a balloon from top-secret Project Mogul.

Several Roswell Incident researchers and government officials were interviewed for the article, as was Roswell resident Walter Haut, the former Army public affairs officer who distributed the press release on the UFO to local media in 1947.

Haut said Saturday he had not read the articles but likely will if they cross his desk.

"I would assume so. I get stacks of things coming over the desk, some I read and some I don't," he said.

The second article is a transcription of an interview with Glenn Dennis, the mortician who was reportedly at the Roswell Army Air

so, he said. There are several possible reasons she is not in the yearbook, including that she was not at the base when photos were taken, he said.

The articles in Omni are the latest in a growing amount of attention being given the Roswell Incident. On Aug. 28, Fox Television televised "Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?" The show included a film that showed an autopsy being performed on an alleged alien.

Shows such as "Encounters" and "Sightings" have also given a large amount of air time to the incident. The New York Times even gave it a front-page article when the Air Force released its Project Mogul explanation.

"I think there are a whole bunch of reasons," for increased attention to the Roswell Incident, Haut said. "I think more and more people in the news media are realizing it's not a cock-and-bull story."

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - Sept. 13, 1995

MYSTERY

Utahns contact UFO center about 6 bright lights in sky

Local agencies receive no calls. Similar sightings reported around West.

By Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writer

Six bright unidentified objects were observed moving above the Salt Lake Valley at about 4:35 p.m. Monday, according to the director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

Peter Davenport said his non-profit organization received three calls from the area Monday, including two from Salt Lake residents who said they saw "points of light" flying about twice the speed of two airplanes in flight at the same time. The other call was from a woman who said she was with the "sheriff's office in Salt Lake City," Davenport said.

Spokesmen for both the Salt Lake City Police Department and the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office said they had no record of incoming or outgoing calls regarding UFOs on Monday.

Greg Clark, an approach control supervisor at Salt Lake City International Airport, said the airport tower received no phone calls from

eyewitnesses or radio reports from airborne pilots regarding unusual objects. Nothing abnormal was detected by radar, Clark said.

Davenport said one caller reported five people were sitting around a swimming pool at an apartment complex on the city's west side when they noticed the objects in the western sky.

The first and last objects in the formation were bright blue and the other four were bright white, Davenport said. Three of the white objects appeared to be flying in a triangular formation, he said.

Davenport said similar sightings were reported later Monday in Whitefish, Mont., and early Tuesday in Leadville, Colo.

Davenport requested that anyone who witnessed the objects call the center at 206-722-3000 or send a written report to the National UFO Reporting Center, P.O. Box 45623, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145.

Edwards' UFO sighting not Salida's first

by Arlene Shovald
Mail Staff Writer

The August 27 sighting of a UFO near Salida was not the first.

The Salida Record of Sept. 7, 1917, tells of Salida residents seeing mysterious "vehicles of the air" flying about the night sky during the previous week.

Nearly every night, some kind of light was observed in various positions in the "blue depths." The lights were in motion but described as very far away. They would disappear for an instant, only to reappear stronger than

ever, and then vanish.

Among those observing the strange phenomena were some of the pillars of Salida society - Rev. and Mrs. Oakley, Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Woody and family, and C.F. Bode and family. The names of these folks appeared regularly in the news and society columns of The Salida Record of that time, so they were deemed to be reliable sources.

Rev. Oakley examined the object with a telescope one night and could discern what appeared to be a wheel about three feet in diameter. While the wheel seemed to revolve, vari-colored lights appeared. Without the telescope, the

light appeared to be about the size of a croquet ball as compared with the stars.

The strange light appeared over Tenderfoot Mountain, above Mt. Shavano, and again in the northern sky, each time at great distances.

What the objects were remained a question. According to the article, it was surely not an "aeroplane" because an aeroplane does not have a wheel which revolves slowly. The same might be said of a dirigible balloon. And besides, there was no known aviation field in Colorado.

This occurred during World War I, but it was concluded the objects were too far from the seat of the war to be German reconnoitering parties, and besides, there was nothing for them to see up here in the mountains.

The article concluded, "is it then some genius who has discovered some new principle of flight, and is trying out his invention? It's your guess. What

is it?"

It is interesting to note the dates of the sightings - Au-

gust 27, 1995 and the week of Sept. 1 - 7, 1917. Most UFO sightings occur in the spring

A 1917 edition of The Salida Record reported residents seeing "vehicles of the air."

Sheriff's office did get report of Aug. 27 UFO

Chaffee County Sheriff Ron Bergmann retracted statements he made Monday, when he told The Mountain Mail no reports were received by the sheriff's dispatch regarding a UFO sighting Aug. 27.

In a letter to The Mail, Bergmann wrote:

"In our conversation regarding the reported sighting of a UFO in the Salida area, I told you that the sheriff's office dispatchers had not received any calls. I was mistaken and I apologize to both you and to Tim Edwards.

"Mr. Edwards did call the

dispatch center and the dispatcher on duty contacted the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., and made arrangements for Mr. Edwards to talk directly with them. I was in Denver when this event took place and became aware of it while watching Channel 4 News while still in Denver. After returning to work later in the week I did not see any reports on the sighting and assumed that no calls had been received.

"I apologize again for this error and for any problems or inconvenience it may have caused."

MOUNTAIN MAIL, Salida, CO - Sept. 11, 1995

Salida man not alone in sighting UFO

by Arlene Shovald
Mail Staff Writer

Salida wasn't the only area to experience strange sightings in the sky during the past week.

Julie Perez, office manager for the Fiske Planetarium at the University of Colorado at Boulder campus, reported a total of seven calls and/or messages on her answering machine, regarding unidentified flying objects.

"I didn't know about the sighting in Salida that was presented on TV at the beginning of the week," Perez said. "After hearing about that and discussing it with another colleague, it appears these people were looking at the same thing in different areas."

Perez said from time to time Fiske Planetarium receives inquiries about sightings per se, which are often identified by the staff as

something legitimate.

"As a lay person, I look at our calendar to see if any event, like a planet or comet, is expected to appear," Perez said.

"During this week there was nothing, to my knowledge."

She received the first inquiry on her tape on Monday morning from a father in Longmont who, with his children, had observed something

in the sky and wondered what it was.

The calls continued through the week, totaling seven in all. One woman on Flagstaff Mountain near Boulder, who is a regular observer, saw something with a telescope and could not identify it.

She called the planetarium for expertise.

"I've been here five years, and we get calls every once in awhile," Perez said. "Often it's

a meteor or a comet or something we can identify. We feel it's important for people to know if they call, we will listen and hear what they are saying. If we can identify the object we will. If it goes beyond that we turn it over to a staff member to identify."

With this situation, the reports continued throughout the week, and a record of those reporting sightings was not maintained.

the inside story

By ROGER BECK

Do you believe in UFOs? I do. You should.

Now hold on there before you blow a fuse. I didn't say spaceships or flying saucers or extraterrestrials, I said UFOs. That stands for Unidentified Flying Objects. And I guess you really have to believe that there are such things, since there have been several thousand reported sightings since the first one in 1947 when Kenneth Arnold said he saw nine boomerang-shaped objects near Mount Rainier in Washington.

If you're really interested in the subject, you might want to contact a newly formed group called MUFON Inland Empire. State Section Director Cinde Costello tells me her local office in Rialto is a branch of the 25-year-old Mutual UFO Network Inc., headquartered in Sequin, Texas.

She says it's a non-profit group of some 5,000 members worldwide "who are dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFO sightings and related phenomena, most of them professional scientists, engineers and researchers in some 45 fields from physics and medicine to photo analysis and communication who want to get to the bottom of stories questioning whether UFOs are extraterrestrial or domestic."

It is funded by donations, membership dues and sale of publications.

What does she believe about the origin of UFOs? "I have an open mind on the subject," she admits. "I haven't really made up my mind about it."

When I asked if MUFON had any members in Big Bear, she referred me to Tim Cooper, a private investigator by profession and an investigator for the group, who lives here. What does he believe about the origin of UFOs?

"I reserve judgment," he responded. "There've been six or seven people who've told me they've seen strange objects in the sky, mostly over Holcomb Valley or the desert floor. And I've seen a couple or three things I couldn't identify. I don't know. Maybe they were



The truth now, do you believe in UFOs?

experimental aircraft out of Edwards Air Force Base. Maybe not. But back in 1993 there were some good sightings reported here, one for three hours."

Tim lent me a whole bunch of material, including official and unofficial reports, a videotape and a book. Most of it deals with the still-controversial crash of some mysterious aerial object and alleged discovery of the bodies of four extraterrestrials at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 that started the whole controversy over whether or not the government has been covering up the whole UFO situation.

It's interesting stuff, even though none of it has ever been confirmed.

Cinde said that back in August of 1978, a report came from Crestline of three boomerang-shaped craft, the size of small aircraft, flashing synchronized lights and circling over the area for 35 or 40 minutes.

"The sheriff couldn't identify the craft before they finally flew away. Norton Air Force Base down the hill denied any knowledge of the incident or the craft. It was a true close encounter."

Now I said I believe there are UFOs. Flying objects that are unidentified. But as to whether they come from another planet, I don't know. I don't believe that, but I don't necessarily disbelieve it, either. There are too many unexplained happenings in my lifetime.

But I'm inclined not to believe the extraterrestrial argument. Yes, I know people have reported aerial maneuvers and speed that couldn't have been done by any aircraft we know of. And some hard-to-believe folks swear they have been captured and taken aboard spacecraft.

But I can't help wondering why these incidents always occur at night to lonely, elderly rural people in remote places like the outskirts of Gobbler's Knob, Tennessee. If there are creatures from other planets wanting to make contact with our civilization, why don't they land in daylight in New York City or Washington or any other populated area?

"Fully 90 percent or so of all sightings reported are of natural phenomena or manmade objects," says Cinde. "This is especially true in our area so close to Edwards and to the Lockheed-Martin 'Skunk Works' installations in Palmdale, which recently unveiled one of its new experimental models dubbed 'Dark Star,' a pilotless reconnaissance plane that is saucer-shaped and reportedly can cruise at high speed and stay aloft for more than eight hours."

"But it's the remaining unexplained 10 percent that keeps us hooked."

Anyway, if you want to report a sighting, or to become a MUFON member at \$25 a year, or for more information, call me for their number.

'We are not alone'

Dan McComb/The Spokesman-Review

■ Jerry Rolwes, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, is serious about his job as assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network.

Waiting for the aliens

UFO group often discredits sightings

By Jim Lynch
Staff writer

They pack into a back room of Perkins Restaurant off North Division on a Sunday night. Two dozen serious, credentialed men. A reverend. An Air Force colonel. A biochemist. An astronomer.

Discussion rages for two hours about the one topic that fascinates and unites them: UFOs.

Often branded as fringe wackos, Spokane's UFO buffs are crawling into the city's mainstream behind the measured diplomacy of their leader — Jerry Rolwes.

In the past year, Rolwes spoke at Kiwanis meetings and crafted



■ Headlines proclaim the finding of a UFO on July 8, 1947.

working relationships with the National Weather Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Spokane Astronomical Society and Fairchild Air Force Base.

He even persuaded county 911

operators to refer UFO reports to his northwest Spokane home — a link that was considered such a coup by his peers with the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

Regional sightings

Some regional UFO sightings, explanations and gags during the past 50 years:

June 1947 — Boise pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine disk-shaped objects over the Cascade Mountains. Arnold coined the term "flying saucers" and it stuck.

April 1952 — After a rash of UFO sightings, Fairchild Air Force Base announced it would act as a clearinghouse for serious UFO reports in the Spokane area. Within a week, two sightings were made: a "ruler shaped," red object spotted by mill workers in the Trentwood area, and a green, yellow and red, rocket-like object over Ft. George Wright.

August 1959 — After nightly reports about brilliant, blinking lights above Colville, the mystery was solved. The U.S. Air Force explained the lights were nothing more than jet-refueling tankers on routine night-training missions.

April 1963 — Sandpoint residents and police witnessed a strange black object with no rotors or wings, glowing with

an orange flame at night.

January 1967 — A red, yellow and green UFO was reported to county and state police that their car was forced off a country road by a small space vehicle that landed on the roof of their vehicle. The laborers said two "little green men" came out, feuded in a strange language, got back in their vehicle and sped away. Police said the two men did not appear to have been drinking.

November 1967 — Two Ririe, Idaho, farmers reported to county and state police that their car was forced off a country road by a small space vehicle that landed on the roof of their vehicle. The laborers said two "little green men" came out, feuded in a strange language, got back in their vehicle and sped away. Police said the two men did not appear to have been drinking.

October 1975 — About 20 Oregonians discarded

their possessions and fled the state to join a Colorado cult preparing to leave earth aboard a UFO. The alien craft was going to take them to heaven, the cult believed.

February 1976 — Police in Cascade County, Mont., investigated reports of harrowing screams at night and strange, hovering lights. Two women said they saw three hair-covered humanlike creatures. A policeman said he saw a strange light too, but couldn't get close enough to explain it.

September 1976 — Gary Hutson woke up in his Spokane home to eerie noises, wild lights and a strange-looking craft in his back yard. "It sent chills up my spine," Hutson told a reporter at the time. Hutson promptly called Crime Check. When police arrived they found the alien spacecraft consisted of three automobile hubcaps, a blue revolving light, and a white strobe — all assembled by a prankster neighbor.

May 1980 — Passengers on a United Airlines flight into Spokane claimed the plane shifted its landing path to avoid a UFO. The jolt was later credited to a pilot

mistaking a train light for an aircraft.

January 1981 — A UFO was reported in the Edwall, Wash., area by a man who said he saw a light so bright he pulled his car over to study it. As it burned brighter he said he got frightened and returned to his car. The light sped off.

1982 — Strangely mutilated farm animals were reported in Montana, Washington and Canada. One Montana report stated UFOs were sighted the night before animals were surgically mutilated in the same area.

November 1986 — A Japan Air Lines pilot said his cargo jet was shadowed by a huge UFO while flying over Alaska.

July 1990 — Witnesses saw strange, diamond-shaped aircraft north of Fairchild Air Force Base in broad daylight.

December 1994 — A Palouse woman reported seeing three batlike aircraft hovering near LaCrosse.

(continued on page 4)

he was asked to explain the arrangement at a recent UFO conference.

Rolwes is confident his new liaisons can help him quickly debunk most bogus UFO reports. Of the 13 sightings he's investigated in the area since late 1993, most could be quickly explained or dismissed.

Yet Rolwes remains fascinated with a woman's report last Dec. 29 of three batlike aircraft hovering in a triangular pattern over the Palouse, near LaCrosse. One of her sons began crying at the sight of the bright lights and strange objects, which soon sped away.

Rolwes suspects the woman and her two boys might have seen some classified military technology such as new stealth aircraft.

He has no such plausible explanation for the puzzling lights seen around Post Falls last year — the topic of a "Sightings" television show in March that called the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene corridor a new UFO hotbed.

Ken Holmes, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Spokane, says he calls Rolwes when he can't answer questions about what people say they saw in the sky.

"He's intelligent and informed," Holmes says. "I haven't done any real research into his credibility. All I can say is he's done some good work for us."

Spokane and Post Falls police also say Rolwes appears genuine and helpful, but they don't hide the fact they would rather distance themselves from UFO investigators.

Rolwes, 46, is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who on occasion addresses virtual strangers as "good

sir."

To Spokane kids entering the military in the early 1980s, this same cordial officer was their gatekeeper. Rolwes estimates he swore in about 6,500 Spokane recruits to the armed forces before getting transferred to other posts.

Rolwes, like most MUFON members and leaders, is keenly image conscious and strives to be seen as a credible, science-based investigator. He was initially reluctant to discuss his work with a reporter for fear publicity would be a magnet for pranksters and crazies.

"We don't need any wackos," Rolwes explains, then proudly lists the advanced degrees belonging to many of MUFON's 25 paying members in Eastern Washington.

Rolwes also is quick to tell skeptics he has never seen a UFO. He simply believes there is enough credible evidence to argue the planet is occasionally visited by aliens.

He approaches his role in examining that theory with the seriousness of a homicide detective.

"He's a hard-headed German kid from Iowa who's not given to excitability," says Ret. Col. Abe Kardong, a former Air Force pilot. "If anything, I would say Jerry is more skeptical than the average bear."

Kardong joined MUFON a year ago. "I went to a couple meetings to see what sort of people were involved," Kardong says. "I checked it out very carefully, because I'm anything but a kook. ... They're very professional people. Serious."

Rolwes has been enamored with UFOs since he was a 9-year-old listening to his older brother's Air

Force tales about UFO reports. His own life in the Air Force further fueled the passion as he met many people who nervously approached him with things they had seen but were ordered not to discuss.

For example, he heard from the navigator of an F-111 fighter bomber who said that while flying over Utah in 1977 he encountered a lighted orb that parked itself next to the aircraft. A call was placed to the control towers, but radar indicated there was nothing up there.

"It is my judgment, because of the credible people who have crossed my life," Rolwes explains, "that we are not alone."

After keeping his UFO hobby quiet for years, Rolwes opened up late in his career and gave lectures on the subject. At his 1993 retirement roast from the U.S. Air Force base in Aviano, Italy, he received a handcrafted wooden spaceship he keeps in his bedroom.

Before leaving Europe, Rolwes communicated with the Rev. Jack Jennings, a Presbyterian minister in Spokane and Eastern Washington's highest MUFON official at the time.

Jennings says Rolwes changed the group's style and techniques so it can now better investigate sightings. "Jerry's brought some more professionalism to it," he says.

During meticulously prepared speeches, Rolwes details evidence from previously classified documents that the federal government routinely concealed its own investigations into UFOs and covered up evidence of the 1947 capture of a flying saucer near Roswell, N.M.

Rolwes says anyone who examines

the documents can see the government was hiding something. "You look at the material released through the Freedom of Information Act and you try to explain it away," he says.

When Rolwes receives a UFO report he listens for a certain type of witness. He had no use for the recent drunk who claimed he'd seen little green men.

"I'm not going to be laughed at," Rolwes says. "I want to talk to people who are scared, people who have fear in their voices."

He heard it last year when he talked to Post Falls' UFO witnesses.

Between March and October, residents reported strange lights in the sky. A police dispatcher poked her head out one night and saw them too. One witness videotaped an odd, bright light that appeared to hover, then shoot above the horizon.

Rolwes interviewed seven "legitimate" witnesses, including a man who says some sort of craft with a blinding light 50 yards wide followed his truck along West Newman Lake Road.

Rolwes ruled out military, commercial and recreation aircraft. He also confirmed there were no strange weather balloons or hospital helicopters in the area.

Rolwes wouldn't deliver when "Sightings" tried to get him to say the unexplained light was likely connected to alien visitors.

"I couldn't say that," Rolwes explains. "I had no proof of what it was. All I could say was what it wasn't."

Dan Bakken, president of the Spokane Astronomical Society, respects Rolwes' cautious style.

"If he hasn't been able to fully explain something he doesn't assume it's an alien aircraft," he says. "I think any very large commercial area should have a professional clearing-house for these reports."

Rolwes and Bakken hooked up several months back when people reported seeing bright balls streaking across North Idaho toward Hayden Lake.

After getting a call from the National Weather Service, Rolwes called Bakken. The astronomer explained that the sighting sounded like "bolides" — large, high-speed meteorites.

Bakken considers himself a "healthy skeptic" about UFOs. "My mind isn't closed. But to believe in something that fantastic, I'd have to see it myself."

Bakken says many people often mistake Venus and the particularly bright star, Capella, for UFOs. He also says lenticular clouds, tight disc-shaped clouds common in the area, can fool people, too, especially at dusk.

Bakken, who is building a massive telescope with a 41-inch lens, says many people reporting UFOs are simply unfamiliar with the heavens.

"They don't know what they're looking at," he says. "A lot of people these days just barely glance up at the sky at all."

