

UFO

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Close encounters of a local kind



Allen Dunkin is state section director of the Mutual UFO Network — MUFON. The area accountant researches UFO sightings and follows up on reported alien abductions in Stanislaus County. Knights Ferry and the foothills are a hotbed for unearthly activity, he maintains.

Accountant keeps 'X-Files'

By CRAIG CASSIDY
Staff Writer

To hear it from Allen Dunkin, there are strange things happening in our own area straight out of "The X Files" TV show on the otherworldly.

The Riverbank resident is a dedicated UFO tracker and interviews people who claim close encounters with otherworldly visitors.

As the state section director of MUFON — the Mutual UFO Network — Dunkin said our area is one of the hotbeds for extraterrestrial activity, especially toward the foothills.

"I can tell you things that have happened around here, things most people don't know about," said Dunkin, who for five years has headed up state efforts for MUFON, an international watch group based out of Seguin, Texas.

"This area of California is known for a lot of UFO sightings and abductions."

In a year, Dunkin receives between 25 and 50 reports. Another 24 people countywide claim to have been abducted, though Dunkin only considers about 12 of those, which are

ongoing episodes, legitimate.

He believes that's only the tip of the iceberg.

"For every 10 reported sightings there are 10 more that go unreported."

Dunkin, who concentrates mainly on Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties — his three colleagues pick up other neighboring counties — won't disclose names. Many people with UFO experiences fear being ridiculed, he explained.

"We offer a safe haven for people to talk," said Dunkin.

For UFOlogists' detractors, he offers: "I can't prove to you the existence of UFOs but neither can you convince me they don't exist."

"You've got to use some common sense with these things."

RECORD-SEARCHLIGHT, Redding, CA

Jan. 25, 1996 CR: R. Reid

UFO might be military craft

Two C-130s and a KC-10 jet were soaring over Redding on Monday night about the time residents reported seeing strange aerial objects.

By Candace L. Brown
R-S public safety reporter

More than one large U.S. military plane crowded the night sky above Redding on Monday — perhaps explaining the peculiar sightings reported by several north state residents.

C-130s are heavy turboprop troop ships that look like standard airplanes, Kingsbury said.

Residents on Bear Mountain Road near Jones Valley called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle to describe a huge vessel that flew about 1,000 feet above the ground at an estimated 20 mph. The craft, seen between 8 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Monday, made a purring jet-engine sound and had lights and sparkling colors on its underside, witnesses said.

CAP officer Richard Carlson of Anderson speculated that the KC-10 might have refueled the C-130s in the air — which could explain the hovering described by some witnesses. But Odell rejected the theory.

"We would not do refueling over Redding," he said. "There's no reason for it — it's so close to Travis."

The olive- or gray-colored KC-10 can carry a limited number of troops and cargo, but its primary purpose is to refuel other planes in the air during long flights, Odell said.

KC-10s typically refuel at an altitude ranging between 12,000 feet and 28,000 feet, according to Airman Teresa Beaty at Travis Air Force Base.

A KC-10 refueling jet from Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield was practicing approaches over Redding between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., Airman 1st Class C.J. Odell confirmed Wednesday from the base.

Two C-130s from the Army's 129th Airborne Division were also zooming over the north state Monday evening during a search for a twin-engine plane missing in Modoc County since Friday night, according to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) mission coordinator Burt Kingsbury.

The aircraft conduct maneuvers over Redding from time to time because it's a designated practice zone, she said.

Residents continued to swap stories Wednesday about Monday's sightings.

Evelyn Hamblin, who lives in southeast Redding, had taken her dog outside about 9:15 p.m. when she looked to the south and saw a huge object in the sky. It appeared to hover briefly, then turned and sped south, she said.

"It's enough to scare the daylights out of you," she said.

Amy Weiss, 32, of Jones Valley was driving home from Shasta College about 8 p.m. Monday when she saw a large, lighted object in the sky.

"It could've been an airplane but it went very, very slowly," she said. "It was shaped like a blimp — kind of cigar-shaped." U.S. Air Force veteran Mark McCandlish of Palo Cedro said the object could have been a "stealth blimp" — a triangular-shaped, balloon-like craft patented by a New Jersey inventor in 1990 and designed to conduct radar surveillance.

A spokesman at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas said he's never heard of such a blimp and added that the Air Force has only two stealth craft: The F117-A and the B-2 bomber.

The Knights Ferry-Sonora area is a treasure trove for UFOlogists.

Here are some of the most dramatic recent reports.

In September 1993, Dunkin said, a woman in her 30s driving home between Knights Ferry and Oakdale, off Orange Blossom Road, reported having an up-close encounter with a spaceship.

Her arms and neck were left pockmarked with what seem like cigarette burns, a photo showed. She had reportedly shielded herself with upraised arms after following the ship to an isolated spot and watching it where it idled.

The unidentified woman drew a picture, which Dunkin kept, of what she said she'd seen. It's like a hockey puck with diamond-tipped pipe cleaners extending from the top, like dozens of antennae.

Others that day, Dunkin added, reported seeing something similar.

Just a month prior, there was the occurrence of Aug. 27, 1993.

A flaming gold-colored object allegedly was seen crashing into the ground in the Sonora area at around 10:45 p.m. Dunkin said it was reported as an airplane crash.

Nothing was found, Dunkin said. He and a colleague returned to the scene a few days later but their search for the crash site proved fruitless.

These are but two of the many reports Dunkin said he'd investigated.

It's all in a strange day and night's work for the accountant.

After getting a lead there's no standard means of investigating.

People sometimes complete a form which is sent back to MUFON headquarters for entry into a

database. Some give anonymous reports kept on file by Dunkin.

"Each is different. It's based upon the witness, and it's based on how far they want to go with it."

Reported sightings in the Knights Ferry and foothill areas are not new occurrences, he said. They date back to the late 1800s — a period called the 1896 Airship Flap, in UFOese.

That year, "airship" sightings — the term UFO hadn't been coined yet — were reported in San Francisco, Placer County, and Sacramento as well as locally.

On Nov. 21 that year, a pair of Methodist ministers in Knights Ferry reported an airship, said Dunkin. Reverends H. Copeland and John Kirby described it as a red ball with white lights that skimmed the Stanislaus River, then shot upward near the covered bridge.

Doubters, incidentally, point to the emergence of dirigibles in the late 1800s to explain the 1896 Flap. Dunkin doubts the doubters.

In more recent history, a number of abductions were reported in the 1970s around Lover's Leap, the mesa west of Knights Ferry off Highway 120/108, Dunkin said.

Beside a slight upsurge in the '70s, though, interest in UFOs has waned since its heyday in the 1950s and '60s, Dunkin said.

He attributed that partly to sensational TV accounts and myriad hoaxes desensitizing the public.

"To tell you the truth, there's not whole lot of interest in the area," Dunkin said.

"It's like that alien autopsy on TV, they had such high ratings they showed it twice in one month. I'm not convinced one way or the other."

Dunkin began as a skeptic eight years ago. After looking into the matter, he said, his doubt dwindled.

"I think when people look at the evidence they will no longer have the comfort of disbelief."

The most compelling evidence, Dunkin argues, is the large number of reported sightings; and that often two or more non-associated people report seeing the same thing.

"We get some wild phone calls, but it's generally sincere people we deal with."

Said Dunkin, "You have a phenomena guaranteed. And that phenomena, either everybody's lying, or they're right."

"Once people have seen these things there is no going back.... When you see it you believe it."

The best places to look for UFOs locally are rural areas, where city light-pollution is low. Dunkin's reluctant to give exact locations because, he said, his group tries to avoid Earthly company when out on night watches.

Chances of spotting a UFO are greatest between April and October between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., said Dunkin.

Wednesdays, for some unknown reason, are best.

If the Wednesday falls between the 24th and 26th of the month, the odds are even better of seeing something, Dunkin said.

UFOs take a liking to water, Dunkin added, and are often reportedly seen along the Stanislaus River.

Dunkin's support groups are held about monthly between February and October.

Got something to report, call 869-2102.

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE...

Stacey McGee felt compelled to form the United States UFO Information and Research Center after being party to numerous experiences throughout his life.

by Jennifer Elliott

It seems many of us are keeping our heads hung a little low in the Tri-Cities area. In fact, according to Stacey McGee, founder of the United States UFO Information and Research Center in Johnson City, the majority of us only look 10 degrees into the skies. Maybe this is why many of us have not had encounters with unidentified flying objects or alien beings.

McGee, a Limestone native, says he feels he was created to start the organization, "This is may life's work. I am here for the people."

McGee says the main purpose of the organization is to "provide an atmosphere for persons having UFO encounters, new and old, to voice their experience without ridicule." In addition, he says the organization is dedicated to release their findings to the media and to educate the public to the reality of this phenomenon.

An open mind approach is a rule of thumb for the organization which offers abduction support groups for those who have had encounters of the fourth kind (actual contact with alien beings or have been taken aboard space craft).

Classifications help label the different types of encounters. For example, encounters of the first kind occur when the witness is less than a few 100 feet away, and when the UFO interacts with the environment or produces an odor, this is classified as a second encounter. And finally, if you make eye contact with one of the little fellows you have had an encounter of the third kind.

Oh, and by the way—most witnesses who see or have an actual encounter testify the extraterrestrial beings are not green but gray, and the majority of witnesses do give similar descriptions of the body size and color.

Other similarities are reported by those who have been abducted and taken aboard the alien crafts. Equipment used and humanized creatures which, McGee feels is the result of genetic experiments, are frequently reported. In addition, some witnesses report seeing small children aboard the space crafts. "I am not sure if what they are doing is the preservation of their race or the saving of ours," McGee said.

Locally, McGee says an average of ten sightings a week are reported. On file there are reported sightings in Colonial Heights, Red Fork Falls atop Unaka Mountain, Bristol and Johnson City. These are only to name a few. "We do not decide who is telling the truth... We simply do a follow-up investigation of every lead."

Currently, the organization is composed of 200 members. Section leaders are appointed to various areas throughout the area to take reports and conduct follow-up investigations where UFO activity has been reported.

Monthly meetings are held to discuss new sightings and each

month a newsletter, *Skywatch* is mailed to members with the newly reported sightings listed.

Those interested in subscribing to the *Skywatch* newsletter, joining the organization or reporting unexplained experiences can contact McGee at (423) 283-0737. Identities will be protected if requested.

Here are some of the local sightings reported to the group.

Mysterious Lights Visible in Area

Friday, December 5, 1980
This article centered around reports made of strange lights being seen over Johnson City skies. The lights were debunked as being due to a new Barium rocket test by NASA.

This article is available on microfilm from the ETSU Library.

UFO Causes Stir Among Carter Folks

October 31, 1978

According to this article, a Captain Jennings of the Elizabethton Police Department, observed an object approach his position near the Carter County War Memorial and Courthouse.

The Captain said that he noticed the object at a very low altitude moving from the South at around 1:30 AM. He estimated that the object "dipped" as low as 500 feet.

The Captain also stated that the craft was silent and sped away at a tremendous speed, disappearing over Holston Mountain.

The next morning, a Gap Creek woman who contacted the Carter County Sheriff's Department, reported seeing a strange flying object near her home.

This article is available in its entirety on microfilm from the ETSU Library.

Did a UFO Crash in Southwest Virginia?

An investigation of eyewitness reports made of an object crashing in Southwest Virginia in April of 1994 is currently underway. We will have a full report in next month's issue of *Skywatch*.

The Surgoinsville Visitations

On the evening of Monday, October 10, 1994, Mike and Christy Rogers were heading home down a familiar track of road. Off to the side of Pinkhill Road, in one of valleys running parallel, the Rogers' noticed an object hovering about 50-60 feet off the ground.

The couple then decided to dart home to grab their binoculars and, of course, when they got back to the sight the object had vanished.

Arriving back at the scene, the Rogers' began looking in all directions to determine if it was still in the area. They found it again moving down the ridge line parallel to Stanley Valley Road.

The duo then began following the object while stopping to see it through their binoculars every half mile.

Now optically aided, they could tell that this object was the same thing that they and sev-

eral members from our network have seen before. This object, which has been seen with some regularity, has been drawn for you later on this page. The drawing was furnished by Mike Rogers from an observation he made through a rifle scope.

Continuing to pursue, they reached a point where the distance between their vehicle and the craft was minimal and the object disappeared from sight.

The Rogers' continued in the same direction thinking that the UFO might have went behind the trees and hoping that the craft would reappear. It did. About a half mile further down the road, the object reappeared over the road they were traveling.

Following the object further still, they came to a point where they realized that the UFO was now hovering over the nearby power substation. When they pulled up, the craft was hovering less than 300 feet above the power lines.

The object then began to move again and proceeded to follow the power lines North into Virginia.

Encounter near Red Fork Falls

High atop Unaka Mountain in Unicoi County, Tennessee, you won't find a lot of civilization as we know it, but you will find countless examples of nature's breathtaking vista. One highly visited place in this remote setting is Red Fork Falls.

It was a warm August evening in 1990 when a friend of Mike Rogers, a member of this network, was walking down a fairly well traveled trail on his way down the mountain. As you proceed down the mountain you will come upon a place in the trail where there is a clearing overlooking the pools of water at the base of the falls. It was from this vantage point that Roger's friend—we shall call Joe—and five other people witnessed a curious event.

There was a large fire and a naked man with long flowing blonde hair. This man, as the witness recounted, was unusually tall and at least one of the witnesses tried to get an estimation of his height using a nearby tree as a reference.

Dancing around the unusual figure were approximately 30 three to four foot "midgets" with really big heads.

No metallic object(s) were seen at or near the sight where this incident occurred, according to the witness.

The witness stated that he later returned to the sight to measure the height of the strange man they all saw that night. By his calculations, the man was 11 feet tall.

The exact date of this occurrence and whereabouts of the witnesses involved with this CE3 encounter are not currently known.

The Ewing Experience

The time was about 12:30 AM

and members Anne Brown, Stacey McGee and myself were standing outside on the morning of Sunday, October 2nd. We were saying our good-byes to Mrs. Brown and thanking her for her hospitalities.

We were all kind of disappointed in that our attempt to see something unique and interesting had pretty much failed, or so we thought.

As Stacey and Anne continued to talk, I kept scanning the skies overhead. I had arrived later than the rest of the group having had to work that day so I had not quite given up yet.

Much to my amazement, suddenly an object appeared near the zenith from behind a tree. The object I saw has been included for you in a drawing I made having seen the object through binoculars. The circular shapes in the drawing represent the light patterns that both Stacey and Anne saw on the object with the naked eye. The left sphere was green and did not blink. The sphere on the right side of the craft was red and was also steady. These two lights were like two large globes. The one remaining large light was white and acted somewhat like a strobe as it blinked with a certain regularity. The rest of the lights were all a pale blue color, a shade I have never seen on an aircraft. The body was a dark shape that I could make out in binoculars, but not with the naked eye. The object proceeded from Northeast to Southwest apparently following the valley toward Claiborne County, Tennessee.

The first craft moved to an area of the sky apparently over the back portion of his parents property mentioned in the previous report. The group noticed that the object had a string of lights in a line across the edge of the aircraft. This, in combination with a light which they observed from what seemed to be a dome on top of the craft, caused the party to believe that this object was disc shaped. Again the vehicle seemed to have an 'orange' glow.

Sighting near Jonesville, Virginia

The time was approximately 9:45-10 PM the night of Saturday, October 2, 1994. The weather was clear, but hazy and I was driving south on Hwy 58 toward Ewing when I reached a point on the highway just outside of Jonesville, Virginia.

At that moment I noticed an object which seemed to be almost hovering, moving at a very slow speed. I noticed the object was oblong and quite possibly cylinder shaped, but could not be certain since I didn't have a pair of binoculars with me.

I pulled the car over to the side of the road to get a better look at the object, but by that time it had already disappeared.

Brooks admits that although the object was identified it could have been a regular aircraft moving very slowly.

The Colonial Heights Encounters

C.T.'s encounters with UFOs began at a young age. When he was 14 years old he was living with his parents in a house in the Summersville community outside Kingsport between Colonial Heights and Rock Springs.

It was the summer of 1953 and what happened that evening left C.T. feeling confused and frustrated.

After dinner C.T. ventured outdoors, ill prepared for what he was about to see. The house where he lived was nestled on a knoll between two ridges. It was situated about 50-60 feet from the valley floor and looked to the East-Southeast. It was in that general direction where C.T. noticed an object hovering at what he believes to be about 60° in the sky, and directly over the valley between the ridges.

The object was circular in shape, but appeared as an ellipse from his vantage point. Hovering just a few hundred feet above the ground, the craft seemed to bear a striking resemblance to the movie depiction of the object that abducted Travis Walton in "Fire in the Sky".

C.T. said the craft exhibited an orangish color on the bottom which was mottled with patches of darkness that seemed to be moving. According to the witness this effect was observed while the object was stationary and could not have been attributed to an optical illusion.

C.T. said that the object left him with a scared feeling and he wasn't exactly sure how much time had actually passed, but feels the duration of the sighting was probably about 5-7 seconds before the object shot straight up and disappeared. There were no other witnesses present of which he was aware.

C.T.'s experiences didn't stop there. Another sighting that he made from that same area was just as unusual. The difference, however, was that with this sighting there were multiple witnesses.

That night C.T., his wife, son and step daughter happened to be outdoors and noticed 2 objects which demonstrated an extremely high maneuverability. Both objects seemed to come from the Southeast, though at different angles.

The first craft moved to an area of the sky apparently over the back portion of his parents property mentioned in the previous report.

The group noticed that the object had a string of lights in a line across the edge of the aircraft. This, in combination with a light which they observed from what seemed to be a dome on top of the craft, caused the party to believe that this object was disc shaped. Again the vehicle seemed to have an 'orange' glow.

A second object, like the first, came from the southeast to within 1000 feet of the first craft and the two objects began to blink at one another. The witnesses observed the two objects to blink about 8-10 times, then both craft shot off in different directions one to the East and the other due West.

On the night of September 13, 1994, C.T., his mother, first cousin and her daughter, who were visiting from Oregon, were on their way home from having dinner at the Parson's Table.

They got to an area, once again, in the Colonial Heights area proceeding down Summersville Road. As they topped a hill, this ball of light crossed the road in front of them at an altitude of about 1000-1500 feet. It was a fluorescent colored object with the color being compared to the green of an oscilloscope terminal display.

As the object moved toward the point where the witnesses lost contact, the UFO first seen moving slowly, began to pick up speed. The light from the object, as a result, began to streak as it went out of sight over a hill.

C.T. said that as his eyes swung back to the middle of the road he observed a saucer shaped object apparently giving chase. This craft seemed to have a solid green light on top of what seemed to be a dome and there was a red strobe on either side of the dome. These lights were the only observable lights on the object.

Finally, C.T. reports that he and his date, on an evening in September of 1993, were leaving the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway and noticed that the night sky was especially clear and bright. To enjoy the vista, the couple went to an overlook near the Inn to observe.

When they reached the overlook the party stepped out of their car and proceeded to enjoy the view. It had not been more than a minute when they noticed an object to the Northwest on a Westerly heading.

They suspected that the object was just an airplane. As they watched, the aircraft traveled across the sky and as it approached a point in the Southwest the object began to increase in brightness. Much to their astonishment, two balls of light shot out of the craft. Both were shot at an angle of about 45°—one to the rear toward the ground and the other toward the sky. The main craft then seemed to disappear from view.

The Encounter at Clinch Mountain

Four years ago in early November of 1990 five men were out hunting on Clinch Mountain near Church Hill, Tennessee. Up until this report, what the witnesses saw on this chilly November morning has never been told outside of conversations between those who were present.

Hercules or Herky by nickname, had been out hunting with four other people. Included in the gang were his dad, a first cousin and two other men not of family origin.

As one might suspect these souls braving the cold of the November night air had gotten up early to go hunting for deer. The weather that morning was typical for the region with clear starry skies. Most of the night was uneventful and even the game that they encountered wasn't what they had expected; but, as encounters go, the night was soon to change.

At 4 AM the men came to a clearing in the trees and off through the forest a strange event was transpiring. The men watched as a sphere shaped, solid white light rose from the forest floor and appeared to those present to be a hunter climbing a nearby tree with an intense flashlight at his side. As the light continued to move higher into air the light began to increase in brightness. It was then that this unsuspecting group of hunters realized that what they were seeing was indeed something quite extraordinary.

The object continued to rise and as it cleared the tree line they could now see a definite shape with solid edges.

The men were astounded when the craft, now approximately 100-200 feet above the tree tops, began to move from side to side and then shot off to the Southeast at a tremendous speed.

The witness stated that no report was ever made due to fear of ridicule from their family and the community.

UFOs Light City Skies Reports from around the Network

In the Fall of 1973, multiple witnesses reported seeing three cigar shaped craft over the skies of Bristol. A security guard was one of those fortunate to observe one of these strange craft in flight. The guard reported that the

police pulled up in front of the building he was watching that evening and they began to talk. While they carried on their conversation, they observed the object over the building.

Another report from the same informant said that a triangular object was seen in another instance to circle around Viking Hall during a football game.

On October 25, 1994 an anonymous party reported seeing two sphere shaped objects flying over Johnson City at around 10 PM. One of the objects was an intense green and the other was an orangish color.

