

UFO

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

February 1997
Number 331

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - Sept. 25, 1996

Wa-Hi UFO sighting: Fact or Frisbee?

The truth is out there
— and may be on tape
as well, students say

SUMMARY: Six Walla Walla High School students think they've captured a UFO on videotape. But don't go buy Reeses Pieces to lure E.T. to your home just yet.

By RICHARD S. CLAYTON
Of the Union-Bulletin

The image lasts for less than two seconds and is stored amidst a myriad of other footage on a tape ominously labeled "Top Secret."

The six Walla Walla High School students who helped capture the image have copied it numerous times. They don't want their proof of the paranormal to get accidentally erased or "go missing," kind of like on "The X Files."

In terms of video evidence, it's far from another Rodney King tape. It's not even another Zapruder film, the grainy home movie that captured President Kennedy's assassination.

But the students have spent hours analyzing the image on Wa-Hi's video equipment. And they and their instructor can't explain what's on the tape.

"It's definitely got their curiosity," video instructor Ginny Streeter said.

The students taped the image Sept. 11 from a field at Wa-Hi while filming a rock video for Streeter's advanced student broadcasting class. Cameraman Lucas Walter had placed the video recorder on the ground and kept taping to capture the perspective of a person who has fallen.

That's when something zoomed across the sky and onto Walter's videotape.

Walter and the other students who were with him didn't notice the objects until they reviewed the tape.

At 1/5th speed, two small, flat objects appear to fly from the south across the sky. Then one loops back to the south.

Don't get the students wrong.

"We aren't saying it's like aliens are coming down to abduct every one," junior Davyd Yeager said.

They consider it a UFO because they can't explain what's on the tape.

Regardless, even some of their friends are skeptical.

"It looks like (someone) throwing one of those Frisbees," said sophomore Andrew Largent after watching the tape earlier this week.

Largent's theory is boosted by the fact that a PE class was playing Frisbee on the same field moments before Walter captured the objects on tape.



But the objects appear to be flying above the trees and power poles and so fast they are hardly noticeable when the tape is viewed at normal speed. No Frisbee thrown by a person could do that, the UFO-spotters contend.

Another explanation may be the weather. A lightning storm passed through the area around the time the students were taping.

Mary Smith, a meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Service station in Pendleton, said lightning can sometimes strike horizontally across the sky.

But can it loop back across the sky? "I don't know about that," Smith said.

Streeter, who has worked professionally in television news, said the objects don't appear to be glitches in the tape. She's also certain the students didn't otherwise doctor the tape.

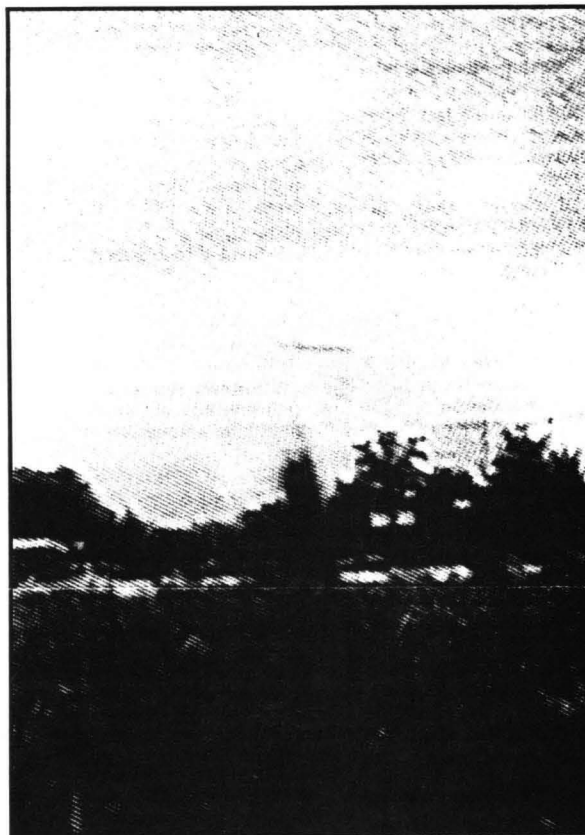
"I'm willing to take a lie detector test," junior Neville Eisler said earnestly.

Eisler wants to send the tape to Science magazine to determine what the objects may be.

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, wants a copy of the tape.

"We seem to be getting more solid reports of discrete objects in the sky," Davenport said. "So I'm not surprised somebody might have captured something in the sky during daylight hours in Walla Walla."

Streeter isn't too concerned about the students conclusively proving their UFO sighting. What's important is that the hours they've spent analyzing the tape have im-



U-B photos by JEFF HORNER

Walla Walla High School junior Lucas Walter (top photo, center) displays the master copy of a tape he filmed, which he claims shows UFOs over Walla Walla. He is ringed by other students who were with him at the time. They include juniors Neville Eisler (far left) and Davyd Yeager (third from the left). Is it a UFO, a Frisbee or a weather abnormality? You decide. The small, thin object shown here is one of two the students caught on tape.

proved their skills on Wa-Hi's video equipment.

"They've probably learned more

about that component trying to enhance that picture than anything" they've done in class, she said.

By Karen McConkey
King Times News

It was nearly 11 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15 when Bill Foster, his wife, and two friends were driving on U.S. 601 to their Elkin home.

Chatting animatedly, none of the four were prepared for what they were about to see. Rounding a curve on the rural road, they spotted three, red flashing lights just above the treetops. As they continued to approach, they realized the lights were spread out over a large area, and formed a triangle of sorts.

Slowing down his car, Foster rolled down the windows and all four passengers started looking skyward. Foster and his companions watched as the large object traveled slowly, just above the treetops. "You could see the red lights formed a triangle, although we couldn't see the shape because it was so dark. But it obscured the sky, and the stars were all around the sides, so we could tell it was very large."

Foster estimated the object to be at least the size of half a football field. "The really chilling part was when we rolled down our windows, there was absolutely no sound. If it had been a formation of helicopters, we could have heard the chopping noise. And I don't know of any aircraft, other than a helicopter, that can be that big and travel that slowly."

Foster isn't the only one who has spotted an unidentified flying object. According to George Fawcett of the Mutual UFO Network, a very similar object was reported in the King/Winston-Salem area Monday, Dec. 16 just after 6:45 p.m.

Fawcett, a lifetime member of the network, who now lives in Lincolnton, confirmed last Friday his organization is documenting reports of a UFO seen by several people in this area.

The UFO was large and triangular-shaped with flashing red lights on each triangle intersection, Fawcett said. "We have reports saying the object moved slowly, and noiselessly, through the sky at low level altitude, and was partially obscured by darkness."

Stokes County Sheriff Mike Joyce said to his knowledge, no reports have been filed with his office.

King Police Chief T.A. Patrick said no reports have been called into the King Police Department.

Fawcett is interested in documenting any reports area residents may have on UFO sightings. "We are trying to track this information and use all our resources to find out exactly what was seen in the skies."

Fawcett is asking anyone who has seen an unusual object in the skies to call him at the Mutual UFO Network at 704-735-5725.

CR: G. Fawcett

Celestial event puzzles star gazers

Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

According to a number of eyewitnesses, at 6:24 p.m. on Nov. 13 the whole town of Taos lit up as a bright light passed overhead. KTAO said eight or 10 people called the radio station to report it. Another observer thought it was a signal flare that came from the area of Salazar Road, but a woman driving north from Española described it as a bright white light with ragged edges, trailing sparks, visible for about five seconds, moving in a long horizontal arc from west to east.