■ MUFON's quarterly meetings in Eastern Washington occur at Perkins restaurant, 5903 N. Division, on the first Sunday of November, February, May and August; 5 to 7 p.m.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 13, 1995

UFO

Unusual Light Patterns Sighted

By Carole Baker

On the night of Wednesday, August 23, at about 9 p.m., Van Rench was fishing on the three-mile bridge between Pensacola and Gulf Breeze. Looking out to the north-northeast he could not believe his eyes when a huge pattern of bright white lights appeared in the sky. "It just came on, then blipped out after a few seconds" Van told me. The lights were in a rectangular pattern about six inches by four inches at arm's length. The edges of the rectangle were lit and there were three or four vertical "strips" of light within the outside "box." Van was particularly struck by the size and intense "neon" brightness of the lights.

Marian Morin's recent sighting also involved "bright white" strips of light. She was driving south on Muldoon Road in Pensacola at 8:30 p.m., on Sunday, August 27. In her view of the sky between the trees bordering the road she suddenly saw five long white "strips" of light, like huge long sparks" going from west to east. Marian estimates that each of the strips of light were at least 15 feet long and about 7 to 10 feet high. They shot across her view point one after the other at high speed. She described the color of the light as "neon like, very bright white." She drove quickly to the junction

of Cerny Road where the trees opened up affording her a better view of the sky but she saw nothing further of the lights. She estimates that the lights she saw were at an elevation of approximately 2000 feet and quite large. Marian has had previous UFO sightings.

To report a sighting call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON hotline at 438-3261.

By RENEE HERNANDEZ
The Sun's Fontana Bureau

FONTANA — Stephan Herrick has always believed in the possibility of life on other planets.

Now, he thinks that possibility is a probability.

The Mesa Avenue resident was working on his car around 10:13 p.m. Tuesday when he glanced above the hood and spotted a bright orange light zig-zagging across the sky.

"All I saw was an orange light shooting off flames off the sides," said Herrick, 40.

Herrick wasn't alone.

At least five Fontana residents called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle Tuesday night, claiming they saw an orange light streak across the sky. The latest sightings are part of a continuing trend of reports to the center of people seeing bizarre objects, said director and "UFOlogist" Peter B. Davenport.

"The nature of sightings has shifted over the last six or seven months to more unusual, more bizarre objects," he said.

Typical reports had been of saucer-shaped objects that emit a

white light.

Herrick said the object he saw hovered in the sky for three to five minutes before it disappeared to the southwest.

"Nothing I can think of could've done this and I immediately thought it was a UFO," Herrick said. "I don't know if it was an alien. I didn't see a ship. But I've never seen anything like this before."

The UFO Reporting Center, which is staffed by volunteers, does not have the ability to gauge if sightings are up or down, Davenport said.

But Dave Aaron, who operates the UFO Audio-Video Clearinghouse in Yucaipa, said more reports are logged during summer months when people spend more time outdoors.

The Fontana calls on Tuesday were from different neighborhoods. Each caller said the light took on a different appearance, but the descriptions were close enough to suggest it was the same object, Davenport said.

On the same night, Davenport received a flood of calls from the Tempe and Prescott areas of Arizona, all describing similar accounts of an orange object. Later

that night he received a report of a possible landing in Washington state, but he does not know if that is related to the Fontana and Arizona sightings. He got no calls from other areas.

The Fontana Police Department did not log any unusual incidents on Tuesday, nor did March Air Force Base in Riverside. Senior airman John Pavliga said the base will research local UFO calls through its command post.

"If there is a reasonable explanation for it, like a helicopter, we'll call the caller back. Otherwise, we forget about it," Pavliga said.

Sightings from this area are not uncommon, Davenport said. The last one called into the center before Tuesday's reports was on New Year's Eve. The center also received a number of calls from Fontana, Hemet and Twentynine Palms last October.

"From our vantage point, Michigan and California are the two most active states," Davenport said.

He said Tuesday's sightings seemed extraordinary in nature, nothing of a terrestrial nature.

"This probably was a UFO, an extraterrestrial ship piloted by beings not from here."

SUN, San Bernardino, CA - Aug. 28, 1995

Fontana residents claim UFO sighting

By RENEE HERNANDEZ
The Sun's Fontana Bureau

FONTANA — Stephan Herrick has always believed in the possibility of life on other planets.

Now, he thinks that possibility is a probability.

The Mesa Avenue resident was working on his car around 10:13 p.m. Tuesday when he glanced above the hood and spotted a bright orange light zig-zagging across the sky.

"All I saw was an orange light shooting off flames off the sides," said Herrick, 40.

Herrick wasn't alone.

At least five Fontana residents called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle Tuesday night, claiming they saw an orange light streak across the sky. The latest sightings are part of a continuing trend of reports to the center of people seeing bizarre objects, said director and "UFOlogist" Peter B. Davenport.

"The nature of sightings has shifted over the last six or seven months to more unusual, more bizarre objects," he said.

Typical reports had been of saucer-shaped objects that emit a

white light.

Herrick said the object he saw hovered in the sky for three to five minutes before it disappeared to the southwest.

"Nothing I can think of could've done this and I immediately thought it was a UFO," Herrick said. "I don't know if it was an alien. I didn't see a ship. But I've never seen anything like this before."

The UFO Reporting Center, which is staffed by volunteers, does not have the ability to gauge if sightings are up or down, Davenport said.

But Dave Aaron, who operates the UFO Audio-Video Clearinghouse in Yucaipa, said more reports are logged during summer months when people spend more time outdoors.

The Fontana calls on Tuesday were from different neighborhoods. Each caller said the light took on a different appearance, but the descriptions were close enough to suggest it was the same object, Davenport said.

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ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 6, 1995

UFO

SPARKLING BALL SIGHTING IN ENSLEY

By Carole Baker

Melissa Jones, a Warrington resident, and her family were driving home at approximately 8:30 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, August 27th. They were driving south on Hwy. 29 in Ensley. About 500 feet away and at an approximate elevation of 60

degrees, Melissa noticed a "bright white hot ball with sparks coming out of it" appear in the sky to their west. As Melissa and her husband watched, the ball travelled from west to east in front of them. The sighting lasted approximately 30 seconds before the ball "just blipped out." Melissa told me that the ball was approximately the size of her thumbnail at arm's length. She described the color as being white with a bluish tinge, the

kind of color she would associate with extremely hot metal. The sparks that were coming from the ball were white.

Wanting to be sure that she had not witnessed a crashing conventional aircraft, Melissa called the WEAR TV3 station upon arriving home. They had received no calls regarding a plane crash. "The way it was, I didn't really think it was a plane anyway," Melissa told me. This is the first time Melissa has seen an unidentified flying object in the sky, although she has had an interest in the subject and done some reading up on UFOs. Apart from being amazed that she saw something, her main concern is whether anyone else who was

driving on Hwy. 29 saw it too. The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON team would be interested to know if anyone else saw it.

To report a sighting, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. For information on the Project Awareness 1995 Gulf Breeze Conference to be held October 20-22, call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888.

Keep Looking Up!

OUT OF THIS WORLD

UFO FlyBys in Middle Tennessee

BY JOYSA M. WINTER

LaVere Pisut is well aware that some people out there think she is crazy. If they're right—if she really has hooped the loop, so to speak—she at least *knows* people think she's nuts. Her story is so bizarre, in fact, that sometimes Pisut herself can barely believe it.

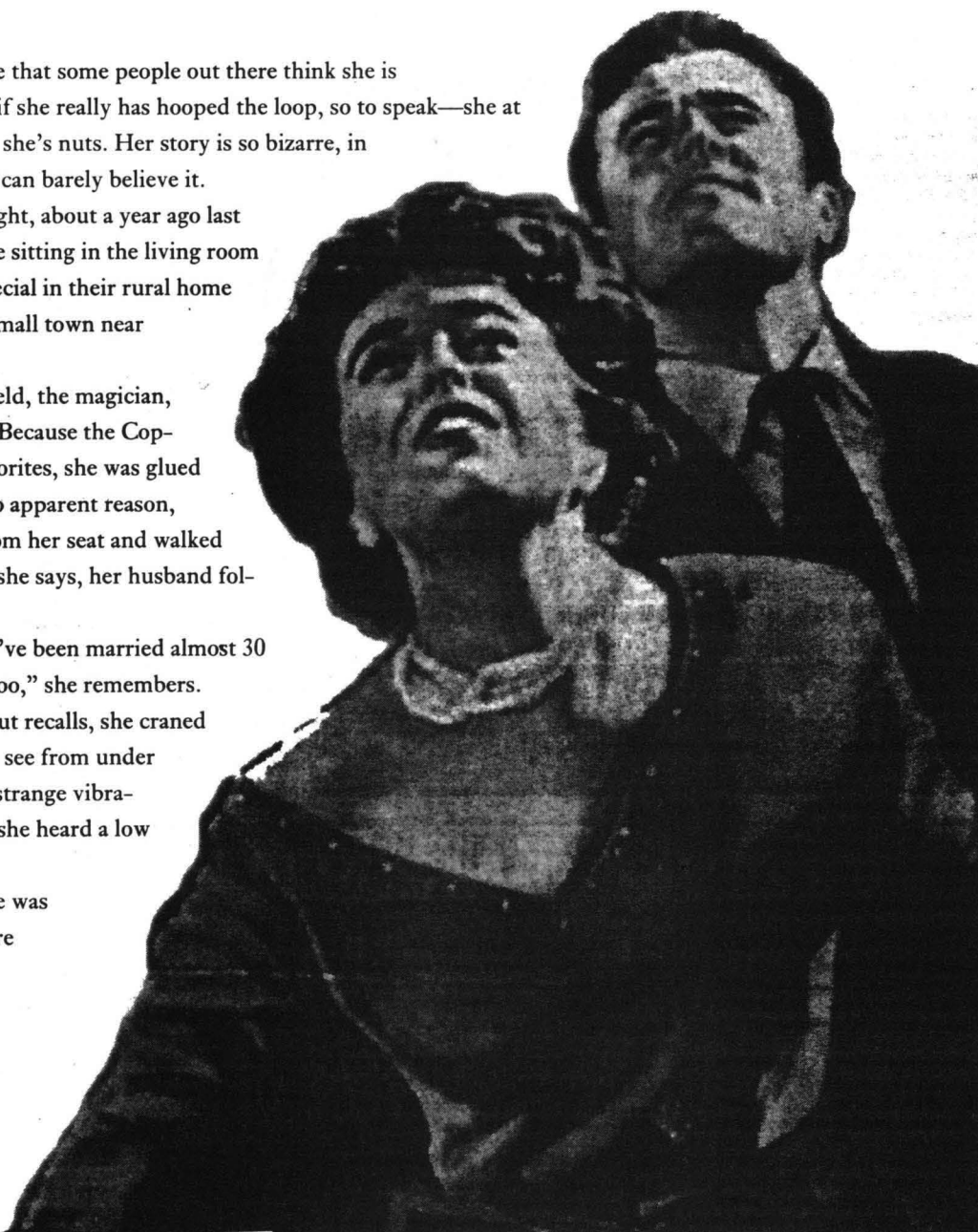
It happened one cozy spring night, about a year ago last April. Pisut and her husband were sitting in the living room watching a David Copperfield special in their rural home about 10 miles outside Baxter, a small town near Cookeville.

Pisut was excited that Copperfield, the magician, was performing some new tricks. Because the Copperfield program is one of her favorites, she was glued to the screen. Nevertheless, for no apparent reason, Pisut says, she abruptly got up from her seat and walked outside to her front porch. Soon, she says, her husband followed her outside as well.

"For him to follow me out—we've been married almost 30 years—that was kind of unusual too," she remembers.

While walking out the door, Pisut recalls, she craned her neck toward the sky, trying to see from under the eave of the porch. She felt a "strange vibration" through her shoulders, and she heard a low rumbling noise.

Her husband asked her what she was looking at, and for a moment, there was nothing to see. Until...



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ADCOCK

"Until all of a sudden, there were these lights up above the house, either square or triangular in formation," Pisut says, pointing up to a barren spot just off her porch—a rare window of sky among acres of canopied trees. "It was very dark that night, no moon, and I couldn't see stars through it. That's how I know it was solid."

Pisut doesn't know how long she and her husband sat on the porch watching the object—which was as big as her house—hover in the air. But she guesses they stood there for about 20 minutes. And now, thinking back on it, all she can do is despair over the things she wishes she had done.

"Why didn't we turn out the porch light to see it better? Or grab a flashlight and shine it up, because that's how low it was. Or we could have run off the porch to get a better look. I don't know why we didn't do these things!"

Once the object flew away across the trees, Pisut says, there was a great flash of white light and then total silence. It was a queer stillness that blanketed the countryside.

"This was spring, and spring is not quiet," she says. "We had 150 chickens and roosters, 11 geese, five dogs, and there was no sound. I

don't even know where the dogs were—and they always come up when we're outside. No frogs, no peep from the goat yard next to my house. We're next to a pond but no noise from the crickets. Absolute, dead silence."

When it was all over, and Pisut had regained some of her senses, she ran inside and called her sister, who lives next door on the other side of the wooded thicket.

"LaVere called me at about 10 till 10," says Gaylene Fields, sitting on a step on her sister's front porch, staring at the blank spot in the sky where stars are now twinkling, the same spot where all this bizarreness started. "I asked her where it was headed, and my son and I got in the car and drove west toward Granville. We could see an orange glow at the horizon, so brilliant that we thought it had crashed. Halfway there, we smelled this acrid, chemical smell we had never smelled before."

But they say they lost sight of the object. Once they had arrived in Granville, Fields and her son found some Jackson County police and a sheriff who followed them back to her sister's house. An hour later, two Putnam

(continued on page 6)

They saw the light Jeff Hart (left) and Marc "Pugsley" Pisut say they witnessed a strange light above the treetops near Baxter in 1992. "I swear, we weren't drunk and we weren't stoned," Pisut says.

County cops arrived and, with Fields' son, retraced the route to Granville.

But that was the last of it. Nothing else was found, and finally, by about 3 a.m., the last of the cops left Pisut's property. The cops' best guess: Glow from the city lights of Carthage, which is some 22 miles away. However, the Pisuts and the Fields aren't entirely comfortable with that explanation. They insist that in the nine years they have lived in Baxter, they have never, ever, recalled being able to see the city lights from Carthage.

Lacking any other explanation, Pisut credits the UFO with having cured her 6-year problem with a hiatal hernia, her 15-year problem with sleep apnea and her more recent problem with a tilted bladder. Since the incident, her astigmatism, which she has had since birth, has also started to clear up.

"I know!" Pisut says, her eyes growing wide. "It doesn't make any sense! I know I sound ridiculous. But then, nothing that happened can be explained. If I heard it, I would think someone was either crazy or making it up too. All I know is, I had these physical conditions that have improved since that night. And I don't know that it's related, but I don't know what else it is. It's been a total spontaneous recovery."

Her doctor, who is her brother-in-law, agrees. Richard Fields, a practicing emergency-room surgeon in nearby Livingston, says there is "no logical explanation" for any of Pisut's recoveries, which would normally require surgery.

As a physical phenomenon, UFOs are normally granted a status somewhere between New Age religion and outright quackery. Few astronomers take the existence of alien-manned UFOs seriously; official military investigators associated with the U.S. government have never claimed verification of any unidentified flying objects.

As a cultural phenomenon, UFOs first soared to notoriety shortly after World War II, as postwar tensions worsened from a mild chill into the Cold War. While the nuclear specter of an evil Communist regime haunted the consciousness of America—just as the United States was preparing to launch spacecrafts into the unexplored atmosphere—movies, novels and comic books began to exploit the issue of extraterrestrial life. Most of that life was hell-bent on destroying us.

In 1938's *War of the Worlds*, Orson Welles broadcast a gruesome image of interplanetary life: bloodthirsty Martians who vaporized humans with rayguns and laser beams. But today's UFO world is a kinder, gentler place. By 1982, *E.T.*, the most popular film ever made about UFOs, depicted aliens as lovable extraterrestrials who descend to Earth, muttering sounds as pleasant as a baby's gurgles. Indeed, the beings that many people describe encountering these days—such as the alien visitors known as "The Greens" or "The Browns"—come here in peace.

UFO encounters appear to be gaining popularity this year, fostered in part by the recent nonfiction account of UFO sightings written by revered author C.D.B. Bryan. The Internet has also brought thousands of UFO buffs in contact with one another. Fox Television's *The X-Files*, which features a running alien-abduction storyline, has become a cult phenomenon. And the recent Fox show called *Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction*, moderated by *Star Trek: The Next Generation*'s Jonathan Frakes, showed an alleged autopsy of an alien that had been salvaged from the notorious Roswell, N.M., UFO crash-site. Because of that broadcast, Larry King rebroadcast one of his former shows discussing the UFO phenomenon.

In addition, the former Soviet Union has recently declassified all of its government UFO files, creating a rush of interest and investigations. It is said that Japan, in 1996, also plans to declassify its files, a possibility that has the UFO world abuzz.

The Pisuts and the Fields aren't the only ones in Tennessee, or in the seeming hot spot of UFO activity that runs east of Nashville toward Lebanon and Cookeville, who have UFO stories to tell. Others have witnessed UFOs of all shapes and sizes. Whether they are perceived as alien, interdimensional, time-traveled or government-conspired, these sightings are part of a heightened awareness of airborne activity here:

- A continuing education class at Cumberland University in Lebanon has been meeting for the last eight weeks to talk about famous area UFO sightings and other spooky phenomena. Many of the class members have stories of their own.

- In Cookeville, a local chapter of MUFON, the national Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, sprang up after Pisut's experience. Its monthly meetings have drawn as many as 30



True believer LaVere Pisut, who lives in a region with some of the heaviest reported UFO activity in the nation, says that many Baxter and Cookeville residents have seen "lights, objects" and other unexplained aerial phenomena.

people from the Nashville area, at least five of whom believe they have been abducted.

- In Nashville, several area churches and civic groups have called the Cookeville MUFON group to give talks to members.

All of this brouhaha doesn't surprise Frank Burns, a retired English/journalism professor at Tennessee Tech. Burns, who taught the latest UFO class at Cumberland, says sightings go way back. In effect, Burns "wrote the book" on the earliest reported Tennessee sightings back in the 1950s when he penned the "strange phenomenon" section of the 1961 edition of the *History of Wilson County*. There, Burns outlined nearly a dozen encounters from 1950 to 1957.

According to Burns, who spent much of his adult life in Cookeville, rushes of unexplained flying objects frequently occur in four major regions of the United States, one of which is Tennessee. We are, he says, in a UFO hot spot.

"The most sightings usually take place around some nuclear or testing facility, such as the New Mexico area, with the infamous Roswell UFO crash in the late '40s, the incident in Socorro, N.M., in the '50s, and the Lubbock lights of Texas in 1951," Burns says. "White Sands has been an experimental testing ground for years. We have Oak Ridge 100 miles from here."

The sightings also tend to clump together in certain years. But of all those years, it was 1973 when things really got hot. For a two-month period, UFOs filled the skies from Memphis to Ohio to Louisiana. Why 1973? Burns has an answer for that. "That's the year they were proposing a nuclear power station near Hartsville, only 15 miles from here," he suggests. "They even built a few projects before public uproar made them quit."

That year, Southern skies saw "star-like objects and a glowing red triangle" that crept across Nashville one night in early September, according to the *Tennessean's* account of a sighting by the Harrington family of 245 Willow Ln., near Harding Mall. The police were flooded with calls, all with similar descriptions, to which they replied: "It is really out of our jurisdiction."

In Lebanon that same September, a "cigar-shaped, quiet" object was spotted by Mrs. Fred Singleton, whom absolutely everyone regarded as a down-to-earth woman not prone to hallucination of any kind.

In Ohio that same day, another "oblong object" that seemed to be poorly piloted reportedly landed on and killed a couple of cows. Alien myopia?