While he observed the incident he said that an aircraft in the sky seemed to be attempting to intercept, or at the very least, following.

The witness, an amateur astronomer, said that the objects disappeared behind the trees, but not before he observed that these objects seemed to be flying in a 'piggy back' formation.

On Tuesday, October 11th, a triangular object was seen to fly over the Sheraton Hotel in Johnson City. The time the incident occurred was said to be approximately 11:30 PM. Multiple witnesses were present at the time the sighting was made.

Local residents of Norton and Big Stone Gap, Virginia have also said they have experienced some strange activity overhead. One report made by a mother and daughter near Big Stone Gap

stated that an object exhibiting green and red flashes was seen to hover over their skies, spinning. They also observed a high level of air traffic in or near the vicinity of the sky where the object seemed to hover.

Their story was corroborated by another individual who saw the same event from a different location.

A Wise County Encounter

Our story opens in a rural area near Clinch Valley College in Wise, Virginia. Tom Mullins and a good friend were out playing in a ball field near his home. Darkness on that summer evening in 1961 fell quickly and soon the two boys, 15 and 13 years old, could no longer see the ball used in their game. At this, they decided to get back home.

As they started back, Mullins said that either he or the other fellow noticed a light in the sky. He added that it had been so long that he couldn't remember exactly who was the first to spot the object.

He recounted that as they watched the light in the sky it appeared to be descending on their position. As the object came closer the witness reported that the only sound was like that of an electric motor.

Mullins said he and the other boy stood there watching until the light was so low that they felt somewhat intimidated and ran home.

Because of the commotion, 15-20 females staying in the dorms at the college came outside and saw the object.

Mullins said that he ran to his house, which was across the street from the dorms, and brought his mom and sister outside to see the light. They observed the strange object in the same position of the sky that it was in when he entered the house.

After a couple of seconds, the witnesses saw the object move from its position to the horizon. They observed the object there for about an hour. The witnesses then observed two smaller objects move toward the object and appear to be absorbed by the first object. The first object then changed shape from a sphere to a cigar and disappeared.

Date: February 22, 1995
RE: UFO Sighting over Morristown

Time: Object first seen at 1:15 A.M. by area resident, and seen again by one of our field investigators dispatched to the scene.

Description: Object was seen glowing gold w/red flashes emanating from the craft.

Behavior: Object hovered on occasion and no sound was heard by the witnesses.

Duration: Object was seen in the skies over Morristown for around 40 mins. by at least two different witnesses before it was seen to move off to the west toward Jefferson City.

READERS' HOTLINE

Q. What year was the Braxton County monster spotted? Do they think he's still out there? A.J., Charleston

A. On the evening of Sept. 12, 1952, a woman and a group of six boys reported seeing the famous Braxton County monster at Flatwoods. They were investigating a mysterious ball of light which appeared to have landed on a nearby hillside.

All seven claimed to have seen an object about 12 feet tall, dressed in a green cloak, with an orange face and orange eyes. They said the object hovered over the ground and finally disappeared into the woods.

The story of the Braxton County monster, or "Phantom of Flatwoods," was widely reported across the country. It helped spark national interest in UFOs and unexplained phenomena.

There have been no repeat sightings of the Braxton County monster since 1952, but strange activities in the area have continued, said Bob Teets, president and managing editor of Headline Books in Terra Alta.

"There have been a lot of UFO sightings and a lot of monster sightings in Braxton County," said Teets.

Teets said a Braxton County man reported seeing a "Mothman-type creature" just two years ago. (Mothman is another famous West Virginia monster who reportedly "haunted" the state for a year or two in the late 1960s.)

Teets has written a book about UFO sightings in West Virginia.

"West Virginia UFOs: Close Encounters in the Mountain State," was published by Headline Books in 1994. Teets also edits a bimonthly newsletter that details further sightings by state residents.

For more information, call Headline books toll-free at 1-800-570-5951.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Oct. 25, 1995

UFO



BY CAROLE BAKER

'AMBER LIGHT' SIGHTINGS IN AREA CONTINUE

There are several "amber light" sightings to report this week. The first was called in to the hotline on September 28. The evening before, Wednesday, September 27, 1995, John and Nanette Koomen were on Pensacola Beach about a mile east of the fishing pier, near Avenida 17. It was about 9:30 p.m. and they noticed a large, pulsing ball of amberish white light off to their east. "It was not far away," Nanette told me "quite close really. It was a very still night and there was no noise coming from it." The light appeared to be dime-sized at arm's length and stationary. It was at about 10 degrees elevation. John and Nanette watched the light in its stationary mode for two to three minutes before it changed to a smaller red pulsing light and began to move slowly off to the north. After a few seconds it simply "blipped out" and was not seen again. The Koomen's have lived in the area for 4 years and this is their first sighting. They are origi-

nally from New Jersey and other family members have had sightings of "strange lights in the sky" when visiting Pensacola Beach in the past.

The skywatch group at Shoreline Park witnessed a number of "amber lights" appearing in the sky in their field of view on the evening of Thursday, October 12. The first light was spotted at 7:40 p.m. off the south end of Deer Point. It was a bright amber light, round and about one-eighth inch in diameter at arm's length. It stayed lit for about 3 seconds and appeared at between 10 and 15 degrees above the horizon. It blinked out and was replaced in close proximity by two more amber lights. Again, these were very bright and appeared larger than the first light, being approximately half an inch in diameter. They were very close together and appeared horizontally in the sky. These two lights appeared lower on the horizon than the first light, at between 5 and 7 degrees elevation. Again the lights stayed lit for approximately three seconds and then just blinked out.

At 7:53 p.m. the skywatchers observed an amber light out over Pensacola Beach, near the Sans Souci building. It was at an elevation of approximately 20 degrees and again appeared bright amber and round in shape and about the same size as the first light observed on this evening. This light also stayed lit for approximately 3 seconds. It was followed at 8:06 p.m. by another amber light of similar description and size in the same location but lower on the horizon, appearing at only about 5 degrees elevation. No aircraft were observed in the sky in the areas in which the lights appeared either before, during or after the sightings.

Earlier on the evening of Thursday, October 12, 1995, a member of the skywatch group was looking out over the Bay from his home near Soundside Drive. He observed an amber light with very similar characteristics to those that were later observed from Shoreline Park out over the Bay. He noted the time as 7:30 p.m. The sighting lasted only a few seconds.

To report a sighting call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

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 22-28.

LINTIAC AIR BASE, GANSU, CHINA, 23 OCTOBER 1978

In the evening of 23 October 1978, a large group of people including a number of military personnel witnessed a UFO over Lintiao Air Base, China. The object was described as being

oblong in shape and emitting two beams of light from its front end and one beam of light from the rear. Witnesses also observed a fog-like mist surrounding the UFO. Fighter jets were scrambled to intercept the craft. Pilots reported that the object was in their sights for over two minutes before it disappeared from view. (World Atlas of UFOs-John Spencer-Southmark Pub. 1992, pg. 134).

NORTHERN INDIANA, 24 OCTOBER 1989 6:15 A.M.

A commercial crew in flight

saw a boomerang shaped object pass over their plane. The object was seen for approximately 30 seconds. During that time a beam of light shone downward from the object. (Copyright Mutual UFO Network Journal, April 1990, Sequin, TX.)

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, 26 OCTOBER 1958, 11:30 P.M.

A bright white egg shaped UFO was spotted hovering over Lochraven Dam by two witnesses driving near Baltimore. The object was estimated to be about 100 feet

long. As the witnesses neared the object their car engine stopped and the lights of the car went out. They stood outside the car and watched the object for about one minute. Suddenly they heard a loud noise and the UFO shot straight up and disappeared. Both witnesses suffered sunburned faces, with one man being burned on only one side of his face. (UFOs: The Whole Story by Coral & Jim Lorenzen-Signet New American Library Inc. 1969, pgs. 91-93).

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA
LifeStyles

John O'Brien says he's been abducted by aliens throughout his life. Today, he helps fellow abductees come to terms with the experience.

STRANGERS
IN THE NIGHT

By Frank Lewis
Health and Safety Writer

The first time John O'Brien spoke of his experiences, he thought he was going to die.

He'd driven to Delaware for a lecture on alien abductions, a phenomenon with which he felt well-acquainted. Afterward, he cornered the speaker, a researcher in the field. But as soon as he began to tell his story, he was overcome with dread. O'Brien forced the words out — some, at least — and left. "When I was leaving," he recalls, "I started getting these pains, terrible chest pains. I knew what it was, I knew. For some reason I knew it wasn't a heart attack or anything. I knew it was because I had revealed that information."

And today, he says he knows that this physical



and emotional stress was the result of a post-hypnotic suggestion planted in his subconscious by the strange captors who'd been haunting him nearly his entire life: Don't tell, or else.

O'Brien, a West Philly native who now lives at Eighth Street and Moyamensing Avenue, says that he has been abducted by aliens repeatedly since childhood. Though, he says, the beings apparently have tried to erase his memory of these events, over the years O'Brien has recovered some details — enough to know that his pursuers are not a friendly bunch. He says he's been poked and prodded, injected and sliced; they even stole one of his teeth. He can only guess why they subject him to this.

But perhaps what's most strange about O'Brien's story is the ease with which he tells it. Though he says he knows it could happen again and again for the rest of his life, he holds no grudge against his abductors. O'Brien, a devout Christian, says he has accepted his lot, and now hopes only to help others like him do the same.

"I've gone through all the trauma I'm going to go through," he explains in his soft, unhurried manner. "I've gotten to the point where I actually forgave them. My biggest concern now is for the others."

REPORTS OF ABDUCTIONS by diminutive, bug-eyed beings — believed by most to be extraterrestrials — are not new. Ever since 1966, when Betty and Barney Hill reported being taken aboard some sort of craft and subjected to various procedures, people around the world have come forward to describe experiences that are striking in their similarity. In his introduction to *Secret Life: Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions* (by Temple University professor David M. Jacobs), Dr. John Mack of Harvard Medical School estimates that hundreds of thousands, perhaps one million, Americans have endured these terrifying encounters, many more than once.

For John O'Brien, it began one afternoon in the early summer of 1962, in a park near his family's West Philadelphia home.

"We had just gotten home from school, me and my brother," he says. "This one particular day we went down [to the park] and we met another older neighborhood boy. And I don't know why but we turned around and looked up. Just above the trees — the trees were maybe 40 feet — I would say maybe 30 above the tree, there was this little disk. We could see the bottom of it. It was round, and it seemed to me like there was fire coming out from underneath. And it just slowly descended to the ground."

Short metal legs extended from the bottom of the craft as it landed, O'Brien recalls. "I thought it was a toy ... It was maybe 9-foot high, seemed to me like 12 feet in diameter. I picked a rock up and went to throw the rock and my brother said, 'Don't!' ... I remember throwing the rock and hitting [the disk] and hearing the sound of metal."

At that point, conscious memory ends, O'Brien says. The rest of the experience came back to him later, in fragmented images. A door opened, and "this little being" — short, thin, tan in color and wear-

ing something like a lab coat — waved to him.

"I remember going inside, and that's where I saw the reptilian being [green with scale-like skin] ... I remember I wasn't at all frightened ... At that point I might still have thought it was a game or something, because I remember asking him if he was a lizard. That's when the procedure was done on my chest."

Using a scalpel or something similar, the reptilian being made a 4-inch, horizontal incision in the center of O'Brien's chest, about 6 inches below his neck, he says. The cut did not hurt. The being then inserted a thin greenish wire, perhaps an inch-and-a-half long, into the incision. (A scar in the center of his chest still is clearly visible today.)

"After the procedure was done I remember leaving, and getting about a quarter of a block away and turning around. The same being, the tan one, was waving. Once I turned the corner I remember I felt this

(continued on page 5)

intense anxiety, and that's when I put my hand [on my chest] and there was just a little bit of blood.

"We went into our house and told my mom we saw a flying saucer. She said, 'OK, get ready for dinner.' My brother was extremely hesitant about me saying anything ... I remember going from the kitchen into the dining room ... and the next conscious memory was waking up in bed.

"I think I may have been told [by the aliens] that if I talk about it something's going to happen because from that time on, whenever somebody came to the door, I used to hide under the table. This happened for years."

O'BRIEN WAS VISITED again in 1971, but recalls little; he's not even certain he actually was abducted.

"I wasn't asleep, I had just got in bed," he says. "All of a sudden I felt these two hands grab me ... and I get pulled down onto the floor, and I'm looking at these two round eyes, red eyes." The being was short and hairy. He suspects an abduction followed.

In 1975, while staying with his mother and grandmother in Maple Shade, N.J., he remembers waking to the sight of a "golden calf" hovering over his bed. Years later, he would learn that abductees often report bizarre but realistic visions, usually of animals. Researchers call these "screen memories" — hallucinations caused by the aliens to mask memories of what actually occurred.

"Piecing everything together," he says, "I remember at some point walking out into the woods. But I don't know why, and I don't know what happened."

As he approached adulthood, O'Brien began to find these fragmented recollections of unexplainable experiences difficult to bear. The fascination he'd felt as a child gave way to anger and fear.

"I was very troubled," he recalls. "I used to tell people the only reason I wasn't in a mental institution was because I never got caught doing the things I did — trying to drive my car off an embankment, or hang myself. I think it all stemmed back to these experiences and not being able to rationalize why it happened."

But religion, he says, turned his life around. In 1977, O'Brien became a born-again Christian. Later, he moved into an apartment in a church in North Philly, which was where they found him in 1978.

"I remember being in the craft, and giving this reptoid [the green, lizard-like being] a hard time. I remember wanting to know what he was doing. And I remember him telepathically telling me to behave myself. It was said as if he was talking to a little child. That's when he ... just slashed me [across the chin with a scalpel]. The next morning I woke up with the conscious memory of that being and what he had done." The cut was still there, and a faint white scar is visible to this day.

The visitors stepped up their pace in 1993. O'Brien says he was taken or lured from the bedroom of his Williamstown, N.J. home on at least four occasions that year.

The first time, he says, he watched through the blinds as a craft landed in his yard and two beings stepped out. They walked right through the wall, he recollects, and stood on either side of him. Taking him by the arms, they led him out the same way.

On board the ship, the being unbuttoned O'Brien's pajama top and used what appeared to be a hand-held laser to make an incision in his chest. They told him they were "looking for a disease." When they were through, a being that O'Brien believed was female buttoned his shirt back up and fussed with his collar.

During another abduction around the same time, O'Brien was not sliced or otherwise examined, but only instructed; he can't recall the information, but believes he may be able to someday. On the next visit, he says, they took a tooth.

The morning after the fourth experience in Williamstown, O'Brien says he still could feel the tiny black ball they had implanted under the skin behind his right ear. But within a day it was gone, and the beings have not been back since.

IF HE IS EITHER relieved that they've granted him a two-year respite or terrified that they'll come again tonight, he doesn't show it. O'Brien does not live in fear of his captors' return — in fact, he says he'll use the opportunity to learn more that might be helpful to others.

Several months ago, O'Brien formed a UFO and abduction discussion group. He is the only abductee to attend the weekly meetings thus far, but he hopes that others will

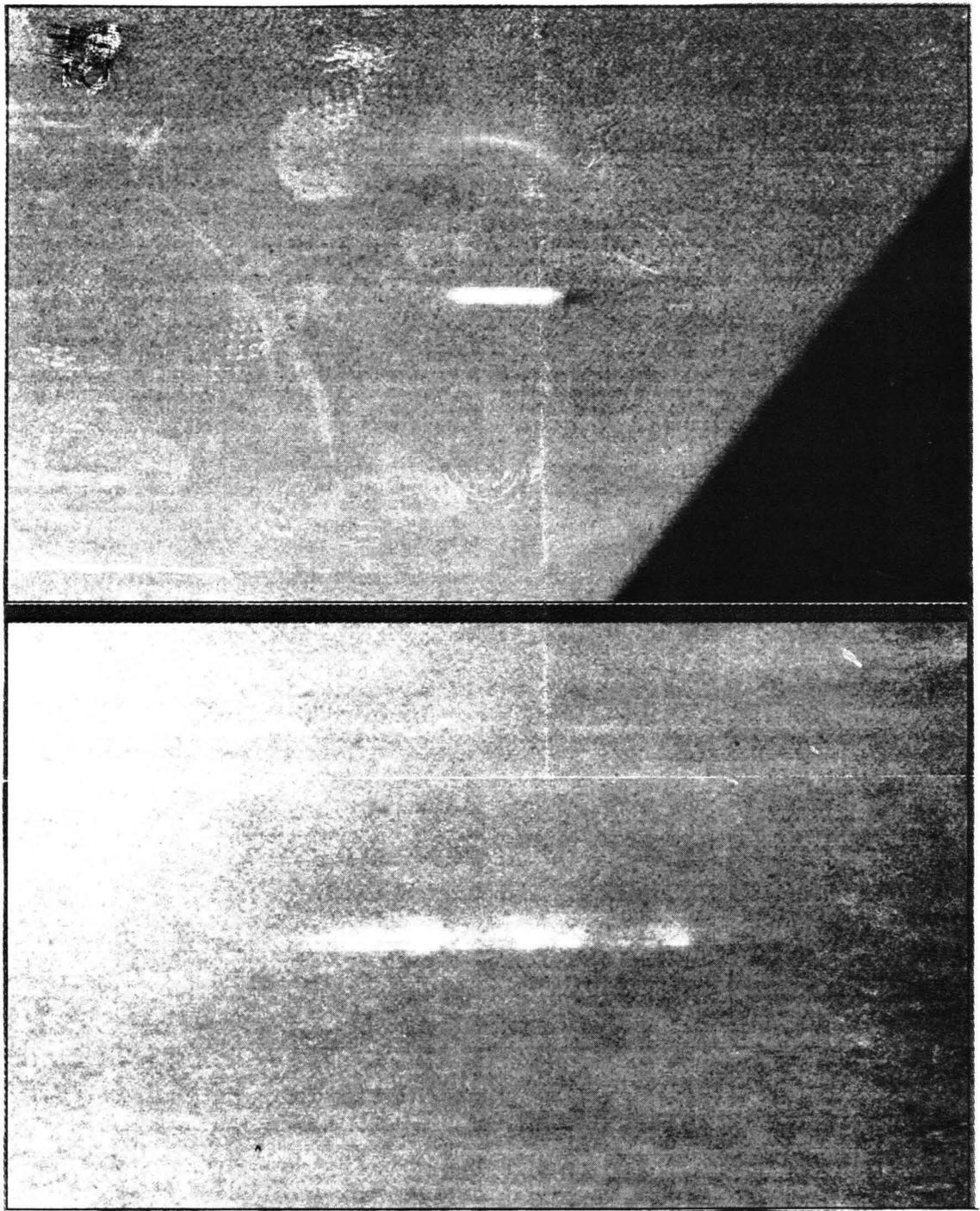
join in. Though it's difficult, he says, talking about the experience can help the victim regain a sense of control.

"That need not to talk — whether it's self-imposed or imposed by the aliens — is very powerful," O'Brien explains. "But these are real events, and you have to find a way to incorporate these things that aren't supposed to happen into your life."

And while these visits are terrifying, O'Brien believes they are not so difficult to understand, citing what humans do to rats and monkeys in the name of science.

"As human beings, we're inquisitive, we want to know how things work. These beings, I think, are not so different." ■

Editor's note: For more information about John O'Brien's discussion group, call 468-7009.



Adapted from videotape by Village Labs, Tempe, Ariz.

From another world?

Tim Edwards of Salida was a guest speaker at the fifth annual International UFO Congress convention held in Salt Lake City recently. Edwards discussed his UFO sighting and the video he took on August 27 outside his home. The footage of Edwards' sighting was described by the *Desert News* as a "big hit amid a flock of far-out theories and speculations." Shown

here are two still shots taken from Edward's video. The top photo is seen as it appeared in the video. The dark portion at the edge is the gutter of Edwards' roof. The bottom shot is an enlarged version of the same object, enhanced by Village Labs of Tempe, Ariz. Note what appears to be windows or lights around the craft.

Watching for UFOs

1995 brought tales of alien abductions, UFO sightings and other inexplicable events to the Port Townsend UFO watcher's group.

Jean Anderson heads the group, which started in March 1994 and has had at least 40 people attend meetings (15 to 20 of which had seen UFOs).

Anderson said 1995 was particularly exciting, as one of the people who attended several meetings is scheduled to be on the TV show "Sightings on Fox" to talk about her extraterrestrial experience.

"The story involves some of the classic things: Involvement with the military, black helicopters and missing time," Anderson said.

The first time the woman told her story, it was to the Port Townsend UFO group. The woman's experiences were so complex, Anderson referred her to MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, whose national headquarters is in Seattle.

Anderson said she can't wait to see the special report on TV, as she was very intrigued by the woman's supernatural experiences. "She should write a book because her story really had a lot of facets to it."

In 1996, Anderson said she might take the public library up on its offer to teach a class on UFOs. Anderson is also considering forming a UFO research group.

One thing's for sure, Anderson will continue studying UFOs. "It's a fascinating subject but a very difficult one to pin down," she said.

LEADER, Port Townsend, WA - Jan. 3, 1996



Life as he knew it changed for Tim Edwards on Aug. 27 after seeing and videotaping what many believe is a UFO. Since then, the cafe owner from

Salida has been nervous and jumpy, looking at the heavens for other sightings. "There are so many weird things up here," he says.