According to author Chris O'Brien of Crestone, Colo., the light was seen as far north as the northern San Luis Valley, where observers called him and/or the local sheriff. O'Brien said neither the Black Forest Observatory north of Colorado Springs nor the North American Air Defense had any record of the object. "It wasn't a man-made object," they reportedly said.

Doug Revelle, technical staff member of the Earth and Environmental Science Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory, said they received three reports from eyewitnesses in Albuquerque who saw the "event" of Nov. 13 around 6:24 p.m. Maya Elrick said the light was "brighter than Venus, but not as

bright as the full moon," that it changed from white to green and orange. Another witness reported that it was a tear-drop shape with fragments trailing behind it. Leon Jaramillo and his children saw it for a few seconds near Algodones, 20 minutes north of Albuquerque; he described it as red and blue. Amateur astronomer Steve Shupe also saw it from I-40 and Louisiana Boulevard in Albuquerque.

According to Revelle, LANL has infrasonic ground sensors that respond to changes in air pressure and pick up signals from any large body that comes into the atmosphere at a high velocity, generating shock waves that travel great distances. Revelle said the data records 20 samples per second of voltage-related low-frequency pressure waves, and added that they had recorded a lot of data recently, "but nothing that jumped out at me." He thought it was probably a large meteor from an asteroid belt, perhaps no more than half a meter across, moving at 15 to 20 kilometers per second. "Those happen quite frequently."

He said, "Everyone, including me, would like to know what's going on out there. There are normally a lot of bright meteors over New Mexico."

He mentioned an unusual celestial "event" on Oct. 3 when a man and wife in Albuquerque witnessed strange lights that were also taped by a man at a football game in El Paso, Texas. "The object they saw paused," Revelle said. "It was behaving strangely in the sense that it broke up into three or four pieces, in two or three seconds." He explained that it's normal for an object to break up when it enters the atmosphere, but unusual when it's 40 or more miles above the Earth, as this one was. Another witness near Las Vegas, N.M., reported these lights as red and blue and blue and green. Its trajectory was said to be largely horizontal.

Revelle said unusual atmospheric effects were seen that night all over the world, from Reno, Nev., to Los Angeles and Czechoslovakia. Fireballs were reported in Massachusetts and the Midwest, and two or three fireballs in the New Mexico region. "Meteors sometimes come in streams, which are related to comets and create meteor showers," he said.

He explained that big meteor showers occur every year; those that come from the direction of the constellation Leo are called "Leonids." The last spectacular meteor shower was in 1988, and before that 1966, 1866 and 1833. "There might be as many as 100,000 per hour," he said. Los Alamos scientists think there may be another Leonid meteor shower next year.

But what's going on right now? "At the end of this month we're expecting 'Geminids,' a meteor shower from the direction of the constellation Gemini," he said.

Is there more activity in the night skies than usual?

"Yes, it's puzzling," Revelle said. "Last November we had large amounts of meteors that were not related to the Geminids. One idea is that maybe two asteroids collided, or something smashed into the moon and created a debris cloud, and we're passing through that."

O'Brien reported that there has been a lot of celestial activity up in the San Luis Valley in the past three weeks. On Oct. 20 two witnesses claimed they saw a round red light coming from the sand dunes moving west at an altitude of 1,000 feet, repeating a box-like course from Del Norte to the central valley for 20 minutes, as if searching for something. Two days later, on Oct. 22, O'Brien said he and his brother and a third person, Pat Richmond, separately observed a large orange, unblinking cigar-shaped light hanging over the center of the valley near Crestone from 7:45-8 p.m., which disappeared when the light blinked out. Around 8 p.m. the same evening, another witness in Crestone reported a yellowish-white egg-shaped sphere hovering overhead.

On Oct. 26 from 7:30-8:45 p.m., two people reported seeing a group of seven to nine unblinking lights near Manassa, close to the New Mexico-Colorado border, which made the "Spotlight" section of the Denver Sunday edition of *The Rocky Mountain News*. On the same night a large object described as "brighter than a satellite" was seen heading west over the San Juan Mountains, which suddenly shot off at a high rate of speed. O'Brien also reported another mutilated bull discovered Nov. 2 at Burns, Colo., which, he said, had probably been dead for a couple of days.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Jan. 8, 1997

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

I hope everyone's holidays were as enjoyable as mine! Skywatching has been a little sporadic, basically due to everyone's busy schedule during the holidays and the fact that the Gulf Coast has been socked in by fog for what seems like over a week now. Some of the group have made several abortive attempts at skywatching. Thursday evening, I set out with a friend to go to Shoreline Park and the visibility near the water was about 50 yards. We joked that if we were to have a sighting it would have to be of a landing or we would not be able to see anything at all! So, we have no sightings at Shoreline Park to report for 1997 as yet!

A call on the hotline in December finally yielded the story of two sightings by the same witness back in November 1996. The first sightings occurred on November 20 while the witness was beginning to drive over the three-mile bridge from Gulf Breeze to Pensacola. It was around 8:30 p.m. and the witness states that he saw "three bright red rings, red hot . . . they drifted apart and came back together twice." The second sighting occurred a week later on November 27 when the witness, his 15-year-old son and his son's friend were driving along Cervantes Street, near Jerry's Drive-In, travelling east. The witness' son spotted strange lights out over the Bay, so they proceeded onto Scenic Highway and pulled off the road at The Bluffs where there is a parking lot that overlooks the Bay. All three witnesses were able to watch "red glowing circles" that were coming together and separating in the sky. It was about 7:30 p.m., "You could clearly see them out over the Bay. My son and his friend were amazed. I'd seen a UFO before, but this was spectacular. They kept splitting apart and then coming back together - four or five times. They were putting on a show for us. The last time they came back together, the middle one lit up so brightly you could see the structure of the craft. These things were 100% clearly visible. The sky was pitch black and you could see all five rings easily." The witnesses were very excited about their incredible sighting and wondered why no one else who was driving along Scenic Highway appeared to

notice the "show" going on in the sky out over the Bay. Upon returning home, the witness called Channel 3 News to inquire if anyone had called to report a similar sighting. No other calls had been received by the television station. The witness went on to tell me that he had previously had a UFO sighting back in 1968 while driving along the newly completed Interstate 10 towards New Orleans from Pensacola and also a sighting in 1979 in the early hours of the morning in the wintertime. "It was a clear bright winter sky - you could see all the stars and the moon was out. I saw a huge bright glowing object in the sky just below the moon. It was really huge."

Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON's monthly meeting is next Sunday, January 12, 1997. See the press release adjacent to this column. We are excited to welcome Beth Collings and Anna Jamerson, authors of *CONNECTIONS*, and hear their fascinating story.

Start watching the bookshelves at your local bookstore for the latest Gulf Breeze UFO Book. This one is a joint effort between Dr. Bruce Maccabee and Ed Walters. Published by Avon Books and selling for \$5.99, this paperback has 16 previously unpublished, analyzed photographs and some new information and insights into sightings and abductions. It should be available around January 15.

If you have not made reservations at one of the Pensacola Beach hotels for your attendance at the 1997 Project Awareness 5th Anniversary UFO Conference - don't wait too long! The Beachside Resort, the Conference venue, is already fully booked and rooms at the other hotels are going fast. Try the Best Western, which is just next door. This will be a most interesting weekend and if you were not on the mailing list and have not received a flyer or you require any information regarding the Conference, you can contact Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or you would wish to contact the Experiencer Support Group, please call them Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - Nov. 4-5, 1996 CR: Z. Van Eyck

WSU CONFERENCE

Ogden man is now a believer in UFOs

By Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writer

OGDEN — For most of his 77 years, Ogden resident Jack Layton was skeptical about UFOs. He tended to believe official statements that flying saucers were nothing more than meteors, weather balloons and sunlight reflecting off clouds, if not outright hoaxes.