If the Nashville skies had seemed active in September, the number of sightings in October was positively astronomical. On Oct. 1, Nashville papers reported sightings of a UFO with "bright white lights in the center, with red, green and blue-looking lights around it," according to Obion County Sheriff Nathan Cunningham. The report said that "a red light illuminated a field beside the road, then disappeared suddenly," according to George and Vicki Rogers, two more eyewitnesses that same night.

On the night of Oct. 18, police dispatchers were swamped with dozens of calls from

around Nashville. Dispatcher Tommy Parker reported 40 calls within one 10-minute period.

One man reported a big blue mass coming down on his house. Others had the usual strange-lighted-shiny-object-things-in-the-sky reports. Over in Robertson County, objects ranged from "silent pancakes" to "a banana that roared," and in Montgomery County, police switchboards went haywire with calls about "jumping objects" and objects "like a house all lit up."

But without question, the most famous sighting of that year, and possibly in recent history, took place Oct. 20 in Lebanon, where Dennis Sircy, a school bus driver, and all the kids in the bus saw an object while traveling on Leeville Pike and Tuckers Gap Road. Reporters described it, based on interviews, as "shiny, silver-looking, round in shape, and larger than the school bus."

Jerald Phillips, chief of rescue for the local Civil Defense, reported that the object left "three large circles in the broom sage, with four large places in each where something...had blown the grass off the ground, exposing the dirt. It was not an animal that could have caused it."

Meanwhile, that same day in Palacios, Texas, Mayor Bill Jackson announced the first-ever UFO Fly-In at the city's municipal airport for Sunday that week. He said he had never heard of anyone welcoming aliens, so he thought he'd give it a try and see what happened.

But the quiet, modestly publicized gatherings took a sharp turn in 1989 when then Metro Council member George Darden launched a campaign to build a UFO landing pad in North Nashville. It was to be funded by public money, he suggested.

In what accurately mirrored the public's response, *The Tennessean* opened its article about his proposal by suggesting, "E.T. phone Metro."

Darden argued that aliens needed to know that they were welcome here. With all the "Welcome to Music City USA" signs around town, he feared creatures would arrive one day, find nowhere to land, "and they'd go back and say we lied," *The Tennessean* reported.

The bill was defeated 27-1, Darden being the 1. Before the vote, Council members chuckled out loud. Council member Tom Sharp offered an amendment that the pad could only be constructed in Darden's district. Council member Tom Alexander argued that the pad couldn't be in Antioch because "we've got too much traffic there already." Mayor Bill Boner promised that if the bill passed, he would support a contract on a lease-back basis to the aliens—although the currency exchange might be something of a problem.

Nashvillians weren't the only folks who didn't take Darden seriously. Comedian David Letterman invited him to appear on his show. Darden, smelling a spoof in the air, declined. Instead, he accepted an invitation by Joan Rivers to her show, which he considered "more serious." On Dec. 7, 1989, seven months after his bill was defeated, Darden told the nation of his dream to "welcome them

down."

Reactions were not positive.

Council member at-large Jay West told the *Banner*, "I am personally embarrassed for the people of Nashville."

That same month, the Metro Board of Zoning Appeals denied Darden's request to put signs in his backyard to welcome space ships, which proved to be the final defeat to Darden's UFO plans. So, too, were Darden's days on the Council nearing an end. He lost his reelection bid in 1989.

That was six years ago, and today, Darden says that, if he had to do it all over again, he would. Does he think the UFO business had something to do with his political defeat?

"Well, yes," he sighs, without hesitation. "It had a lot to do with it."

"People thought it was ridiculous," he continues. "They just didn't understand at the time."

Darden says he has never personally seen or experienced anything alien. He says his efforts were on behalf of "folks who came to me and told me experiences they had. Lots of these people didn't want to tell people. They were worried people would think their elevators weren't going all the way to the top."

"There are a lot of folks who want to know answers, and I want to know myself. We've got a problem to solve, and so we've got to get folks talking about it. Somebody, somewhere has got to know what's going on."

Darden hasn't given up the fight. Not only does he believe a landing pad is good public relations, he still believes it can be a money-maker. Pointing to the Kennedy Space Center, which charges \$6 a car, Darden says a landing pad could also generate tourism dollars—even if a UFO never lands there.

"I'm going to retire in December," he says. "And I intend to work full-time on my UFO landing pad. Perhaps I'll raise money privately, I don't know. I'll have to talk to my consultants. But I do know that this time, I'll try to have it built out of town."

And how will the public response be this time?

"I think now, there are a lot more theories that have been coming on TV, and people are more open," he says.

Sightings of UFOs are common. But a surprising number of Middle Tennesseans say they have experienced something rarer and far more terrifying. They say they have actually been abducted by alien visitors.

MUFON members know of numerous people in the area who believe they have been abducted. Few of them, however, are willing to speak out.

They include "a woman in Murfreesboro," along with "a mother and daughter" who never explain their story at meetings—they only cry when the discussion turns to abductions. They include "a person in Putnam County" and a "Metro police detective who, with another guy, disappeared for six hours." Naturally, they say the policeman believes he would be fired if he went public with his story.

Fear of public ridicule isn't the only reason people are afraid to come forward. They say the abductions have been a source of major trauma and are painful to discuss. Jane Maddox, a private counselor in Cookeville who has counseled five abductees, says her patients "are very much victims. I do not feel these people's lives have been enriched."

Maddox says abductions almost always begin in childhood but aren't recalled until adulthood through flashbacks, dreams and hypnosis. Once these "memories" are recalled, she says, fear and paranoia often become major obstacles in their lives.

"It's actually quite a normal reaction," she says. "Just try to imagine what it would be like."

Fear is something one Ashland City abductee, Nora Donnally, encountered when, several years ago, she attended some meetings in Nashville of the no-longer-active UFO group known as Phoenix. The meetings she attended usually drew about 10 to 15 abductees.

"For me, it's been different," she says. "We all go through initial fear, and then the next stage is questioning our own sanity, but finally we get around to accepting this as part of reality. I guess for me, my curiosity overrode my fear."

Donnally, who has lived her whole life in the Ashland City area, believes she has been abducted from the time she was 5 years old by two groups: the Zeta Reticuli (or "The Grays," the most commonly reported group) and the Essassné (or "The Browns," which Donnally believes is a separate group). She says 90 percent of her contact is with "The Browns."

Donnally says she was aware of the contact as a child, but because no one else appeared to talk of such things, she discounted the memories as childhood fantasy. But in 1989, as an adult, she had contact while fully conscious, and then started remembering all the other incidents. She believes the aliens' purpose here is "beneficial for all races," adding, "From my understanding, there is a genetic upgrading taking place."

Interplanetary reproduction?

"Absolutely," she answers. "They are making a hybrid race; there's no doubt about that. There's just too much evidence to support it."

Donnally says she is not comfortable disclosing whether she knows any children who are the offspring of interplanetary couplings, but she will say these offspring are of remarkably higher intelligence and seem to have an understanding of physics and the sciences at a very early age.

Does she realize how crazy this sounds to some people?

"Of course!" she answers, chuckling. "Some people think I'm a real nut case. But it doesn't concern me. I don't make a habit of going around trying to convince people. Whether people believe it or not is their problem, not mine."

Douglas Hall is a very patient man. As a professor of astronomy and director of Arthur J. Dyer Observatory at Vanderbilt University, he gets an awful lot of phone calls from what, at times, is a UFO-crazed public.

He doesn't complain about it and admits he even "rather enjoys" the discussions. But for a man whose work time is spent pioneering research in "double stars" and "variable stars"—stars with variable brightness, which account for only 1 percent of all stars—it is easy to imagine what it must be like hearing the same refrain: "Can you tell me what I just saw?"

It would be an overstatement to say that professional astronomers pay little attention to the discussion of alien-guided UFOs. They don't pay any attention at all. As Hall says, it is not because astronomers don't believe life is not out there. Discussions of other life forms are a big part of university-level astronomy classes. Instead, he explains, it's because, if aliens do exist, "We just don't think they'd be dropping by and zipping off again."

"There's a logical reason for this," Hall says. "If there were aliens out there, and they had located us, they would be doing one of two things: They would be observing us surreptitiously so as not to disturb our culture, or they would completely establish contact and land the flying saucer in front of the White House, like they did in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. You know, 'Take me to your leader.' But not something awkwardly halfway between those two extremes."

"Do UFOs exist?" he continues. "Yes, astronomers do agree that UFOs exist. The typical UFO is, in fact, an object, as opposed to a mirage or a hallucination. They're usually flying, not crawling around on the ground. And people don't know what they are, so, in that sense, they do exist. But there's almost no chance aliens are dropping in out of the

sky."

The observatory usually gets several calls a week, asking what he calls the "UFO/Venus question." More often than not, a UFO sighting is Venus, or sometimes Jupiter, or some other planet that has appeared in the sky. And with the right weather conditions, a planet, usually easily identifiable by being brighter than a star, can actually appear to twinkle or even change colors—and then be mistaken for some sort of craft.

As for the frequent reports of lights that take sharp turns and make jerky motions, Hall offers an explanation for that too. "The only thing I can say for large, sudden swoops," he says, "is that, if the object is being viewed through a window of some sort, like a window in a house, or a plane's pane, like pilots often report, then there are many things that can make a reflected jerk of light. But in an open field, I could not invoke that explanation."

Another factor to consider is the immense capacity for visual misperception. The eye has "blind spots," and the mind also tends to complete pictures—even when actual visual information is available.

"Keep in mind, I saw a UFO once," Hall says. "It was a formation of four or five lights of different colors, some were flashing, and of course I thought, 'It's an airplane.' But as it neared, I thought I would have heard the engine. When I didn't, I got very excited and I remember the hair actually stood up on my arms."

"Moments later, I did hear an engine, but for those five seconds when I didn't know, my mind connected the dots, so to speak, and I imagined a spherical object with five antennas sticking out. I actually visualized this craft and believed I saw it." ■



ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Oct. 18, 1995

This Week In UFO History

Compiled by Carole Baker

The following are reports of sightings from around the country and around the world that took place during the week of October 15-21:

SOUTH MARSH ISLAND, BLOCK 41, LOUISIANA, 17 OCTOBER 1973, 9:30 p.m.

Two workers on an offshore oil platform off the coast of Louisiana reported a weird looking flying object that came within 100 feet of them. It knocked out the electric power on their oil rig while it hovered nearby. When the power returned, the men put out a radio alarm to the Chevron Oil Company base. A boat was dispatched by the transportation foreman to assist the two men. The UFO left before the boat arrived.

(New Orleans Times Picayune, 19 October 1973).

WALNUT HILL, FLORIDA, 17 OCTOBER 1973, 5:45 a.m.

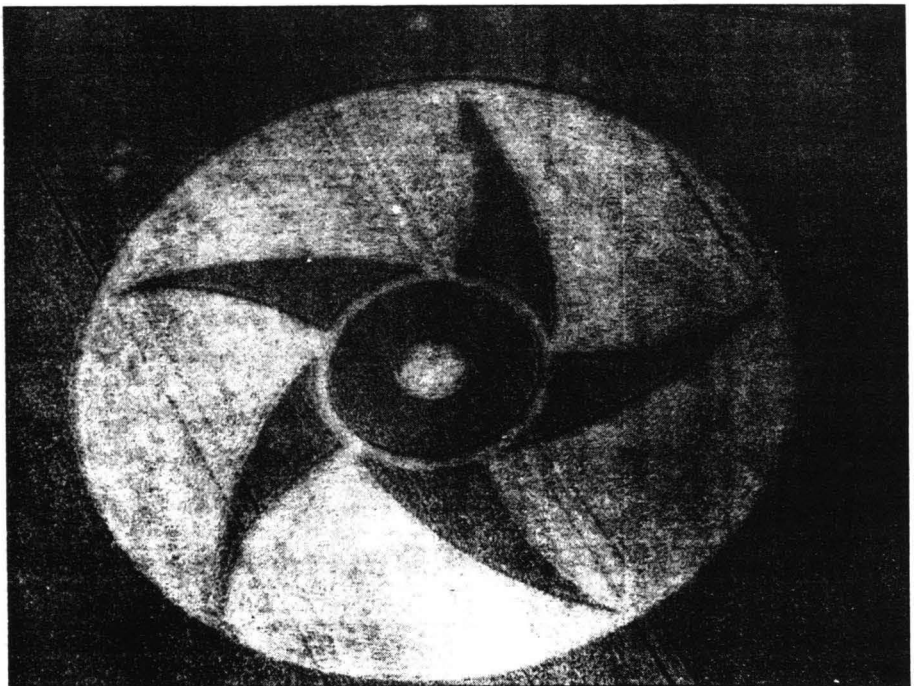
A witness reported seeing "a long glowing light" hovering in a field at about 5:45 a.m. on October 17. The light was estimated to be about 10 feet wide. The witness stated that he watched the light for about five minutes, after which it shot straight up extremely fast and then disappeared.

(Pensacola News Journal, 18 OCTOBER 1973).

THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, 18 OCTOBER 1953

Two British airline pilots saw what they described as two table saucers placed together, rim to rim, flying across the English Channel between England and France. In an official report to the British Air Ministry, one pilot wrote "We have no doubt whatsoever that the object was solid and was constructed of metal."

(Copyright Mutual UFO Network Journal October 1988 #245, Sequin, TX.)



Crop circle on land owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber in Berkshire.

UFO



BY CAROLE BAKER

Red ring sighted over Pensacola

On the evening of September 20, 1995, a group of skywatchers at Shoreline Park and some lay observers who were on the fishing dock at the time, were treated to a spectacular sighting of a ring of red lights over Pensacola Beach.

It was a clear night and the stars were clearly visible. A group of eight skywatchers were assembled at Shoreline Park for the evening watch. There were various other people in the park and some people were gathered on the fishing dock, sitting in lawn chairs.

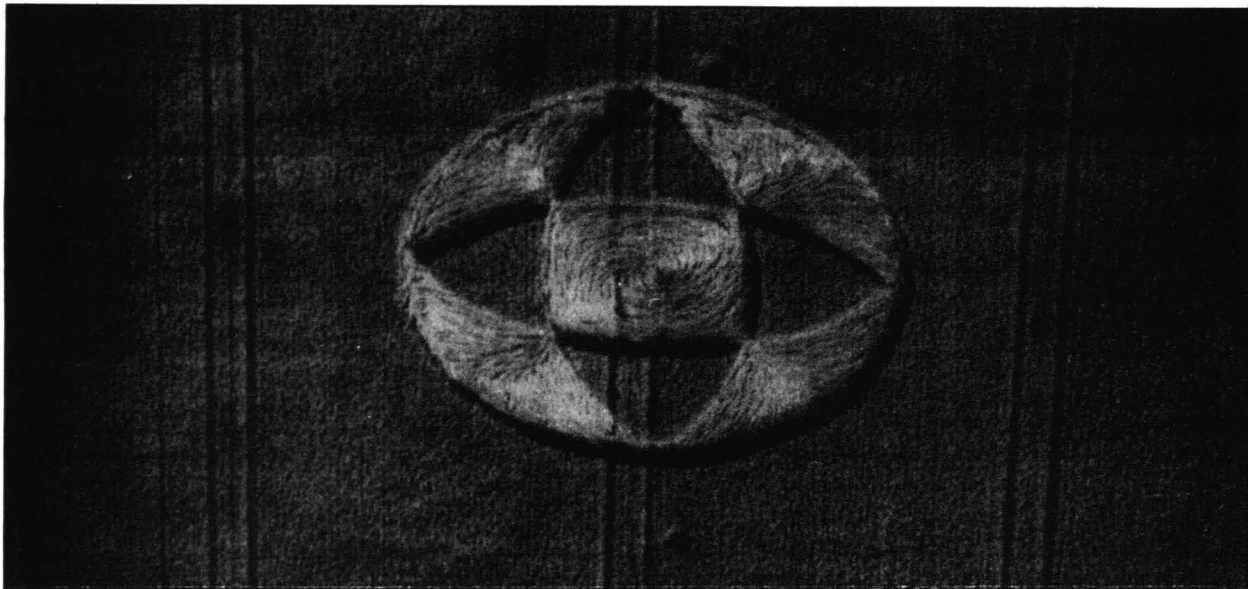
At 8:10 p.m. over Pensacola Beach, approximately between the Holiday Inn and the Sabine Yacht Club a red light was observed which blinked on, then off again after about five seconds. Shortly after, another single red light appeared in the same location and followed the same pattern by blinking on then off again after about five seconds.

With their interest piqued, the skywatchers were paying close attention to the skies within their viewing area and were rewarded at 8:17 p.m. by a sighting of a red ring. The ring appeared at about 7 to 10 degrees above the horizon over Pensacola Beach between the Holiday Inn and the Dunes Hotel. It was clearly visible and the curvature of the ring was easily seen. There were at least six bright points of light visible within the ring of light which appeared. The

sighting lasted for approximately 15 seconds before fading out. At arm's length the diameter of the ring to its outside edge appeared to be approximately one and one-half inches.

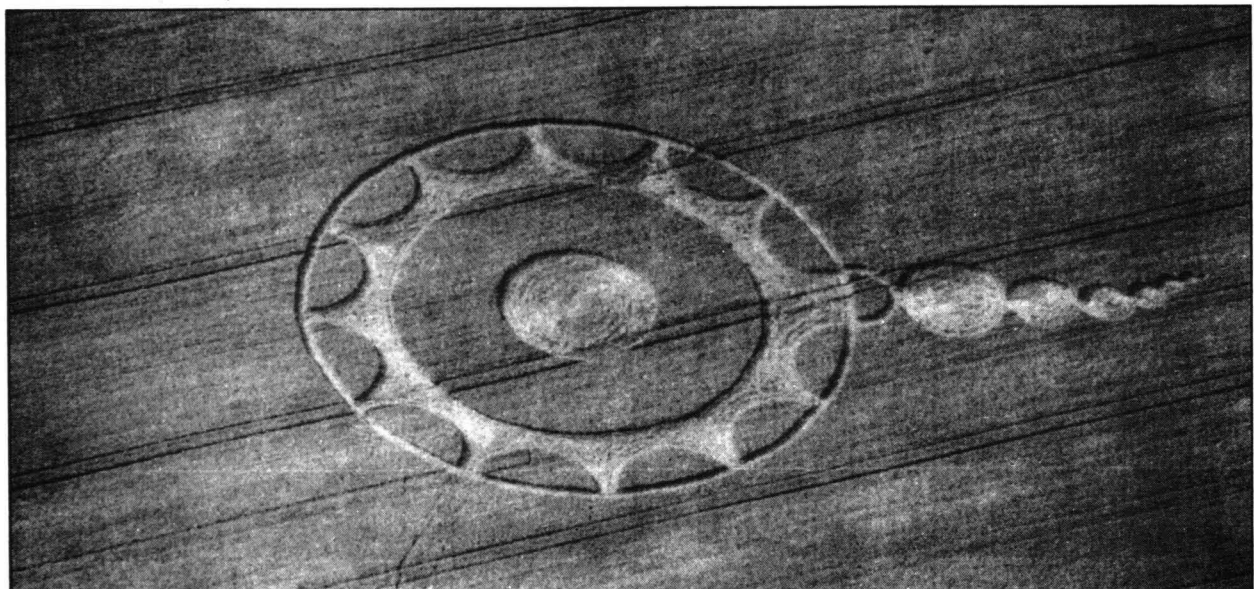
After the sighting was over, the group of people who had been sitting on the dock came over to the group of skywatchers and told them that they too had seen a red ring of lights "looking like portholes" in the sky. They were very excited and interested in what they had seen and since their perspective had been from a different angle, the group was able to loosely determine through rough triangulation that the ring of lights had indeed been over Santa Rosa Island or close to the shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico.

To report a sighting call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 432-8888. Remember - the 1995 Project Awareness UFO conference is now being held in Mobile at the Mobile Convention Center. Rooms are still available at the adjoining Adams Mark Hotel and tickets are available for all lectures and workshops. The same line-up of speakers will be there and the same schedule will apply. You can attend one or any number of lectures and workshops, buying individual tickets, or weekend packages start at \$70. Don't miss this opportunity to see this wonderful line up of speakers! See you there! Keep Looking Up!