UFO sightings transfix residents

Bizarre occurrences part of area's folklore

By D'Arcy Fallon/Gazette Telegraph

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Tim Edwards is a jumpy man these days.

Some might say he's an ordinary guy reacting to an extraordinary experience. Others might say he's seen too many "Twilight Zone" reruns.

Puffing nervously on a Marlboro, Edwards, binoculars around his neck, paces back and forth on the front lawn of his Salida home and gestures to the mountains above him. *Up there.* He gazes at the sky with palpable longing.

"There are so many weird things up here," says Edwards, 42, a quiet man who runs a popular family cafe with his wife and father.

Edwards swears he saw a UFO in August from his back yard, and he's still shaken up about it.

"I don't look outside no more. I don't get no sleep."

The valley "is one of the most sacred areas in North America to the indigenous people," said UFO expert Christopher O'Brien, who lives in the tiny, New Age hamlet of Crestone and tracks the valley's UFO activity in a bi-monthly newsletter, "The Mysterious Valley Report."

(He also is the author of "The Mysterious Valley," due out this summer from St. Martin's Press.)

Many American Indians considered the valley's Mount Blanca to be the Sacred Mountain of the East — a doorway for the emergence of the Star People, often described as "arriving aboard flying seedpods," according to an article in Spirit magazine, which is New Age oriented.

But Tim Edwards says he didn't see a flying seedpod on Aug. 27. He describes it as a silver, cigar-shaped spacecraft.

Like Richard Dreyfuss in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," Edwards exudes an aura of nervous intensity as he talks about the sighting.

It happened on a Sunday morning when Edwards was working outside on his house with his daughter, Brandy, 6, at his side. Brandy, worried that it might rain, looked upward and said, "Daddy, there's something up there in the sky," Edwards recounted last week.

He brushed off his daughter's comments, but when she kept insisting he look up, Edwards said he realized she was right.

There was something in the sky. The Wasson High School graduate grabbed his video camera and for more than a hour shot footage of the disc-shaped or cigar-shaped object. It had

oscillating lights that appeared to rotate from left to right, and it darted back and forth just above the morning sun.

During subsequent sightings, Edwards shot videotapes showing small, white spheres emerging from the object. Edwards' first tape was shown in November on "Sightings," a TV show about UFOs and other strange phenomenon, and was analyzed by Village Labs, a digital video technology company in Tempe, Ariz.

Village Labs president Jim Dilettoso said the tape wasn't a hoax or an optic aberration. He said it appeared to contain legitimate footage of a very large, solid, possibly three-dimensional object flying at high altitude.

Whether one believes Edwards saw a UFO or simply an odd-looking plane, he swears he's a changed man.

"They put some feelings in me I've never had before," he said. "When I was looking at the main craft, I got, like, an electrical impulse through my body. It was very important for the world to know the truth. Now I'm convinced we're not alone."

The UFOs are buzzing the Earth because they're concerned about its inhabitants, much like humans are curious about whales and dolphins, said Edwards.

And how should earthlings respond?

With "brotherhood, universal love, and get rid of the nuclear stuff," Edwards said.

"Not since Jesus was here has something so major come down," he added. "Most people are terrified that something could be out there."

Or fascinated.



Christopher O'Brien of Crestone documents all the strange phenomenon in the San Luis Valley and has written a book on the subject.

He's probably not alone.

Over the years, several people in the San Luis Valley claim they've seen Bigfoot, cattle mutilations, glowing fireballs, and yes, oddly shaped UFOs and "mother ships" that twist and dart across the night sky.

On the eastern edge of the huge valley, on a windswept hillside near La Veta, two sisters, Jeanne Shaw, 49, and Loni Smith, 53, talked about their cosmic encounter.

Before launching into her side of the story, Shaw explained she had always seen herself as "a bit of a skeptic" when it came to the paranormal. "Just because I see a little light in the sky, doesn't mean it's a UFO," she said.

Shaw's sister, a property manager in La Veta, is the same way. In fact, neither of the sisters — who grew up in Colorado Springs — seemed quick to jump on the UFO bandwagon. And yet both are unshakable in their explanation about what they saw one night this past fall.

It wasn't a Black Hawk helicopter, as the Walsenburg police suggested to them when they phoned in alarm. Not a plane. Not a dream or an hallucination. It was a UFO.

Here's their story: On Sept. 23, about 8:15 p.m., as Shaw, her two children and Smith sat at the kitchen table after dinner, they heard a strange humming outside their mobile home in the Navajo Ranch Resorts subdivision, located between La Veta and Walsenburg.

"I heard, no, *felt* this humming noise," said Shaw, who moved to the La Veta area last spring after she got tired of life in Denver. "I felt something huge coming up the back of my lot."

Smith: "It was a vibration, although the windows weren't rattling."

They looked out the window and saw they saw a slow-moving, rectangular-shaped spacecraft skimming the

Residents of this sweeping, semiarid expanse of pinon and rabbitbrush say this is a mysterious place of sacred mountains and bubbling hot springs, of oddly-placed sand dunes, lush meadows and some of the richest soil in the country.

At an average elevation of 7,600 feet — more than a mile and a half above sea level — the San Luis Valley is the highest and largest alpine valley in the world. Three times the size of Delaware and flanked by the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan mountains, the valley is home to a diverse group: yuppie stargazers, hardscrabble alfalfa farmers, sheep ranchers, folk artists, Guatemalan refugees and descendants of original settlers of the Sangre de Cristo land grant, who came from Mexico.

Steeped in history and folklore, the San Luis Valley has long been a UFO hotbed. As long ago as 1917, the residents of Salida told of mysterious "vehicles of the air" flying about the night sky, according to a 78-year-old edition of The Salida Record.

tops of the pinon trees. It had yellow and white oscillating lights in front and two red lights in the back, like a Cadillac's. They estimated it was as wide and long as a football field.

Shaw: "It was huge."

Smith: "It was monstrous. It was the mother ship."

The sisters' words leapfrogged over each other as they attempt to explain their reactions to the sighting.

Tumbling out of the mobile home, they stared, incredulous at the thing.

Smith: "Our mouths were open to our navels. I felt like I was looking up at the bottom of a barge."

Shaw: "My knees buckled. I screamed. It was in our face."

As the object slowly moved away from them, Smith waved her arms after it, yelling, "Here we are! Here we are!"

Shaw, petrified, slugged her sister on the arm. "Shut up!" she said.

"They'll beam us up!"

Shaw's son, Robert, 27, ran behind the spacecraft as it flew down the arroyo, trying to catch up with it. Shaw estimates it took about 20 minutes before it disappeared.

Two miles away in the subdivision, another resident, Joan Newland, was getting ready for bed. She, too, heard a low humming noise and figured it was a helicopter. But the sound persisted, and her dogs were going wild.

She looked out the window and gasped. Like Shaw, her knees buckled. "It was huge. I saw it going over the trees. It was a shock to see something that big. I thought, holy . . . what is

(continued on page 7)



On Sept. 23, Jeanne Shaw, left, and her sister Loni Smith saw what they call a "mothership," the size of a football field going by a window at Shaw's home

near La Veta. Shaw's children also saw the UFO, as did others in the area. They later drew pictures of it, and all were similar to this one drawn by Smith.

that?" Shaken and frightened, Newland decided to keep her observation to herself. Then she got a call from Shaw, asking if she'd seen something strange out her window. The women compared notes and decided it must have been a UFO.

"What else could it have been?" asked Newland plaintively. "There's

nothing that could fly that low without making any draft or wind."

Since that night, neither Newland nor Shaw has seen the spacecraft. Not that they've stopped looking.

Newland: "We keep our eyes to the sky now."

Shaw: "Only about 20 times a night."

TRI-CITY HERALD, Kennewick, WA - Jan. 5, 1996

Look, in the sky, it's uh ... maybe a UFO

Tri-City radio station beams the news

By DON McMANMAN
Herald staff writer

A UFO beaming an eerie blue light was reported floating over the Columbia Basin on Wednesday night.

But apparently, only a few listeners of a Kennewick country-and-western radio station saw the thing.

"We got four or five calls," said John Travis, a morning disc jockey for KORD radio. "We were laughing at the first one, then we thought, 'This guy may be serious.'"

What "the guy" saw was a UFO as big as a football field shooting out blue beams, Travis said.

The UFO supposedly abducted a dog in this encounter of the third kind.

"But after you get a call like that, you tend to get the jokers," Travis said.

"Of course, I suppose we fueled it."

The UFO was spotted above Mesa, a revelation to Jean Lango, an assistant clerk at the Mesa Town Hall.

"No one around here saw anything. I guess we were all sleeping."

They were sleeping in Othello, too.

"This is the first time I heard about it," Chris Schneider, a DJ for KRSC radio in Othello, said when the Herald called Thursday afternoon.

Seems only listeners of KORD — not KRSC — see UFOs.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Depart-

ment received no reports ("Is this really newsworthy?" demanded Undersheriff Kevin Carle), nor did the Connell Police Department, said records clerk Sheila Cerna.

"I've been here 30 years, and I've never heard of anything like this," Cerna said.

Fred Fitzgerald, an air traffic controller at the Tri-Cities Airport in Pasco, heard no reports, but added, "It sounds pretty exciting to me."

Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane got one call — "from someone who heard about a UFO on a radio station down there," said Maj. C.B. Ballmer, public affairs officer at the base.

"We checked into it, even talked to the weather people, and got nothing," she said.

The man who should have known is Jerry Rolwes, who collects UFO reports in Spokane for the Mutual UFO Network, better known to those curious about the extraordinary as MUFON.

"I didn't receive any reports at all," he said.

But one explanation for the silence might be more celestial than mystical.

Paul Casey, who writes an astronomy column for the Herald, said there was a full moon Wednesday night.

Also, Sirius was toward the horizon.

"After our sun, Sirius is our brightest star. Its light can refract through ice clouds and appear to glow blue," Casey said.

And, Casey had this observation about a UFO that abducts canines: Sirius also is called the "dog star."

"We checked into it, even talked to the weather people, and got nothing."

— Maj. C.B. Ballmer, Fairchild Air Force Base



Brandy Edwards, 6, was playing in her yard, looking to the sky for rain, last August when she told her father to look up. Tim Edwards then took videos of an object hovering overhead.

New discoveries in space encourage believers in UFOs

By JOE GAROFOLI
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — A few folks are really happy to hear that there might be extraterrestrial life on two new planets discovered this week: the people who have been telling us about ETs for years.

"It kind of validates those of us who have experienced extraterrestrials," says Marv Taylor, a Sonora accountant who says he had the first of several ET encounters while playing in the Oakland hills as an 11-year-old in 1947.

"After that happened, my mother used to try to lock me in a closet when company came over," he says. "They were afraid I might say something embarrassing."

Since then, Taylor has collected more than 2,000 news reports of sightings and encounters. Many of them are stored in the home of a Concord physician who prefers to remain anonymous because he doesn't want his patients and colleagues

to know of his part-time avocation.

Perhaps this week's discovery might make him less reticent.

"Now we can point to some kind of evidence," Taylor says. "It's really difficult to be credible in the way we operate as, if you pardon the expression, Earth-people. As a family man, a father, a man in the community. It's like you can't really discuss this off-the-wall experience you had."

Some scientists believe that the two planets, 35 light-years away, could hold some form of life. They are only the second and third to be discovered orbiting a sunlike star and are believed to be warm enough for water to exist in a liquid form a key to the hope for extraterrestrial life. Now there's hope, mainstream scientific hope that, as they say on late-night television: "WE ARE NOT ALONE."

But Ron Williams has believed that for years.

"This might open people's

minds that we're not the only species out there," says Williams, who hosts the cable access show, "UFO Connection," in Sacramento. "With that Hubble out there, we get closer and closer to verifying it."

Public skepticism toward other-planetary life has softened recently. A 1994 poll of Generation X-age people found that 46 percent of the respondents believed that there are UFOs. That's almost twice as many young people who think Social Security will still be around when they retire.

A 1993 study done by a Canadian researcher found that UFO or alien spotters are not wackos: They appear to be just as intelligent and psychologically healthy as other people.

What ETs are doing on Earth depends on the ET spotter you speak with. Many feel that our visitors stop by to help us evolve as a species. Others feel that they're exploring us, just like the Hubble is checking out their turf. A few think their motives are more aggressive, that

they abduct and examine people, even take sperm and egg samples to learn more about the human race.

Debra Ross says many of the 50 contacts she's had with ETs happened when she lived in San Pablo in the late 1980s. Her visitors had good intentions; they told her that the Earth is in trouble and that she should urge people to improve their lives.

This week's discovery corresponds with what she says one set of aliens told her, that their home planet was near the Big Dipper. This week's findings reinforced her beliefs.

"It's validating to see that the rest of the world starts believing what you believe," Ross says from Oregon, where she now lives.

More and more respected academics have spoken publicly in support of UFO or ET spotters.

Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard psychiatrist John Mack made headlines last year with his book, "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens."

Nearly \$3 million in private donations help Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence scan the heavens for alien transmissions.

Another believer is former NASA experimental psychologist Richard Haines, who began studying the phenomenon 30 years ago as an avocation in an attempt to discredit it.

Today, even without ever personally seeing an ET or, as he prefers, an Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon, the Los Altos consultant is a believer, based on his research. He's written five books and done hundreds of interviews with pilots who have had aerial run-ins they couldn't explain.

In fact, he's so convinced that ETs exist, this week's discovery gives him no sense of vindication. To him, the stories of those he has interviewed are infinitely credible. Still, he expects he might still get a raised eyebrow when he starts talking about UAPs.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Dec. 20, 1995

UFO



By Carole Baker

Gulf Breeze UFO conference back on Beach in March

By Vicki Lyons

The Gulf Breeze UFO Conference, which attracts hundreds of attendees to Pensacola Beach from over 30 states and several foreign countries will be back for the Fourth Annual Conference, March 15-17, 1996.

The Third Annual Conference scheduled for October had to be moved at the last minute to the Mobile Convention Center due to Hurricane Opal, but still proved to be the most successful event of its kind in the country attracting almost 1000 people from all over the world.

The 1996 Conference will be right back on Pensacola Beach according to its owners, Vicki Lyons and Pat & Buddy Crumbley of the locally based business, Project Awareness.

"Our attendees love the beach

and come from everywhere to be here," said Mrs. Crumbley. "They are really looking forward to this one in March since they didn't get to be on the beach in October!" Co-Director, Buddy Crumbley estimates the expected attendance to be a capacity crowd from California to Maine, with the Clarion, Best Western, Beachside Resort, Hampton Inn and Comfort Inn housing attendees. The lectures, classes and exhibits will be held in the Clarion Ballroom and will feature some of the biggest names in the UFO field including Dr. John Mack, Pulitzer Prize winner, medical doctor and Professor of Psychology at The Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

The Conference will also feature a New York Presbyterian Minister and Princeton graduate, Dr. Barry Downing, who will

speak on the evidence of UFOs being involved in Biblical events.

Also speaking is Whitley Strieber, author of the ten million copy bestseller "Communion" who will debut a new book, "The Secret School."

Dr. Michael Grosso, a PhD and Professor of Philosophy and best selling author will speak on the increase in extraordinary phenomena. Stanton Friedman, Canadian Nuclear Physicist and author of "The Crash at Corona" will debut his new book, "Top Secret Majic."

Dr. Edith Fiore, a psychologist from Saratoga, California and author of many fascinating books will speak on past lives and Michael Lindemann of Santa Barbara will be presenting the first ever class on computers and the UFO field called, "UFOs in Cyberspace: A Practical Guide."

The speakers will be giving a

series of lectures and classes on many varied topics such as updates on Roswell; UFO current events from around the world; the latest on abductions; near death experiences; angels; spiritual experiences and panel discussions.

Project Awareness is known for presenting information on the "cutting edge" presented by the world's top speakers.

The Clarion is almost completely sold out already and beach hotels, restaurants and other businesses are gearing up for the March event.

The public is invited to attend all or part of the Conference. For a complete free program guide call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888 or write: P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561. FAX (904) 438-1801. E-Mail UMBRR73A@PRODIGY.COM.

This Week In UFO History

The following are reports of sightings from around the country and around the world that took place during the week of December 17-23.

GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA - 17 DECEMBER 1987, 1 A.M.

Ed Walters was awakened early on Dec. 17 by what he thought was a noise. As he went into the kitchen to investigate, he saw a UFO hovering about 150 feet from the window. Going outside, he noticed that the UFO began to rise and fall smoothly as well as to glow and fade. It glowed bright orange as it rose about 10 feet, then faded to a pale orange as it fell. As it moved directly in front of him, he was able to take a photograph. Soon after, Mr. Walters noticed some kind of liquid fall out of the bottom of the UFO.

(The Gulf Breeze Sightings, Ed & Frances Walters, Avon Book 1990, pgs. 73-76).

KINGSLEY, MICHIGAN - 21 DECEMBER 1994, 6:30 P.M.

A witness described seeing a streak of light fall down to the tree tops next to a nearby storage barn. The light remained at that level and appeared to be two or three times the size of the barn. The witness was able to determine that the light was an object that was round with a honeycombed appearance. There seemed to be mini-lightning bolts coming from the middle of the object. The object was bluish-gray in color, with a red oscillating light on top. Soon, two more witnesses, including a policeman arrived. One witness videotaped the object. A police report was taken. The

report stated that the object rotated back and forth several times and tipped vertically before returning to its original position. Also a shapeless bright light appeared to be east of the object. The object disappeared when military jets flew past, then reappeared when the aircraft were gone. (Grand Rapids Press, Michigan, December 25, 1994).

HAGENAU, GERMANY - 22 DECEMBER 1944, 6 A.M.

While flying a mission over Hagenau, Germany, a pilot from the 415th Night Fighter Squadron saw "two large orange glows" climbing up toward his plane. He was flying at an altitude of 10,000 feet. The pilot reported that when these lights reached his altitude, they levelled off and paced his plane. He tried to out-manuever

them, but the lights would continue to follow him. After about two minutes, the lights turned away and then just disappeared. (Mysteries of the Skies: UFOs in Perspective, Gordon Love Jr. & Harold Deneaut Jr, Prentice & Hall, NJ 1969, pg. 116).



DWIGHT ROSS JR. / Staff

Alien encounters: At the Castlegate Hotel, David Huggins on Sunday displays paintings that depict some of the otherworldly figures he's seen. "I don't know who they were or where they came from, but I know they exist," he says.

UFO conference simply out of this world

Abductions, secret files discussed by believers

By Patti Puckett
STAFF WRITER

Abductions by extraterrestrials, UFO sightings in Puerto Rico and conspiracies by the U.S. government to cover it all up. Conversations inside an Atlanta hotel Sunday could have been a brainstorming session among writers for the popular television show, "The X-Files."

But those who attended the National UFO Conference say they're talking about fact, not science fiction.

The 32nd annual conference drew more than 300 people to the Castlegate Hotel and Conference Center, including those who say they have had contact with extraterrestrials.

"I know there is more to this world than I

can imagine," said David Huggins, 52, a graphic artist who says he was abducted by aliens several times as a child in Paulding County. "Instead of thinking about the 'global village,' we need to think in terms of a 'universal village!'"

Huggins tells his story so he can better understand his experiences, he said. He also paints brightly colored illustrations of the insect-like aliens he says he spent time with as a child.

"I don't know who they were or where they came from, but I know they exist," said Huggins, who lives in New Jersey. "I inform people what happened to me, and they can think what they think."

Huggins' seminar was titled, "My Lifelong UFO Participation in Alien Genetic Experiments." Other seminars during the two-day conference included "The Psychology of UFO Experiences" and "Ending the UFO Cover-Up Through Political Action."

"We have to break down the wall of ridicule and denial built up around UFO issues," said Ed Komarek, founder of Operation Right To Know, an organization that challenges government officials to stop withholding information about extraterrestrials and UFOs.

"It's a political war, folks," said Komarek, who has marched on the steps of the White House and the Pentagon. "If you want to get the truth out you've got to write your congressman and take on political activity."

Charlie Pilcher, a 47-year-old Chamblee resident, developed an interest in UFOs about 10 years ago, while exploring his spirituality.

"The more you look into things, Stonehenge, the pyramids of Egypt, the evolution of race and cultures... there must be a sub-layer of secret knowledge," he said. "You won't get to it unless you go out and dig for it."

UFO

By Carole Baker



Looking back over 1995, overall it has been a very active year. Sightings in the Gulf Breeze/Pensacola area are still being reported at a higher frequency than any where else in the country. Over the course of 1995, we also saw a change in the type of sightings that were being reported. We went from many single light sightings and also sight-

ings of craft and particularly triangular and delta shaped objects. Of course, some sightings are never reported. The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group would like express their thanks to all those who called the hotline or came to the group at Shoreline Park to report their experiences during 1995. We would also urge anyone, whether a local resident or not to

please let us know when they have an experience. Hearing about people's experiences and logging them is a very intrinsic part of UFO research and helps to develop a "bigger picture" of what is occurring in the field.

So, here are some statistics from 1995, broken down month by month. These are for information purposes only and are only taken from those reported sightings where the witnesses gave permission to use the information. Other sightings are still under investigation and the details of them may or may not be released at a later date.