Then, in June of this year while visiting their son in Las Vegas, Jack and his wife, Bessie, saw an enormous egg-shaped object hovering low in the daylight sky near the mountains. The observation was a bit unsettling. Layton had to question his sanity.

Imagine his relief, then, to hear a speaker say last week that some UFOs really are extraterrestrial craft, and that the United States and other world governments have known this for decades but have lied to the public so people won't become hysterical or create panic on Wall Street.

The Laytons were among about 500 people to attend a lecture by New Mexico-based UFO researcher Robert Hastings in Weber State University's Shepherd Union Ballroom. Hastings, a 15-year-veteran of the lecture circuit, presented documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act that support his belief in a massive government cover-up.

It was the second-largest crowd of the six talks given this fall as part of the school's convocation lecture series. A hundred more came to see Barry Williams, who played Greg Brady on "The Brady Bunch." And while Hastings couldn't tell amusing stories about the actress who played Cindy, he did persuade many in the audience that the United States has been

hiding the truth.

Some, though, were already convinced.

"I was a witness to some sightings in '47," said Art Carpenter, a professor of library science at the university. "I was only about 7 or 8. It was near Manti in the fall or winter. . . . It was an experience I kind of value. It was so unusual it stays indelibly impressed in your memory."

Carpenter said he saw a half-dozen circular lights with cone-shaped "tails" fly across the Utah sky. In the spring of 1947, the sighting of similar objects in Washington state by pilot Kenneth Arnold made national headlines and is generally accepted by UFOlogists as the event that kicked off the modern era of UFOs.

Hastings' research, presented in a 90-minute slide show and lecture, picks up the story from there. Using previously classified materials, many obtained in a 1979 Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, Hastings disclosed one document after another that detailed how the Air Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Central Intelligence Agency and other governmental entities reacted to UFO sightings as they became more prevalent.

A 1948 Air Force intelligence report assessed the situation by concluding UFOs were interplanetary spaceships involved in a "systematic surveillance of our world." A 1950 letter to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the Air Force had recovered flying saucers in New Mexico.

And in 1953, Hastings said, documents and interviews reveal the CIA took over management of UFO information and began a coordinated campaign to debunk all

sightings.

He believes public reaction to the 1939 radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds," a dramatization of a Martian invasion of Earth mistaken by some people for the real thing, helped convince the government that hiding the truth would be best for the public.

"The secret debunking campaign has been in place ever since," Hastings told his audience. "Whether it's justifiable is up for debate. The fact that it has occurred is irrefutable."

"This is not a self-serving coverup like Watergate. They view it as best for the public."

Hastings said he has spoken with 21 people who worked at nuclear missile sites during the Cold War and said they were present at launch-control facilities when UFOs descended and in some cases knocked out power to the launch systems. He told the Deseret News he has spoken recently with almost a dozen ex-military sources, including radar operators, who reported UFO sightings during the more recent Desert Storm operation in the Persian Gulf.

This year, UFO sightings have been reported throughout the world, including in Utah, and the phenomenon is a favorite subject of tabloid TV and the entertainment industry. But at no time has a UFO landed in a public place, like the White House lawn, and presented itself for all to see. Hastings speculates that if in fact intelligent beings from other worlds are operating UFOs, they may feel earthlings are not yet ready for such a dramatic event.

Declassified federal documents concerning UFOs can be obtained by writing to the Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mount Ranier, MD 20712.

'Experts': They're out there, watching

□ Alien abductions, UFO sightings the topic of Hilo event

By Hunter Bishop
Tribune-Herald

One slide showed a dark, shadowy cigar shape. Another showed a bright, silvery cigar shape. Some of the cigar shapes had shiny metal domes. Others had lots of little lights. Some had little lights and shiny metal domes. Some slides showed flying disks. One slide showed something that looked like a golf tee. Some slides showed remarkably undistinguishable aircraft, others showed sophisticated looking multi-level flying machines. Some showed up like balls of orange fire rising over the horizon. These are all UFOs. Some you can't see until you develop the film. Others are clearly visible until you develop your film and — poof! — no picture. Even video camera viewfinders can't pick up what you can see with your own eyes. That's just the wacky way it is in the world of unidentified flying objects. Hard to tell 'em without a scorecard. For aliens, it seems, have more vehicle models than Detroit, and they're as rascally about detection as the government is about letting you in on the secret.



1st Pacific UFO Conference speakers Margarita Diaz, left, Robert Dean and Carlos Diaz Martinez chat during the lunch break Saturday at the Naniloa Hotel. Diaz Martinez is scheduled to discuss today the plasma spacecraft, seen on the table, that he has captured on film over the last 15 years in his native Mexico.

T-H Photo by William Ing

A number of the UFO world's leading luminaries and fellow seekers are in Hilo this weekend discussing the phenomenon at the first Pacific UFO Conference at Hawaii Naniloa Hotel.

Hawaii County mayoral candidate Jonathan Adler organized the UFO confab. And he has the ready answer to why so many different kinds of spaceships exist.

"Thousands of different alien civilizations," Adler said, all vastly more intelligent than ours, all coming here apparently to vex us earthlings, and each with its own distinctive version of an otherwise unidentified flying spacecraft.

What's worse is that governments worldwide are conspiring to hide the evidence. What, you haven't heard?

For example, who knows about the eight Ecuadorian women who are currently carrying alien babies? A handful of doctors in Ecuador, maybe, but the government's not telling you and neither is the press.

See?

Two of the pan-cosmic progeny, in fact, were snatched up by the aliens right from the women's wombs after four months and 10 days never to be seen again, said Ret. USAF Lt. Col. Wendell Stevens, who spoke Saturday morning.

"They are farming humankind," Adler said later.

Want more? Well, seekers, this is rich territory. Mystery, intrigue, conspiracy, skullduggery, state secrets, "black budgets" and sex-crazed aliens made for a tabloid playground upon which some of the UFO industry's most tuned-in practitioners frolicked.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the seminal event in modern alien theory. In 1947 an alien craft allegedly crashed in New Mexico, and the government's been withholding the evidence — wreckage of the craft and actual alien bodies — ever since.

Cover-up? You bet. The biggest.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Aug. 21, 1996

UFO Sightings

Skywatch Diary

by Carole Baker

We began the week on a note of excitement. Saturday night, August 10, 1996, at approximately 8:00 p.m., two skywatchers had a sighting at Shoreline Park. One regular skywatcher, and the other a friend from Tallahassee were the witnesses. "It looked like a 'plane without the wings," one other witnesses stated. "It was about two inches long at arm's length and did not appear to be very high up," the other witness told me. "It looked as if the top of it was like glowing embers," the first witness stated. What they had both seen was a long, thin, cigar shaped object going in a northerly direction, almost overhead of their position. "It was illuminated underneath and then dark and then this uneven bright strip along the top," the witnesses agreed. "We lost sight of it in the pine trees by the bathrooms, and then never saw it again, it wasn't very high up at all." The sighting lasted between ten and fifteen seconds.

Later, on Saturday evening, there was quite a large group of skywatchers at Shoreline Park.

The group included Marc Davenport and Leah Haley, who were in town to give a presentation at the MUFON meeting on Sunday, and another couple in town from Tallahassee. There were no further sightings, but we had fun dodging the newly installed sprinkler system! The City of Gulf Breeze is trying to regrow the grass on the sand deposited in the park by the hurricanes last year, I presume. It makes things interesting, since the sprinklers do not function properly and come on and go off sporadically. A few skywatchers have had a good dousing when they did not realize they were standing on top of one of the sprinkler heads when the system kicked in!