Near Andover Hants, 1995

By Steve Alexander



Danbury Ring-Hampshire

By Steve Alexander

UFOs are real, experts said at this weekend's symposium, sponsored by the Science Museum of Minnesota. It's figuring out what they are that's difficult. And research is lacking, they say, because pilots are afraid to report them because they'll be laughed at and most mainstream scientists don't want to do serious studies of them.

Flying saucers? UFOs? Really? Science, mystery meet head on

By Jim Dawson
Star Tribune Staff Writer

On a dark night in a rural area near Gulf Breeze, Fla., a man noticed an odd red light in the sky. He flipped on his video camera and headed out onto a dock, narrating what he was doing as he searched the sky with the camera.

Suddenly a bright red object flashed into view — a UFO that was a little too big and too close for comfort.

"Holy moly!" the man yells, and the video image turns to electronic garble. The audio portion keeps recording, however, and you hear heavy breathing

and feet slamming as he flees the scene.

"The witness is scared," Jeffrey Sainio, a video expert, said with understatement to the 150 or so people gathered Saturday in St. Paul for the second annual UFO meeting sponsored by the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Sainio, who tries to determine the authenticity of photos, films and videos for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), then showed a still image of the red object that the video camera captured just before the man fled in terror. There is structure behind the lights, so it was apparently a craft of some sort, he pointed out.

Sainio ruled out all the ways he knows of to fake such videos, then left it to the crowd to decide if it really was a UFO. He commended the man for running, citing two other close encounters with UFOs in which people have suffered radiation burns.

So it went Saturday, the first day of the two-day conference. The experts included a retired UFO expert from NASA, an optical physicist from the Navy, and an investigative journalist.

The theme matched the title of the symposium: "The Science and Politics of UFO Research."

patience with UFO advocates.

"The UFO cult is pretty interesting," he said. "They are like a religious movement."

The UFO experts don't have a much higher opinion of what they hear from the "tribe of astronomy."

"In every field of academia, they [scientists] go through courses that program their minds to think in a certain way," said Michael Swords, the former editor of the Journal for UFO Studies. "They come out with certain prejudices."

"The point of this is that politics plays a large role in UFOs," said Chuck Penson, director of the Science Museum's computer education center and organizer of the symposium. "Our point is this should be studied. They [UFOs] are seen by large groups of credible people."

The "common wisdom," Penson said, is that the government, particularly the military, knows UFOs are real but "it doesn't behoove the government to admit there are things flying around that they can't protect you from."

Beyond a dramatic lack of funding for serious UFO research, the ufologists (that's what they call themselves) also are struggling with other problems of our modern age. The advent of video cameras, satellites that image the Earth (yes, there are pictures of UFOs taken from orbit), and sophisticated image-analysis techniques are all good things. But advanced technology is also making it much easier to fake photos and films of UFOs, something that Sainio warned the audience to beware of.

And although the most common "UFO sighting" is Venus, a growing source of confusion seems to be smaller advertising blimps lit from the inside. Several of the experts have spent a lot of time trying to determine whether otherwise credible sightings were really blimps.

The symposium continues at 9 a.m. today at the St. Paul Radisson, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. Admission for the full day is \$70, and \$50 for half the day.

researchers is on whether flying saucers from those alien civilizations have come to Earth. One reason, as Gehrz noted, is the lack of rigorous evidence.

The other is the nearly incomprehensible size of our galaxy and the universe. It is so big and empty out there that travel between stars seems next to impossible given our current understanding of the physical laws of the universe.

The Drake Equation

As with most things in science, the question of the likelihood of alien civilizations has been reduced to a formula, known as the Drake Equation. When he presents the equation to his students, Gehrz does the numbers this way:

- The number of new stars formed per year is 10.

- The probability that stars, both new and old, have planets around them, is 100 percent.

- The probability that the star will shine long enough to support a planet that can develop life is about 10 percent.

- The number of planets suitable for life is about one per star.

- The probability that life will develop on that planet is 100 percent.

- The probability that life will evolve into an intelligent form is 100 percent.

- The lifetime of an intelligent civilization is 100 years.

Some of these numbers, such as the 100 percent probability of a life-supporting planets developing around long-lived stars, are probably too optimistic. And the probability that an intelligent civilization will only last a century before it destroys itself may be pessimistic.

But given those numbers, it means there are about 100 "advanced" civilizations scattered around the Milky Way. That, Gehrz said, means each occupies an average space of 7.8 billion square light years, an immense area that makes contact with even the closest civilization very unlikely.

Gehrz, who gets a dozen or so calls a year from people who have mistaken Venus or a major star for a UFO, doesn't have a lot of

Nordic type aliens

When you research these human-appearing, tall, long blonde haired, blue eyed, entities you had better be ready for some surprises. The eye color can depend on their mood and not all are blondes. Both male and female have been seen. They dress in skin tight suits or flowing robes with a few being more aged and bearded. These serene beautiful figures project great wisdom and love and leave the observer in a state of intense longing and awe afterward.

As I sit here in my sunset years with the leaves of red and gold raining down in beautiful Indiana, I confess that my first real disappointment was when I learned that these beings are the controllers of the little android-like Gray aliens who are so busy in the great ongoing lawless abduction of humans.

Due to their ability to vanish and appear instantly I had thought the Nordics must be dimensional spirit-like beings then I got bowled over when I learned, due to a series of lifetime Nordic experiencer cases, that they must be flesh and bone. These persons have seen them breathe, eat, drink, and nap. Some have touched them, been held by them, and know them intimately. Two are familiar with their Asiatic style toilets. They are part of the UFO realm, but often approach their chosen ones in bedtime altered state conditions. They have also shown they can temporarily appear in outdoor daylight settings and seem to be truly physical.

You learn that there are far more meetings between Nordics and humans than you suspected. In fact one large social group seems favored by them. There has been cooperation between this group and the Nordics extending back into ancient times in Europe. One form of this is the supplying of a special thing that the Nordics seem to desire. This still goes on today in an isolated North American region. Even more ancient friendship between humans and the Nordics existed with the Anasazi who were ancestors of the Hopi Indians. I discuss this in my article Researching The Blonde Ultra-terrestrials, that will be carried in the London England international publication Flying Saucer Review going to readers in 20 countries.

Also these letters that you read in the News-Examiner and Palladium Item are picked up by a news clipping service and go to English speaking countries and are translated into Polish and Italian.

Due to space limitations I can mention only one episode in the many amazing abductee encounters. This happened in daylight to a group of youthful campers in upper Wisconsin. The campers were in boats near the lakeshore and a Nordic whose eyes had a golden sheen suddenly appeared on the shore with five companions. One member of the campers calls the gold eyed Nordic "Gold" since he has often been taken by him since he was a baby. The Nordics came gliding over the surface of the water. Some of the youths were not "dumbed" so one went to his knees in prayer, and two fell into the lake in shock. The Nordics physically helped these boys out of the water, and others pulled the boats to shore. Then suddenly everyone was rendered immobile and taken by the aliens. No one has ever remembered what happened in the hours they lost that extended into the next day.

Our Nordics have some angelic attributes yet there are also severe disqualifying factors associated with them. Who are these wonderous beings? Where do they reside? What are they doing here in our form of existence? Are they good, bad, or factions of both? One thing we do know for sure. We can only know the original creator of light through prayer, his words, and his songs. Troubled abductees need to seek refuge in him. He is the ultimate savior with power over all, and he will help them if they really believe that he can.

DON WORLEY
1051 Beech St.
Connersville, IN. 47331
USA

Wanted: More evidence

So why, with all of their images and conviction, are UFO advocates not believed by mainstream scientists?

"Because we don't have any evidence that we've been visited by beings from another planet," said Bob Gehrz, an astronomer at the University of Minnesota. "If we could get some real, scientific evidence, then that would be different, but I've never seen any."

Astronomers and many other scientists believe, for the most part, that we are not alone — that there are advanced civilizations scattered throughout our Milky Way galaxy and, by extension, the billions of other galaxies. Indeed, there is a serious private program, supported by many scientists, called SETI, or the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, that is using radio telescopes to look for radio signals from those civilizations.

Where many mainstream scientists part company with UFO

1995 Odd-looking visitors leave deputies wondering

By Rhonda Moran
The Brazosport Facts

It's not in the report to the Air Force, but former Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy Billy McCoy's interview with Colleen Kenyon for the Brazoria County Historical Museum's Oral History Collection tells of two odd-looking little men who came to the Brazoria County Courthouse looking for Goode and McCoy two days after the sighting — and before it had been reported to the news media. Here's an excerpt from the tape:

McCoy: "I was off that day and they asked the

dispatcher if they could talk to Bob Goode and the other deputy, so the dispatcher called Bob and he met 'em at the Twin Oaks Cafe in West Columbia.

"Bob said they were two small men wearing dark suits, little derby hats and they introduced themselves as being reporters from Pasadena, but they didn't give a business card and Bob didn't remember what they said their names were.

"Bob said they sat down with him and immediately started telling him what happened to us on Friday night, and they told him that if we had not been afraid, if we would of stopped, that the craft would have landed and we would have been invited aboard,

taken for a ride and shown things that humans could only imagine, and we would have been brought back and released unharmed but that we couldn't have told anyone about it.

"That if we told anyone about it, they would have returned and made jabbering idiots out of us ...

"When Bob finally got in touch with me Sunday night, he was worried. 'Man,' he said, 'we've already reported it!'

"I said, 'Well, Bob, we don't have anything to worry about, cause we didn't stop. We didn't go for a ride on it and some people might say we're jabbering idiots anyway.'

The Night of the UFO

On Sept. 3, 1965, two Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputies patrolling Highway 36 saw an unidentified flying object hover over their patrol car, then disappear into the night sky.

Despite an investigation by the U.S. Air Force, the cause of what the deputies saw remains a mystery.

Today, Billy McCoy and Bob Goode remember the events that forever changed the way they look at the nighttime sky.

Photos by Chris Matula
Illustration by Harriotte Robinson

By Rhonda Moran
The Brazosport Facts

It was a Friday night in early September, 1965, and Bob Goode was a 50-year-old Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy with a problem to take care of before he went to work that evening.

"I was supposed to work the Sweeny-West Columbia football game, and the game warden was going to ride with me," Goode recalls.

The "problem" was a baby alligator Goode had brought home to show his children. The muzzled gator was tied to a tub in the garage, and Goode wanted to get the animal back into the wild.

"I had him all tied up so he couldn't bite anyone, but when I went to let him loose — I don't know what I was thinking — I reached down to pick him up by the tail and he whirled around and bit me," Goode says. "He nearly took my finger off."

The wound on his left index finger looked bad, but it was nearly time to leave for work, so Goode changed clothes, bandaged his badly bleeding finger and headed to the stadium.

Going to a hospital or doctor was out of the question.

"There wasn't but one doctor in town, and he was gonna be at that game," the former deputy recalls.

Hours later, with his wounded finger throbbing, Goode saw Chief Deputy Billy McCoy and asked McCoy to join him on patrol that night. Normally, sheriff's deputies rode alone, but Goode was worried that his finger might eventually hurt enough to impede his driving.

McCoy agreed to go, and the men set out to patrol a lonely section of Highway 36 between West Columbia and Damon.

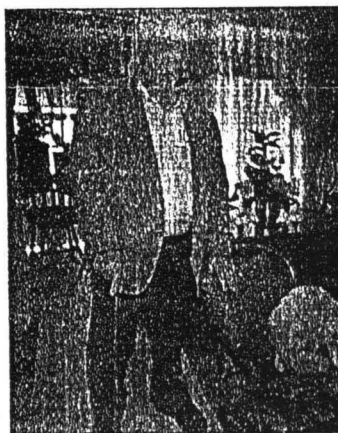
Complete details of what happened next are on record in a written statement the deputies gave an Ellington Air Force Base investigator, and McCoy is also on tape in the oral history collection at the Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton.

The following comes from McCoy's report to the Air Force investigator:

"When we were about two or three miles south of Damon, I saw a very



Billy McCoy of Lake Jackson describes the thing he saw.



Bob Goode is now retired and living in West Columbia.

bright purple light stationary on the horizon about five or six miles away and southwest of our position.

"After a few seconds, a smaller blue light appeared out of the larger purple light and traveled to the right of the purple light, pausing momentarily in two distinct positions before becoming stationary. The lights then floated upward to an angle about 5 to 10 degrees above the horizon. They remained at a distance of 5-6 miles and we were unable to distinguish any other features other than two bright

lights."

"We turned the car around and Deputy Sheriff Goode looked at the lights through binoculars. We decided to investigate further and headed back toward Damon to look for a back road to take us nearer the lights.

"After traveling about 3/4 mile on Highway 36, we slowed down. Goode had his window open (rolled down) and looked through the binoculars again. The lights appeared to still be in the same position.

"We slowed down to almost a stop off the edge of the highway, and while watching the lights they started coming toward us at a rapid speed. The object came up to the pasture next to the highway about 150 feet off the highway and about 100 feet high.

"The bulk of the object was plainly visible at this time and appeared to be triangular shaped with a bright purple light on the left end and the smaller, less bright blue light on the right end. The bulk of the object appeared to be dark gray in color with no other distinguishing features.

"It appeared to be about 200 feet wide and about 40-50 feet thick in the middle tapering off toward both ends.

"There was no noise or any trail. The bright purple light illuminated the ground directly underneath it and the area in front of it, including the highway and the interior of our patrol car.

"The tall grass under the object did not appear to be disturbed. There was a bright moon out and it caused a shadow of the object on the ground immediately below it in the grass.

"Deputy Sheriff Goode was in the driver's seat with his left arm laying in the open window. Although he was wearing a long-sleeved shirt and a coat, he later said that he felt the heat apparently emanating from the object.

"We immediately put the car in motion and headed toward Damon as fast as we could go."

McCoy's oral account for the Brazoria County Historical Museum is more animated. The transcript made of his interview with museum volunteer Colleen Kenyon is written verbatim, without the usual editing. Here's an excerpt that picks up and continues the story:

McCoy: "... The thing looked long

(continued on page 11)

as a football field. We just almost weren't able to see anything other than that. It didn't make any sound; we didn't hear a noise. There was a good three-quarter moon, bright moon out.

"Of course there was quite a bit of excitement in our car ... quite a bit of hollering and yelling ... uh, there was some words that probably shouldn't be repeated on this tape. But in all the commotion it was decided that we would leave that area just as fast as we could and ..."

KENYON: "Is this while that thing's close to you?"

McCOY: "Yeah. It was right beside the highway and ol' Bob, he showered down on the gas and we took off from there just as fast as that police interceptor would go, and I don't know why we thought we could out run it. If it wanted to catch us, all it would have to do was just swoop down on us, 'cause it came from where we first saw it in just the blink of an eye."

"Some of the reports say it chased us down the highway but it didn't chase us — it stayed right in the spot where it had first come to."

"As I was watching it, it went straight back at a much slower speed than what it came up on us at, and when it got back over the area of the (San) Bernard River, it just shot straight up in the air and disappeared."

"We stopped at Damon and smoked a cigarette. I was smoking at that time and Bob smoked, and we smoked a cigarette and kinda collected our wits and decided that we'd better go on and try to find out what this thing was. So we drove over toward the (San) Bernard River in the patrol car and looked around. Couldn't see a thing; couldn't find a thing."

"Then we drove back out to the highway and we stopped and was looking in that direction again, and lo and behold this thing appeared again ... just like it did the first time."

"That's when we decided we'd see if we couldn't go get some more help. So we headed into West Columbia and got Judge Jim Scott, who was the City Judge ..."

"After we got people back out there, we never saw anything of it anymore. ... Of course, we reported it to Ellington Field and they came over and worked that area out with all their radiological equipment and everything, but they never were able to find anything."

Think you've seen a UFO?

Finding out what it was may not be easy

Most unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have less exciting explanations than a visit from aliens, says Bryan Adams, director of the Brazosport Nature Center and Planetarium.

But the average citizen who sees something strange in the sky may have a difficult time getting an answer as to what it actually was.

"Quite frankly, I don't know who you'd call to report something like that," Adams says. "We get a lot of calls here at the planetarium; and I don't mind trying to answer people's questions. But if we can't figure out what it is then I don't know who should be called next."

The Brazoria County Sheriff's Department occasionally gets calls about UFOs but has "no specific procedure" for reporting them, a spokeswoman said.

Ellington is now an Air National Guard Base, and a spokesman there, Master Sgt. Milt Hucke, says anyone reporting a UFO would likely be referred to the command post, which is open 24 hours a day.

"They would probably take the person's name and get the location, then pass the information on to the command post officer," Hucke said. "After that, there is no policy for doing anything else that I'm aware of."

While an effort to report a UFO may go nowhere, many people are curious about unusual things they see in the sky. A call to the Brazosport Nature Center and Planetarium, 265-3376, may bring an answer if the object is due to a star or planet, but that's not always possible.

"Most astronomers think it's very likely that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe," Adams says, "but most are skeptical about aliens having visited our planet, simply because there is no solid evidence that they have."

"There are indeed UFOs, but most have natural explanations."

Later in their shift, McCoy and Goode went to a cafe to talk and get a bite to eat. That's when they made a surprising discovery.

McCOY: "We were sitting back having a cup of coffee and eating some scrambled eggs at, well, I guess 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. I noticed Bob's finger that he had banded up."

"So I said, 'Well, Bob, you know, one good thing about this. It made you forget about your finger hurting.'"

"And he said, 'Well, that thing isn't sore. And he took the bandage off and the swelling was out of it, and he threw the bandage away. The finger looked like it was almost healed — instantly. The next day you couldn't even hardly see the scars on his finger.'"

"Bob said that he felt some heat from that purple light. Now, I never did feel any heat, but I was sitting on the off side. I know that it really did cover us up inside that car."

"(The Air Force investigators) weren't able to detect anything on

our clothing or in the car or anything else, but Bob said he could feel some heat from it."

In his written statement to the Air Force, McCoy concluded as follows:

"I returned to the area the following three nights at approximately the same time and have not seen anything like what we saw the first night. I have been unable to come up with any plausible explanation of our sightings. There are no ground lights in this area which would cause a reflection. I am positive that the object was not any type of aircraft that I know to exist, and I have never seen anything like it before."

"If have been a Brazoria County Deputy Sheriff for 11 years and now occupy the position of Chief Deputy Sheriff. I am 38 years old. Deputy Sheriff Goode has been with the department for 10 years and is 50 years old. Neither of us had anything to drink on the night we saw the lights and the object. We were

working the football game at Sweeny on this night.

"The area where we saw the object is in Goode's area of responsibility and we were on patrol duty. The night was clear and there were no clouds or haze. There were some spots of ground fog but not in the area where we saw the object."

A report prepared by Air Force Major Laurence R. Leach Jr. covered the basics:

Radiation tests on the patrol car, Goode's left sleeve, and the pasture were negative, although Leach's report noted "that there were two periods of rainfall between the time the object was sighted and the time the readings were taken."

Leach reported that the Houston Air Traffic Control Center had no records on any aircraft in the area at the time. "Houston radar coverage extends into the area in question, but not below 2,000 feet," Leach wrote. "Houston radar records indicated no UFO or unusual sightings during the period in question."

The major reached no conclusion about the deputies' report, however.

"After talking with both officers involved in the sighting, there is no doubt in my mind that they definitely saw some unusual object or phenomenon," he wrote. "However, my investigation failed to uncover any facts that permitted me ... to arrive at any explanation for the unusual sighting. Both officers appeared to be intelligent, mature, level-headed persons capable of sound judgment and reason. Chief Deputy McCoy holds a responsible position in the department requiring the supervision of over 42 personnel."

"Both officers have been subjected to considerable friendly ridicule from their contemporaries and the local townspeople, but have continued to profess the facts of their sighting," Leach reported.

"Furthermore, the sighting has stirred up considerable interest in the local newspapers, radio and television causing them additional embarrassment and inconvenience."