January 1995: Five sightings reported (1) 12th, (4) 19th. February 1995: One sighting reported: (1) 4th. March 1995: Four sightings reported (3) 9th, (1) 10th (daylight). April 1995: Thirteen sightings reported: (2) 7th, (4) 8th, (1) 9th, (1) 10th (daylight), (1) 14th, (1) 28th, (2) 29th, (1) 30th. May 1995: Eight sightings reported: (2) 3rd, (2) 4th, (1) 5th, (1) 20th, (1) 22nd, (1) 26th.

June 1995: Five sightings reported (1) 5th (daylight), (2) 7th, (1) 14th, (daylight, object), (1) 16th. July 1995: Six sightings reported: (1) 8th, (3) 14th, (1) 20th, (1) 23rd. August 1995: (1) 23rd, (2) 27th, (2) 29th. September 1995: Seven sightings reported: (1) 2nd, (1) 6th, (1) 7th, (1) 14th, (2) 20th, (1) 27th. October 1995: Nine sightings reported: (5) 12th, (2) 22nd (objects), (1) 25th, (1) 26th. November 1995: Ten sightings reported: (5) 15th, (1) 7th (seventeen separate events), (3) 21st, (1) 30th. December 1995: Two sightings reported: (1) 1st, (1) 14th.

The total sightings shown above are sixty three. As previously stated there are other sightings which have been reported and are still under investigation, so the above serves to give a general overview of activity in the area.

The skywatch at Shoreline Park South continues on a nightly basis and the monthly meetings will continue in 1996 on the second Sunday of every month except March and December. We usually attract nationally known speakers and would encourage anyone interested to attend.

The Fourth Annual Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference is being held March 15th-17th at the Clarion Suites Resort. Yes! We are back on the beach! Speakers attending: Whitley Strieber, Dr. John Mack, Stanton Freidman, Dr. Edith Fiore, Dr. Michael Grosso, Dr. Barry Downing and Michael Grosso. Call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888 for information on hotel reservations and airfares (special rates for attendees) or just stop by and enjoy a lecture or class or join the skywatch to be held on Pensacola Beach on Saturday March 16th. This is the chance to see the best available speakers and skywatch in Gulf Breeze/Pensacola Beach - "The World's Gateway to UFOs!"

To report a sighting please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up

They're back

Edwards gets more UFO video from Salida

by Murray Wais

Something strange is going on in Salida. Tim Edwards, a local restaurant owner and family man, captured videotape of aerial phenomena from September 25 to October 23 of this year.

Edwards, who received national recognition for his videotaping of an apparent UFO in September, is convinced aliens are here.

"The first experience was truly awesome. I felt deeply at the time that I was witnessing something of great scientific and historic importance for the world. I believe that the August 27th craft was sending a message to the world and wanted to be photographed, that its appearance was somehow just the beginning of more to come and that I was really fortunate to be part of it," said Edwards.

What Edwards really videotaped is open to debate. Village Labs, a video and film analysis lab in Glendale, Arizona, has been analyzing the video footage frame by frame. According to its press release, the results are astounding.

The daylight taping of the very large UFO hovering at approximately 60,000 feet and traveling at approximately 10,000 miles per hour displayed unprecedented movements and flashing light even for a UFO, said the release. The footage continues to be a focus of an in-depth study at the lab.

A Village Labs staff consultant, formerly with the National

Security Agency (NSA) in a top-secret-level intelligence position, has classified the Edwards UFO as an "Alien Visitation Craft," or AVC, an NSA term to designate a vehicle that is "definitely not one of ours."

According to Eric Gardner, director of the television show "Sightings," the footage represents images as significant as anything ever recorded in the annals of UFO history, which includes thousands of reports of the unexplained. Eric Gardner has reviewed many of those cases for his show.

Capturing the phenomenon once is rare, but twice is unfounded and has stirred much skepticism. This second rash of sightings has led many skeptics to believe Edwards is seeing nothing more than some natural organic phenomenon. Edwards is holding firm and other reports are collaborating his story.

"This time, with dozens of witnesses here in Salida and many others that were hundreds of miles away that I have talked directly to over the phone, there is no denying that something very unusual is going on up there. It's not just me, my family and a few others here have seen it," said Edwards.

Another such witness, who also captured it on videotape, is Tom King of Phoenix. Acting on a tip from Edwards, King managed to capture what appears to be the same large UFO that Edwards captured on his first videotape. His shots were taken from Phoenix. King's tapes are now being studied at Village Labs as well.

After the first activity in August, more activity continued and went on daily for several weeks. "I believe that the first craft was of a higher intelligence level than what began on September 25. With the unusual appearances of a bald eagle on that day and two days later, and what are clearly military aircraft flying around investigating on a daily basis, it is obvious to me that something very special is happening," said Edwards.

The national UFO Reporting Center at (206) 723-3000 is receiving a rash of calls since Edwards' sighting. This current "flap" has resulted in thousands of reports across the country. According to the Village Labs press release, in view of this heightened UFO activity and the recent release of the purported alien autopsy from the Roswell New Mexico saucer crash incident and other such "leaks," the consensus of many UFO experts is a prediction that the U.S. government will finally acknowledge in the months to come the reality of beings and their vehicles from other worlds visiting and even inhabiting our planet.

Currently Edwards and his wife are attending the fifth annual International UFO Congress in Mesquite, Nevada, where Edwards has been asked to present his videotapes and 35-mm. still images to the congress. Edwards is also lecturing on his first-hand UFO encounters.

As for now, keep your eyes peeled on the sky. If something strange is going on in Salida, something strange should be happening here.

UFO flap: Residents see strange craft in sky

■ A large military refueling jet flew over Redding on Monday night, but a military aircraft expert said he thinks the object people saw was a stealth blimp.

By Candace L. Brown
R-S public safety reporter

It was large, it moved slowly and its belly sparkled with colors.

Whatever the reported UFO

A controller at the Redding Municipal Airport who asked not to be identified said a KC-10 — a military refueling jet — was practicing instrument approaches between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Monday night.

The airport spokesman described the aircraft as a "flying gas station," calling it a military version of a DC-10.

The craft is huge, weighing more than 350,000 pounds — too heavy to land at the Redding airport, he said.

The plane has landing lights underneath it and cannot travel too slowly or it would stall. Because it is so big, however, it could appear to be moving slower than it is, the controller said. He added that the plane would not have been flying as low as 1,000

sighting over north Redding on Monday night really was, it frightened and amazed the people who saw it.

Bear Mountain Road resident Dave Thomsen said his wife, two children and neighbors 1½ miles

feet until it was over the airport.

Palo Cedro resident Mark McCandlish, a technical consultant for defense contractors in Southern California, heard people discussing the sighting on Redding radio station KQMS Tuesday morning. He said the craft could not have been a KC-10.

A KC-10 has a cylindrical-shaped fuselage and two large wings, while the object described by Thomsen and his neighbors had no wings and was shaped like a fat, triangular-shaped balloon, McCandlish said.

"It sounds very much like something that was patented seven or eight years ago by a New Jersey company," he said.

Inventor William M. Miller Jr. of Princeton, N.J., filed for a patent in 1990 for a stealth blimp

away spotted the large, slow-moving, lighted object about 9 p.m. Monday. He documented the sighting with the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

"It was something else," Thomsen, 42, said. "It kept us going for hours."

The craft, which he estimated was 150 feet wide and 300 feet long, flew about 20 mph directly

— a rigid-hulled airship that could hover and conduct radar surveillance without being detected, said McCandlish, a U.S. Air Force veteran.

There are rumors that stealth blimps were used extensively during the Persian Gulf War — perhaps recording some infrared videos of laser-guided missiles hitting targets, McCandlish said. They have jet engines mounted inside.

"My feeling is that this was some sort of large, lighter-than-air craft, probably operated by the Air Force, and maybe having mechanical difficulty that brought it to a lower altitude," he said.

From above, the stealth blimp is shaped like a triangle with a rounded cockpit nose, he said.

"Looked at sideways, it would

have the silhouette of an airplane wing," he said.

McCandlish spoke to witnesses Tuesday night and said two similar-looking crafts were spotted between 8:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. One headed south and the other seemed to stop and hover.

He didn't know why a stealth blimp would be flying near Redding. "That's probably the one question nobody seems to have an answer to," McCandlish said.

Lt. John Eloff, public affairs officer at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, said he has no knowledge of stealth blimps being used by the Air Force.

The Air Force has two stealth craft in its inventory: the F117-A and the B-2 bomber, Eloff said.

The KC-10 was from Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield, ac-

in sky

from inside the house but not a roar, Thomsen said. When it passed over, he could see a glow from engines.

"I just thought we're really building some neat stuff or this is something from outer space," he said.

According to another airport controller, Dale Wallace.

Thomsen's wife, Nancy, first saw the craft some distance from the house, moving south, and thought it was a big plane.

As it drew nearer, she saw that the craft fanned out in back, with a narrow nose. She described the colors on its belly as a "soft sprinkle, sparkling in a circle."

The object could be seen for four minutes, the Thomsens said.

About 8:30 p.m. Monday, Melinda Gray of Round Mountain also spotted a huge, lighted object in the sky heading south.

The object, which she saw above Highway 299 near Bella Vista, had white and red lights, Mrs. Gray said.

NEWS, Indianapolis, IN - Nov. 13, 1995

In Vincennes, something strange in the air

UFO chasers look into reports of lights in sky

By Marcella Fleming
STAFF WRITER

VINCENNES, Ind. — Something funny's going on in Red Skelton's hometown.

Some folks here tell of power lines that sway when there's no wind, of giant, hairy men with big feet in a city that has no NBA franchise, and of a female form that paces amongst the trees along a Knox County ridge.

Above all, there is scuttlebutt about the strange lights that roam the sky like computer cursors gone berserk, defying gravity and known modes of propulsion.

Jerry Sievers, a retired security guard, gathers such reports the way paleontologists collect dinosaur fossils.

For more than 30 years, Sievers, 56, has nursed an interest in the unexplained. As assistant state director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, or MUFON, an international group of sky watchers, Sievers annually tracks about 35 or so descriptions of strange lights and shapes that occasionally hover above southwestern Indiana.

He figures his hometown provides a darn good headquarters for a UFO investigator. Parts of rural Knox County are said to be a magnet for UFOs, bigfoots, ghosts, cattle mutilations and unexplained lights.

In fact, Sievers and fellow phenomena enthusiast Kerry Teverbaugh — a meteorologist and former weather forecaster and science reporter for Terre Haute's NBC affiliate — co-founded UPRO, the Unexplained Phenomena Research Organization, in the mid-'70s. UPRO compiles and investigates various intrigues, from reports of Bigfoot to the female ghost who is said to stroll the ridge near Lucky Point.

Both men have even taught the subject at the local college, Vincennes University.

Sievers' boyhood interest in the unknown was sparked in the mid-'50s by the Air Force's Project Blue Book, which generally discredited the idea of alien aircraft.

"I wanted to know what it was all about," he says.

One of the pair's hottest tips came to Teverbaugh from a Knox County sheriff's deputy, just moments after the incident happened.

The officer, whose identity Sievers and Teverbaugh protect, was patrolling on Nov. 10, 1978, when a startling sight appeared in the night sky.

A black triangular craft swooped in from the north and hovered above him. Perched behind the ship's windows were three little gray beings. As they focused their large, dark eyes at him, they posed an odd telepathic question: "Why do you hate Iranians?"

Sievers believes the deputy's story — especially because the man never sought publicity.

After 30 years as a card-carrying ufologist, though, Sievers doesn't necessarily accept everything he's heard.

Teverbaugh buys even less.

"I'd say 90 percent of our reports are hoaxes, identified flying objects or something planetary. It might even be the shuttle. I really don't examine more than 10 percent."

But Sievers does believe what he's personally seen.

"I saw two UFOs here August 21st, 1985," he says, pointing his white carved pipe toward the valley around Lucky Point, Knox County's hottest spot for such mysteries.

Sievers and a friend were scouting near Lucky Point, just outside Monroe City, a hamlet of 600 about 10 miles southeast of Vincennes.

Suddenly, in the sky over a clearing in the woods, a red ball with a white light beside it appeared, Sievers recounts.

"It just went 'shhhoo,'" he says, mocking *Star Trek's* warp speed, "and it was gone over that ridge over there."

About 20 minutes later, they saw another shape they couldn't identify, a larger ball of orange rising above the ridge. Just as the

light slipped south toward Petersburg, it dived beneath an approaching small plane and vanished. Seconds later, a bank of five fuzzy lights with black triangles in the center — windows, Sievers surmises — burst into view. As quickly as the lights appeared, they disappeared.

In the 10 years since, Sievers has scoured the sky in vain, instead following up on others' reports.

After Teverbaugh calls various authorities to rule out the explainable, they forward the significant accounts to Texas-based MUFON and to the suburban Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies, founded by a group of scientists.

Among the tales Sievers records in his journal are those from people who say they've not only seen a UFO but have been abducted, examined, questioned and dumped by one.

Sievers has held hypnotic-regression sessions in the small house he's lived in since childhood.

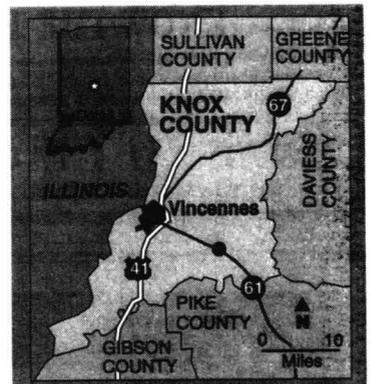
And he comforts others who hold periodic vigils at Lucky Point, hoping for the closest of encounters.

"I'm ready to go up that ramp. . . I want to meet 'em," says Mark Smith of nearby Robinson, Ill., who treks to Lucky Point weekly. "There's a lot of questions I have."

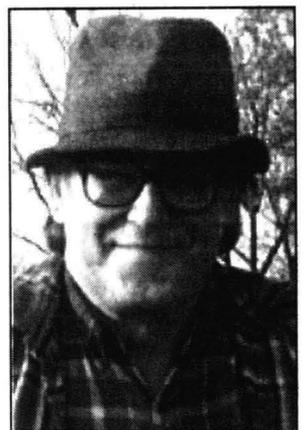
And then there are those pesky power lines that occasionally shake, rattle and roll over Lucky Point, carrying 136,000 volts across poles that look like giant robot skeletons.

Sievers has witnessed the unpredictable jerking poles and the vibrating valley beneath them on a number of occasions. He's even converted some nonbelievers who've made pilgrimages at just the right moment.

Still, not everyone in Knox County is convinced.



Staff Map



TRACKER: Retired security guard Jerry Sievers gathers information about UFO sightings in the Vincennes area.

Riley Osborne, who lives next door to Jerry and Rose Sievers, says Sievers is a fine neighbor, but Osborne is no believer.

"I think it's exaggeration. It might be atmospheric static, or maybe it's more of a legend," says Osborne, who used to farm near Lucky Point.

No answers seem to be hovering in the skies over Lucky Point, or anywhere else that Teverbaugh and Sievers know of.

"I hope for the solution to the mystery," Sievers says, "but I've become hardened to the fact that it probably won't happen in my lifetime."



[All foreign clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

UFOs still popping up

By JIM BRONSKILL
of The Canadian Press

Dean was driving west late one Alberta night when he spotted strange lights in the sky.

The bright lights — forming a green, red and yellow triangle — dimmed as they passed over the stretch of road just east of Grande Prairie.

They regained their luminous glow before darting off at a rapid clip — too fast for a normal aircraft.

Dean is among dozens of Canadians who reported seeing an unidentified flying object last year.

His description of the eerie encounter is one of 186 official UFO reports filed with the police, military and federal scientists.

Call them Canada's X-Files — something like the popular TV tales of two FBI agents who investigate paranormal phenomena.

The sighting reports, tucked away in cardboard boxes at the

National Archives in Ottawa, would make fine fodder for the spooky series.

The reports, kept in folders labelled Non-Meteoritic Sightings, include neatly typed police files, handwritten letters, drawings and interview transcripts about celestial oddities across the country. The files were released with most names deleted.

A veteran North Vancouver stargazer reported seeing a dark, arrowhead-shaped object — three times the size of a jumbo jet — with orange-yellow lights at the tips.

"There was absolutely no sound and the speed was incredible. This was certainly no aircraft or weather balloon," the witness said in a letter to the federal Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics.

"I found the experience a little disturbing, to say the least."

A Langley, B.C., woman told police two star-like objects came down from the sky and followed

her car one spring evening.

She became scared, pulled over and turned her lights off in time to see the "stars" take off with three airplanes in pursuit.

RCMP in Gimli, Man., received a report from two people who saw "a large donut-shaped object" flying towards Lake Winnipeg. The white object, about 100 metres in diameter, had as many as 12 pulsating lights running evenly around its rim.

A father and son were walking around Taharti Lake near Quesnel, B.C., one summer day when they saw a clear, oval-shaped object about the size of a car. It hovered above the water for three minutes, then sped off.

They returned to their cabin and told three companions of the sighting.

Oddly, all five later realized they had "lost" a day.

Two who left the site on July 22 discovered it was really the 23rd.

The others left on the 23rd, only to hear on the car radio that

it was the 24th.

"We were somewhat surprised," the son told an RCMP constable. "When we stopped for gas we confirmed that it was actually a day later."

A Nova Scotia woman was driving to Halifax one autumn night when she and her passenger saw a dark, diamond-shaped craft featuring a detailed pattern of white lights. It hovered noiselessly overhead for a couple of minutes before speeding off to the west.

The pilot of a Boeing 767 travelling from Vancouver to London reported seeing an object fly parallel to his plane. It was so bright at one point that it fit up the cockpit.

Some UFOs seem more easily explained than others.

Two observers told an RCMP officer in Lynn Lake, Man., of a green fireball falling slowly from the sky. In his report, the constable noted meteorites and the northern lights had been seen in the area recently.

Objects sighted across country

● Pictou, N.S., February: A round object, brighter than the stars, grew bigger, separated into three smaller objects, then recombined into one piece.

● Moose Jaw, April 10: Four copper-colored, cigar-shaped objects appeared for 10 seconds, changed positions, then disappeared.

● Stittsville, Ont., July 11: A triangle with several lights hovered noiselessly for about three min-

utes before taking off.

● Ottawa, July 12: Two separate reports of a star-like object that appeared at 11:30 p.m., then suddenly vanished. One report says it zigzagged sharply.

● Red Deer, Alta., July 15: A man and woman saw an object with a reddish glow speed along in a straight line for up to three minutes. Though it had flapping wings, they were convinced it was not a bird or plane.

● Casselman, Ont., Nov. 20: A young man, driving just before dawn, saw a fuzzy object with white lights flying at treetop level. The lights did not illuminate the ground.

● Scarborough, Ont., December: A man saw a flash in the sky, then the power went out about for two seconds. He called Ontario Hydro, which reported no problems with equipment.

● Metagami, Que., Dec. 5: A

pilot saw a bright light and explosion, then falling debris. Two other aircraft also saw the light.

● Whistler, B.C., Dec. 12: A man and two friends saw a round object with flashing lights hover above Blackcomb Mountain. The investigating RCMP officer apparently also saw it.

● Ferryland, Nfld., Dec. 15: A white object with green edges, about the size of a pickup truck, was spotted falling from the sky.

SOMETHING OUT THERE?

Civil servant Jil Faulkner of Kent experienced two paranormal events in 1977. And both sightings occurred in Canada, which may be a place of visitation by alien life. This week we look at her first encounter.

Friday, November 11, 1977 was a day that would change a woman's life for ever. At just 18, Jil Faulkner experienced two paranormal events. "The weather was clear and it was a moonless night. An object appeared in the sky - a light, which was much brighter than the stars at all times. I saw Sirius later that night but the light I saw was brighter. From my brother's bedroom window I saw a bright, very yellow light in the middle of the north-western sky. It was travelling very fast (smoothly but not straight-on, a slight curve downwards. I went to my bedroom window to follow it's path and I saw the light until it disappeared into the East horizon. Then I saw a flashing red light going slowly (this looked like an airplane light) from the point where the yellow ball disappeared (a bit higher up). This was probably just a plane. Nothing else happened for a few minutes so I went back to my brother's window. After I was there a minute or two, I thought I'd better go back to my window to see if I could see any more "lights". After about a minute I saw a light that looked yellow. It changed colour to orange and white. It came from the east, rose on a steep angle, going North, then it went straight up and levelled off. It didn't turn as a plane would - it just changed direction. Then it came straight towards our house. I could see two bright red lights and also a white flashing light - this gave more of a rotating effect behind the red lights in a dome shape. It proceeded directly over my roof. As it moved off north-westerly, it became a very yellow disc (oval) until it went out of sight. It didn't move particularly fast or slow but certainly faster than a plane would appear to do. A very loud plane-like-roar suddenly stopped as it moved off."

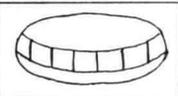
If you have had a UFO experience and you want to report it contact Roy Lake at London UFO Studies on 0181 594 4797. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

BARKING & DAGENHAM RECORDER, Essex, England - Oct. 5, 1995

SOMETHING OUT THERE?