Following the monthly MUFON meeting Sunday, a group of six skywatchers settled in after a really good thunderstorm passed over. We watched the lightning silhouetting the clouds out over Santa Rosa Island for a long time before the sky cleared and one could observe the stars plainly. A few people had gone home because of the rain, but those who came later stayed and enjoyed the cool evening. Our thanks to Leah

and Marc for being our guests this month. Leah's talk was very interesting and Marc gave us a good opportunity to stock our library shelves with some good new reading material.

The remainder of the week was rather quiet. The skywatch group often found themselves to be the only people in Shoreline Park. School started for the local teenagers on Monday, so they are no longer "hanging out" and entertaining us with their music and antics. The evenings passed with our usual range of discussions from the latest news on the Mars discoveries to what we made for supper that evening.

If anyone wishes to report a sighting or unusual experience, please call Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

But the fact is, said Graham Birdsall, editor of British-based UFO magazine, aliens have been around for a lot longer than 50 years. Strange flying things in the sky have existed "throughout history," he said.

Unfortunately, Birdsall's promised video of "huge flying triangles from Brazil" didn't materialize Saturday, apparently falling victim to earth-bound technical problems. But never mind.

There was more. Some of his images are admittedly "minute," Birdsall confided to the audience, "but quite spectacular."

True to the promise, the crowd of more than a hundred was noticeably excited when Birdsall showed a long, cloudy blob with two lighted orbs in the daytime sky behind the Iao Needle, taken by a British tourist on Maui in 1989. It was something, all right.

But wait, that's not all. The Egyptians didn't build the sphinx or the pyramids.

Right again, if you guessed it was aliens. And now the Egyptian guy who discovered this is in big trouble because Egyptian tour guides for years have been saying their own people built the huge monuments in the desert, and tourists would stop coming if word got out it really was aliens who built them after all, Birdsall explained.

What a disappointment that would be.

Now here's the kicker if you

are still not on board with any of this alien stuff. NASA — yes, our own NASA — has been working inside the great pyramids in Egypt and the official NASA story is that — nudge, nudge, wink, wink — they are working on the air conditioning!

Agonized groans filled the room.

Cover-up? You better believe it.

Still not convinced? In 1993, John Atherton took a photo of the Waikiki skyline from his hotel room and later discovered an unexplained oval-shaped black spot in the sky part of the picture.

Fast forward to 1996. Another tourist shoots the same skyline view from his hotel room and in the photograph — same place, same size, same angle — the same spot!

Neither photographer saw the object until the film was developed. How to explain it? Not certain, says Stevens, who suggested "film sensitive to a wider range of vibrations than the human experience."

Aha!

The \$30-a-day conference continues at 10 a.m. today, although former astronaut Gordon Cooper will not appear as scheduled. He's ill, or at least that's the official conference word.

Uh-oh, another cover-up? Remember, you read it here first.

Roswell, N.M., very willing to be keeper of UFO kitsch

Incident in 1947 has become tantalizing to tourists

By Julia Duin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

ROSWELL, N.M. — Roswell's entry into the world of flying-saucer tourism can be traced back to Tom Jennings, 46, a baby-boomer mayor with a background in marketing.

His office is a monument to the energy this high desert plains city is putting into marketing itself as Ground Zero for UFO seekers. A 3-foot alien doll occupies one chair across from a stack of city stationery embossed with a flying-saucer logo and stacks of magazine and newspaper articles about the alleged crash of a flying saucer just north of Roswell in 1947.

Now preparing for 50th anniversary observances of the "Roswell Incident" next July, the mayor has boned up on interstellar issues. When he met President Clinton last January during a mayors' conference here, he chided the president for not pushing for full government disclosure about Roswell.

He then gave Mr. Clinton his card, which the president glanced at, then handed back.

"Give it to Chelsea," the mayor told him. Interest in Roswell, whose "visit" is the century's best-documented UFO incident, has gone from the province of oddballs to a middle-class obsession.

"There's a lot of people interested in this, and not everybody's a quack," says Don Cox, the CEO at the Roswell Chamber of Commerce, which runs ads saying, "Drop in anytime. After all ... they already may have."

All the recent movies about aliens mention Roswell, as does NBC's new sci-fi thriller "Dark Skies." Roswell offers three UFO museums and kitsch such as gray-clothed alien dolls, "alien glow" lollipops, alien "welcome mats" and charts on what a spaceship powered by anti-matter would look like.



Representations of alien heads are everywhere at the International UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M. Tourism is up.

"We've created a new industry here," Mr. Jennings declares, "and the 50th anniversary will give us a lot more attention."

Slated for July 1-6 is a Woodstock-style music festival, bus tours to one of the crash sites, costume contests, a trade show, name speakers in the "UFO hierarchy" and whatever else promoters can dream up to entertain the projected crowd of 75,000 to 125,000.

The national fascination with this agricultural town stems from speculation that something otherworldly landed near Roswell on July 4, 1947.

The "visit" was an open secret across most of southern New Mexico, provoking Rep. Steven

Schiff, New Mexico Republican, to ask the Air Force for the real story in 1993. Not getting it, he went to the General Accounting Office. Two years later, the GAO reported the Air Force had lied in 1947 when it said what landed at Roswell was a "weather balloon."

The object was actually a large spy balloon loaded with equipment designed to measure Soviet nuclear activity, the government report said.

The GAO also found that all military records from the incident had been destroyed.

Since then, Roswell's "incident" has become the mother of all government conspiracy theories, fueled by the immensely popular Fox TV series "The X-Files." According to a 1996 Newsweek poll, 48 percent of all Americans believe the government hides proof of UFOs from the public. Twelve percent of the respondents said they might have seen a UFO.

What was so special about Roswell? The 50,000-population city was close to America's most sensitive military installations at the time: Alamogordo and the Trinity Site, where Americans first exploded the atomic bomb.

Roswell itself was the home of 509th Strategic Bomber Wing, the world's only bomber force and the same pilots who bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945.

It didn't take a rocket scientist, the theory goes, much less an alien to figure that earthlings had learned to split the atom and its civilization bore watching.

Theories on what actually happened in July 1947 fill newspaper and magazine clippings displayed on the walls of the Roswell International UFO Museum and Research Center. The most popular theory is that a UFO got decked by a thunderstorm the night of July 4, first touching ground 70 miles northwest of town and scattering

"Every time there's a movie like 'ET,' there's a rise in interest in UFOs." — Carl Raschke, Denver University

debris before taking off again. The actual craft, along with three or four alien bodies, is said to have landed in a nearby mountain range, only to be scooped up by the military and transported to the Air Force base in Roswell.

Glenn Dennis, the president of the UFO museum, was then a 21-year-old mortician in town. He says he first got a call from the mortuary officer at the base, asking for hermetically sealed baby caskets. Then a nurse friend of his was summoned to the base, only to return in near-shock with a tale of being forced to assist at an autopsy of three gray-skinned nonhuman beings each about 4 feet tall with large, pliable heads, four-fingered hands, inch-long slits for mouths and huge, slanted black eyes.

She drew a sketch of the creatures, which is displayed at the museum.

Mr. Dennis then went to the base himself and glimpsed military ambulances carting away bright red pieces of stainless steel. Some people got to the wreckage before the police. They reported its extraordinary properties: It was extremely thin and metal-like, would not burn or tear, was bullet-proof and, when crumpled, would spring back to its original shape.

"The neighbors knew what a weather balloon was," he says 49 years later, "but none of them could recognize this material. The military came in and took over the place. You know damn well they didn't do that for a weather balloon."