Today, both Goode and McCoy are retired. Goode lives in West Columbia and enjoys his free time after a law enforcement career that included service as a police chief and justice of the peace, in addition to his years as a deputy.

McCoy lives in Lake Jackson and deals in antiques, having retired from Win-Way. He left law enforcement reluctantly, he says, to get the higher salary and better benefits offered by industry.

The two men have told their story frequently over the years — to the national as well as local media.

A 1967 special edition of *Look* magazine featured an interview with the former deputies, and accounts of the sighting have been included in at least two books, *Flying Saucers: Serious Business* by Frank Edwards, and *Beyond Earth: Man's Contact with UFO's* by Ralph Blum and Judy Blum.

Before the night of Sept. 3, 1965, McCoy and Goode didn't put much faith in UFOs. Now, they have a different opinion.

"This sure made a believer out of me," McCoy says. I know what I saw, and I'll never forget it as long as I live."

Neither Goode or McCoy has seen any UFOs since that night.

HERALD DEMOCRAT,
Leadville, CO
Sept. 25, 1995

UFO tape analyzed

by Chris Hunt

Tim Edwards, the Salida man who videotaped an apparent UFO less than a month ago, feels a little bit better about the whole situation these days.

That's because Village Labs, a digital video technology company based in Tempe, Ariz., analyzed his video and came to some astonishing conclusions, saying the tape is legitimate and the object on the tape is real.

In the past, the lab's work on UFOs has been recognized by the television shows "Sightings" and "UFO Encounters" as excellent.

"I feel a lot better about the whole situation," Edwards said. "There's a certain amount of relief involved. I put our lives and reputations on the line when I came out with this, and it's nice to have someone tell me I'm right."

Jim Dilettoso, the president and founder of Village Labs, is personally working on the original videotape Edwards hand-delivered to him two weeks ago.

"It is certainly not lens flare, a reflection of some kind or any other type of 'over the shoulder' optic aberration," Dilettoso said in a press release.

"It is definitely a very large, solid and three-dimensional, possibly cylindrical object at high altitude," he continued. "We don't now how large it is as yet, but the object clearly is emitting brilliant white and colored lights, is demonstrating unusually rapid, darting movements in the sky, and we have confirmed on the tape the presence of smaller objects coming from it, which confirms the witnesses' visual accounts."

Through checking what is turning out to be a rather sophisticated network of UFO contacts, both expert and not-so-expert, Dilettoso was able to determine that an "identical" UFO was filmed over Russia in 1990.

Also, "seven other witnesses outside of Salida saw a similar object" at the same time Edwards did. Of these other reports, it was determined that the object was in the sky over Colorado for about an hour and 15 minutes. When Edwards saw the UFO on Aug. 27, he estimated the UFO had been in the sky for one hour and 15 minutes.

Village Labs planned to conduct further tests on the tape, including in-depth thermal and motion studies, image enhancement and enlargement, as well as creation of some computer graphic simulations of the UFO.

The final outcome of the analysis will be a scaled down, plastic model, Edwards said.

NEWS, Ann Arbor, MI - Oct. 17, 1995 CR: R. Wilson



AP PHOTO - JACK GRUBER

CORN-UFO-PIA? — Spectators stop to view gaps cut into a field of corn near Filion, north of Bad Axe recently. Some area farmers, recalling the crop circles in cornfields in England, are speculating the 'design' was made by a UFO. Seen from the air, the shape is roughly an L.

More UFOs sighted over Salida

by Arlene Shovald
Mail Staff Writer

The skies over Smeltertown, west of Salida, were busy with activity Monday morning, and once again, Tim Edwards, who resides on CR 144, caught the unidentified flying objects on video.

The tape looks much like a video game, with numerous white circular objects darting about the screen, some leaving what look like jet contrails in their wake, creating a spider web effect against the blue sky.

On August 27, Edwards filmed a much larger UFO, also above his home. That sighting has since been verified as authentic by Village Labs in Tempe, Arizona, a video technology company which has assisted with UFO sightings in the past and has been recognized by the television shows, "Sightings," and "UFO Encounters" as excellent.

To see similar objects a second time, Edwards said, was more than he ever expected.

The only difference in the two sightings were that the first appeared to be a much larger craft with small craft coming off it. Monday's sighting was only of smaller flying objects, except in one instance when one of the objects appeared to be either much larger or much closer than the others.

Edwards got about an hour of tape on the first sighting. On Monday, he taped for about three hours.

"My mother (Jean Edwards) spotted it first," Edwards said. "She noticed it at 9:30 a.m. - just after KVRH Radio lost its FM signal. She looked up at the sky and observed a tiny silver object near the sun."

Edwards called the Chaffee County Sheriff's Department and Officer Chester Price responded, joining a group of about 10 people who were observing the objects in the Edwards' yard.

Edwards also contacted KVRH Radio, and Price later issued a report at the radio station, describing the craft as

"bright and shiny silver objects traveling from north to south around the sun." Price estimated he saw about 10 objects in the sky.

Mark Roman, at KVRH, said the station received three or four calls regarding the sightings including the one from Edwards. The station's FM signal tower, located on Methodist Mountain, went out at about 9 a.m. and was restored at about 9:45 a.m. Roman did not know the cause of the outage.

After Edwards call, employ-

ees at KVRH also went out- tower, The Mail called Nedra to look at the sky. Roman said it was difficult to see anything looking into the sun, but Joann Gleason and Pidge Cribari observed something shiny moving quickly across the sky.

Since the KVRH tower is close to the Cellular One

Swopoe, manager at Cellular

One to see if anything unusual had happened with its

tower.

Swope said their signal went out at about 1 p.m. and was still out at the time she was contacted at 4:45 p.m.

The TV program, "Sightings," is expected to arrive in Salida today, and will remain for about two days, doing a feature on the local sightings.

Since the first sighting, on August 27, The Mail has learned of several other local residents who spotted the unusual objects in the sky, who have declined to come forward with any information.

Edwards videotapes second sighting in less than a month; radio and cellular phone signals knocked out

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Oct. 4, 1995

UFO

BY CAROLE BAKER



TOURISTS EXPERIENCE SIGHTINGS ON TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS

Marsha and Charles Sawicki of Venice, Florida came to Gulf Breeze to spend their week's vacation specifically to look for UFOs. The brother and sister spent every evening of their week in Gulf Breeze skywatching at Shoreline Park and on several nights continued the watch late into the night from Wayside Park adjacent to the Gulf Breeze Holiday Inn where they were staying.

On the night of Wednesday, September 6, at about 10:45 they were rewarded! While watching the western sky from Wayside Park they saw an amber light appear in the sky, low to the horizon. The light was located about 10 degrees above the horizon and appeared to be over Fairpoint or beyond, over the north shore of Santa Rosa Island, near Fort Pickens. The sighting lasted about 2-1/2 to 3 minutes. "It was really amazing," Marsha told me excitedly the next evening. "It just came on out of nowhere and stayed there doing nothing - I couldn't believe I was seeing something!" Charles was also very impressed. "You could tell it

was not a plane - there were no strobing lights or other lights associated with this; it did not move at all and would just come on and then blinked off." Charles is a former resident of New York State and a former police officer. While living in New York State he witnessed the large triangular shaped craft that was frequently seen in the Hudson Valley area in the late 1980s.

Still excited from their sighting on Wednesday night, they returned to Wayside Park on the next night, Thursday, September 7, and at approximately 11:10 had another sighting! They saw a cluster of amber/white lights appear over the Bay, south of NAS Pensacola, which stayed illuminated for about two minutes and appeared to have something falling out and down from it. "I couldn't tell what it was that was coming down out of it," Marsha told me, "but it looked like smaller balls of light pattern reappear. To their amazement not far from the location of previous sighting they saw a ring of red lights appear in the sky. "There were about five or

six lights in the ring and they were red," Charles said. They watched the ring for several seconds before it just blinked out. It should be noted that this "ring" formation is very familiar to veteran skywatchers here in Gulf Breeze and has been witnessed on several occasions in the past.

Marsha and Charles were extremely excited about the experiences they had while in Gulf Breeze on their "Skywatching Vacation." Marsha told me "I can't believe we actually got to see something while we were here, and then to see something two nights in a row!" Marsha and Charles will definitely be watching the skies near their home in Venice, Florida more closely and hope to return to Gulf Breeze in the near future.

To report a sighting, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. For information on the upcoming Project Awareness Third Annual Gulf Breeze Conference, to be held Oct 20-22, please call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888. Keep Looking Up!

UFO group tries to cast scientific light on strange sightings

BY MAGGIE HEEGER
For The Times

If the term UFO — Unidentified Flying Object — conjures up thoughts of flying saucers, little green men with sensational tabloid news reports, you could be a victim of the widespread misconceptions surrounding this subject.

So says Ken Wishon, the state section director of the Mutual UFO Network for Madison, Marshall, Limestone and Morgan counties. MUFON, he explains, is an international organization of research specialists, technical consultants and interested members of the public dedicated to the scientific investigation of reported UFO sightings.

"The UFO phenomenon is global, not just something happening in America and other developed countries," says Wishon. "The subject sometimes attracts a fringe element that seeks publicity and sensationalism often associated with tabloid journalism. There are also highly educated, trained inves-

tigators out there, and MUFON is the largest international group of these investigators."

The task of the local MUFON organization is to document and investigate reports of UFO sightings coming out of the northern Alabama region. MUFON field investigators have received extensive training to analyze data and provide information that may explain various situations that have been labeled "unidentified." Training consists of an extensive written examination that deals with weather conditions, physical science, aircraft identification and dozens of other pertinent topics.

When a sighting is reported, the local MUFON group assigns investigators to examine the situation and attempt to provide explanations. If the situation warrants, qualified analysts from MUFON headquarters in Seguin, Texas, may be contacted to further research the incident.

"Most sightings have a rational explanation," says Wishon. "It could be anything from aircraft to weather conditions to an overactive imagination. If it turns out that

someone's experience is explainable, I'm happy to provide the witness with a scientific conclusion."

Wishon estimates that of the thousands of reports filed internationally each year, close to 90 percent of the incidents prove to be very earthly in nature. It's the other 10 percent, he says, that interest MUFON investigators.

Wishon's interest in UFOs began back in the late 1960s when he was an engineer involved in Apollo launch operations at Cape Kennedy. After several unidentified sightings were reported by NASA employees, he worked with Dr. J. Allen Hynek, consultant to the United States Air Force UFO Studies, known as "Project Bluebook," to explore possible explanations. In the '70s while living in Southern California, Wishon became regional coordinator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), an early UFO investigative organization. Wishon is now a Madison

businessman and president of Pyrowaste Corporation, which is developing a high-tech waste-to-energy technology.

"Over the past 20 years, I've seen a change in the national opinion regarding UFOs," says Wishon. "People are now genuinely interested, and are no longer reluctant to report an unusual encounter. The 1950s' science fiction scenario of the benevolent space invaders solving all of Earth's problems doesn't seem to be what we're dealing with. People who report an encounter with UFOs and aliens often report feeling like a laboratory subject for experimentation — much like the way we humans use laboratory animals."

MUFON of North Alabama meets every fourth Saturday of each month at 4 p.m. at Quincy's restaurant on Alabama Highway 20 in Madison. Information is disseminated, guest speakers present lectures, and opportunities are available to discuss local, national

and international UFO subjects. These meetings are open to the public. Membership in MUFON is \$25 annually, and includes a subscription to *Mutual UFO Network Journal*, MUFON's monthly informational digest.

For further information about MUFON, call Wishon at 461-8913.



UFOs appear to be buzzing around B.C. skies, and on camera too

Who's out there?



TV viewers have had their first look at film of the Roswell Incident, a 1947 case in which a UFO is said to have crashed in the New Mexico desert, leaving behind a reptilian-eyed alien corpse. But those who saw Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction on U.TV last Monday may not know that B.C. has its own UFO researchers, who say the province is a hotbed of unexplained sightings. Staff reporter GLEN SCHAEFER has the details.

They came over the North Shore Mountains, three of them in a triangle pattern," says Kevin McCarthy, pointing to the sky above his Burnaby sundeck.

He says it was a blue-sky afternoon last March when he saw the three black objects come within a kilometre over his house.

They hovered noiselessly back and forth and then headed west, over Burrard Inlet.

McCarthy, 31, says he ran inside to get his camera, to use the telephoto lens to continue watching the craft.

Upon getting back to the sundeck, he realized the camera had film in it, so hit the shutter. The resulting

photo shows one big black dot and two smaller ones.

For McCarthy, an auto-glass tinter, his sighting was life-changing.

"I'm not one of those skeptics who's naive enough to believe that there's nothing out there. I never thought I'd see anything myself, but I always kept my eyes up."

His photo drew attention from the weekly U.S. syndicated television show Sightings, and a crew recorded his story in August for telecast this fall. It's just one of several B.C. stories to draw the show's interest.

"Something real is invading our air space — we know that," says Mike Strainic, the Vancouver-based national director of the Mutual UFO Network. MUFON logs "easily 50

sightings" a year in B.C., Strainic says, after other sightings have been explained away as aircraft, errant balloons and the like.

Strainic himself has seen something unexplained only once, in 1966 in northern California. He believes, nonetheless.

"We tend to think in terms of them being 100 years ahead of us," he says. "But what if they're 10,000 years ahead of us? We would recognize none of it."

"They are reacting to the human race in an odd way, coming through the back door. People ask why they don't just land on the White House lawn, but that's not their agenda."

"It could be something inter-dimensional rather than extra-terrestrial."

Another man saw something over Surrey on four occasions in May and June, and caught whatever it was on videotape. The man, who declined to be identified, allowed his tape to be shown on Sightings.

"The whole neighborhood's seen it," he said. "It's not just me — I just happened to tape it."

The man, married with two small children, says he had an interest in UFOs prior to this sighting.

"I've got about an hour of video on it. It grows in size from a dot and shoots out light," he says of the daytime sighting. "Then it disappears and comes back."

He says his footage is "as good as



Photos above and at left purport to show autopsy being done on 'alien' whose aircraft is said to have crashed in New Mexico.

anything I've ever seen. We just saw something and had the luck to have a video camera at the time."

But he isn't convinced what he saw was alien: "We don't know what it is. We're not even speculating."

"We're having his footage analysed," Sightings segment producer Phil Davis says from Los Angeles.

The show is hearing a lot of reports from the Vancouver area, he adds: "It would be considered a hotspot."

Davis, who doesn't believe all the stories he hears, receives many reports from the three-kilometre-wide band from the North Shore to the U.S. border — the "Surrey corridor, to UFO researchers."

Strainic says that prior to this year daytime sightings were rare.

"There are a lot of honest misperceptions, but very few hoaxes," says the unidentified-flying-object researcher, who lately attended a UFO symposium in Seattle that drew some 1,200 others.

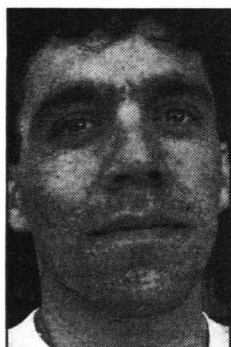
Rick Johansson, general manager of the federal air-traffic services area-control centre, says he's never seen anything here in 11 years on the job that couldn't be explained.

But Strainic says air-traffic controllers have tipped his group to unexplained things in the air.

"The people who should be taking this seriously are not," he says. "It's easy to dissuade people from getting interested in these things."

"Just tell them it's a hoax and they'll believe that."

The MUFON hotline is 241-4455.



'I'm not one of those skeptics who's naive enough to believe that there's nothing out there'

— Kevin McCarthy

ABDUCTION BY ALIENS RUINS YOUR DAY

Some 180 people in the Vancouver area believe they've been abducted by aliens.

Of those, Mike Strainic of the Mutual UFO Network says 50 are "highly believable" and a few involve witnesses.

One woman with a story to tell identifies herself as Cindy. She says she's single, is in her late 30s, works in a technical capacity for a large corporation — and agrees only to a telephone interview.

"I like my job," she says.

Ever since she can remember, she has had episodes in which she has felt other

beings near her or has blacked out for periods of up to several hours.

She says she's seen tall, slender aliens like the one on the cover of Whitley Streiber's book *Communion*, and short ones she describes as "worker bees."

The summer when she was seven, she would get up every day at 4:30 a.m., ride her bike to a nearby school yard and stand by a bush for two hours.

For five years in her 20s, she had the feeling she was being visited by creatures almost every night. There was

terror, "something I would not wish on my worst enemy."

She would wake up with fingerprint-sized bruises all over her body. Lights, radios and televisions would inexplicably go on and off at her house.

"I was in denial . . . I thought I was dreaming." Then a friend gave her Streiber's book, and she recognized the creatures he described.

She started going to UFO conventions, and met "hundreds" of people who had the same experiences she did.

She believes the creatures are from another dimensional "frequency," and such frequencies coexist alongside one another like frequencies on a radio band.

Strainic says the woman's reluctance to be identified is common.

"It does not look good to your boss to say, 'I was late for work because I was abducted by aliens,'" Strainic says. "It does not look good on your résumé."

"We hear from a lot of people who say, 'Please tell me I'm crazy, that this isn't happening.'"

Alien beings have landed in Cornwall, says Eric

TODAY it looks like an ordinary farmer's field. But UFO expert Eric Morris claims it's where an alien spaceship crash-landed on earth.

For the past ten years Eric, of the British UFO Study Centre, has been investigating what he says is proof that extra-terrestrials have visited Cornwall.

"I'm convinced," said Eric, 41, who now lives in Cheshire but used to live in Plymouth.

"A UFO certainly crash-landed and the evidence is now somewhere in the USA."

Eric says there's a conspiracy to cover up evidence of the alien crash at Colan, near Newquay.

He claims the RAF, MoD, and US Air Force know the truth but aren't letting on.

"A local woman called Kate Littler was driving down a country lane at night in February 1985 when she saw a light following her," said Eric.

"It was flying about eight feet off the ground and then it vanished."

"I was living in Plymouth at the time and was called to in-

vestigate a couple of months later. I found evidence of a huge fire. I believe the craft hit a tree and exploded."

"A Geiger counter showed there was increased radiation in the field. There were scorch marks around the tree."

"I sent soil samples for analysis and the report said there was more heat than a normal bonfire."

"There were US Air Force staff at nearby St Mawgan airfield at the time and I believe they recovered something from the site."

"Ufologists in America told me that something was flown from St Mawgan to the States."

"When I returned to the site it had been bulldozed over."

Later I was contacted by a professor who said he was interested in the sighting.

"He came to my house to talk but when I was out of the room he stole my photos of the site."

"When I tried to contact him there was no trace of him. I think he was some kind of security agent."

"I'm still looking into the

case all these years later.

"It's one of the most important UFO events ever in Britain."

"I'd like the MoD to come clean and admit what happened."

● Eric's story features in the Westcountry TV programme *The Mysterious West* on Friday.

He can be contacted through the British UFO Studies Centre, 52 Dart Walk, Wharton, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3JE.

Mystery object buzzes the skies of Wyndham Vale

Sightings of 'UFOs' reported

By Cheryl Kohek

A WERRIBEE resident has reported several sightings of unidentified flying objects to the Victorian UFO Research Society during the past week.

Wyndham Vale resident Mark Hillard, 29, encountered what he believes could have been a spaceship in Laverton North last Sunday week.

"I was driving along Sayers Road and turned onto Palmers Road at about 6.45 pm when I saw this bright light low in the sky coming across the paddocks from the city," Mr Hillard said.

"It stopped on the side of the road and got out of the car. Whatever it was, it stopped about five metres away from me and was about 10 metres off the ground."

"It was about the size of a sedan car, and was shaped like an E Type Jaguar. It had square red lights flashing from the top and bright fluorescent lights spinning out from the bottom."

"It hovered close for one or two minutes, and then flew off at a 45-degree angle over towards Geelong Road."

Convinced what he saw was not an aircraft, satellite, comet, or weather balloon, Mr Hillard reported it to

Werribee police, who told him to contact the UFO society.