Last week we reported on Jil Faulkner's first paranormal experience. This week we look at the second event which actually involved a sighting of actual alien lifeforms.

The second vision came while she was looking out of her window. "I saw a diffuse ball of light in the sky," said Jil, now 35. "I watched it's movements for about 10 minutes. The light suddenly proceeded from the horizon, directly towards me. It approached slowly and silently, gradually appearing bigger as it got nearer at almost eye level from my first floor window. As it came over the garden behind ours, one of the children playing outside shouted 'It's going to land'. At this point the ball of light stopped. It hung in the air in silence with absolutely no perceptible movement. The 'ball' was a huge oval now. The light was still fuzzy at the edges and I could not see through it. All of a sudden the 'ball of light' disappeared - it was like it was switched off. Directly in front of me now was a very clearly defined grey oval craft with a row of partitioned windows. Behind them I could see the fuzzy outlines of "people". They were a darker shade of grey against the dim interior light. There were five or six figures, which I recognised to be standing due to the fact that I could see to just below 'waist' level. I couldn't see clothing or even hair. They were just body shaped and we just stared at each other for a few minutes. I also noticed coloured lights now at the bottom edge of the craft. It started to move slowly about 20 foot over our roof then I ran from my window to my brother's at the front of the house. The craft's front was just appearing over the roof - when it should have been the end. The next strange thing was I checked my watch and it had taken me seven minutes to run from one window to the next - when it should have taken seconds! Then I experienced a voice in my head which clearly and firmly said "We know where you are." The craft changed into a yellow ball of light again and moved off silently and slowly."



Above: The UFO Jil saw

If you have had a UFO experience and you want to report it contact Roy Lake at London UFO Studies on 0181 594 4797. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Uncanny vision in the sky

CITIZEN, Milton Keynes, England - Sept. 7, 1995

THE prospect of little green men in Greenleys crossed computer operator Roy Cattermole's mind after clocking a UFO from his back garden.

Roy, aged 48, was out studying the stars at midnight on Saturday when the triangle-shaped craft sped silently across the city skies.

"It was a clear night and you could clearly see the Milky Way," said Roy, of Tillman Close.

He described the "plane" as a dull black.

"I only noticed it because you could see it silhouetted against the stars. It showed just two red lights which weren't blinking and I estimated the speed and height to be about the same as a fighter - low level about 250-350 feet. But there was no noise at all. It was uncanny."

And Roy couldn't believe his eyes the next morning when his Sunday paper contained the tale of a mysterious triangular "spaceship" chased by Nato planes across Europe - five years ago!

"I wondered if it was a case of deja vu - but I definitely saw SOMETHING," he said.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - Oct. 21, 1995



by TRISTAN DAVIES

Prepare to meet thy alien

ALIEN news, now, and creatures from outer space appear to be wreaking havoc across this sceptical isle of ours.

Mrs Veronica Armes, 49, who first spotted something hovering over her house in Beacontree Avenue, Dagenham, shortly after a new Safeway store opened in 1990, tells the Barking (ho ho!) and Dagenham Post that spacecraft are now causing such a noise nuisance in the borough they are keeping her awake at night.

"I heard a strange noise at about 2am one morning and when I went to my window I saw a circular object moving very slowly over the rooftops behind my house. I can't really describe the noise... it was like nothing I'd ever heard before."

Last month, the Post reports, Mrs Armes was awoken in the middle of the night by another inexplicable noise: "I pressed my face against my window but I just couldn't pinpoint where the strange noise was coming from. It was a kind of pulsating two-tone noise. It was very eerie."

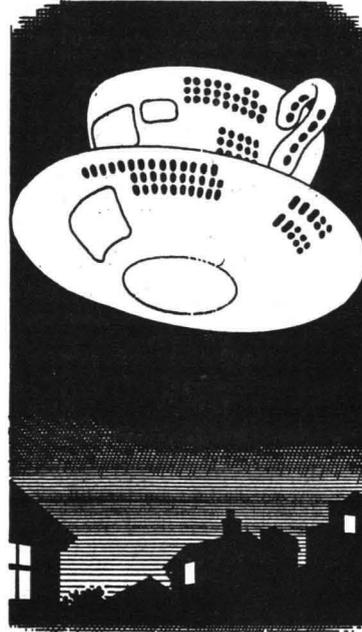
Farther west, meanwhile, The Nailsea Paper reports the sighting of a UFO over Nailsea's Myrtle Farm. "Several homes lost their electricity supply and a field below was set alight," it says.

Proof that aliens have landed and started burning and looting? No: but evidence of what happens when an umbrella gets "caught in a freak gust of wind and carried on to some power lines".

In the Lake District there was also a UFO scare over a "big object in the sky" with "flashing red, green and white lights". The Westmorland Gazette notes how confusing it is now that aliens use the same navigation lights as our own earthbound aircraft.

Before scoffing, though, heed the sensible words of veteran UFO-er John Lingley, 80, who saw his first in 1960 while living in Middlesex and then another while

Illustration: MIKE DAVIDSON



gardening in north London. He tells the Worcester Evening News: "Governments know what is going on but they are covering it up. It is my belief these things are made of pure consciousness and are able to appear as anything."

LEADER-POST, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada - Dec. 30, 1995

ILFORD RECORDER, Essex, England - Oct. 12, 1995

STRANGE SIGHTINGS

in the northern sky

The big-city astronomer says it's the planet Venus. Residents of Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories, say they know what Venus looks like, and this isn't it.



Photo illustration by DAVID LAURENCE

Defence department officials side with residents — those twinkling lights in the night sky probably aren't planets or stars.

By COLMAN JONES

The normally sleepy town of Fort Resolution in the Northwest Territories has become a mini-centre of attention after residents reported a series of bizarre objects — bright, flickering, multi-coloured lights punctuating the normally barren Arctic sky. Their reports have been greeted down south with predictable enthusiasm from UFO believers, skepticism from the astronomical community and bemused curiosity from the media.

This kind of attention isn't something this small settlement of native caribou trappers is used to. This quiet community sitting on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, 153 kilometres across the lake from Yellowknife, seems ambivalent about the sudden interest their sightings have generated.

What's more, they aren't convinced by the explanations being offered by academics thousands of miles away that what they're reporting are just optical illusions.

After some astronomers began debunking the sightings as nothing more than celestial bodies, some townspeople stopped talking about their experiences with outsiders altogether. "They'll tell everybody in town but they won't talk to anybody else about it," says Stan Hunter, the brother of Fort Resolution's mayor.

Scary ride

This latest bizarre entry in the annals of UFO reporting began on January 4, when citizens started describing an unusually bright light drifting westward through the sky between 5 and 8 pm each evening.

Perhaps the most striking incident took place when Robert Beaulieu, supervisor of a government-contracted highway maintenance crew, was on his way back home, 90 kilometres out of Fort Resolution. The details of his story were confirmed by three other residents I spoke to. Beaulieu recalls, "I saw a strange

light on a hill at 6:10 pm, and sat there and watched it. It kept changing colours."

The supervisor immediately called his brother in town on his mobile phone. "I had all my lights shut off when I was talking to him on the mobile, and as I turned on my two orange beacons on the cab of the truck, whatever that object was let out a big red flash and took off west."

On his way home, Beaulieu ran into a coworker, Arthur Sanderson, who was driving in the opposite direction. Sanderson, reached by NOW, corroborates Beaulieu's story, saying he saw the same lights.

"I noticed it was to the south, just sitting above the trees," Sanderson says, "and it wasn't moving at all — it stayed in one position, and it was just quiet, there was no noise or nothing. It was a big, bright red light and a white light, right beside one another. They would take turns, one would go bright and then die down and then the other. At the bottom of it were just blue lights flickering off and on moving in a circle."

Most interestingly, Sanderson reports, "After 15 minutes of watching it, I started to drive away, and all of a sudden it shot straight up into the sky, just a straight red streak in the sky and it was gone."

In one of the most unsettling of the incidents reported, two caribou trappers, Raymond Giroux and Colin King, were out on a frozen lake when they saw a bright object hovering over them.

King says, "I saw lights alongside of us in the sky. The first one we saw on the lake was pretty high, and then when we got onto the inland, it showed up alongside us just above the trees — just lights, no sound. It was moving back and forth, like it was checking us out."

Giroux and King, who insist they were sober, also reported unusual electrical disturbances, echoing many other such reports over the years. "It killed the engine of the skidoo. I had to change the spark plugs," Wilson says.

Professor Paul Delaney, head of

the astronomy program at York University, has told residents in Fort Resolution that what they have seen can be easily explained. His objections to the sightings start with a broad stroke of skepticism about the likelihood of interstellar travel.

"There are physical amounts of energy that are required to move physical amounts of mass — I

"I think there are legitimate fears from residents of Fort Resolution. I think they deserve to find out what it is."

Susan Gray, Canadian armed forces

don't care who you are — and to get them here and more or less play peekaboo with a pickup truck in the Northwest Territories doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me," he says.

Easy explanation

Delaney says he's plotted the position of the objects reported to him by the townspeople and concluded that the planet Venus and the star Sirius are the likely culprits of many of the sightings.

As to the multicoloured aspect of the sightings, Delaney points out that light, when it passes through the atmosphere at a sharp angle, undergoes what's called refraction, which causes a scintillation or twinkling effect akin to a prism.

"It's the result of white light being refracted by the different layers of the Earth's atmosphere, and that gets more intense as the object gets closer to the horizon. Depending on the degree of turbulence in the atmosphere, the white light can break up into red and blue lights and it does really flicker."

"Those apparent motions are related to terrestrial phenomena. A little bit of cloud flitting around the place, if it gets too close to the horizon, looks as if it's slipping in and around trees, which might be rustling in the distance."

The astronomy professor also

finds it suspicious that the lights are returning nightly. "If objects come up in the same basic position, night after night after night, and then descend towards the west or rise up from the east, that's a pretty good hint it's likely to be part of the sky."

Needless to say, Fort Resolution residents who have heard about Delaney's ideas aren't satisfied with his explanation.

Local resident Cecil Lafferty simply laughs. "I don't believe these guys," Lafferty says. "You have to be really here to see it. They could have seen it years ago (if it was a planet)."

In an interesting twist, members of the Canadian armed forces stationed in the area who received reports about the sightings are giving credence to the residents.

Commander Paul Leblanc, commander for the forces' northern region, actually took two of his staff and a Twin Otter plane equipped with video cameras one night to see what he could find out himself.

Alas, reports Leblanc, "nothing showed up that night. We came in at the same time as the period of time when the sightings were occurring on the four days previous."

Nevertheless, Leblanc took back a copy of a videotape of the night-time objects captured by a forces reservist. Leblanc says that "from the various discussions I've had with people, and from what we have seen on the video of the object taken by one of the witnesses, it couldn't have been a planet."

"(The Venus explanation) doesn't match the description of the people. Some of the descriptions said that the object is only about four kilometres away. Then, as the person moves closer, all of a sudden the object takes off and moves a distance further down the road. One of the individuals chased this thing for about 29 kilometres. I think the chances of mistaking a star for the object they have been describing would be relatively low."

"They have seen something — I'm sure they have. What that is is anybody's guess. It certainly would be something the military would like to have, because one of the individuals describes the object at one point as taking off straight up at great velocity."

Armed forces public affairs officer Susan Gray also sides more with the locals than with Delaney.

"I really don't know what it is," she says. "I think these are legitimate concerns and legitimate fears from local residents of Fort Resolution, and I think they deserve to find out what it is."

Videotaped images

What might have been just another brief UFO "flap" shows no signs of receding. In the last week, additional reports — some of them anonymous — have poured in from the surrounding area. On January 14, Beaulieu saw the object again, but this time he had a video camera by his side. He bubbles enthusiastically about the images he has on tape.

"My shot is better than the one the military had, which showed no colours or lights spinning in the sky. You see it where it even explodes into a big red flash. It was just above the treetops, and it was just sitting there, it was flashing bright white flashes, blue flashes, and whenever it was going to take off it let out a big red flash and it would be gone." NOW has asked for a copy of the videotape.

Michael Strainic, Canadian director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the largest and most respected UFO research organization, remains open to a wide range of interpretations.

"It could be any number of things," suggests Strainic, reached in Vancouver. "It might be astronomical phenomena, some sort of high-altitude military exercise or genuine UFOs, and it's all mixed up together."

WEST SUSSEX GAZETTE, Arundel, England - Aug. 3, 1995

A strange late night encounter with a UFO

A STRANGE encounter late at night amazed Mrs Helen Whitlock, of Hoe Lane, Binsted - a 6ft long craft, complete with light show, about 50ft above her garden.

"It was a hot night with no breeze and lots of stars, and I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

"The thing was grey, shaped like a cigar, more rounded than a rocket, with a very hazy, white, frothy band

around the middle, like you were watching it through a mist. There were two streams of red and green light coming from this band."

Mrs Whitlock was out with her dog when the phenomenon mesmerised her for ten or 15 minutes before vanishing into thin air.

"It wasn't like it disappeared from view behind anything. It just vanished. Naturally, I was amazed and couldn't sleep a wink for the rest of the night," she said.

Though the couple's dogs and horses seemed oblivious to the UFO, Mrs Whitlock was even more certain of what she had witnessed when her husband Robin visited the pond at the end of the garden the next morning.

In the middle of the couple's enclosed reed bed is now a 10ft circular patch of flat reeds, with no footprints in sight.

And the UFO sighting had her rooted to the spot for almost a

quarter of an hour has now prompted an excited scientist to send clods of earth from the garden to experts in the USA.

Ufologist Andy Thomas, of Lewes, was intrigued enough to inspect the site after he was called by an excited neighbour.

Mr Thomas, a researcher and writer on crop circles and UFOs, is now awaiting the results of soil samples being analysed by American scientists.

HARRGATE ADVERTISER, Yorkshire, England Nov. 3, 1995

UFO sighting

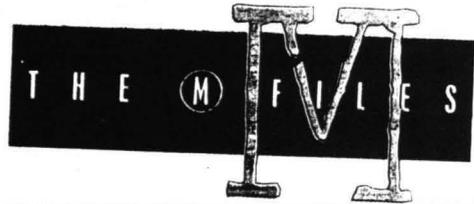
A DELEGATE attending the Town and House Planning conference in Harrogate reported a UFO sighting to police on Monday night.

The man, who was walking up Kings Road to his hotel at just before 8.30pm, claimed he saw a cigar-shaped object surrounded by hundreds of little dots of lights moving across the sky.

The man was adamant it was not a firework but DC Chris Nunn of Harrogate CID said no further action had been taken and that was the only reported sighting.

A spokesman for RAF Leeming said nothing unusual was spotted on their radar on Monday night.

He's the only one still alive



By: **ANDREA THOMPSON**



THE X-Files, cult TV series and inspiration behind The Mail's own investigation of the paranormal, uses the stunning forests and mountains ranges of Canada as an eerie background to the show's intriguing plots.

But the experiences of a Leicester man more than two decades ago suggest the country has its own rich source of strange phenomenon. John Bourton told the M-Files of a series of UFO encounters which

occurred while he was living in a ski lodge in the Alberta mountains in 1972.

He said: "The lodge was situated in a remote area, 15 miles from the nearest residence and 32 miles from the near-

est town, so there were no artificial lights cluttering the skyline."

The first suggestion of UFO activity began with a bright light which appeared at the top of the mountain.

"It was brilliant, much too bright to have come from a man-made source, and it did not look like sun, star or moon," John explained.

The light appeared in the same spot every

evening around 6.15pm, and John decided to investigate with a party from the lodge.

Only one man actually made it to the top, after the others were forced to return because of the altitude.

But an encounter on the ridge sent him tearing back down.

"He was so afraid, he was speechless for several hours," John said.

Life force

The incident was followed some weeks later by a host of UFOs which appeared along the mountain tops and in the valley below.

John compared the mountain lights to a group of people parading with torches.

"There were lights all along the ridge.

"Then we became aware of about 40 bright lights hovering in the valley below, but there was no sound."

The lights then moved into a V-formation and travelled up towards the mountains, going from left to right.

John said: "To this day, we do not know what it was. It had to be an amazing UFO, but what was it doing?"

John believes some alien life force may have been drawing energy from the iron ore in the region, but he was left with another puzzle - the reaction of his fellow witnesses.

"Everyone was totally non-committal about what we had seen.

"I got the impression one man had actually seen something out there, but he was too afraid to say anything."

Soon after the incident, the two other witnesses were killed in mysterious road accidents.

The ski lodge later burned down, and after the death of his wife, John remains the only living witness to the encounter.

Village goes UFO-crazy

A Sutton UFO Watchers' Group is being formed as a result of the shared experience of 70 people last weekend.

A crowd who took part in a sponsored UFO watch known as a "dweebie" to raise funds for Cowling Junior Football Club are convinced they saw an alien spacecraft.

"It was a bright white and blue light, far larger than a star, zig-zagging over a large area of sky faster than the eye could blink," says club leader Stephen Place, of Main Street, Sutton. "It

travelled in vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines over distances of very many miles and was observed continuously for 15 minutes by all present. Most were in a complete state of shock."

The crowd of 50 boys, 16 St John Ambulance members and 10 adult helpers who gathered on a bleak and windy hill top above Sutton had their close encounter around 2am on Monday. The new group plans to meet regularly at Crag Delph Nook, West Lane, Sutton.

M-file

LOCATION: Denham Close, Kirby Frith, Leicester.

DATELINE: 1993 - present day. Increased activity over the past two months.

SUBJECT: A paranormal entity.

REPORT: Sara Atkins believes she has been sharing her home with a paranormal entity since she moved there two years ago.

During that time she has heard strange noises and noticed moving objects, but nothing as dramatic as the recent string of incidents which she believes were sparked by her plans to move out.

Her dogs will not stay in the living room alone, and Sara says things became so terrifying last week, she was forced to run out of the house with her six-year-old daughter.

Paranormal activity, which usually occurs around 1am, includes violent crashing and banging, the sound of furniture being moved and someone sweeping the floor.

The stereo, television and taps turn on and off, and when Sara uses the phone she finds she has been put through to a different number.

Voices have been heard saying "Sssh", and there is a strong smell of gas, accompanied by an 'evil smell, as if something has died' under Sara's bed.

The entity has not yet manifested itself in form.

CONCLUSION: Case currently under investigation. M-Files to report any developments.

More UFOs spotted

A further report of unidentified flying objects has been passed to the *Times & Chronicle*.

A North Cave reader has kept a careful log of unexplained sightings since she first spotted strange lights in the night sky earlier this summer.

The woman began her UFO record in July, and now intends to pass on her list of sightings to members of a national association who are attempting to solve the mystery of UFOs.

"I noticed a strange yellow light in the sky late last July," revealed the woman this week.

"At first I thought it was an aircraft but there were no red and green navigation lights and no sound."

She said that on subsequent evenings she had seen unexplained objects in the sky in the North Cave area. None of the sightings she logged showed any apparent pattern.

She is convinced that none of the later sightings were high-flying aircraft.

To add to the mystery the woman recently saw two cone-shaped, luminous objects which emitted a low-pitched buzzing noise.

Eye-witnesses report more UFO sightings

PEOPLE from all around the Scarborough area have been contacting the Evening News to report sightings of strange lights in the area last week.

The witnesses have come forward after a woman reported seeing two lights flying near her home in Sleights, near Whitby, last Tuesday at 7.10pm.

She and her son watched the lights for a short time before they flew off at a fast speed towards the sea.

Her story was in Monday's Evening News and another witness says she saw an intense bright light hovering by Scarborough Castle at about 7.40pm the same night.

She said: "I was driving along North Bay Promenade when I noticed a small group of people stood looking up at the castle.

"When I looked I saw a light just hovering there - it was not a helicopter because it didn't make a sound and it didn't look like one."

Woman's new appeal over hovering UFOs

How we reported the story in Monday's Evening News

By the time she got round to the South Bay she could not see the light.

Another witness who saw a light at 7.30pm over Ravenscar said she was "amazed" by what she saw.

The woman, who had two children in the car at the time, said: "I had just dropped someone off and was heading home to Robin Hood's Bay when I saw what looked like a very bright star in the sky above Ravenscar.

"The light went off but came back on again a few moments later. We all saw it."

A man fishing between Goathland and Egton Bridge said he saw a silent bright light above the trees just a few hundred feet from where he sat.

The man, who describes himself as being a "UFO sceptic", says he was unnerved enough to pack up

his fishing gear immediately and go home.

Another woman says she saw a strange light above Reighton on the previous Sunday night and discounted the possibility it may have been a shooting star or a comet.

A Whitby-based UFO investigator for Quest International, which examines such sightings, says there has been increased activity over recent months for sightings of possible UFOs along the north east coast from Teesside to Bridlington.

Paul Upton said: "We have had lots of reports and one was made last Tuesday night by someone in Scarborough who saw a group of lights heading from the sea inland."

Mr Upton can be contacted on 01947 602089.

Did woman see UFO at Forest Town?

A WOMAN in Forest Town claims to have encountered a real-life X-File when she saw a UFO last week.

The woman, who has refused to be named for fear of ridicule, claims to have seen the UFO in Forest Town at 7.30am on Wednesday.

"It was just like you see them on the 'telly'," she told Chad this week.