The secret did get out — briefly — when an Air Force press officer in Roswell put out a release about a captured saucer. Calls began

coming in from around the world after the headline appeared — "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region" — in the July 8, 1947, Roswell Daily Record. Air Force higher-ups in Fort Worth, Texas, issued a "weather balloon" denial a few hours later and the matter was dropped for three decades.

In 1979, an Army officer who claimed he had collected debris from a UFO in Roswell told a documentary film crew the military had lied about the matter. More books and movies began trickling out about Roswell, including purported photos of the autopsies.

Literature by people claiming to have been abducted by aliens, such as novelist Whitley Streiber's 1987 best seller "Communion," has boomed. Public curiosity is far from sated, as the 400 visitors a day to the UFO museum testify.

Another municipality, Rachel, a small town 150 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is also building on the UFO connection. Located near the mysterious "Area 51," where a whole raft of alien experiments are reputedly being performed by the U.S. government, Rachel held its own UFO festival this past summer. Gov. Bob Miller in April officially designated state highway Nevada 375, which passes by Area 51, the "Extraterrestrial Highway," with a speed limit of "Warp 7."

Some observers believe the current UFO craze reflects pop culture's yearning for the spiritual. Carl Raschke, an expert on New Age religions for Denver University, sees purported messages from aliens as a transposing of science fiction and science fantasy into popular religious beliefs.

This contemporary mysticism is then fueled by the mass media.

"Every time there's a movie like 'ET,' there's a rise in interest in UFOs," he says. "Whenever you start marketing the beliefs, people start believing it. It's not a mysterious social force, it's people in the mass media and commercial publishing who think the public is receptive to this."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Jan. 22, 1997

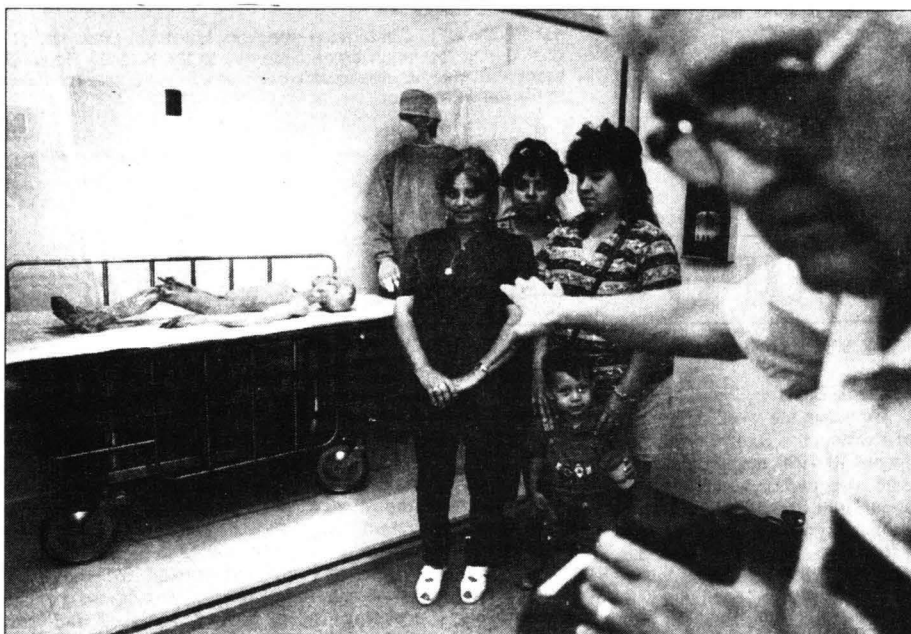
SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

We live in what State? With wind chill this week dropping into single digits, there has been very little skywatching going on at Shoreline Park! We had violent thunderstorms and a couple of tornados in the area on Wednesday evening as the cold front swept through and then the temperatures plummeted. It is an experience to go out to Shoreline and stand there for five minutes or so until your face freezes up. The ironic thing is, when it gets this cold, the sky is crystal clear - great for skywatching! We try to sit in our cars and skywatch, but the windows fog up and you can only drive around the parking lot so many times in order to warm up your car. I must be getting old. We used to be outside in these kinds of temperatures all the time when we lived "up North." Down here on the Gulf Coast, though, your blood turns to water and you are freezing when it 50 degrees out! Wimpy huh?

We had a very interesting time at the MUFON meeting last weekend (Sunday, 12th), and a great visit with Beth Collings and Anna Jamerson. They gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation concerning their abduction experiences and the amazing synchronicities that brought them together after many years. Their slow and painful path to discovery of their experiences is one that many abductees could identify

with. This "pairing" of abductees is apparently unusual, but not unique. Beth and Anna, along with Budd Hopkins, and I am sure other abduction researchers are finding several "pairings" in their research. Sometimes it is two women, sometimes two men and sometimes a man and a woman who are "paired." Unfortunately, this latter can lead to tragic family consequences if the "paired" couple find themselves married to other people. Overall, the percentage of abductees who are "paired" appears to be quite small. It was fascinating to hear how the two women have dealt with their discovery of mutual abduction experiences and their attitude to their abductions was quite refreshing. When they are told to do something by their abductors like "don't eat fat" - they take it with a grain of salt (pardon the pun) and continue their lives as usual. Anna said that she had been given several dates predicting occurrences which never came to fruition. Anna feels that they may give these predictions to people to see if they will alter their lives or thinking in view of the impending events, i.e. they are studying her reactions and emotions in different situations. I definitely recommend reading Beth and Anna's book "Connections," and if you have the opportunity to meet with these ladies or attend one of their talks, you will not be disappointed.



A family has their picture taken in front of an "alien exhibit" at the International UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M. The town has established itself as a center of UFO lore since a famous incident there in July 1947.

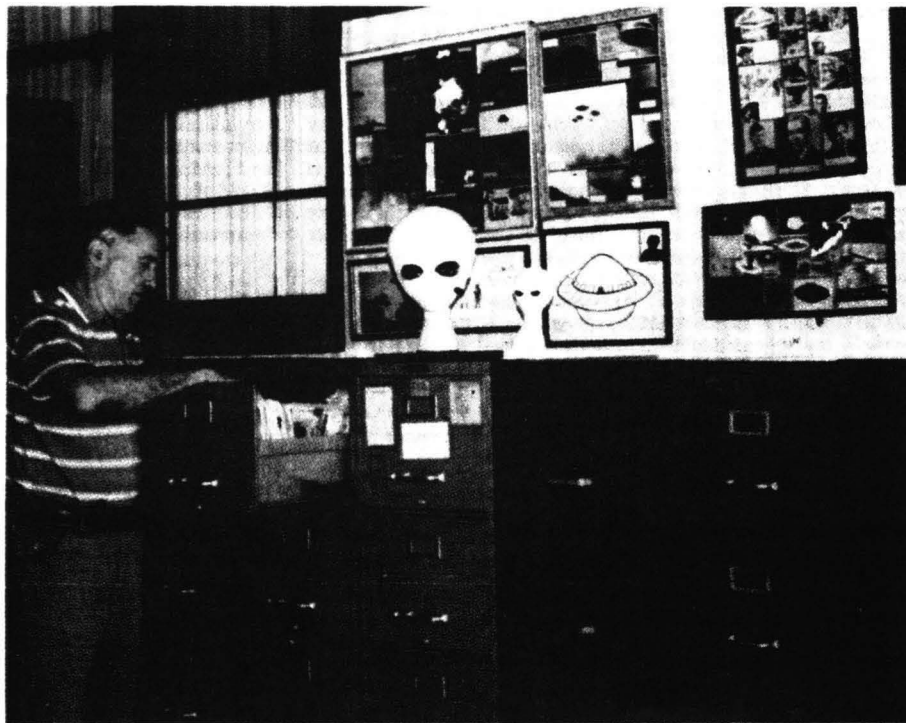
ed.