A spokesperson for the Melbourne Planetarium at the Museum of Victoria said unusually bright lights in the sky over the past few weeks were probably caused by a meteor shower from the constellation Perseids.

"The average meteor looks like an object flashing through the sky. The brighter ones move more slowly, and can have a bit of colour," the spokesperson said.

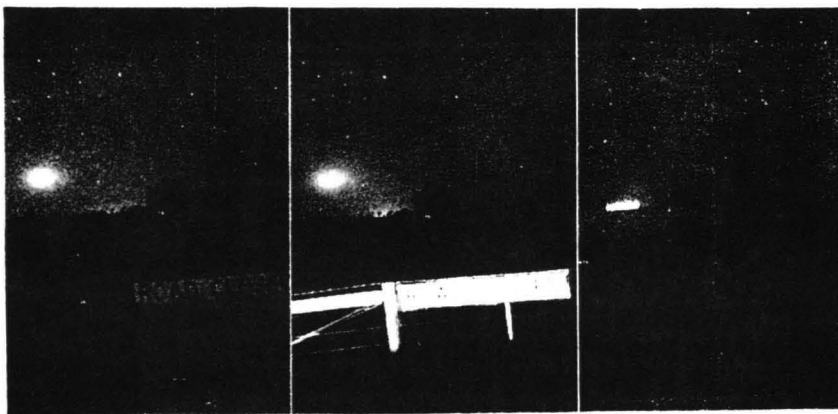
A Bureau of Meteorology spokesperson said the lights were the wrong size to have been on weather balloons released from Laverton about 9 pm each night.

Wing Commander Graeme Johnston of the Royal Australian Air Force Williams Base in Laverton said no aircraft were flying in the area during the reported sightings.

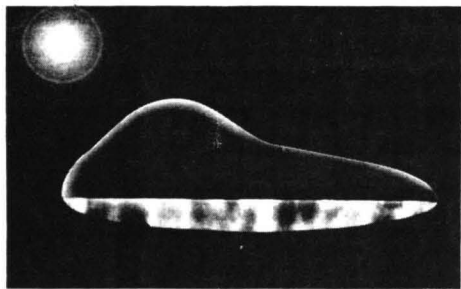
President of the Victorian UFO society, Ms Judy Magee said the society would investigate the sightings.

Mr Hillard saw the strange object again last Thursday night about 10 pm, but this time local photographer Chuck Reynolds was with him to capture it on film.

The pair drove to the end of Hobbs Road, Wyndham



▲ An object - Mr Hillard believes could have been a spaceship, photographed in Wyndham Vale last Thursday night.



▲ An artist's impression of Werribee resident Mark Hillard's sighting.

Vale where a bright, oblong-shaped light flew towards them.

"I was scared and wanted to run away, but Chuck wanted it to come closer so he could get a good photo of it," Mr Hillard said.

"It circled around us and then when another car pulled up behind us with its high beams on, it flew

away." "There is probably a logical explanation for it, and I don't believe it was moon men coming down to earth," Mr Reynolds said. "But if we can put men on the moon and send space shuttles into space, then it is feasible to think that perhaps a more advanced being could send its craft to us."

Who saw the UFO?

Sir, I would like to hear from any of your readers who recall the sighting and landing of a UFO in a field above the quarry at Sandside, Cumbria, on or about December 28, 1962. I was raised in Storth, seven miles south of Kendal, and saw the indentations left from the supposed UFO landing the day after local witnesses saw the UFO or green light coming over the Kent Estuary.

On sifting through Ministry of Defence UFO files recently I came across an official report of that UFO sighting by a pilot, who described it as a bright light three times the brightness of a star flying 1,000 feet below him at a speed of 800mph. A report was also made to the Morecambe Police and local coast guard by a member of the public and another witness saw it whilst driving along the road at Levens. The MOD chose to disregard the sighting.

Rosemarie Jessop
London

WESTMORELAND GAZETTE, Kendal, England
May 12, 1995

UFO over Mill Hill?

An anonymous reader has written to the *Times & Chronicle* claiming to have seen a UFO in Goole.

"I was posting a letter in the mail-box on Mill Hill Barrett Estate on Wednesday August 9th at 10.15pm," the reader states. "I glanced above to see an object in the sky."

"It made no noise and was cigar-shaped with a sequence of brightly-coloured lights flashing from left to right."

"I watched in disbelief for three or four minutes and then ran home to tell my family."

"I took my daughter to see where I'd seen the object, but to my disappointment it was gone."

"The object had been hovering above the M62 and over the flyover towards Howden."

"We would be grateful if any other readers could confirm this or other possible UFO sightings in the area."

GOOLE TIMES, Yorkshire, England - Aug. 17, 1995

'UFO' mystery deepens with yet another close encounter

By GREG LEWIS

Another witness has come forward with a story of strange objects in sky over Pembrokeshire.

A Solva couple spotted the 'UFO' on the same day that Gary Marsh and his family were 'visited' by a group of zig-zagging lights at Broad Haven.

But Graeme and Margaret Canby-Lewis had their close encounter during the afternoon in bright sunlight.

"We were on our boat out from Solva when I saw an absolutely



brilliant white light moving very slowly over Skomer," explained Mrs Canby-Lewis.

"It started over the western end of the island and moved ever-so-slowly from west to east across three-quarters of Skomer. Then it changed through orange to red and disappeared."

"It was incredible. If it was a

reflection I don't know what it could have been a reflection of."

Mrs Canby-Lewis said it was a most 'strange experience', which could well have a reasonable explanation.

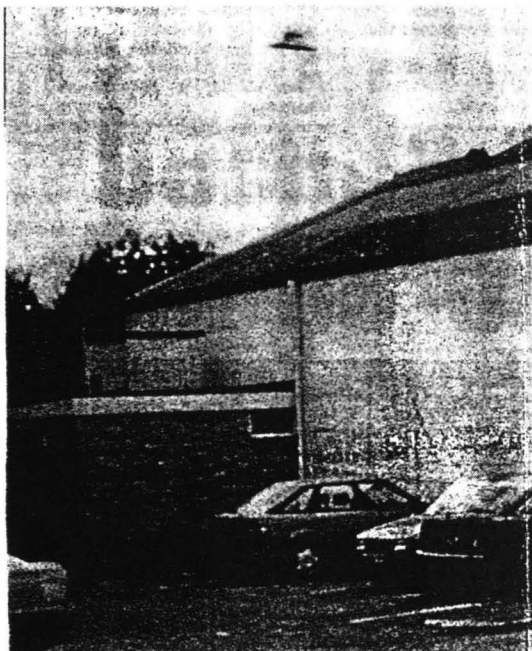
But she is prepared to keep an open mind, particularly as she believes she may have witnessed a UFO in 1977 - the year that the 'Broad Haven Triangle' hit the headlines.

That sighting was off the coast of Aberacron, where she spotted something like a 'tennis ball' in the sky. When it moved off its speed was

stunning.

Said Mrs Canby-Lewis: "If you've never seen one you just couldn't believe it - it went so fast up into the sky and then shot around. For people who see them it's just a shame there is no way to confirm that they exist."

Last week, Gary Marsh and his family told the *Western Telegraph* that they had watched strange lights in the sky for hours, while days later Broad Haven publicans Captain Geoff White and Mrs Heather White saw an 'object' changing colour over Haroldston Hill, Broad Haven.



Could you explain what this is?



UFO? You decide

By PAUL PICKETT

CAN anyone solve the great UFO mystery?

Can you identify this strange object, pictured left, which was spotted hovering over Staines last Tuesday afternoon?

John Watts, from Staines, said it emitted a curious buzzing noise.

He told us: "I was walking through Staines at about 5.15pm when I heard a buzzing sound. I thought it was a wasp, but I noticed a round object floating above me in the sky. I had not been drinking, and I know that what I saw was real."



"At first, I thought it was a military helicopter, or even a Stealth bomber."

"It was saucer-shaped, and 50ft long by 20ft wide. It hovered around, then shot off at high speed."

John Lever, also from Staines, was fishing in the Thames when he saw the object overhead.

He said: "I was amazed to see a saucer-shaped object hovering 400 feet

in the sky. It was quite large, and moved quite slowly. Then, quite suddenly, it shot up into the air and completely disappeared."

Another resident, who did not want to be named, took pictures of the object.

He said: "The object was making a low humming sound, which made me look up in the first place. It was about 30ft in diameter, and seemed to be revolving."

A spokesman for Staines police said: "We have not had any reports of strange objects flying over Staines."

● Did you see this UFO as well, or have you seen any other objects in the skies that you cannot explain? Write to the *Informer*, 11 High Street, Egham, Surrey TW20 9EA.

AS CONTROVERSY RAGES OVER FILM PURPORTING TO SHOW A CREATURE FROM OUTER SPACE, LOOK AT THESE PICTURES AND TRY TO MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND

A real alien . . . or an earthly hoax?

TAKE a long, close look at the fascinating pictures on these pages.

Slightly gruesome they may be. But are they, as some claim, incontrovertible proof that our planet has been visited by aliens?

Or are they an attempt to pull off one of the most elaborate hoaxes yet played on a gullible world? Something to rival the Hitler Diaries — or even the War of the Worlds broadcast by Orson Welles?

Now you have the chance to make up your own mind.

On Bank Holiday Monday, a Channel 4 documentary, *The Roswell Incident*, will screen grainy black-and-white film taken by a fast-moving cameraman purporting to show an autopsy being conducted on an extra-terrestrial being at a top-secret U.S. military base.

The documentary, made by respected film maker John Purdie, is

By JULIAN CHAMPKIN

a serious examination of the mysterious events which took place in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

But most attention will be on the few minutes of 'alien footage' which enthusiasts insist was shot there.

Already some experts, including the Mail's correspondent Roy Hattersley, have dismissed it as a crude hoax — the UFO equivalent of the perennially-controversial film of the Loch Ness Monster. Other authorities, including medical experts and scientists, are not so sure.

Today, the Daily Mail gives an exclusive preview of the pictures — and examines the arguments for and against the film's authenticity.

The Roswell Incident arose when a farmer living near the town discovered mysterious debris in one of his fields. It looked like nothing he had even seen before, so he took it to show his local sheriff. Equally baffled, the sheriff called in experts from

the top-secret air force base nearby. At that time, Roswell was one of the world's most secret establishments — the only U.S. base from which atomic bombs could be launched.

But then New Mexico, covered by one of the wildest stretches of desert in the North American continent, was itself the 'Secret State' — home to many hush-hush defence projects. It was here that Werner von Braun and his German engineers worked on the rockets which would later conquer space.

The farmer's discovery caused consternation at Roswell and the base commander authorised his Press secretary to put out a statement saying that his men had the remains of a flying saucer which had crashed.

But when the world's media descended on Roswell, the story had dramatically changed. What journalists were shown, and what they took photographs of, was clearly the remains of some kind of balloon.

The military authorities announced that the so-called flying saucer was, after all, only a weather balloon.

There the story would have ended, but for the insistence of several witnesses that it was a cover-up to deflect attention from the unique discovery that was then being housed in a hangar at a military base.

It was more than two years later that the Pentagon admitted there had been a cover-up. But not involving aliens.

What they had been hiding, they claimed, was a politically-sensitive high-altitude balloon used to test whether the Soviet Union had learned how to explode an atomic bomb.

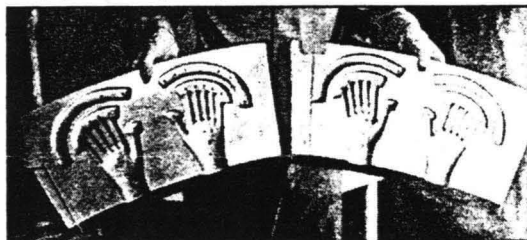
Such an explanation did little to quell speculation, not least because various witnesses insisted that they had not only seen the remains of a flying saucer at Roswell, but five dead aliens.

The supposed sequence of events boiled down to this: A flying saucer had crashed near Roswell and five bodies of aliens — small, hairless, humanoid figures — were found in various stages of mutilation. Autopsies had been carried out on at least two and a cover-up was ordered by the then president Harry Truman.

Enter Ray Santilli. Mr Santilli is an English entrepreneur whose business is making music videos. He was working for Polydor records and making a film



Autopsy room: Sceptics say the phone is too modern for 1947



Supposedly from the wreckage: Control panels for six fingers

about Fifties pop stars. While in America, he met a cameraman who said he had rare footage of Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley at the beginning of their careers. Santilli says he went to the cameraman's house, saw the footage and bought it.

Now comes the controversial part of Santilli's story. He says the cameraman then told him he had 'some more unusual film you might be interested in'.

The American explained that during the 1940s he had been attached to the US military and had been asked to film various top-secret projects in New Mexico.

Santilli says the cameraman got some old cans of film out of his loft. Much of it had disintegrated. But he did project one 20-minute reel on to his living room wall. That film is what you will see on Channel 4 on Monday.

It purportedly shows an autopsy being carried out on a small, hairless, humanoid figure — apparently female.

Santilli says that, thinking it was some footage from an old horror movie, he asked what it was. The cameraman told him: 'It's the Roswell Incident'.

Santilli insists that at that point he had never heard of the Roswell



A covering is removed from the eye: The surgeon acts too fast, say critics



A mystery afoot: The creature apparently has six toes

Incident, but decided to buy the film and show it to some UFO experts.

They were staggered at the discovery — but frustrated that Santilli refuses to name or identify the cameraman.

Santilli says that he has promised him anonymity and refuses to break that pledge, even though he knows most people will dismiss the film as a hoax.

The excited UFO experts released two stills from the film on the Internet. When those pictures were seen by the world's Press, the response was staggering. Last weekend, Santilli's footage was shown to a restricted audience at

the British UFO Conference in Sheffield, where Roy Hattersley saw it and was not impressed.

He wrote: 'About the film, only one judgment is possible. There is not the slightest reason to believe that it portrays an autopsy being performed on an alien.'

'Not once, during its whole flickering length, does it contain anything that could be reasonably described as evidence or could not be put together by any film special effects department.'

But is he being too cynical? Is there not even the remotest possibility that we might be gazing on a creature from beyond the stars —

with all the staggering implications that raises?

Look at the pictures . . . and make up your own mind.



A VIDEO, Incident At Roswell (left), is available at £12.99 from next week. Further details from The Roswell Footage Ltd, 40 Welcombe Street, London NW1 6ND.

WHY IT MAY BE GENUINE

- It has no belly button — every human does, except some separated Siamese twins.
- No known set of diseases or medical conditions can result in the deformations it displays — distended belly, bulging head, large eyes and eye-coverings.
- One human freak might be conceivable, but there are two similar aliens.
- An organ is removed that is the size of a human liver, but not the shape. No intestines can be discerned and its internal arrangements do not seem to resemble anything human.
- It has six toes.
- A hoaxer would probably not have made his alien look so humanoid — preferring to produce something much more unusual and exciting.
- At least two named surgeons have seen the footage. One says: 'It does not resemble any human remains I have ever seen.' Another says the brain is not human.
- The film industry in 1947 was not capable of producing such convincing special effects for a hoax. Not until the Sixties or later could any fake sequences of such quality have been put together.

WHY IT MAY BE A FAKE

- The alien is far too much like a human, with recognisably female genitalia. Its face, though deformed, is human-like.
- The source of the film is unconfirmed — owner Ray Santilli will not reveal the cameraman's name.
- Kodak says the film stock was made in either 1927, 1947 or 1967, but experts have been given no samples to test when it was exposed. It could have been shot recently, using old film.
- The film is blurred whenever it moves in to show the crucial internal organs. Santilli says this is due to the fixed-focus, hand-held camera.
- Some claim to see the word 'video' spelled out in allegedly alien hieroglyphics. Santilli dismisses this.
- While the creature's organs do not look human, some suggest the rib-cage, for example, could be that of a dog.
- It could be a genuine autopsy on a human freak, a survivor of medical experiments, or someone who had been exposed to radiation. The atom bomb attacks on Japan had taken place only two years earlier.
- Santilli can make a great deal of money from the film as long as he can maintain even a possibility of it being genuine.

I can't convince everyone but the camera doesn't lie

THE film's owner, Ray Santilli, admits he is a natural target for cynics.

Running a company which specialises in archive film of Fifties rock stars, he dabbles all the time in old stock, offcuts and obscure footage.

'I acknowledge that in the eyes of many people I am probably the worst person in the world to have had the film,' he says in his London office. 'But it is only because we are a commercial company and I was in the right place at the right time, that it emerged at all.'

Does he believe it is genuine? 'I've had the benefit of knowing the cameraman. When you come across someone who is 30 years old, and see his army enrolment papers and discharge papers,

and meet his wife and children . . . I know the cameraman is genuine.'

'I know the film is genuine inasmuch as he shot it. What is on it is another question. Whether it is an alien creature, some kind of experiment, or a human with some chromosome disorder — the cameraman himself does not know what the creatures are. For him, it was just one more army assignment.'

Santilli says his reason for buying the film was commercial. 'I had no prior interest in UFOs or ghosts or the paranormal.' If it is proved a hoax after it is broadcast on Channel 4, he will still show a healthy profit. 'But I think we handled it in probably the most responsible way. In the long run, if it stands up, it will be a far more valuable item than any

short-term killing. 'There is nothing I can do to satisfy everyone that the film is genuine. But if it was a quick in-and-out hoax, we could have done that without the hassles we have now.'

'We've had pathologists from all over the world to see it. Unless it is a Frankenstein's monster that has had bits added to it, there is no single human condition that accumulates all those deformities in one creature.'

'And the medical experts all seem to think that the creature was alive at least a couple of hours before the start of the filming. At the moment, there is not a shred of evidence to say that this thing is a hoax. But there is good opinion that the creature is flesh and blood and the film could be real.'

Is there anybody out there?



Stephen Mera with fellow UFO fans Alan Smith, Alicia Leigh and Krystyna Cieslik. RH95/7/606

CHILDREN are renowned for coming up with fanciful stories, but when 14 year old Stephen Mera interrupted his mum's household chores to tell her he'd just seen something straight out of a science fiction movie, she felt compelled to check this one out for herself.

For some reason her son's words rang true - they didn't sound like the by-product of an

overactive imagination.

Stephen had been playing in the back garden of the family home in Timperley. He casually glanced skywards, to see a mysterious object hanging, as if suspended, just a few feet above his head. It was grey, flat and circular, and, according to Stephen, about 'three times the size of a house'. What intrigued the youngster even more was the total absence of doors or windows. The craft looked, to all intents and purposes, like a giant flying frisby.

Stephen, now 28, told Messenger:

"The first thing I thought was it was a flying saucer because when I was a child I used to love sci-fi films. I went inside to tell my mother, she came out with some binoculars and she saw it just before it shot off, heading towards Partington", claims Stephen.

Stephen's brief encounter of the third kind changed his life. He's now a qualified investigator with the Northern Anomalies Research Organisation (NARO), a research body which follows up everything from UFO sightings to reports of supernatural activity.

PEOPLE with Rick Bowen

LIGHTS IN SKY -SIGN OF UFO?

MYSTERIOUS lights in the sky over Hemel Hempstead on Tuesday night have added to a series of strange phenomena that has stunned local residents over the steaming summer months.

Lisa Vaughan, of High Street, Hemel Hempstead, said: "It was this huge orange light. It didn't look like a plane, it was moving from side to side and up and down."

"I was in bed with my husband at about 11.40pm and we heard this couple screaming outside. We looked out of the window and they were staring up at the sky."

"It was way too big for a falling star. We watched it until it disappeared towards Berkhamstead."

The sighting follows a warning to Express (July, 14) readers from UFO expert Simon Shavelar, of Associated Research, to keep their eyes to the skies after a series of crop circles appeared near Kings Langley last month.

Two separate sightings after reader prediction

Lisa was not the only one to have seen the glowing lights.

Trainee journalist Robert Stock was lying in bed in Hemel Hempstead reading when he happened to glance out of the window. What he saw amazed him.