The woman described it as circular with very bright lights around the middle and leaving a vapour trail."

Reported

Although she said it did not seem to be moving very fast, it appeared to be heading towards Mansfield Woodhouse.

"I was totally amazed to look up into the sky and see this object which I'm sure wasn't a helicopter or a plane.

"Then the thought struck me, 'Golly, I'm watching a UFO,'" she added.

She also claimed that other Forest Town residents had seen the UFO, but had not reported it.

Investigations

Mansfield Scientific UFO Research Association investigations co-ordinator Mark Hayward said: "Although we haven't actually had any reports of the incident, Forest Town is what we call a

'hot spot' and sightings are on the increase.

"She may have been mistaken, but people do generally know what they are looking at."

This latest report comes after a series of alleged UFO sightings in and around Mansfield.

Last week Chad reported on another case in the Mansfield/Shirebrook area which was featured on the national television show Schofield's Quest.

Anyone who thinks they may have experienced a UFO sighting can contact Mark Hayward on 01623 632622.

CHAD, Mansfield, England

Oct. 25, 1995

GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

Attleborough woman sees 'flying saucers'

A YOUNG woman thought she was going mad after witnessing what she thought to be UFOs in the night sky - but has come forward to tell her story after hearing about several other people's similar experiences in recent weeks.

The 22-year-old, from Attleborough, Nuneaton, contacted the *Evening News*, after reading about the reported UFO sightings in the area, but remains too embarrassed to be named because of 'what people will think of me'.

Reported

Royal Air Force trained, the woman kept her sighting a secret, but has since witnessed the phenomena with her boyfriend, and felt she had to contact us after hearing of other people's unexplained experiences.

She said: "I've seen it several times

By JOHN LINSTED

now, I thought I was going mad, but now my boyfriend has seen it and other people have reported it, I've got to say something.

"It looks like two white balls in the sky and I know every aircraft, all the flight patterns and the position of lights on planes from when I was in the RAF.

"You've got the Coventry, Birmingham and East Midland paths and it certainly doesn't follow any of these."

She went on to explain how the objects always appear to be over fields near the A5.

"We drove towards Horeston Grange and parked to see what it was, while it hovered in position. It was just past midnight so there wasn't that much traffic, but a lot of other drivers slowed down to look so I know I'm not the only one."

"I know there's a nightclub in Hinckley that makes laser patterns in the sky,

but I checked the next day and they weren't on that night.

"What looked like a red triangle came over to the same area and moved closer to the balls.

"A star in the sky appeared and got bigger, merged with the balls, the triangle moved away and then the balls shot off and disappeared, followed by the triangle."

The woman went on to say that there are no tail lights or anything that would make it a plane or helicopter.

"I just can't see how it's anything we could have made, I've seen it several times now, always just after midnight, once there were three of the red triangles involved.

"I know what everyone will think, but I hadn't even been drinking because I was driving."

If you have had a similar experience or have a rational explanation for this incident contact John Linstead at the *Heartland Evening News* on 01203 353534 with your comments or tales.

orange in colour with a small cockpit-style of object on the top and had a metallic glow."

He added that the two flying objects then joined together and moved swiftly out towards St Aubin's Bay.

Shocked

"I have never believed in UFOs, but both my girlfriend and I are extremely shocked by what we saw," said Mr Quinn, who is so concerned about the incident that he has reported it to the Ministry of Defence, the States police and the Air Traffic Control office.

Mr Quinn has also reported the incident to Quest International and Contact International, two UK organisations that investigate such reports.

Air traffic controller Richard Price confirmed that he had received the report from Mr Quinn and that inquiries were being made with West Drayton, the civil air control military base in Middlesex.

He said that a subsequent report would be submitted to the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Price said that nothing had been picked up on the Airport's radar this morning, although he himself had sighted a meteorite from the Airport airfield at around 5.30. However, it did not match up with the descriptions in the report.

The police confirmed that they had been advised of the sighting but are not pursuing it as it has been reported to the Ministry.

Anyone see a flying saucer this morning?

UFOs reported to Ministry

BY PAUL BRENNAN

A COUPLE who claim to have seen flying saucers in the sky above St Helier early this morning have reported the incident to the Ministry of Defence.

At around 6 am Christopher Quinn's girlfriend saw what she thought was a huge saucer-like spinning object hovering above La Collette power station near their home. Shortly afterwards, Mr Quinn himself saw two orange-coloured objects in the sky.

"The second two objects were the size of two large aircraft but appeared to be nothing like an aeroplane shape but flat, like saucers," he said. "They were peachy-

Our closest encounter?

A new book examining the scientific evidence for UFOs hails the famous Rendlesham Forest encounter 15 years ago as "the best UFO report." ANGELA HURREN spoke to its author to find out why he believes the Suffolk sighting was no hoax.

Fifteen years ago, a UFO was spotted in a Suffolk forest. Nothing too startling in that; hundreds of reports of space ships, alien landings and strange lights are made - and dismissed - every year. But something made this report stand out, and gave it more credence than the usual sightings, for this UFO was seen and confronted by several senior officers of the United States Air Force and the RAF.

The incident made the headlines, with several members of the public around East Anglia claiming they too had seen similar lights that night.

No one in an official position on either side of the Atlantic would reveal anything definite.

But since then, dramatic tape recordings allegedly made by panic-stricken American Servicemen at the time of the encounter, and reports from Col Charles Halt, then deputy commander at the twin air forces bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge, have come to light, bringing with them intriguing "evidence" of the Rendlesham Forest UFO mystery.

A book investigating the encounter was published and there was media speculation around the world, but still no official word other than to say that whatever had happened that night had posed no threat to Britain.

Edward Ashpole, author of a new book on UFOs, is fascinated by the story, and by the fact that military personnel who had been at Rendlesham at the time have been talking more openly about the incident in recent years.

"A lot of people have been starting to speak up about their experiences that night," he said.

"It's almost as if they have been given the go-ahead by their governments, because that would be the way to start breaking it slowly to the public."

So what did happen? According to Col Halt's memo to the Ministry of Defence, it all began at about 3am on December 27 1980 when three USAF patrolmen investigated brilliant lights just outside the east gate of the Woodbridge air base in Suffolk.

Leaving the base and entering the forest, the patrol discovered a highly luminous object, triangular in shape, about nine feet wide and six feet high,

'Halt and his men observed three star-like objects in the sky which moved "rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights ... the object to the south ... beamed down a stream of light.'

and seemingly metallic.

As the men approached, the UFO moved away through the forest and eventually took off and disappeared. An hour later it was reported again on the perimeter of the base.

All the UFO left behind that night were three depressions in the ground and some broken branches.

Three nights later, Col Halt was interrupted at dinner by the duty officer who told him that the UFO had returned. He assembled a team and led them into the forest to investigate.

What they saw seemed to amaze everyone present. Halt mentions a red sun-like light which moved and pulsed. It appeared to drip luminous particles. It broke into separate white objects which disappeared.

Halt and his men then observed three star-like objects in the sky which moved "rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights ... The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light

from time to time.

He later commented: "I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. None of us could. Here I am, a senior officer who routinely denies this sort of thing, and I am involved in the middle of something I cannot explain."

Several members of the patrols have since given interviews about that night, among them Jim Penniston who was in the first patrol to investigate the UFO.

He said the air had been filled with electricity as the patrol approached the object. "On the upper left side of the craft was an inscription. It measured six inches high, in symbols. They looked familiar but I couldn't ascertain why."

Mr Ashpole believes the men's reports have to be looked at seriously. He said: "Over-excited UFO believers might have so deceived themselves, but would patrols of experienced military personnel?"

"Halt had some 30 men in Rendlesham Forest investigating the second UFO event."

He says he is "excited" by the possibility of extraterrestrial contact and that it would answer "the most important question in science and philosophy: Is there life elsewhere in the universe?"

But he keeps his hopefulness in check

in his new book which takes a serious and scientific look at whether or not it is feasible there might be life elsewhere and if it would ever try to make contact with us.

He studies UFO reports from around the world, and tells what is being done to find out more about the subject.

He believes there are many reasons why we should drop any science fiction-type fears that the Earth will be invaded by extraterrestrials intent on colonising our planet.

The microbe-laden environment, lack of food to suit an alien, and the simple distance of Earth from any other possible life-supporting planets are all used to support his theory.

But he considers probes or robots sent from an intelligent lifeform in space are more possible and that this idea might explain some of the more credible UFO sightings.

In laboratories and universities in several countries, a project called SETI - the search for extraterrestrial intelligence - is now being carried out. The project is to search for extraterrestrial broadcasts transmitted across space.

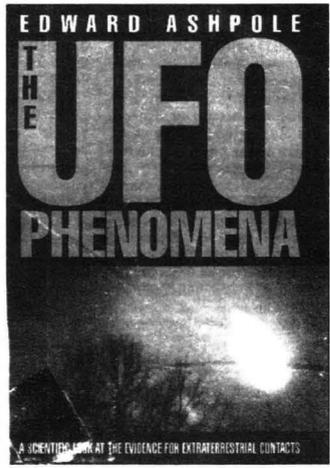
Mr Ashpole, himself a qualified science teacher and writer, has studied SETI since 1963.

He claims that while scientists are now giving support to SETI, they should also begin to use their expertise to solve the mystery of the UFO phenomena.

And he believes they could have learnt much from the Rendlesham Forest incident if a full scientific investigation of the site had been carried out at the time and had consequently been made public.

"I think that Rendlesham was probably just a probe," he said. "We cannot know what was there, but I feel we can say that it had come from outside the Earth."

■ *The UFO Phenomena, A Scientific Look At The Evidence For Extraterrestrial Contacts* by Edward Ashpole (Headline) is available from bookshops, priced £18.99.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER



AMAZING FOOTAGE: Glen Webster with the camcorder he used to capture the silent biscuit-shaped object over his Mile Cross home.

UFO mystery baffles city

NORWICH was today at the centre of a baffling UFO mystery over this spectacular picture which has gripped the nation.

The silent, biscuit-shaped object was captured by stunned Glen Webster on his camcorder in the sky above Mile Cross.

Experts are now examining the tape in a bid to discover exactly what 32-year-old Glen saw from his window.

The unemployed painter and decorator today revealed reading the Evening News prompted him to tell of his sighting.

The amazing film has surfaced just days after we told how motorist Nick Colman was tracked by a mysterious light near Aylsham.

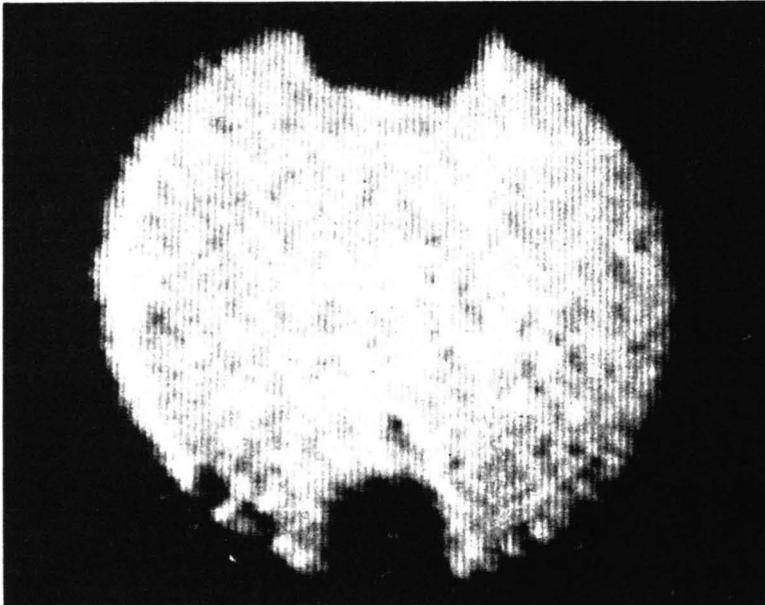
The sightings have reopened the UFO debate and left everyone wondering if there really is something out there.

Glen scrambled across his room to grab his camcorder and capture the mystery object, zig-zagging above his home.

He ran outside to get a better shot before it headed off towards Great Yarmouth. But he did not even look at it again until after he had filmed bonfire night celebrations.

Father-of-two Glen, of Appleyard Crescent, said: "If it hadn't been for the stories in the Evening News, I wouldn't have had the confidence to tell anyone about it."

"I had got the camcorder for bonfire night and it was only when I was showing the tape to my parents that they convinced



SPOOKY: the image captured by Glen Webster on his camcorder in the sky over Norwich. Experts say the UFO does not behave like anything they know about.

by GREG MILAM and STEVE SILK

me to tell someone," he said. "When I zoomed in on the shape I couldn't believe it. I moved forward and tripped over my hi-fi. It made no sound and I gasped when I saw it shoot towards the moon. "I have always been a bit sceptical about this type of

thing but this was simply amazing.

Wife Lesley said: "We have had loads of UFO investigators around here since it happened." The specialists noticed two smaller background objects which could also be UFOs.

The minute-long film shows a black object in three segments passing across the yellow axe-head shape. It spins rapidly before zooming into the night.

The film original, which has already been copyrighted, has been sent to UFO boffins.

Experts say it bears a striking similarity to a sighting in New Zealand in 1978.

Glen's sighting is being linked with two others on the same night revealed by the Evening News this week.

A man called Yarmouth police after seeing a strange spinning disc over Freethorpe

and computer engineer Mr Colman told how a bright light followed his car.

Expert Ian Simmons, British editor of the Fortean Times, which records strange phenomena, watched the video.

"The object does not behave like anything we know about. It is unidentifiable and this is a very interesting sighting."

STANDARD, Southend, England - Aug. 10, 1995

UFO sight puts police on alert

POLICE in Westcliff were mesmerised by an arresting sight on Friday night - a multi-coloured UFO.

Five officers, including a sergeant, watched it for an hour and the Essex police helicopter, already airborne, was even sent to investigate, but the crew saw nothing.

Barry King, of the Chelmsford branch of London UFO Studies, said the latest sighting comes amid a steady increase of reports this year.

Just after midnight on Friday Claire White of Norwich Close, Westcliff, got a call from a friend at Canvey about lights in the sky.

Claire, 22, who works in a photo lab and boyfriend David Jackson watched in disbelief and called police.

Claire said: "It looked like a shuttlecock - white with a red and yellow band

and blue sparking from the back. The yellow would sometimes change to green.

"I would move very slowly, then stop for ages. It was still there at 1.30am. I called my mother in Shoebury and she saw it too."

Claire snapped a way with her camera - the film just reveals white lights - and David, 29, drew a picture of it. One of the policemen at

the scene was Pc Geoff Howell from Rayleigh traffic, who

watched it through binoculars and was sure it was a solid object.

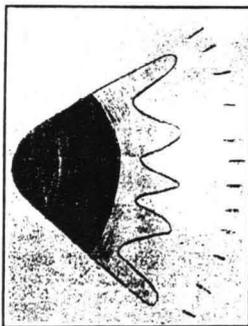
He said: "I've never seen anything like it before. It made no sound and I'm sure it wasn't an aircraft or a star - it was much bigger."

At lam the police helicopter, out looking for a boat in trouble, was asked to investigate but the crew saw nothing and suggested it was light

reflecting off a cloud. One possible explanation is a laser.

Mr King said: "At the moment we think either that or a natural phenomenon, such as a binary star, which can appear to give off other colours but we are still looking into it."

Southend Airport had no aircraft up after 11.15pm and nothing was picked up on radar. Checks with military sources and coastguards drew a blank.



SIGHTING: David's sketch

Aspel looks into strange world of the UFO

MICHAEL ASPEL moves us on from deep sea probes to deep space mysteries in the final edition of Strange But True? (Friday, 8.30pm, ITV) as he sifts evidence of visits to this planet by alien craft.

The programme concentrates on UFO sightings by perhaps the most credible class of witness - professional pilots.

The first half provides a potted history of UFO-spotting and includes interviews with serving airline pilots, some of whom say they were put under pressure at the time of sightings not to report what they saw.

The second half recreates the Kaikoura sightings in New Zealand, at an air force base where warrant officer Ian Uffindell noticed what he thought was a freighter hovering above the airfield and seemingly not intending to land.

The control room at Wellington was equally baffled by a second craft on the radar.

Over several days, the UFOs were spotted by pilots and on radar. A local TV news crew hitched a ride on a plane hoping to strike lucky - and did so.

The plane was allegedly pursued by a UFO, and the footage can be seen on the programme.

UFO is seen by mum in Taunton

A TAUNTON mum couldn't believe her eyes when she saw a UFO early on Sunday morning.

The woman, who doesn't want to be named, woke early because her daughter was crying.

"I took her back to my bedroom and while sitting on the bed saw flashing lights out of the window," said the woman, who lives on the Lane estate.

"I put on my glasses and saw an oval shaped object with lights around the middle hovering over the block of flats opposite.

"There were some people getting out of a taxi opposite the house and I noticed that they were also looking at this object. I am sure they must have seen this UFO as well."

"I went downstairs to get my husband, but when he looked out of the window it had gone."

The woman said she was always hearing of people who had seen ghosts or UFOs, or had something strange happen to them. "I just wished something like that would happen to me so I could believe it - and now I do," she said.

"Friends have been taking the mickey a little bit, and when the telephone rings my husband says it's ET - but I know what I saw."

She has reported her sighting to UFO expert Sue Hembury-Kellow, who recorded the sighting, but she said nobody else had reported seeing anything in the area at that time.

Was it a UFO?

Reports of alleged UFO sightings prompt me to write concerning a somewhat mysterious incident in 1979 or 1980, I cannot be more precise.

My wife and I were standing in her field at Marshbrook, near Church Stretton and happened to look up at a small jet aircraft similar to the Jet Provosts then in service with the RAF at Shawbury.

It was flying normally, if slowly, overhead, but then a strange thing happened. The plane stopped in mid air, and we heard the engine shut down!

It remained stationary for perhaps a minute, then we heard the jet start up and it flew off.

Many will say "so what", but I do know that such a manoeuvre by this type of aircraft is not possible. However we both saw it happen!

Furthermore, despite being trained in aircraft recognition, I could not identify it as any type in RAF or civilian use, although it was similar to a Jet Provost but slightly different in size and outline, like say a copy made from a drawing.

Whenever I have mentioned this event to people, they say we must have imagined it, or were drunk or it was a Harrier, but this was not the case.

There may be a logical and simple explanation for what we saw, if so I would be glad to hear it, if only to clear up the mystery, but the nagging doubts remains, was it a UFO?

Were there any other people who saw this plane which defied the rules of flight?

W. F. Kerswell
Church Stretton

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Wellington, England - Sept. 11, 1995

HYPNOTIC PAUL SENDS FOR UFO SPOTTING ROY

BY DEBBIE WAITE

A BARKING-based group of UFO spotters have been invited to appear alongside Hypnotic star Paul McKenna.

Roy Lake who is the Chairman of the London UFO Studies Group was thrilled to have his group's work recognised by the star hypnotist who invited them to appear on a special Paranormal episode of his show.

Roy said: "The group was formed in 1990 when we decided to sit up and take notice of the strange sightings over the area. Since that time there have been incidents where people have reported seeing strange craft in the sky."

Roy admits that there are still a great many sceptics who dismiss UFO enthusiasts as mad but said: "The increase in the number of people around the world who have sighted or have been abducted by aliens is beginning to convince more and more people that we are not the only race in the universe."

As Chairman of the London UFO Studies Group, Roy has had his own extra-terrestrial experiences, the first was in 1968 when he spotted a strange luminescent craft in the sky.

He said: "I was living in Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham and coming home from working nights one morning at about 6am I noticed a light glowing in the sky, it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, when I looked closer I saw a huge elongated craft, you could see through it, but it seemed to be solid."

Roy went into the house and told his wife before going to bed. Later his wife called him downstairs to watch the News - two policemen from Dorset were being interviewed after spotting a large see through craft in the sky over Dorset the night before."

The London UFO Studies Group claim that alien craft are regularly sighted over Dagenham and the surrounding area and they would like to speak to anyone who may have spotted anything unusual.

Roy Lake and his fellow UFO enthusiasts can be seen on the Paul McKenna Show next January. You can contact them at their headquarters at 10A Tudor Road, Barking, or by phoning 0181 594 4797.



● Roy Lake - an invitation to a TV special

THE SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland - Oct. 11, 1995

Call to release 'secret' MoD files on aliens

LYNN COCHRANE

THEY protested on the steps of the House of Commons demanding to have details of advanced intelligent beings. The Government assured them they had come to the wrong place.

Yesterday 20 UFO watchers carrying placards claimed that files on aliens in Britain were being kept secret by the Ministry of Defence. The protesters, members of Operation Right To Know, are calling for the documents to be released.

The group's UK co-ordinator, John Holman, said the Government had gathered extensive military reports of unexplained phenomena during the past 50 years. "We want to know what the military assessments are and what recommendations were made to government."

"We are not in a Cold War situation now, so why should UFOs be deemed a threat?" he asked.

Mr Holman said reports of a UFO landing close to a United States base near Woodbridge, Suffolk, 15 years ago had been withheld by the Government, but had surfaced in the US under the Freedom of Information Act. He said: "I am as sceptical as the next person, but when I see video tapes and I don't know that they are - they are not balloons and they are not aircraft - I want to know."