Plans continue for the Fifth Anniversary Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held at the Beachside Resort on Pensacola Beach on March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. The Best Western still has some rooms available and the other Beach hotels have blocks of rooms reserved for Conference attendees also. This will be a very interesting, informative and entertaining weekend. Not only will there be a great line up of speakers but there are also some special Fifth Anniversary

events scheduled as well as the usual slew of vendors selling everything from the latest books and videos to t-shirts and coffee mugs. If it's UFO related, you can usually find it at one of their booths. If you require any information regarding the conference, contact Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888. Hope to see you there!

If you have a sighting to report or you would wish to contact the Experienter Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

Looking toward the Sky



UFO field investigator George Fawcett has collected over 15,000 documents, case studies, clippings, photographs and books about UFO sightings, contacts and abductions.

For 53 years, George Fawcett has searched for the answers beyond the horizon

By SHAWN COOPER
LAKE NORMAN TIMES STAFF

It was just another workday for two men traveling on Hwy. 73 near McGuire Nuclear Station. It was a gray October morning in 1982 and thick fog was wrapping itself around the Catawba River area. Visibility was limited but they could see a round, metal, dull silver object hovering just a couple hundred feet off the ground. It was probably a water tower, but they joked that they had sighted a UFO.

The next day was no different as they followed their same route to work, only there was no fog. Nor was there a water tower. The only thing in the area was a mass of high voltage power lines.

What or who was hovering among those power lines? That's what UFO field investigator

George Fawcett of Lincolnton wants to know. Apparently, so do many of Americans. Ninety-eight percent of Americans are aware of UFOs and nearly half the population accepts their reality, according to Fawcett's statistics.

For 53 years, Fawcett has investigated UFOs and related phenomena. He's considered an internationally-known expert in the scientific field of study.

Among the 2,000 cases he's investigated, are more sightings in our Lake Norman area.

It was late in the summer of 1968 and a 22-year-old Denver woman and her companion were swinging on the front porch. It was past midnight when they spotted lights coming down the road parallel to them. Expecting the lights to keep coming, they were baffled when they seemed to remain stationary. They turned for

a better look and there in a clear sky was a large domed object with a protruding metal rod hovering above the road. It was making a soft hum and the illuminating lights of red, yellow and blue were casting a subdued hue about it. After several seconds, the couple fled indoors.

UFOs have an affinity for power and water sources, Fawcett said. "I believe they use the wires as a free picnic table. I've heard of them coming down the power lines with a protruding rod. Some have been seen clamping on and off power lines. This is quite common."

The UFO attraction to power sources is so common that among the many lectures and articles done by Fawcett, he devotes

Allied Forces campaign during World War II as a Boy Scout project. There were several reports of UFO sightings that intrigued him. That interest has followed him throughout his lifetime as he pursued college degrees from Lees-McRae College and Lynchburg College, a career as a YMCA director, a second career as a newspaperman and now just weeks after his retirement from Mohican Mills, he's gearing up to write his second book and making plans for a distant dream of a UFO museum, perhaps right here on Lake Norman.

He's a favorite on the lecture tour and has even taught college courses on the subject. His articles are pub-

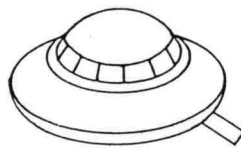
lished worldwide and he's written for UFO encyclopedias. He's served as a movie consultant and helped establish five UFO organizations. His collection numbers of 15,000 items, including government documents and research studies, field investigation reports, photographs and drawings and hundreds of books, newspaper clippings and articles. He has them all cataloged and stored in a row of file cabinets and boxes from his garage to his attic.

"I'm not a believer. I'm what you call a non-skeptic. It's based on what I've learned; not what I believe," he said. "I've really worked hard and I've been objective about it."

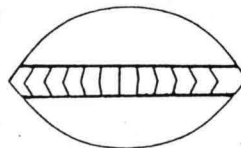
As a field investigator for decades, Fawcett has researched over 2,000 cases of sightings, landings, contacts and abductions. He's very thorough and not only takes the eyewitness report about everything from weather conditions to their vision, he conducts investigations with airports, meteorology stations, law enforcement and media sources to find any explanation for the sighting. He keeps a list of 32 explanations for IFOs or identified flying objects, he said. Last year, he investigated a group of sightings near Lake Norman, that seemed to follow the same pattern. He plotted them on a map and began checking with the weather stations and air-

Alleged Lake Norman UFO sightings

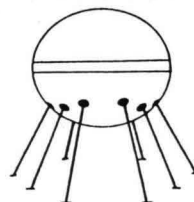
Based on eyewitness descriptions



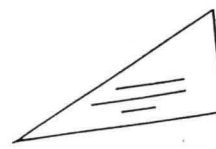
Denver
Late summer, 1968



Terrell
July or August, 1974



Lake Norman
October 18, 1982



Over McGuire
Nuclear Plant
August 18, 1989

Courtesy GEORGE FAWCETT

an entire article to sightings over atomic energy sites, like McGuire Nuclear Station on Lake Norman. Over the last 40 years, considered to be the modern era of UFO sightings, numerous sightings have occurred near atomic energy sources, Fawcett writes in the article, "UFOs Overfly Atomic Sites," in the May/June 1990 issue of *UFO Magazine*.

The overwhelming number of reports became a concern to Pentagon officials who began to conduct their own studies. While sightings have taken place all over the world, Lake Norman is considered to be a "hot bed" for such activity, he said.

In October of 1965, an aerial photographer and pilot were flying a mission near the Perth Church Road Lake Norman crossing and were about a 1,000 feet above the water circling McGuire when they spotted three bright objects in the sky. The UFOs were flying in formation and the pilot throttled his plane and barely rose high enough above the objects which passed less than a 100 feet below them.

One summer morning in 1974, a businessman living near the Duke Power plant spotted a UFO when children fishing on the shoreline began shouting about an object in the sky. Four other people witnessed the craft which was seen four miles east of the Marshall Steam Station near Terrell. It was the size of a basketball court with a thickness half its width. One witness described it like, "one saucer inverted on top of another and had a row of flashing windows through its middle." It hovered in the area for 10 minutes before turning on its side and departing at an incredible rate of speed.

McGuire Nuclear Station was again the site of UFO activity in 1978 when several persons viewed two milky white crafts flying side by side at treetop level above Triangle at Hwy. 16.

Two Rutherford County carpenters were working on a rooftop in the early hours of a spring day in 1980, when they observed a bright yellow UFO rise up vertically from Lake Norman, make a loop and then vanish rapidly.

In the summer of 1982, before the mistaken water tank incident, UFOs were spotted in the McGuire region. The power fluctuated before they left the area. When security guards were questioned, they stated that any reports of UFO sightings were to be made directly to the national Atomic Energy Commission headquarters.

Those encounters pose serious questions to Fawcett. Are UFOs monitoring atomic and nuclear energy sites, and if so, why? Why has the Atomic Energy Commission had representatives on most major UFO investigation projects? Why do security guards report UFO encounters directly to the Commission's headquarters?

Fawcett has a lot of questions and he's devoted his life to searching for those answers. He first became fascinated with the subject at the age of 14 when he was plotting the

ports and later determined it was a cable station blimp from Newport News, VA.

Another time, he was baffled by a photograph of a group of UFOs for 10 years before he was able to prove it was a fake. He detected a faint set of fingerprints within the photograph proving the UFOs had been inserted.