"There were these lights moving at different speeds" he said. "It just couldn't have been an aeroplane. I can't explain what I saw."

Simon Shavelar said: "We predicted heavy UFO activity for Tuesday night."

"I predict there will be a further three or four sightings in the Tring and Cholesbury area."

"People should look out for triangle formations of lights. I would also advise people to keep a look out near

Kings Langley and Hunton Bridge."

A spokesperson for Luton Airport, Beverly Allen, confirmed that the lights were probably not aircraft.

She checked with air traffic control who said nothing was logged for 11.40pm and added that over the area aeroplanes are still at a height of at least 5000 feet.

She said: "Visibility was unusually good on Tuesday night so maybe they were seeing something further away or higher up that looked nearer because it was not so clear."

Lisa is sure that what she saw was not from this world.

She said on Wednesday: "I didn't believe in UFOs until I saw this, now I am convinced."

HERALD-SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

July 23, 1995 CR: P. Norman

Lights baffle police

By JASON SILVERII and ANDREW PROBYN

AUTHORITIES have not been able to explain the sightings of mysterious lights over South Australia this week by more than 100 Whyalla residents.

Sgt Michael Richards, of Whyalla police, was one of 10 police officers to see the "bright, orange lights".

Sgt Richards said the brightness of the objects was "intense" and was mistaken by one caller to the police station as a flare from a boat. Air Sea Rescue said there were no boats in distress at the time of the sightings.

The RAAF said it had no aircraft over Whyalla on Wednesday night, while the SA regional office of the Bureau of Meteorology said weath-

er conditions were too calm for any natural phenomenon.

Sgt Richards said first reports of the lights at 6pm were of three lights rising from the Spencer Gulf.

When Sgt Richards went outside at 6.45pm to look for himself, he saw two lights rise from scrub 30km west of the town and remain stationary before moving rapidly to the south-west.

"We seemed to have one of the lights get to within 100m of the ground, but it could have got closer," he said.

UFO debate grows as data increases

By Lynn Moore
The Montreal Gazette
MONTREAL

As we prepare for the 21st century, we seem to be inundated with the notion that we're not alone in the cosmos, that alien life forms exist, regularly visit our planet, routinely abduct us and sometimes mate with our fellow human beings.

Witness the string of alien-friendly television shows such as The X-Files or Sightings, and movies such as the current Species, the tale of an ill-fated experiment in combining human and alien DNA.

And later this month, television networks in the U.S., Britain and France will air footage of what purports to be the dissection of two aliens after American officials supposedly found an alien spaceship that had crashed at Roswell, N.M., in 1947. The film allegedly comes from a cameraman who had worked for the armed forces.

Conspiracy suspected

UFO supporters generally believe that the U.S. government covered up its find in a conspiracy that continues to this day.

The UFO skeptics and debunkers

who believe all the hoopla is just madness — and there are many — cite the absence of any concrete evidence of aliens and highlight the UFO movement's lunatic fringe, folks such as the free-loving Raelians whose bible is titled Space Aliens Took Me to Their Planet.

The whole tenor of the UFO/extraterrestrial discussion rose a notch or two with the 1994 publication of a book about alien abductees by eminent Harvard psychologist John E. Mack.

Mack — who won a 1977 Pulitzer Prize for a psychoanalytic biography of Lawrence of Arabia — has been enveloped in the curtain of ridicule surrounding the notion of extraterrestrials visiting Earth. His embarrassed employer, Harvard University's medical school, set up a committee to evaluate Mack's research methods in a closed-door, year-long investigation.

On Aug. 3, Harvard stopped short of censuring Mack but he was publicly urged not to let his enthusiasm for UFO research lead him from the path of professionalism and scholarship expected of a Harvard researcher.

According to "ufologists" — those who seriously follow the subject, ranging from highly educated scientists to amateur enthusiasts — most people

don't report UFO sightings to authorities because they'd rather not be thought of as crazy.

When UFO sightings are reported to police or the Defence Department, the incidents are not investigated. If police officers or air-traffic control officials, for example, file a report based on an eyewitness account of a sighting, those uninvestigated reports are sent to the National Research Council.

The council's Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics is interested in reports of possible meteorites, but if the sighting report doesn't involve a meteorite, it goes into the UFO (non-meteorite) file.

No investigation

Last year, 185 UFO non-meteorite reports were forwarded by the Department of National Defence and Communications Canada, said Denise Cardinal, a computer programmer at the NRC whose job includes dealing with the reports. At the end of the year, they are shipped to the National Archives, to be catalogued, shelved and gather dust.

"There is no investigation," Cardinal said.

Even the Canadian component of the North American Aerospace Defence Command — whose sophisticated radar equipment, unlike air-traffic con-

trol equipment, is designed to pick up flying objects that don't want to be spotted — doesn't delve too deeply into its own UFO reports.

When unidentified objects pop up on radar near Canada's eastern, western and northern peripheries, NORAD is obviously curious, said Capt. Tony White of NORAD's public affairs bureau.

Staff rapidly check flight plans and consult airlines. If need be, F-18s are scrambled to investigate the UFOs, White said.

In 1993, the Canadian component of NORAD racked up 84 unidentified flying objects, which it calls "NORAD remaining-unknowns," White said.

After some investigation and analysis by NORAD staff, 24 of the 84 couldn't be explained, White said.

Might they have been alien space-ships? "We have no reason to believe that they are," White said. "We have no data on (alien ships)."

NORAD doesn't try to correlate the unexplained sightings with UFO reports, White said.

It doesn't use the NRC files available, nor does it compare the sightings with UFO reports compiled by groups such as the Mutual UFO Network, which has members in more than 50 countries.



Grays River writer explores mysteries 'Where Bigfoot Walks'

'Evergreen' author Bob Pyle examines a legend's role in shaping the Northwest psyche

By ED HUNT
Observer staff writer

GRAYS RIVER—It's about Bigfoot.

Local author Robert Michael Pyle doesn't hedge on that point. His latest work is about the mysterious creature that haunts the wild areas of Northwest woods.

At the same time, "Where Bigfoot Walks, Crossing the Dark Divide," isn't concerned one way or the other about the existence of the bigfoot, but rather keeps an open mind while exploring the people, the mythology and obsessions surrounding this phenomenon.

While many people search for answers to the question of whether bigfoot is "real," Pyle says he set out to examine how we react to the myth and mystery of it, and why we might just need that myth and mystery to continue.

"I was really trying to, above all, to find the place and the presence of bigfoot in the culture both

Native American and contemporary culture as we know it," Pyle says. "This is such a powerful myth ... it continues to enrich the way we look at the land."

Explaining the work seems to be fraught with a continuous stream of caveats—protecting us

'This is such a powerful myth ... it continues to enrich the way we look at the land.'

Bob Pyle
"Where Bigfoot Walks"

from our own easy assumptions. Pyle uses the term "myth," but was surprised by the amount of evidence presented to him from diverse sources and centuries of records. He was surprised to find that every culture

has a ubiquitous "big hairy ape" tromping around just on the edge of the wilderness.

At times his description of his research seems to be equal parts anthropology, sociology, psychology and biology. Yet he insists that this was purely a subjective literary exploration of an ongoing question and what it means to keep asking it.

He was fascinated by what he found, but believes he left the woods the same way he entered it, fascinated and with an open mind.

So how does a respected writer and ecologist end up on an adventure about bigfoot?

In the 1950s, Pyle's grandmother ventured into the Himalayas and had an opportunity to meet the famous Sherpa Tensing Norga, who led Sir Edmund Hillary to the top of Mount Everest. She returned with native tales about the Yeti—the legendary abominable snowman, Pyle recalls. In the 1960s at the University of Washington, he heard his first bigfoot stories, saw the famous Patterson film, and screened the early writing of bigfoot hunters. It was a curious subject, and Pyle says he kept "tuned in."

The book begins in 1970, when Pyle was camping on Mount St. Helens and heard "strange and powerful noises." Pyle—a trained biologist with a Ph.D. in ecology from Yale—knew the noises of most of the animals in the wilderness and this wasn't one of them. He also knew that he was in an area of many bigfoot sightings. He became more interested.

Five years later he came across Peter Bryne, head of the bigfoot research project based out of the Columbia Gorge near Mt. Hood.

"I found him interesting, scientifically skeptical," Pyle said. "Although he was open to the animal's existence, he threw out most of the chaff and garbage associated with bigfoot stories."

Pyle invited Bryne to give a seminar at the Yale Forestry School where he was teaching at the time. There were probably few converts, but Pyle was intrigued by the reaction of his colleagues.

"I think there were some minds opened that day."

Pyle remained tuned in, but went on to other things—firmly establishing his literary career as probably the most grounded and yet evocative of contemporary naturalists.

Then in 1989 Pyle presented a proposal to the Guggenheim Foundation, which agreed to support an investigation into the per-

sonal and human component of this ecological mystery.

"It is a literary approach ... I tried to filter things through my background as a biologist," Pyle says. "I didn't feel the subject lent itself to a scientific approach. I wanted to explore my own personal response to the wealth of lore."

He read everything he could get his hands on, he talked to the people—the "hunters, scientists, wackos"—trying to unravel the mystery. Finally he went back into the woods and immersed himself in the still-wild forests of the North Cascades, "not really trying to find it," he explains, "but trying to find within myself the landscape that originated this lore."

Chronicled in the essays is a startling intensity of belief Pyle says, and perhaps the greatest ecological mystery of our time.

"There are people, reasonable people, who have completely altered their lives to pursue this grail," he says. He was also surprised at the number of reliable people who reported sightings, including a friend of his who went "from a cynic to a believer" in just ten seconds in the woods near Randle.

Like the Yeti, there are legends and reports of big hairy wild things in the woods all over the planet. In many places it is taken much more seriously than in the U.S. In China, the Yah-Ren or wildman has been the subject of government-funded expeditions, and a reserve was set up for it. In Eurasia there are several distinct versions and reported sightings.

Even the question of "why haven't we found a body" has explanations.

"Nature recycles it," Pyle said. "We don't find dead mountain lions or dead bear in the woods either."

Pyle says he "laughs like everyone else" when he sees the super-market tabloid headlines, but also finds sad our inability to deal with this in a serious manner. Pyle doesn't know if we can ever reinvest this legend with the potential power and sacredness it deserves. He hopes "Where Bigfoot Walks" takes strides in doing so.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Nov, 3, 1995 CR: J. Fry

DNA scientists at OSU on a quest for Bigfoot

By David Lore
Dispatch Science Reporter

The evidence for Bigfoot is as thin as the tufts of hair now being tested in an Ohio State University laboratory.

But that hasn't discouraged OSU scientists from employing a new DNA matching process to determine whether there's more to the Sasquatch legend than a blurry picture and a few giant footprints.

"This is the first time that I'm aware of that anybody will be able to do any DNA extractions (on Bigfoot)," said Frank Poirier, chairman of the OSU Department of Anthropology. "I don't expect anything to happen because I'm pretty skeptical about this. But good science requires some wild-goose chases from time to time."

The new evidence consists of two tufts of hair — each consisting of a dozen or so individual strands — recovered in Washington state after a recent sighting.

The OSU testing is being done for the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center.

"Oregon has a large number of (Bigfoot) samples, all of which they treat with great skepticism," said Paul Fuerst, OSU associate professor of molecular genetics. "These two batches sent to us had the best possibility of being real."

The creatures were reportedly observed at a distance of about 100 feet in a dense, dark forest.

"It was a sighting by forest rangers," Poirier said. "After the creatures left, they

picked up hair from the locale, as well as footprints and knuckle prints."

Bigfoot has been described by hundreds of observers as being a furry, muscular primate, 6 to 10 feet tall. There is the blurry 1967 film taken by Roger Patterson and some footprint casts, but most scientists find this insufficient proof.

Fuerst and a graduate student, Jamie Austin, are using a DNA testing protocol being developed by the FBI for analysis of hair strands that lack the roots normally needed for identification.

Austin, a forensic scientist, is using the Bigfoot hair as well as human and chimpanzee hair to do an independent evaluation of the protocol.

The technique, which relies on comparison of mitochondrial genes, should be able to determine whether the Bigfoot hair came from a primate and whether that primate was human or any known species of monkey or ape, Austin said.

If it turns out to be an unidentified species, "we'd be able to tell quite a bit about its evolutionary history, but nothing about its outward appearance," Fuerst said.

Tests so far "are suggestive that it was not a primate," Fuerst said. Results are expected later this month.

If the Washington hair samples are from an unknown primate, Poirier wants to seek a match with a single hair reputed to be from the Chinese "wildman," a similar manlike primate he has investigated in Asia.

The strand, given to Poirier by Chinese peasants during a 1989 expedition, doesn't match that of known primates, according to chemical analysis at Shanghai University.

"The reason the Chinese possibility intrigues me more is that you had large apes which went extinct in Asia. But there's no evidence of apes in North American prehistory," he said. "To get a creature like that in North America, it would have had to migrate across the Bering land bridge. Too many things had to fall in place."



Fred Squillante/Dispatch

Jamie Austin, a forensic scientist, compares the DNA sequences of different chimpanzees from the Columbus Zoo. Austin and Paul Fuerst are analyzing hairs allegedly from Bigfoot.

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT,
Conway, AR - Nov. 6, 1995

■ DNA tests conducted on Bigfoot's hair — COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Scientists are trying to pin down Bigfoot by the hair of his chinny-chin-chin.

Ohio State University researchers are using DNA analysis on a few tufts of hair found in a Pacific Northwest forest where three men, including two former forest rangers, spotted a group of "Bigfoots" about 100 feet away in the dark.

"I don't expect anything to happen because I'm pretty skeptical about this. But good science requires some wild-goose chases from time to time," Frank Poirier, chairman of the Ohio State's Department of Anthropology.

The analysis should determine if the hair came from a human or another known primate.

"You feel silly talking about it," Pyle said. "I hope the book to some extent will aid the effort to bring this back into serious discourse."

Pyle found many people share the same romantic desire for bigfoot not to be found. Pyle the biologist feels that discovery of a live or dead bigfoot would give us a bit of perspective about our place on the planet. It would be a humbling experience to know that we have gone so long without knowing the existence of such an evolutionary cousin.

But trying to "bag" one brings about its own ethical questions. What are we doing morally when we set out to kill a near relation of our own species? If we do so, and existence is proven, how then to we approach the rest of those that may be out there?

Pyle said many of those he interviewed thought "that the sweet mys-

tery would die" if a bigfoot were discovered. This mystery in particular, the defining and persisting mystery of America's wild places, may be something worth keeping.

"What is the wildest thing we can think of?" he asks. "If there is a time and place where we can imagine that can occur, the world still has wildness. If it is so manicured, so homogenized, so well known, no one can imagine the presence of giants, we have lost something profound."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Pyle and his wife Thea have lived in their home over looking the Grays River since 1979. This is his sixth book with publisher Houghton-Mifflin of Boston, and the ninth book of his career. He will be signing books at the Bookvender in downtown Long Beach from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 29.

DNA results unlikely to end the long debate about Bigfoot

By David Lore
Dispatch Science Reporter

Hair samples undergoing DNA testing at Ohio State University will be a new element in the debate on whether Bigfoot exists, an Oregon zoologist says.

W. Henner Fahrenbach of Beaverton, Ore., however, says he doubts that even DNA evidence of a new species of primate would be enough to convince the scientific world of the creature's existence.

"Both the scientific and political communities have a hell of a lot of inertia," he said. "You'll have to take a bloody corpse around and rub their nose in it before they believe in it."

Among the skeptics are the OSU geneticists — Professor Paul Fuerst and graduate student Jamie Austin — who are conducting the DNA studies to determine whether the hair matches that of human beings or any known species of animal.

Fahrenbach said the hair was

"The scientific and political communities have a hell of a lot of inertia. You'll have to take a bloody corpse around and rub their nose in it."

W. Henner Fahrenbach
on Bigfoot controversy

collected on the morning of Aug. 5 in the Blue Mountains east of Walla Walla in southeast Washington, near the Oregon border.

Following footprints and twisted fir tree saplings, three trackers said they spotted a fawn-colored juvenile Bigfoot in heavy woods and heard the screams of two others, Fahrenbach said.

The animal, while eating yellow wood violets, was observed through binoculars at a distance of 87 feet.

Fahrenbach found the report credible, he said, because of the

experience of the trackers and because the footprints and the tree damage were fresh, ruling out a hoax.

The hair samples, retrieved from the broken trees, were sent to Ohio State because the nearest DNA lab in Oregon handles only forensic cases, he said.

He also said that getting Northwest laboratories interested in such investigations is difficult because thousands of such sightings have been reported.

Fahrenbach's employers are "highly suspect" of such work and have asked him not to identify his affiliation, he said.

"We all do this as a hobby on the side," he said.

Fahrenbach said he got the hair from trackers Paul Freeman, Wayne "Wes" Summerlin and William Laughery.

The three described their expe-

rience on NBC's *Hard Copy* within two weeks of the incident.

Freeman, the best-known of the group, is described in the new book *Where Bigfoot Walks* as a one-time U.S. Forest Service patrolman who left the service after being accused of faking a 1982 confrontation with an 800-pound Bigfoot.

The author, Robert Pyle, concludes that Freeman's evidence is erratic and his credibility nil, except among other Bigfoot believers.

Purported Bigfoot hair samples have been collected before, Fahrenbach said, usually by amateurs who, if they had it tested, sent it to

university biologists who lacked the requisite DNA training.

The zoologist said the accumulation of circumstantial evidence through the years has convinced him that Bigfoot exists.

"Since World War II, 72 airplanes disappeared between California and Canada and never have been found, despite massive air searches," he said. "If you can lose 72 shiny aluminum planes in there, obviously these creatures could also go undetected."

A positive DNA test at OSU wouldn't settle the controversy, he said, but "would be a long step because DNA can't be faked."

TIMES, Huntsville, AL - Oct. 30, 1995 CR: J. Heeger

Volunteers try to keep search for aliens alive

By FAYE FLAM
Knight-Ridder News Service

The plan is to divide up the sky. Then, have a different volunteer monitor each patch for radio broadcasts from distant planets.

After all, the federal government won't do it anymore.

Maybe searching for signs of alien life is better done by the private sector anyway, says Paul Shuch, a Penn State electrical engineering professor.

So, he's persuading citizens around the country to turn their TV satellite dishes heavenward in search of cosmic company.

His plan is to pick up part of the NASA project known as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or SETI. The space agency spent more than \$50 million on SETI before Congress pulled the plug in 1993.

"Well, maybe I'm wrong," says Shuch, 49. "But there's only one way we'll know, and that's to search."

So far, Shuch and New Jersey engineer Richard Factor have rounded up about 150 volunteers — mostly astronomy or ham-radio buffs — to their amateur SETI effort, also known as SETI League and ham SETI.

"What we are hoping for is a couple thousand satellite dishes from three to five meters in diameter," says Shuch. "With 5,000 dishes, we could pretty much cover the whole sky."

NASA spent 15 years gearing up a worldwide detection system, functioning only one year before its demise in 1993. Some NASA scientists left to continue a portion of the original project using private donations. The part of the search known as the "all-sky survey" was dropped: That's what Shuch and his amateur team are trying to pick up.

Most of the 150 recruits already have most of the equipment, says Factor, 49. Nearly all of the necessary parts are available from electronics dealers, he says, and members can get information about how to put an alien-detection system together by calling the league.

For a non-radio buff without even a satellite dish, getting involved in SETI will cost \$500 to \$1,000.

Although mankind has long speculated that others exist in the universe, the advent of radio early this century brought the hope that beings on other planets might have stumbled on the same discovery.

The electromagnetic waves that carry radio and TV programs travel outward at the speed of light, reaching the very closest stars within a few years and still more distant ones over a period of decades. If creatures up there were generating radio waves, or perhaps microwaves, their transmissions could be reaching us — if only we listened.