An MoD spokesman denied there were hidden files: "There is no question of us attempting to cover up any incidents, nor in trying to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public."

Philip Lambro from Los Angeles, a member of a group which wants to create an embassy for extra terrestrials, was

one of the protesters. "People have to understand there are advanced intelligent beings who are able to co-operate in a way which we on earth seem unable to do," he said.

An MoD official, Nick Pope, was appointed to investigate unexplained phenomena in 1991. He later stunned the department when he said he believed in UFOs. "I came into that job as an open-minded sceptic and I came out a believer."

But Mr Pope said he did not believe there was a Government cover-up. "I think perhaps the opposite is true, because of personal prejudice as soon as UFOs are mentioned, people dismiss the idea. That goes for everyone, officials included."

He added that files were not open to the public because, like most official documents, they cannot legally be released for 30 years.

Scots have had their fair share of close encounters. Three years ago, Gary Wood and his friend, Colin Wright, were driving on the deserted A70 near Edinburgh when they saw an alien craft hovering above them.

The pair said they blacked out for what appeared to be seconds but realised later that two hours had passed. Traumatized by his experience, Mr Wood underwent hypnosis during which he revealed that he had been abducted by strange creatures who carried out scientific experiments on him.

John Winchester, coastguard officer at Sullom Voe, said he saw what was thought was a UFO over Lerwick in 1992. The mystery object was travelling faster than a jet fighter and was glowing white and orange.

SUNDAY POST, Bangkok, Thailand - Dec. 31, 1995 CR: N. Oliver

Four planes spot UFOs in China

Associated Press, Beijing

FOUR airplanes flying over northeast China at around the same time spotted one or more UFOs, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The captain of a Northern Airlines flight from Harbin to Beijing radioed

in the first report at around 5:45 p.m. on December 4, the *News Report* said.

He saw "a white oval UFO traveling about 15 kilometres a minute" (900 kph) near his flight path, the newspaper said, citing a report from the Civil Aviation Administration's Northeast Aviation Centre.

He later reported that the UFO

"turned green and followed the airplane's flight path."

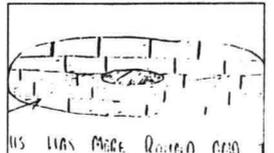
The captain of another civil airplane radioed in to report seeing the same thing.

"This strange phenomenon also occurred about the same time last year," the newspaper quoted the aviation centre as saying.

ILFORD RECORDER, Essex, England - Nov. 2, 1995

SOMETHING OUT THERE?

Simon Riches of Walthamstow witnessed a UFO sighting in broad daylight during August, and is now convinced there is something out there...



Says Mr Riches, 24: "I was cleaning my windows when suddenly I saw a very large, charcoal grey round object (pictured above) hovering in the sky, there was no sound. Then suddenly it disappeared before my very own eyes. I was frightened and amazed that I was privileged to witness this extraordinary sighting. And I have no idea to even attempt an explanation."

Mr Riches claims that the sighting lasted just six seconds before vanishing leaving him totally shocked. And he had never had an interest in the paranormal until this time.

"I have never seen anything like this before," he says.

"But I believe there is something out there after what I experienced."

If you have had a UFO experience and you want to report it contact: Roy Lake at London UFO Studies on 0181 270 9919. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

BUCKINGHAM ADVERTISER, Bucks., England - Oct. 13, 1995

Another strange sighting on the 'UFO corridor'

THEY'RE BACK

BY DEBORAH BOYCE

glow turned off towards Towcester.

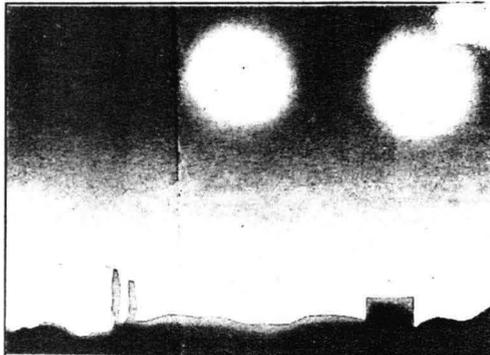
Her lorry driver husband also saw a panelled light heading over Cosgrove.

"He thought it was a helicopter about to crash because it was low and silent. But there were no navigation lights and it stayed at the same height," said his wife. "It had no definite shape."

"It wasn't a mirage or a figment of our imaginations."

"It was a UFO," declared Dr Richard Lawrence of the Aetherius Society. "The description rules out explanations such as meteors, satellites, weather balloons or marsh mists." The sighting came the night before a petition calling for the release of UFO information was presented to Parliament - so it may well have been 'trail blazing' space visitors backing the call, he said.

Dr John Morton, of Buckingham University, said what the couple saw may have been a confection known to scientists as the 'spectre of the Brocken' - when light falls through mist giving a weird effect. He plans to visit the scene to investigate further.



● Are aliens visiting the area? This mocked-up view of the sighting, by our photographer Jake McNulty, is based on eyewitness reports

HAVE YOU SEEN A 'UFO'? Ring our newsdesk on 01280 813434



Pentagon psychics tuned out

By DAVE SALTONSTALL
New York Daily News

John McMoneagle looks and sounds just like any other normal American: He lives in a two-bedroom house in suburban Virginia, he likes to fish and hike and he owns several cats.

But McMoneagle, it was revealed last week, also has a very paranormal side: Since the 1970s, he has been one of three psy-

chics employed by the U.S. State Department to help gather intelligence information, the CIA said last week.

"Unfortunately," McMoneagle said of his psychic missions, "most of them are extremely sensitive and I can't discuss them. But I can tell you that I did get a Legion of Merit for providing 150 pieces of information that were not attainable through any other source."

The Central Intelligence Agency announced last week that it had decided — after 20 years and \$20 million in tax dollars — that the use of psychics "has not been shown to have

value in intelligence operations" and "is not justified."

In so doing, the agency revealed for the first time that the U.S. government has paid psychics to do everything from find hostages in Italy and subs in Russia to secret tunnels in North Korea.

Most of the work was carried out by the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's counterpart to the CIA. The rest was done by the CIA itself.

In most cases, psychics were told of a specific person or project and asked to visualize their whereabouts — with some suc-

cess, at least according to McMoneagle.

The 49-year-old psychic said that in 1981, for instance, he was asked to pinpoint the location of Brig. Gen. James Dozier, who was kidnapped in Italy by the Red Brigades.

McMoneagle said he then named the city in Italy where the general was, sketched a detailed street map and talked about the building where he was being held. But just as this information was being transported to Italy, McMoneagle said, an informant told agents where the general was and he was rescued.

BOULDER WEEKLY, Boulder, CO - Jan. 4, 1996 CR: M. Quire

The face on

Mars

How the Masons, DIA

and crop circles

are linked in one

giant conspiracy

By Wayne Laugesen

CYDONIA — You heard it here first. face on Mars. Structural ruins and glass domes on the moon. Geometric shapes on the floor at Denver International Airport. Crop circles. The Masons.

All are somehow linked in a galactic phenomenon that's far more interesting than the accepted theories of mainstream planetary science, which constantly reveal that gas and dead gray matter are all that exist beyond the Earth's atmosphere. High-ranking officials in the government know about the artificial face on Mars, structures on the moon and so-on, but they're conspiring to keep the rest of us from knowing anything.

These aren't the weird conspiracy theories of a small group of under-educated, isolated individuals with way too much time on their hands. Rather, these are convictions shared by a large group of well-educated, well-connected people, perhaps with too much time on their hands. They write books and essays, have big public lectures and communicate constantly on talk radio and the Internet. Several sites on the World Wide Web are devoted entirely to the face on Mars.

Michael Corbin, who hosts a nationally syndicated radio show out of KHOW AM 630 in Denver, frequently devotes his entire show to discussing the face on Mars.

Hordes of callers are eager to believe that some intelligent form of life sculpted stuff on Mars so that Earthlings would someday discover it.

"There is a lot of noise out there that the government is conspiring to keep the truth from everyone regarding these theories," says Frank Crary, a University of Colorado research assistant in planetary science.

"It could have some serious ramifications if Congress starts getting a lot of letters and negative feedback that encourages cuts in science funding and NASA programs, because of some fear that the government is keeping information from the public."

Crary has looked objectively at evidence produced by people who think an ancient civilization built pyramids and

monuments on Mars. He remains unconvicted, and he frequently gets on the Internet in an effort to set people straight when they write with fascination about whatever book they just read, or lecture they attended, regarding structures on Mars or the moon.

Nature's features

Regarding the "face on Mars," Crary wrote last month: "A completely natural feature, that simply looks like a face, when seen from a certain angle at a certain time of day. The American southwest is full of similar things: Shiprock, in the Navajo nation, looks like a sailing ship, from the right angle; a rock in the Canyon de Chelly looks like Nixon's profile, from the right angle; etc."

And west of Durango, Colo., a range of

mountains resembles a giant sleeping Ute. Native American folklore says that the giant Ute will someday rise up to protect an Indian tribe from danger.

But Crary isn't battling some new craze in junk science or a colorful American myth. The face on Mars, no matter where one stands on the issue, isn't easily dismissed as paranoid psycho babble. It's in an array of pictures, taken from different angles, that NASA confirms were shot in July of 1976 by the Viking Orbiter 1. One of its biggest promoters is renowned science writer Richard Hoagland, a former consultant to NASA and CBS during Apollo space missions.

That's why more than 230 people packed the auditorium at Boulder Public Library in late December to listen for five straight hours, without a break, to Hoagland's theories about the face on Mars, structures on the moon, crop circles and geographic shapes on the floors of DIA. His lecture was the keynote address that kicked off the annual winter solstice celebration at the library.

Much of Hoagland's research centers on a small region on Mars that scientists call Cydonia. In Cydonia is the so-called face and a number of other features one can interpret as structures or geologic desert formations. Hoagland and those who agree with him see the structures as the ruins of a former city that included

(continued on page 18)

pyramids, a fortress, a cliff and the "sculpted" face.

Throughout Hoagland's lecture, people in the room reacted with fascination and agreement as he presented hundreds of NASA slides he said the public was never supposed to see. He claims that photos from various space missions have been smuggled to him by NASA scientists who want the truth to be known. He argued with conviction that the Apollo 13 mission, in which three astronauts almost died after an onboard explosion, was sabotaged by someone in the government who didn't want the astronauts to get photos of structures on the moon.

But Crary and other face-on-Mars skeptics say Hoagland is now considered a joke by most at NASA. One critic of Hoagland suggested that scientists leak him doctored photos just to egg him on and laugh at him.

Mars smiley face

Another Hoagland critic created a face-on-Mars site on the World Wide Web to poke fun at those who believe the face was sculpted by intelligent life. It features the "Infamous Mars Smiley Face," a series of formations that, with a little imagination, create the popular '70s symbol of a circle with two eyes and a smiling mouth.

"It sounds as if Mr. Hoagland has become even more eccentric than he was when I heard him speak four or five years ago," Crary says. "Back then he wasn't saying anything about structures on the moon, and focused primarily on the so-called face-on-Mars and other geologic formations that he thought were structures."

Crary heard Hoagland speak at the University of California at Berkeley to a gathering of planetary science students, and Crary says the crowd was mostly hostile toward Hoagland's theories.

"Some in the scientific community just think he's a kook," Crary says. "Others think he's just totally out there on a limb. Others think he's just found a good thing, a niche that helps him make money selling books and giving lectures."

Michael Malin, president and chief scientist for Malin Space Science Systems, agrees with the latter, saying the face on Mars has spawned one of America's more substantial "cottage industries," in which people make money selling books, T-shirts, mugs and anything else on which the face can be printed. On the Internet, face-on-Mars enthusiasts are tossing around the idea of a campaign for a U.S. postage stamp that would feature the face on Mars. Move over Elvis: no these people are serious and the face on Mars has never been accused of drug addiction.

"The basic premise of these people is that the features are artificial and are messages to us from alien beings," Malin wrote after conducting a study about the possibility of NASA taking more pictures of Cydonia. "Their tack is to say, 'these should be rephotographed by Mars Global Surveyor, since with high resolution we

should be able to prove that they are artificial. If they are in fact artificial, this would rank as one of the greatest discoveries in history and thus every effort should be made to acquire images.'"

NASA's orbiter

The Mars Global Surveyor Orbiter Camera, which Malin's company is building, is expected to be launched by NASA sometime this year. NASA has no plans to use it to get new photographs of the face.

Malin says there is no substantial "accepted" science that indicates the face is anything other than a naturally occurring geological formation, and therefore significant resources should not be wasted on rephotographing it.

Besides, Malin writes, the Mars Global Orbiter is not designed to photograph specific locations, such as formations in Cydonia. "Nothing can be done about the orbit spacing or the pointing control or the width of the MOC field of view. Thus, hitting anything as small as a specific 3 km piece of the planet is going to be very difficult," he writes. "This discussion doesn't address the variability of the Martian atmosphere, which is very dynamic. Given the occurrence of dust storms during some seasons, and polar clouds during others, there is no guarantee that, even when the spacecraft flies over a specific area, the ground will actually be visible."

Danny Hashimoto, who helped promote the Hoagland speech, says skepticism about Hoagland's theories comes only from mainstream science, which is influenced and funded by the federal government. Unlike independent science, Hashimoto says, federally funded science is tainted by agendas other than unbridled discovery and dissemination of truth. And for that reason, he says, no efforts are being made by the government to learn the truth about the face on Mars.

"After listening to Richard Hoagland in Boulder, people's heads were spinning," says Hashimoto, the president of Boulder Patriots. "After sitting for five hours, 20 to 30 people stayed around for a question-and-answer session. The great thing about Richard Hoagland is that he backs all of his theories with facts. Unlike a lot of theories I hear, his are founded in science and fact."

Hashimoto says skeptics who claim that the face is just like geologic formations on Earth have not studied it enough. "You find some natural formations on Earth that resemble humans or man-made structures, but only if you look at them from a very specific angle," Hashimoto

Using math, geometry

Hashimoto says skeptics who claim that the face is just like geologic formations on Earth have not studied it enough.

"You find some natural formations on Earth that resemble humans or man-made structures, but only if you look at them from a very specific angle," Hashimoto

says. "The face on Mars is a face no matter what angle you view it from. It's a face when you look at it from the side, it's a face when you view it from the top."

When listening to Hoagland, it becomes apparent that he is well-versed in math and science. He uses an array of mathematical equations and geometric overlays to make a case that formations photographed on Mars are artificial structures set up in meaningful geometric configurations that match configurations

found on Earth when one places the same overlays on crop circles, the Egyptian pyramids and other notable landmarks. He argues that many of the structures consist of nearly perfect 90-degree angles, and are similar to man-made pyramids on Earth. Hoagland suspects the geometric shapes are some form of ancient communication that is still used, perhaps by extraterrestrials. He suspects that some on Earth know how to interpret the communication, and he specifically indicts high-ranking members in the Masons, a huge fraternal organization with well-kept secrets. Hoagland says many of the geometric overlays that fit around structures in Cydonia match angular symbols used by Masons. The Mason symbols also look suspiciously similar to geometric designs often found in unexplained crop circles in Europe.

"Imagine my surprise when I got out of a plane at DIA and saw this," Hoagland told his Boulder audience, showing them a slide projection of the floor at DIA. Designs in the floor tiles, it turns out, are similar to those used by Masons, found in crop circles and in the geometric overlays Hoagland says fit perfectly over the structures on Mars.

Hoagland doesn't claim to understand the full conspiracy, but suggests the Masons know something the rest of us don't about an ancient civilization on Mars that still communicates with us through crop circles and landmarks on the red planet.

Although he wants to debunk everything Hoagland says, Crary, of CU's planetary science department, will not dismiss the fact that life may have existed on Mars some 4 billion years ago.

Hoagland doesn't claim to understand the full conspiracy, but suggests the Masons know something the rest of us don't about an ancient civilization on Mars that still communicates with us through crop circles and landmarks on the red planet.

Life on Mars

"There are a few long-shot possibilities that life existed on Mars," Crary says.

"Three and a half to four billion years ago Mars was much warmer and wetter than it is today. And the timing of that climate is on par with the timeline of when life was starting to evolve on Earth. But given the time in history that we're talking about, if there was life on Mars we're probably talk-

ing about bacteria."

For about two-thirds of his Boulder lecture, Hoagland held the interest of even the most skeptical members of this audience. During that time he explained the angles of Mars formations/structures, and showed an array of unexplained phenomena on Earth that have similar geometry. He had slides of dozens of unexplained crop circles that occur annually in rural Europe. He effectively debunked a popular belief that crop circles are a man-made hoax carried out by

two drunks who hang out at an English pub. Several years ago two men went public to take responsibility for crop circles, saying they create them at night by smashing patterns in fields with wooden boards.

Hoagland used an investiga-

tive report by ABC's 20/20 to help discredit the men. Hoagland and 20/20 made a solid case that the crop circles are too large and too complex to be the overnight work of a few humans, drunk or sober. They interviewed friends of the men, who said their buddies just wanted some publicity. And, they pointed out, no one has ever been caught making a single crop circle.

But a few skeptics in the audience expressed polite disbelief at the later third of Hoagland's presentation, which focused on his theories about the moon. Hoagland used hundreds of NASA slides in an effort to prove that some ancient civilization built massive glass domes on the moon, and that American astronauts have explored them inside and out. He argued that one picture of a Lunar Entry Module, taken just before the craft landed on the moon, showed that the vehicle had entered through a large hole in a huge glass dome that was, at best, difficult to see.

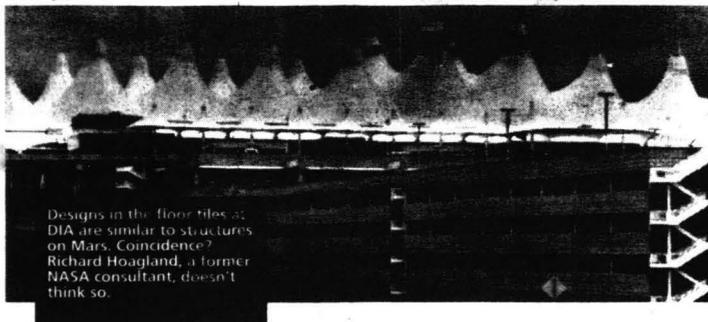
Hoagland pointed to various specks on the dark backgrounds of moon photos, claiming they are evidence of structures and domes. With a laser pointer he tried to convince people that some specks are in patterns that indicate partially demolished support beams. A reflection of light on an astronaut's helmet shield is supposedly evidence of another structure NASA doesn't want people to know about. Without hearing Hoagland, most would dismiss the specks as mere photographic static, similar to what one gets with bad TV reception. Hoagland swears that when viewed with the right spectrum of light, the domes and structures appear more vividly.

Even some of Hoagland's biggest fans, such as Corbin of KHOW, have a hard time with Hoagland's moon structures.

"I'm really not that interested in his moon theories," Corbin says. "I'm a bit more skeptical of that. But the face on Mars is a serious scientific enigma that has yet to be conclusively explained. I strongly suspect that we will eventually find that it is man-made, or at least artificial. It is something that needs to be looked at and it is a serious dereliction on the part of the government not to dedicate more resources to investigating it."



Richard Hoagland presented his conspiracy theory to a sold-out Boulder audience in December.



Designs in the floor tiles at DIA are similar to structures on Mars. Coincidence? Richard Hoagland, a former NASA consultant, doesn't think so.

If Bigfoot's finally found, should it be killed in the name of science?

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WALLA WALLA — Gordon Krantz, anthropology professor at Washington State University, has touched off a controversy in Bigfoot circles by advocating that a specimen should be hunted down and killed.

"Someday down the line, 50 years from now, somebody by the rare chance might just stumble across the skeleton of a Sasquatch,

and then the government sends out masses of (chimpanzee researcher) Jane Goodall's granddaughters, and establishes definitely, they were there, but they're extinct," Krantz said. "Everybody will be standing around wringing their hands saying: 'If only we knew they were real, we could have saved them.'"

"Well, they could have been saved if only we would blow one away now. The first one who bags

one should get a big, big prize. The second one should be hanged."

One opponent of Krantz's view is Peter Byrne, director of the Bigfoot Research Project at Oregon's Mount Hood. Byrne a big-game hunter, undertook the first major organized Bigfoot expedition in Oregon in 1960. It failed to produce a Sasquatch, but Byrne hasn't quit looking.

He now spends much of his time

tracking down witnesses, investigating their stories for holes, sending investigators to look for corroborating evidence, then entering the results in a computer database. So far, 103 sightings going back 50 years — none of them outside the Northwest — have been deemed credible by the four-member team working on Mount Hood.

All told, Byrne figures he has spent 16 of the last 35 years looking for Bigfoot. He still has never seen one, although he once heard that shrieking cry in the forest.

"It was a kind of screaming roar. Very, very powerful," he said. "It lasted about five seconds, there was an interruption of four or five seconds, then it happened again. I've

heard elephants. I've heard tigers. I've never heard anything like this."

Whatever is finally found in the woods, Byrne said, shouldn't be shot.

"There are those people who say: 'Shoot one, cut off the head and send it to me, it's all over.' We realize that could be the answer. But these things have never harmed anyone, and they've never demonstrated any kind of aggression, and we feel that any attempt to shoot one would be criminal," Byrne said.