Of his cases, 22 percent are unexplained, he said. That means he has searched and investigated for hours, days, perhaps years and never found any explanation except that the UFO was real. "The ones that remain unexplained in my collection are the ones investigated by qualified people who knew what they

were doing, yet they couldn't explain it."

"I judge a UFO report by what people do before and after. Many times it will turn your life upside down." Fawcett has conducted an international study on human reaction and found consistency in many reactions and responses from people all over the world. "It's really a study of mankind," he said. It's astronomy, astrology, psychology, parapsychology, religion, meteorology and more, he added.

"The first seven years I was a skeptic, then for the last 46 years I've been a non-skeptic. I saw one in 1951."

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 -
TIMES, Lake Norman, NC
- Jan. 8, 1997)

In that regard, Fawcett is one of millions. Eight million Americans believe they've been abducted, he said. Many believe there's a lot more to be known. Forty-eight percent of Americans believe there's been a government cover-up involving UFO sightings, he said.

Many of the governmental agencies have conducted their own studies or have had representatives on other investigative projects, he said. Fawcett has obtained over 4,000 government documents under the Freedom of Information Act. "Everybody's been involved in UFOs and they've come to some interesting conclusions.

"They came to the conclusion that UFOs are real. They are not natural phenomenon. They are unconventional objects with a high degree of technology. They represent a threat to both international security and human survival."

Fawcett has copies of Air Force and Navy regulations, reports from military personnel, Smithsonian and MIT reports and congressional hearing transcripts. Even though he's collected many documents, there is so much more information that hasn't been shared with the people, he said.

For example, an incident at Roswell, New Mexico is the biggest case of all, he said. It involves a crash and the recovery of four bodies. He has seen 28 video tape interviews and has known people who worked on the situation but he says they are prevented from talking in public because they were made to sign oaths of secrecy.

The key people have never been able to testify because they feared for their lives and the security of their jobs and family, he said. One of his goals is to see these people be allowed to testify in congressional hearings with freedom for prosecution for violating their oaths of secrecy. "That's the key case," he said.

Other UFO investigative groups report even more situations similar to Roswell, he said. They report 40 crashes involving the recovery of 120 bodies. "So Roswell is just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

The scientific study of UFOs may be modern, but their existence dates back to Biblical times. There are references made in the New Testament as well as in the ancient recordings of Greeks and Romans, he said. Eskimos and many other civilizations all refer to the same type of unidentifiable crafts and diminutive occupants. Even Cherokee American Indian lore has stories of sky baskets and sky people that cause pricking sensations.

All those descriptions correlate with modern data, he said.

Just because someone believes in UFOs doesn't mean they accept all things, he said. "It's not what you believe at all; it's what you learn by field investigation and hard research. It's been a lifetime of learning for me. It's very important to retain your objectivity.

"You've got to walk the road between foolish faith where everything in the sky is a spaceship and blind doubt, which is also wrong. There is nothing worse than foolish faith on one side or blind doubt on the other, especially when the blind doubt is foolish and the foolish faith is blind. Neither is the way to truth."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Oct. 2, 1996



Skywatch Diary

Compiled by Carole Baker

It has been an interesting week involving a funeral, a wedding, an out of town visitor and two amazing sightings.

Those of you who know Ray and Elise Pollock from your visits to Shoreline Park will, I am sure, send loving thoughts for the passing of Elise's mother, a splendid lady, Ms. Lilly Crosby. Ms. Lilly had been a regular skywatcher until her health began to fail earlier this year and was a very intelligent, interesting, open-minded and loving person.

We also saw the marriage of Patti Weatherford, a long time member of the group. In fact, one of the originals, to Tom Wheeler. May they share many happy years together.

On Tuesday evening, a group of skywatchers had settled in at Shoreline Park when we were approached by a very colorful man from California. Fred, who was originally from Iran, spent the evening skywatching and sharing some stories of his sightings and experiences.

Of course, Thursday evening we saw the eclipse of the full moon. It was cloudy and raining on and off all day on Thursday, so none of us held out much hope that there would be an opportunity to view the eclipse. We were very pleased when the sky began to clear after sunset and the eclipse, beginning here at approximately 8:10 p.m. was very clearly seen from start to finish. A friend of ours, Mike Robertson, astronomer at large, had called earlier in the week to let us know that he had been on Mexican radio with Haime Moussen last Sunday discussing the incidence of UFO sighting during eclipses of both the sun and moon. This is his special field of research. He suggested we keep a keen eye out for a sighting during the eclipse. However, as spectacular as the eclipse was, it was not augmented by a UFO sighting for this skywatcher and the group I was with.

We received a telephone call from a lady named Anita who was visiting Gulf Breeze from the northeast this week. She was very excited because she had two sightings during the week and wanted to report them. She was staying with her family east of Tiger Point in Gulf Breeze and sleeping in a bedroom on the second floor of a house, the window of which faced southwest.

Her first sighting occurred on Sunday night, September 22nd. "I was laying in bed, getting ready to go to sleep (it was about 11:30 p.m.). I saw a large bright white light in the sky out the window. I looked away and when I looked back it was still there. I thought it was a plane or something. It was not. I watched it for about eight minutes and it did not move at all. I sat up in bed and watched closer. Suddenly the light began to swing back and forth in the sky, like a leaf drifting down. As it swayed back and forth, I could just pick out a couple of other, smaller lights around it. It was so bright though that they looked dim. It drifted down to the level of the tree line and then shot off straight up into the sky!" This was a very exciting sighting for Anita. She has visited Gulf Breeze several times before and not had a sighting. You can imagine how excited she was. "The light was larger than my thumb nail at arm's length," she told me. "The whole thing lasted ten minutes, it was incredible."

To Anita's amazement, just three nights later on Tuesday night, early Wednesday morning, the process was repeated and she had another sighting from the bedroom window, this time beginning at about 12:10 a.m. and lasting again around ten minutes. "I did not want to keep looking at the clock in case it went away while I was not looking," Anita said. "I got up and went and stood at the window and watched it." It was exactly the same as on Sunday evening, the drifting down, leaf like, swaying to the tree line and then shooting off at tremendous speed into the sky. "It was very exciting," Anita said. "I cannot believe I saw something twice!"

Anita then went on to tell me about a couple of unusual experiences she had while staying in Gulf Breeze on previous visits. She is interested in learning more about the phenomenon now that she has had a sighting and is looking forward to a return visit to Gulf Breeze in the near future.

Some upcoming events of interest include the Huntsville UFO Conference, to be held October 18th 19th, and 20th at the Huntsville Space Center Marriott. Contact Sue Pitts at (205)533-7321 for more information. Speakers include David Jacobs, Colin Andrews, Marc Davenport and Leah Haley as well as several others. There will be interesting classes, lectures and exhibits.

Capstone House in Panama City, FL is presenting its seventh anniversary conference on Saturday, October 12. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and there are two sessions, morning and afternoon. Lunch is on your own, and the cost is a \$20 donation at the

door. Their speakers are: Thomas E. Bearden, M.S. who will discuss new energy, new science, new consciousness and body/mind interaction, and Dr. Martha M. Sarasua, M.D., Ph.D., who will speak on Mind, Body, and Spirit: The path to Health in the Modern World.

Of course, you can already make your reservations at the Beachside Resort for the March 1997 Project Awareness 5th Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference. For information contact Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888 or e-mail at UMBRB73A@PRODIGY.COM.

Interesting times we live in, with more and more opportunities to meet and discuss fascinating viewpoints with each other and the leader researchers in their field.

We are expecting visitations shortly at Shoreline Park from members of the English UFO research group EMUFORA. There will be a group of three of the "English Contingent" coming down, two of whom have visited previously so it will be great to see them again and hear all the UFO news from across the pond.