The first official SETI search began in 1960, when radio astronomer Frank Drake tried to capture signals from outer space, using the

radio telescopes at an observatory in Green Bank, W.Va.

Shuch stresses that SETI is not a search for UFOs. It's an exercise in cosmic eavesdropping.

"I think it's highly unlikely they (aliens) would try to visit us, or signal us directly," he says. "Why should we think we are so special that they would single us out?"

Meanwhile, any civilization as intelligent as ours living within 40 light years could, in theory, be decoding original broadcasts of "I Love Lucy" or "Mr. Ed."

It's unlikely we could understand alien broadcasts, but there are telltale signs — like a narrow band of frequencies — that earthly observers could use to distinguish an artificially created signal from the natural electromagnetic static that comes from stars.

The whole concept of an amateur-run search is so new, says Shuch, that he has not yet finished setting up his own extraterrestrial search equipment at the spartan SETI league headquarters in Little Ferry in North Jersey.

He flies his single-engine plane two or three times a week from his home near Penn State to the headquarters, with its 25-foot-diameter dish, still unassembled in a store room behind a building right across from Factor's company, Eventide Electronics.

"I got really mad when Congress killed SETI and the Superconducting Supercollider in the same year," said Factor, a burly, 6-foot-4-inch joke-cracking engineer, who founded the amateur SETI effort.

The Supercollider, with a price tag of \$10 billion, was beyond his help. But SETI, he decided, could have been salvaged.

Factor donated a building and some seed money, thus launching the SETI League, and collected enough in private donations to hire Shuch, start a newsletter and a World Wide Web page. Factor says he has no financial stake: His company will not be selling equipment to the SETI amateurs.

One of the SETI League's early recruits is Alan Katz, who teaches electrical engineering at Trenton State College. Katz, like Factor and Shuch, is the kind of guy who enjoys bouncing radio signals off the moon and using ham radio to make contact with astronauts aboard the space shuttle.

In his backyard is a 28-foot diameter dish that he salvaged from AT&T Bell Labs. "They were just going to scrap it," says Katz.

He had used the dish to do amateur radio astronomy, receiving signals from pulsars and other radio-emitting heavenly bodies.

But with his new SETI equipment, a steady stream of radio static will be fed through his computer, where a special program will signal him if anything auspicious comes up.

Katz acknowledges that the SETI venture is a long shot. "I suppose the prospect of making contact is unlikely," he says. "But it's a challenge with the possibility of a big payoff — it's why people play the lottery."

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Aug. 21, 1995

INK



By DAVE JEWETT
The Columbian

Getting ready for the Yeti

If you think that trial down in LA has been pretty strange, wait until you hear about what's coming up closer to home.

A mock trial concerning the killing of a legendary Bigfoot is scheduled in Skamania County.

Skamania is the only place in the nation with a law protecting such wilderness creatures, if they really exist.

The law reads to the effect that if the creature killed is an ape, the crime is only a misdemeanor. If the creature is proved human, the culprit is to be bound over for murder.

Skamania County commissioners made odd history by passing the ordinance in 1984 to protect such creatures known variously as Bigfoot, Yeti or Giant Hairy Ape.

The mock trial will be a highlight of a meeting Saturday and Sunday of the Western Bigfoot Society, said Ray Crowe, director of the Portland-based group.

The gathering will be at Bigfoot Park, a campground about two miles north of Carson, and everyone is invited, not just society members, Crowe said. The only charge is for people wanting to camp, in recreational vehicles or tents. Telephone (509) 427-4441 to reserve.

Crowe said Bernard J. Heavey, former superior court judge for Skamania and Klickitat counties, has agreed to preside at the mock trial, which is to begin at 10 a.m. Sunday.

The plan is to use a stuffed gorilla costume as the victim, delivered by hearse in a coffin. The idea is to prove to a six-person jury, selected

at random from guests, whether the creature is ape or human.

Photos and a high-powered rifle will be admitted as evidence, and a doctor will act as coroner, explaining the creature died from three shots to the chest.

The alleged killer, played by Larry Lund, a Clark County expert on Bigfoot, will attempt to explain why he shot the creature, with such reasons as giving one to science, getting rich by interviews and articles or possibly selling body parts.

Countering will be Peter Byrne, director of the Bigfoot Research Project near Mount Hood. He'll develop the case that these gentle creatures should not be harmed, that they are quite docile and that they should be studied in their wild habitat, rather than be killed for science.

The prosecutor, portrayed by Nancy Logan, who has published a book on Bigfoot, will seek to prove that the creature is human.

The defense, Rip Lytle, plans to call witnesses who support the idea that the Bigfoot creature is an ape, and that his client should be given a misdemeanor charge.

Crowe said scientific witnesses will include Ruth McFarland, an expert on genetics, who will enter testimony that the creature shares 99 percent of its DNA with humans, and is therefore human. Diane Flaton, an expert on microbiology, is expected to offer counter-evidence to prove that the creature is an ape.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK
Nov. 2, 1995 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Turks go on monster hunt

ANKARA, Turkey — Authorities are sending investigators to Turkey's largest lake to look for what witnesses describe as a monster resembling a dinosaur. After the provincial deputy governor recently claimed to have seen the creature, a parliamentary panel agreed to conduct a formal search. The monster is said to dwell in Lake Van, in eastern Turkey.

Ghosts among the sandwiches?



Trace and David Walker, who own the Pickle Barrel restaurants in Anchorage, have seen things they say they can't explain.

Strange happenings haunt downtown shop

By ROBERT MEYEROWITZ
Daily News reporter

A levitating meat slicer, an errant "meatball sandwich" sign and the sounds of footsteps add up to an otherworldly presence in a downtown delicatessen, its proprietors say. The owners of the Pickle Barrel on D Street have come to the conclusion their business is haunted.

Dave and Trace Walker, who own the five Pickle Barrel restaurants around town, said they have observed the inexplicable at their D Street shop for years — leaving them more bemused than

frightened, with a ghost they fondly call "Granny." The presumptive poltergeist has been around at least since Dave Walker rented the small house in 1985, he said.

"It's just kind of an accepted fact of life," said Trace Walker, 37. She has no special brief for ghosts, she said. "I'm not a disbeliever ... but I'm not a nut, if that's what you mean. There is something going on here."

Dave, 42, tends to be more skeptical than she is, Trace said. But even he concedes, after so many phantom footfalls, that something strange

is afoot: "There's only so many times you can say, 'That was just my imagination.'"

There was, for instance, the time four years ago when the 180-pound meat slicer leaped up from a counter and onto the floor — just as though unseen hands tossed it, the Walkers said.

There was the time Pam Beach, an employee, was working in the kitchen alone, they said, when she looked up and saw the word "MARY" written on the condensation inside the window.

And there are all the times

their motion detector alarms go off for no seeming reason. "We have the same alarms in the other restaurants," Dave said, "and they don't go off half as often." No one from Alaska General Alarm Inc., which maintains the Walkers' security system, could be reached for comment over the weekend.

The Walkers figure all of this is somehow connected with the house's past, but newspaper records offer no immediately apparent clues as to why the trim bungalow

should be haunted. Built in 1915, it was inhabited by Carl Martin, a farmer, prospector and plumber, from 1920 until Martin died while vacationing in Mexico in 1959.

Martin's widow, Lucille, an avid gardener, stayed in the home until 1982, and then a group of Anchorage attorneys purchased it and rented it to Walker. Along the way, Lucille's beloved gardens and ornamental trees were paved over and replaced by a parking lot.

It's the house's musty basement that frightens him the most, Dave Walker said. And not just him — Coca-Cola deliverymen now leave the Barrel's beverages by the back door, instead of carting them to the basement as they used to do. "They just sort of stopped," Dave said.

The couple later heard through an acquaintance that the cola carters thought the house was haunted. No one from the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Anchorage could be reached for comment Friday.

The Walkers decided last week to pursue their ghost more seriously. They consulted with several other employees for the first time and discovered they, too, had strange experiences in the house. "If everybody came up with different stories it would be one thing," Trace said, but different employees report similar, eerie incidents — non-existent doors opening with a creak, and always the sound of those feet.

"It's sort of hard to get the books done when you're jumping up to wait on customers who aren't there," Trace said.

But the Walkers said they don't want to banish Granny. "I'm real comfortable with her being here," Trace said. "I'm used to it. ... It's kind of neat."

LAKE CO. LEADER, Polson, MT - Sept. 7, 1995

Maternal instincts

Mom relates son's experience with Flathead Lake Monster

by Paul Fugleberg
for the Leader

The July 27 reprint of the Flathead Lakers' newsletter article by Laney Hanzel telling of Flathead Lake monster sightings prompted Cindy Johnson of Polson to send us this report of her small son's experience in 1992:

Dear Paul:

"After reading the recent Leader article about the Flathead Monster and following the 'Monster Lore' stories, I was finally motivated to relate to you our monster experience ...

"We have lived at four different homes on Rocky Point Road, West Shore, and I was intrigued that so many of the sightings were in the Polson Bay area. I am an avid lake watcher, and this incident happened

at our current home in Polson Bay, by the Diamond Horseshoe.

"We had just built our townhouse project and the S.S. Hodge had built our two docks and put in our shore station. It was Aug. 8, 1992. My sister, my three-year-old son, Andrew, and myself were going to go on a boat ride, so I went into the house to get a few things. Kathy was watching Andrew, who was playing near the water. Not realizing the speed and agility of a three-year-old, she came inside, too, and up to where I was in the kitchen.

"Where's Andrew?" I asked, while running towards the window to look out. Not seeing Andrew anywhere, I flew down the stairs, out the door and out to the end of the dock.

"A soaking wet Andrew was making his way up the ladder of the dock. He did not know how to

swim, the water was well over his head at the end of the dock, and he was not wearing a life jacket.

"Andrew, how did you get up to the ladder?" I asked, reaching for him. Still holding the ladder, and never blinking an eye, he said, 'The Fwathead Monsta wifted up her tail and wifted me up ... and she had a baby too!'

"I'm sure glad she was there!" I told him.

"Andrew is six years old now and still talks about the monster. Although I didn't see her that day, I think she was there checking out the new docks inhabiting her territory. Everytime I am looking across the bay watching the mysterious waves that seem to come out of nowhere, I thank her for being there to help Andrew when he needed it!

"Sincerely, Cindy Johnson, Polson."

Hello, is anybody (way) out there?

Giant receiver is listening for extraterrestrials

By ROBIN ESTRIN
The Associated Press

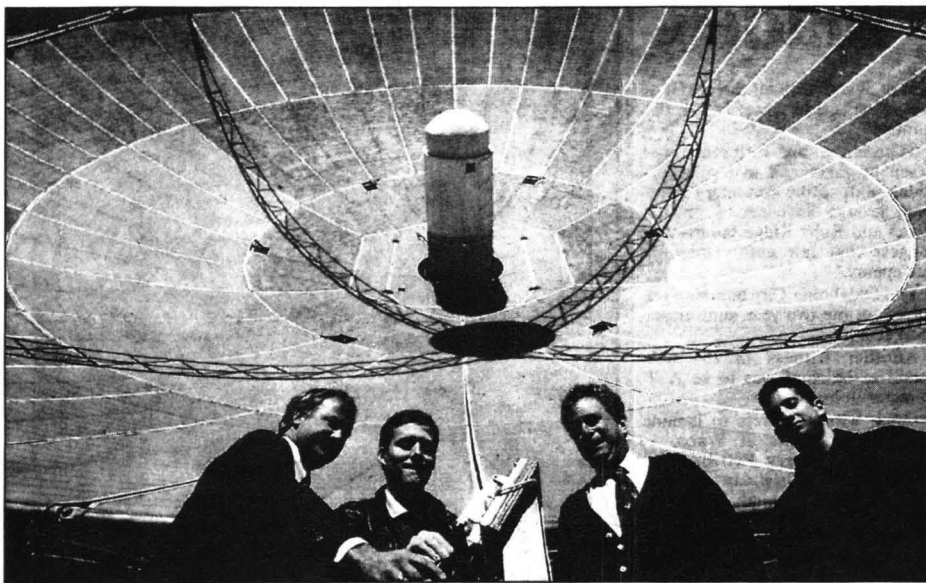
HARVARD, Mass. — Scientists have developed quite an ear for extraterrestrials: an 84-foot radio telescope with a billion channels tuned to finding intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

About 250 physicists, astronomers and curious stargazers from Harvard University and beyond gathered Monday to watch and listen as one of the Earth's largest receivers was turned on.

"No one knows the likelihood that we will find a civilization," said Paul Horowitz, a Harvard physics professor who directs the telescope. "But we won't know if we don't try."

The Billion Channel Extraterrestrial Assay, or BETA, is a 300-fold upgrade of the first telescope dedicated to listening in on aliens, activated nearly a decade ago on the same hilltop in this rural town 20 miles west of Boston.

Resembling a huge satellite dish, the new telescope can best be thought of as an enormous radio receiver with millions of separate channels tuned to different stations. It is designed to pick up outside signals, or beacons, that may be beaming from hundreds, if not thousands, of light years away.



The Associated Press

Kevin Duesman, left, and Jim Burke, second from left, of Newton, Mass., push the lever to turn on the 84-foot radio telescope in Harvard, Mass., Monday as Louis Friedman, second from right, and Jonathan Wolff, right, look on.

Horowitz, who along with some other scientists is driven by the belief that there is life elsewhere, said he is hopeful that the stronger BETA system will be able to detect what its weaker predecessor could not.

Since the earlier system, the Mega Channel Extraterrestrial Assay, was first activated in 1987, researchers have several times isolated

signals that seemed promising. But none was ever duplicated.

That could mean one of several things: The signal was a false reading or the telescope was too unsophisticated to capture it a second time.

The improved BETA telescope uses two simultaneous beams, one pointing to the eastern sky, the other to the west. A third radio an-

tenna, pointed earthward, is designed to weed out terrestrial signals that may be coming from a cellular phone down the road.

A sophisticated computer system that nearly fills a small room breaks down the frequencies, trying to isolate from the constant static a pure tone that might sound like a note on a flute.

INK



By DAVE JEWETT
The Columbian

Bigfoot case ends in mistrial

That Bigfoot killing mock trial in Skamania County ended in a mistrial when the jury divided down the middle.

It was the first test of a legitimate law that Skamania County passed in 1984, and still has on the books, to give some protection to the legendary and elusive ape-like creature known as Bigfoot, Sasquatch or Yeti.

It's believed to be the only such law in the world.

The mock trial was part of the annual meeting of the Western Bigfoot Society, headquartered in Portland.

A Clark County man who is an expert on Bigfoot, Larry Lund, served as the defendant in the case, accused of wantonly shooting such a creature in disregard of the county law.

The trial has all the trappings of the real thing, including real-life judges, numerous expert witnesses and even DNA evidence.

According to the society's "transcript" of the event, here's roughly how the trial unfolded:

Bernard J. Heavey Jr., former Superior Court judge for Skamania and Klickitat counties, presided. His brother, retired King County Superior Court judge Ed Heavey, served as bailiff.

The corpse of the Bigfoot, a stuffed gorilla, was brought in, and then the defendant arrived, in a car provided by the Skamania County sheriff's office.

When a six-person jury was chosen from among spectators, Mike Phillips of Vancouver ended up being chosen as foreman.

Serving as prosecuting attorney was Nancy Logan, Bigfoot author and a Los Angeles court-appointed translator in Japanese. She served the complaint of felony murder against the suspect.

Logan called the Skamania County "coroner," the defendant's wife Doris and Ruth McFarland, a genetics expert, who presented DNA evidence to show the dead creature has similarities to the DNA of humans.

As defense attorney, Richard "Rip" Lytle, questioned the possibility of contaminated samples, based on another famous trial. A microbiology expert, Diane Flaton, attacked the DNA test facilities.

After testimony from numerous other witnesses, the jury retired to make its decision.

The judge had explained the ordinance, saying they were primarily to respond to the question of the creatures being human, as opposed to being apes.

After 30 minutes of discussion, the jury announced it was deadlocked, with three voting that Bigfoot is human and three voting that the mythic creature is an ape.

Meteorite

Summerville man had sunk his line at Jubilee Lake

By Dick Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Cecil Mecham of Summerville did not land many trout during a recent fishing trip at Jubilee Lake.

But what he did land will be permanently etched in his memory.

Mecham believes he may have seen a meteor fall into the lake north of Elgin at about 4:35 p.m. on Sept. 10. He was near shore when he saw the object splashing into the lake's water.

What he observed next is why he thinks the object was out of this world. He described a "large, radiating, expelled wake" in the water.

Mecham then saw many large bubbles emerging, followed by a "turbid boiling action" that moved outward until it formed a four-foot circle.

All of this created a foot-high wake.

Mecham said he first thought the object was something that had fallen out of an airplane. There was no one near the lake who could have tossed in the object.

Mecham recalled that he had not heard or seen any aircraft flying over the lake.

He did hear a curious noise before the object hit the water.

"It sounded like the incoming mail of an enemy cruiser," said Mecham, who became familiar with the sound while serving in the Navy during World War II.

Meteorite scientist Dick Pugh of Portland plans to investigate Mecham's report.

If a meteor is found at Jubilee Lake it might be the first one ever located in Eastern Oregon, according to Pugh.

KITSAP CO. HERALD, Poulsbo, WA - July 8, 1995

Is Bigfoot a myth or reality?

The recent alleged sighting of "Bigfoot" near Poulsbo and the interest shown by Bigfoot research organizations reminds us that the search for this elusive creature has been going on for decades.

Sightings of immense ape-like animals have been reported since the early 1800s. Northwest Indian folklore tells of "wild men of the woods". The Indians referred to them as "Sasquatch". Footprints, sightings, and other data have been reported in Oregon, Montana, Idaho, northern California, and British Columbia, as well as Washington.

But exactly what is a "Sasquatch" or "Bigfoot"? One of the leading investigators into the mystery is Dr. Grover Krantz, Professor of Anthropology at Washington State University in Pullman. He and others have suggested that "Sasquatch" could be a Gigantopithecus, who would have migrated across the Bering land bridge during the Pliocene and Pleistocene periods. "It's the best theory on present evidence," Krantz says.

Because it is a biped, Gigantopithecus would be included in the anthropological classification of Hominoidea, just as the gorilla is. However, Gigantopithecus would be much larger than a gorilla. A mature gorilla may weigh as much as 600 pounds. Sasquatch would weigh in at 700 to 900 pounds. He would be eight to ten feet tall. The jaws and teeth



Ilona Koidahl

Guest Columnist

would be larger than those of any primate.

Krantz began serious consideration of the possibility of living species of Gigantopithecus in the 1960's. Since then he has collected over 80 casts of footprints attributed to Sasquatch.

Where did he find them? "Sometimes in the front room of somebody's house," he says with a smile. "Many people have made plaster casts of the footprints. I have borrowed them and made copies for study." Some of them have been ingenious fakes, but there are many that he believes are authentic.

"The adult male of the species would have a foot length of about 17 inches," Dr. Krantz explains. "This would make the surface area three times that of a big-sized man's shoe. If then, the footprint sinks into comparable soil much farther, it would mean that the creature weighs three times as much as that big man."

Krantz reserves judgment on stories of eerie screams that "Bigfoot" supposedly emits on occasion. "If a person cannot identify a sound in the woods," he says, "they could easily begin to believe it was made by one of these creatures. In fact, it could

be an elk bugling or the scream of a cougar."

Of the several "Bigfoot" films that have surfaced through the years, there is only one that Krantz feels is real. Taken in northern California in 1967, by Roger Patterson, it shows a huge furred figure walking from a stream bed into the surrounding forest. About two reports per week come in to Krantz, concerning footprints or sightings. He has interviewed approximately 90 witnesses, and about 50 are believable, he said.

Working from a scientists' "show me" standpoint, he continues to study "Bigfoot" hoping some day to have a definitive answer. His recent book, titled "BIG FOOTPRINTS," details his painstaking research.

The fact there was a Gigantopithecus in the past is accepted. Whether or not they could be existing today is the question.