"As one schoolboy said to me, 'Suppose it's the last one?'"



GREG LEHMAN/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

Paul Freeman and his evidence of Bigfoot: twisted branches and a footprint cast.

Legend or big, hairy beast, Bigfoot is back

'Sighting,' testing but part of Sasquatch resurgence

By KIM MURPHY
Los Angeles Times

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Stories have always been told about things that happened along old Mill Creek Road, the trail of bumps and switchbacks that winds from the farms of southeastern Washington to the hushed and empty ranges of the Blue Mountains.

The large, humanlike footprints found along the creek. The sounds heard late at night outside the lonely cabins on the

upper end of the road. The man who was riding his motorcycle and saw something in the brush, 10 or 12 feet tall, that made a weird, high-pitched scream.

As far back as the 1920s, there were reports of a family of huge "man-creatures" skulking up near homesteads along the Coppee River nearby. As long as anyone remembers, it has been an item of belief for many here that Bigfoot walks the Blue Mountains.

"Up north here, we grew up with this thing. People would say, 'Look out for the wild man.' Man, how can you doubt it when you still got diapers on and they got a picture of you pointing at a

Bigfoot track?" said Wes Sumerlin, a Walla Walla mountain man whose alleged sighting of two apelike creatures about seven miles off Mill Creek Road last summer has led to hopes of the first scientific evidence of the legend.

Sumerlin and two colleagues came back with clumps of hair that Ohio State University researchers are testing for DNA comparisons. The tests, said Oregon primate zoologist Henner Fahrenbach, "could legitimize, to my mind at least, the sightings, the footprints, everything. It would put one item of concrete evidence behind all the circumstantial

evidence."

From Northern California to the dense forests of British Columbia, the legends of Sasquatch have been handed down over hundreds of years, a Northwest version of the fearsome fable — from the Grendel of Beowulf to the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas — that is as old as the forest and the night.

Now, years after much of the forest has given way to suburbs, talk of the Sasquatch is in resurgence all over the Northwest, a cultural phenomenon that is at least as remarkable as any scientific evidence uncovered in the DNA labs.

Mainstream scientists have scoffed at reports of a man-ape lurking in the forests of the Northwest, something akin to the great apes that dwell in East Asia approximately half a million years ago. Not only is it unlikely that one wouldn't have been seen and clearly photographed by now, but it would be difficult for so large an animal to find adequate food in the wildlands that remain, they say.

"As an evolutionist, I'd love to see the thing. But to my knowledge, most of the time when these things are finally traced down, they prove to be hoaxes of one type or another, or they never finalize them into any resolution," said Daris Swindler, professor emeritus of physical anthropology at the University of Washington.

On the other side are a handful of anthropologists, zoologists and others who say that it is possible that the great apes could have crossed the Bering Sea along the ancient ice passage into North America — and survived by cunning, brawn and shyness in the huge tracts of forests in the Northwest. The mountain gorilla, for centuries the subject of wild tales among native Africans, wasn't officially discovered by European scientists until the 1840s, they note.

"We have an enormous amount of circumstantial evidence. We have footprints by the tens of thousands. . . . I have a giant footprint that is 22 inches. And they go bigger than that. The second thing we have is sightings, and they number in the thousands. They're from people in all walks of life, from game wardens to loggers, plain old grandmas, police officers with 20,000-candlepower searchlights," said Fahrenbach, who teaches a course on Bigfoot science at Portland Community College.

Gordon Krantz, anthropology professor at Washington State University, estimates there have been a quarter of a million Bigfoot "events" over the past 40 years. He said he has tracked nearly identical reports from the Northwest into western China and the former Soviet Central Asia, supporting his theory that the ancient gigantopithecus — the greatest ape that ever lived, some 8 or 9 feet tall — did not die off in Asia 400,000 years ago but crossed over into North America, and survived in small numbers.

Walla Walla's Bigfoot story in August started with some youths who said they had heard screaming sounds up in the mountains. A rancher said all his cattle had

FROM FOOTPRINTS TO UFO SIGHTINGS

Height: 6 feet 11 inches tall with a slightly stooped back, a humanlike face and brown or black hair.

Weight: 500 to 2,500 pounds.

Species: Either a primitive man or a gigantopithecus, a large primate, which, according to most scientists, vanished from the Earth more than 300,000 years ago.

Habitat: Has been spotted in nearly every state but is seen most frequently in the Northwest.

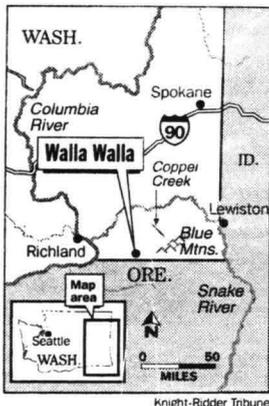
Habits: Nocturnal and omnivorous, but doesn't eat roots unless they are washed.

Range: May migrate north, from California and Oregon, to British Columbia just before the hot months of summer.

Distinguishing characteristics: Smells awful. Bigfoot's stench has been pegged somewhere between that of an unperfumed human and a dead skunk. Often emits a high-pitched scream that is inaudible to humans but scary enough to make animals quiver with fear. May cover its tracks.

Bigfoot through the years

- 1924 — The modern Sasquatch legend is born when five miners report that their Kelso, Wash., cabin was attacked by giant apes. The creatures pounded on the structure, the miners said, threw rocks at them and, at one point, a hairy arm reached in through a chink in the walls. The miners said that the creatures probably attacked because, hours before, one miner had shot at a Sasquatch, causing it to tumble over a precipice.
- 1967 — Sasquatch stars in a movie. Bigfoot researcher Roger Patterson shoots a brief, vivid film of a gorillalike female on California's Bluff Creek. The footage becomes the subject of worldwide controversy. Visiting Portland for a screening, Patterson intones, "We didn't want to shoot her. She was just too human."
- 1982 — Self-proclaimed Bigfoot "atheist" Paul Freeman becomes a believer. Freeman, on patrol for the U.S. Forest Service, reports seeing a brown-haired giant step toward him in the Blue Mountains. He says, "The hair on its neck and head just went forward like the hair will on a dog's back," and he will not recant



Knieht-Ridder Tribune

his story. In 1983, after being constantly ridiculed, Freeman resigns from the Forest Service. "I know what I saw," he says, "and I'm not going to change my mind on it."

- 1982 — Rant Mullen, 86, reveals that he has spent a lifetime creating false Bigfoot tracks. Mullen, a retired logger, explains that he has whittled several sets of large "feet" out of green alder. "I have to laugh," he says. "All these experts are saying, 'The prints show Bigfoot was 900 pounds.' These higher-educated guys are dumber than anybody. . . . Anybody who'd believe in that Bigfoot stuff'd have to be pretty . . . hollow between the ears."
- 1991 — Bigfoot branches out. For the first time in its 141-year history, The Oregonian reports that Bigfoot has been sighted — in a UFO. An anonymous Oregon woman claims that, while washing her dishes, she saw a flying saucer beaming white light on her lawn. It stopped, hovering, and out stepped two beings — a slight man dressed all in silver, and then a mammoth, broad-shoulder fellow that looked like a gorilla.
- 1992 — The legend continues as a Seattle secretary, Katie Martin, tells a tabloid, The Weekly World News, that Bigfoot sired her 4-year-old, furry-faced son. The couple communicated "through some sort of telepathic link," Martin said. Bigfoot brought her flowers, berries and fresh fish while she camped. And then? "I really don't want to get into that," Martin said.

— Bill Donahue

highlands. Then, Sumerlin said, he got "a whiff of something."

"Smelled like somebody skinning muskrats. And then I thought, '... There ain't nobody skinning muskrats up here.'" Freeman had gone ahead, but Sumerlin called Laughery back.

"I stood there just a second or two, and all of a sudden I smelled it: a real pungent, heavy odor like an animal that's in rut. Like you can smell a bull elk or a buck deer," Laughery said. The two men were interviewed separately but gave identical accounts.

Sumerlin and Laughery said they moved together into a clearing, where they found a number of small trees twisted and broken, so fresh they were still dripping sap. There were large clumps of long hair, some black, some dark brown, caught on the trees where they were broken.

Laughery started to walk on when Sumerlin said he saw something moving in the trees.

"I was looking at the back of the critter, I was just seeing part of it. But he was looking on the other side, and he was getting a good look at it. But basically we saw the same thing. It was a big, hairy critter, about 7 foot tall, I'd say, covered with hair."

Laughery and Sumerlin said they believe that there were actually two creatures, one that moved down the canyon, another that headed down a small trail. They both saw the big one jump the trail, 15 feet in one leap, and they got a better look at it. They followed it 60 to 70 yards through ferns and low bushes.

At about that time, they said, Freeman came running up and kept moving toward the car. "Paul said, 'Let's get out of here,'" Sumerlin said. But the three of them sat down, quietly.

"We sat down three or four minutes and started hearing that brush snapping," Sumerlin said. "We heard a snip, and then we heard another snip, and every time we heard a snip, we'd point. We didn't say nothing. And pretty soon we got up and went over there and we could hear it breathing. Just a real heavy breathing."

From far down in the canyon, they said, there was a whistle. And then a grunt, and a crash of bushes, and whatever it was was gone.

Their story has been discounted by some Bigfoot investigators because it involves Freeman, who is believed to have faked some Bigfoot evidence in the past. But Sumerlin and Laughery said they know all the stories about Freeman and he

could not have faked what they saw.

Sumerlin has a good reputation in the Blue Mountains, even among skeptics.

Hair samples the trio collected finally will tell the tale, Sumerlin and others believe.

Paul Fuerst, associate professor of molecular genetics at Ohio State University, said technical problems have delayed completion of the tests until at least the end of this month. Fuerst said the tests, if they can be completed, "will either show that it was something we know, a bear or a squirrel, or they will show whether it is in fact an unknown species."

Either way, the local cottage industry that the Bigfoot stories have spawned is unlikely to go away. Several books explore Bigfoot lore, including David George Gordon's "Field Guide to the Sasquatch," published by Sasquatch Books. Two groups, the Western Bigfoot Society in Portland, Ore., and the Parkdale, Ore.-based Bigfoot Research Project, study the phenomenon and have home pages on the World Wide Web.

And, for \$50 to \$100, true believers can take full-day tours to various forests where there have been recent Bigfoot sightings, guided by Sasquatch Eco-tours of Portland.

come down off Biscuit Ridge, where the good grazing was, and gone over to Black Snake Ridge, where there was much less to eat.

The rancher talked to Sumerlin. "I said, 'What about the deer, the elk?' He said, 'I haven't seen any of 'em for about a week.' He said, '... There aren't even any birds up there.' There ain't nothing but sticks around when those critters are there," Sumerlin said.

He talked to Paul Freeman, who has spent much of the last several years looking for Bigfoot, and Bill Laughery, a former game warden.

They hiked in off the main road and started climbing into the



A clump of hair that Ohio State University researchers are to test for DNA comparisons.

GREG LEHMAN/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

A Monster On Loose? Or Is It Fantasy?

By MIREYA NAVARRO

CANÓVANAS, P.R. — Madelyne Tolentino says it jumped like a kangaroo and smelled like sulfur. Luis Guadalupe swears it was as ugly as a demon and flew through the air as he and his brother-in-law fled for dear life. Two dozen other people here say they have seen it, a vampire-like predator that they say killed scores of animals.

"It was about four or five feet tall and had huge elongated red eyes," said Mr. Guadalupe, a 29-year-old construction worker in this town of 40,000 people about 20 miles east of San Juan. "A pointy, long tongue came in and out of his mouth. It was gray but his back changed colors. It was a monster."

Puerto Rico is abuzz with tales of the mysterious goat-sucker, or "chupacabras," named after the first animals that were reported to have been bitten and drained of blood last year. Since then, owners say hundreds of sheep, rabbits, chickens, cats and dogs have died in a similar manner, sometimes even when inside locked cages that seem undisturbed.

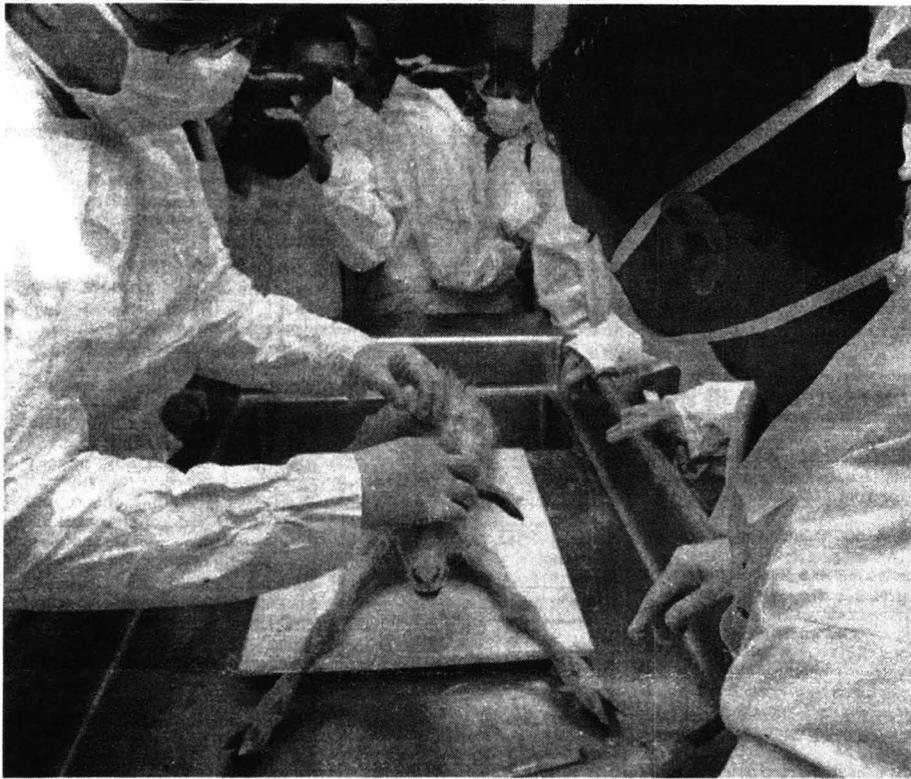
Most government authorities chalk up the reports to hysteria or mischief, and to quell the talk they had government veterinarians autopsy 20 presumed victims, including one autopsy in front of a dozen journalists.

Dr. Héctor J. García, head of the Agriculture Department's veterinary services, was skeptical, to say the least. Dr. García said that a study was under way but that so far the autopsies showed a variety of causes of death, including parasites. The animals that suffered bites, he said, more likely fell prey to the feral dogs that populate certain forests and rural areas. University zoologists also looking for answers suspect a rhesus monkey from those that were imported to Puerto Rico for scientific tests.

All the dead animals, Dr. García emphasized, had the expected amount of blood in them.

"We can speculate forever," he said, "but I haven't found anything that would make me doubt that we're searching for something that we can define. Those famous fangs that suck blood I've yet to see. Maybe the result of all this is to expose the need for better control of stray dogs and animals."

As "eyewitnesses" draw sketches and scientists dissect sheep, the chupacabras has both alarmed and amused this United States commonwealth of 3.7 million people, inspiring theories, satire and T-shirts. Owners are bringing their pets indoors, some worried tourists have called newspapers to check whether it is all right to



John McConico for The New York Times

Dr. Héctor J. García, left, and Dr. David Morales performing an autopsy recently on a sheep. Some say a red-eyed vampire-like predator is killing animals in Canóvanas, P.R. Others blame hysteria or mischief.

'It was a monster,' insists Luis Guadalupe, who fled for dear life.

visit the island and armed volunteers have tried to capture the creature with caged goats as bait. Skeptics note that Puerto Ricans seem to have suffered almost cyclically from collective bouts of fear set off by sensationalist press accounts, as with the "Vampire of Moca," which was blamed for the sudden death of cows in the 1970's.

Some attribute the recent animal deaths to anything from an exotic animal let loose on the island to an alien drawn here by the Arecibo Observatory, the world's largest radio-radar telescope, in the northwestern part of the island.

Many others suspect the human hand, either a copycat or people involved in bloody rituals.

But those who say they have seen the chupacabras, and their believers, are indignant.

"These are people from rural areas who know what animals look like," said Ismael Aguayo, a member of the rescue unit of Canóvanas's municipal Civil Defense, who now spends half his time responding to chupacabras calls. "Those calling

are serious people. Some have been so affected that they have had to be taken to the hospital."

The callers include Ms. Tolentino, 31, who said she stared at the chupacabras as it jumped like a kangaroo down a Canóvanas street and paused by her window last August, then again earlier this month between two roadside trees. She said it exuded such a sulfurlike stench that her 1½-year-old son, who was in the car with her during the second sighting, was still coughing from it.

Others have likened the creature to a tiger or a monkey, most as half-animal and half-human with huge bulging red eyes, short arms that end in claws, spikes down its back and an ability to fly. Searchers have lifted footprints that look like those of a large ape.

Monster stories aside, the economic loss has been real for those like Francisco F. Monge, 44, a Canóvanas construction worker who lost five sheep worth about \$500. Mr. Monge, who said all five showed the trademark neck perforations, said he had raised animals since he was 9 and found the deaths highly unusual.

"Dogs have never attacked my animals," he said.

The chupacabras believers have found a champion in the Mayor of Canóvanas, José Soto, a former police detective who has led search parties of more than 200 people through thick mountain foliage.

Mr. Soto, who goes by the nickname Chemo, but is now being called

"Chemo Jones" for his Indiana Jones-like exploits, said he has had no choice but to take fears about the Chupacabras seriously, even though he was not exactly sure what he was looking for. More than 100 animals have died in his jurisdiction, creating mass hysteria, he said.

The Mayor's pleas to government agencies for help with the hunting efforts have been largely ignored. Gov. Pedro Rosselló has wished him luck and the police Superintendent, Pedro Toledo, has refused to get his troops involved. And so the Mayor, who is up for re-election this year, is busy planning a cone-shaped trap.

"Whatever it is, it's highly intelligent," he said. "Today it is attacking animals, but tomorrow it may attack people."

Johnny Colón, the Governor's public safety adviser, said the government was keeping abreast of the reports, but "we feel that the situation is not one that merits alarm by the general public or visitors to the island." But some elected officials say the government, after almost a year of reports about chupacabras, should show more interest.

"These killings are strange and must be evaluated," said Juan E. López, a member of the commonwealth's House of Representatives who heads a legislative commission on agriculture and who is seeking authorization from legislators to begin an investigation that would track the deaths and quantify losses to farmers. "This is no joke."

GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC - Jan. 27, 1996

CR: G. Fawcett

Chinese man dies on Bigfoot hunt

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese investigator has died while searching for "Bigfoot" in a remote area of northern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday.

Yu Gong's death in a traffic accident was the most recent in a series of setbacks for Chinese researchers hoping to prove that the legendary creature exists, Xinhua said.

Chinese news agencies reported plans for elaborate Bigfoot hunts using sophisticated methods.

Yu had been hunting for Bigfoot for over 10 years, often hiding in the forest at night. His efforts yielded hairs, footprints, feces and nests said to belong to the fabled creature.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR

- Feb. 11, 1996

Noteworthy deaths

Expert on Big Gray Man

The Associated Press

LONDON — Affleck Gray, a Scottish mountaineer, author and expert on the legendary Big Gray Man of Ben MacDhui, died Wednesday. He was 89.

One of his books, "Legends of the Cairngorms," reflected his lifelong fascination with the Cairngorm mountains in the central highlands of Scotland.

He devoted a second book, "The Big Gray Man of Ben MacDhui," to the legendary creatures said to haunt the second-highest mountain in Britain.

Farmers urged to be on lookout for visitors from space

Aliens 'targeting Ulster livestock'

NEWSLETTER, Belfast, Ireland

Oct. 20, 1995 CR: T. Good



● the carcass of a mutilated cow 'attacked by aliens'

A BRUTALLY mutilated cow, said to have been found near the border, has been described as the Province's first animal casualty of extra-terrestrial beings bent on culling humans.

Miles Johnston, a member of Quest International which investigates UFO sightings and abductions, claimed that the carved-up carcass was discovered six weeks ago near Camlough, Bessbrook, Co Armagh.

He said that it was a sign that Ulster was under threat from unidentified life forms which had been wreaking havoc among livestock across the British Isles and America.

By DONNA CARTON

Mr Johnston said that the animal was reported to him by a farmer who wants to remain anonymous.

"This cow has all the hallmarks of alien mutilation.

"It had been drained of blood, the flesh had been removed from its head and its vital organs had been removed.

"The organs were sucked out through a clean incision made by some hi-tech laser device.

"This has happened to thousands of animals in the US but it's the first reported case in

Northern Ireland."

Mr Johnston, an electronic technician from Lurgan, said Quest's "top investigator" had been in the Province investigating the incident.

He claimed that witnesses had told of a large, black, silent helicopter and a saucer-type flying machine in the area at the time of the mutilation.

"Cattle are similar in physiology to humans and the aliens are using cattle to develop diseases which they can use to cull human beings."

He called on farmers to be vigilant and report any unusual happenings to the UFO hotline - 01756 75216.

"There are probably people in the Province who have been abducted by aliens and have been too embarrassed or afraid to talk about it.

"Now is the time to tell your story."