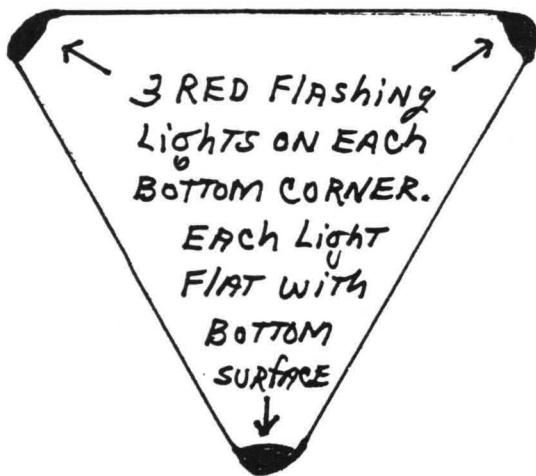
The next Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON meeting will be held on Sunday, October 13th at 2:30 p.m. in the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive. The speaker will be Al Bielek, speaking about the Philadelphia Experiment.

If anyone has a sighting or experience to report or would wish to contact the Support Group for Experiences, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261.

Keep Looking Up!

TIMES NEWS, King, NC - Jan. 9, 1997 CR: G. Fawcett

UFO Sightings Reported; Network Asks For More



UFO sighting sketch by Bill Foster

By Karen McConkey

It was nearly 11 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15 when Bill Foster, his wife, and two friends were driving on Highway 801 to their Elkin home.

Chatting animatedly, none of the four were prepared for what they were about to see. Rounding a curve on the rural

road, they spotted three, red flashing lights just above the treetops. As they continued to approach, they realized the lights were spread out over a large area, and formed a triangle of sorts.

Slowing down his car, Foster rolled down the windows and all four passengers started looking

skyward. Foster and his companions watched as the large object traveled slowly, just above the treetops. "You could see the red lights formed a triangle, although we couldn't see the shape because it was so dark. But it obscured the sky, and the stars were all around the sides, so we could tell it was very large."

Foster estimated the object to be the size of at least half a football field. "The really chilling part was when we rolled down our windows, there was absolutely no sound. If it had been a formation of helicopters, we could have heard the chopping noise. And I don't know of any aircraft, other than a helicopter, that can be that big and travel that slowly."

Foster isn't the only one who has spotted an unidentified flying object. According to George Fawcett of the Mutual UFO Network, a very similar object was reported in the King/Winston-Salem area Monday, Dec. 16 just after 6:45 p.m.

Fawcett, a UFO investigator

for 47 years, and a lifetime member of the network, confirmed last Friday his organization is documenting reports of a UFO seen by several people in this area.

The UFO was large and triangular-shaped with flashing red lights on each triangle intersection, Fawcett said. "We have reports saying the object moved slowly, and noiselessly, through the sky at low level altitude, and was partially obscured by darkness."

Stokes County Sheriff Mike Joyce said to his knowledge, no reports had been filed with his office.

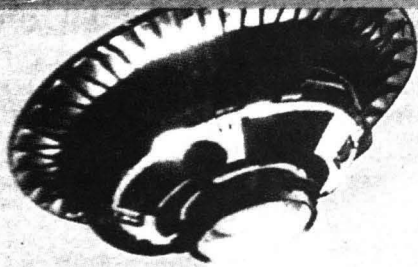
King Police Chief T.A. Patrick said no reports have been called into the King Police Department.

Fawcett is interested in documenting any reports area residents may have on UFO sightings. "We are trying to track this information and use all our resources to find out exactly what was seen in the skies."

Fawcett is asking anyone who has seen an unusual object in the skies to call him at the Mutual UFO Network North Carolina headquarters in Lincolnton at 704-735-5725.

Yo! Weekend

the best of Friday, Saturday and Sunday



They're here...

**UFO buffs
descend on Philly
this weekend for a
close encounter**

by Rick Selvin

Daily News Staff Writer

The year is 1971. A 39-year-old aerospace engineer, Brian Scott, is traveling through the desert outside Phoenix, hoping to find a good spot for a little target practice.

The trip, he says, changed his life.

One moment, in the silence of the Arizona desert, he was Brian Scott, engineer and target enthusiast. The next, he was Brian Scott, UFO abductee.

You've watched "Star Trek" throughout its four television incarnations. You've scrambled to the big screen to catch every "Star Wars" saga. You're a fan of "Independence Day," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T.: The Extraterrestrial."

But let just one real person tell you he's been abducted into a UFO, and it's "Hey, I gotta go now." Philadelphia entrepreneur Bob Eure — founder of the Council of Investigation & Research on Aerial/Earth Phenomena — wants to change all that. He wants you to listen to people like Brian Scott. That's why he has brought Scott and some 20 others like him here for this weekend's Philadelphia 2nd UFO Phenomena Conference.

Eure wants to show you that not only has this happened to countless people in the past, it is still happening and might even happen to you.

Eure has his detractors, to be sure. One of them, a

Bob Eure (left) invited Brian Scott and others to tell their stories this weekend

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/DAILY NEWS
ANDREA MIHALIK & FILE PHOTOS

Temple professor named David Jacobs who has come to believe some stories of abduction, says Eure's weekend speakers wouldn't find favor in the academic world.

So, what do you believe? Maybe this is the time to start deciding.

Brian Scott's life seemed quite normal that day in Arizona 25 years ago. But then ...

"I began to hear a howling sound, soft at first. It got more intense ... and then, over the top of a nearby mountain, came a huge, pulsating, purple light — so large it blocked out the sky."

Scott, 54, a Quakertown designer of medical devices, will tell his story at the three-day conference. On the schedule with him are people who either say they also have been abducted by aliens, or, as event organizer Eure describes it, have been "exposed to the truth through their sensitive professional or past military or intelligence job duties."

"I had this sensation of being lifted off the ground," Scott said. "I tried to grab something to stop it, but there was nothing around me but air. I continued upward and was brought through a door-

way, where I could smell a pungent odor, like dirty socks mixed with the hot air of the desert."

The door closed, Scott said, and then he saw them.

"Four beings. They looked like piles of mashed potatoes. I screamed and kicked, but they had me sitting on air, so I couldn't do anything."

Scott said the creatures began to change shape, ultimately morphing into bronze-skinned, "normal-looking" people, with red hair and deep blue eyes. They told him, he said, that they had first come to Earth "when the equators were ice."

"They said they were able to travel through space instantly by folding space and projecting themselves ahead, like radar signals. And then they put in my head the plans for a machine."

Scott said he built that machine, which he called the NOR-XI-11. It turned out to be a device that he hoped could "help children with various handicaps around the world ... by testing the effect of music ... upon [their] emotions, physiological processes and performance."

He has photographs of the device, and letters from a rehabilitation facility in California thank-

ing him for letting them use the machine. A call to the facility confirmed that they had received the NOR in 1981.

But, Scott said morosely, once he related the details of his day in the desert, no one looked at him the same way.

"When I got back to Phoenix that day and told people what had happened, I was labeled nutty," Scott says.

"Labeled a nut" is a complaint that likely will be voiced by many of the speakers in the conference. It's the fate of people who "come out" about their UFO abduction experiences, says Eure, who relates that a UFO sighting — coincidentally also in Arizona — made him a believer in 1992.

But even in this day of seemingly nonstop science-fiction television dramas featuring big-eared and leopard-spotted aliens — and documentary-style series such as the syndicated "Sightings" — the world, Eure says, is not ready for people who say they've had a close encounter of any kind.

Additionally, Eure calls himself "the first African-American to sponsor a UFO conference." That fact is important, he stresses, because it is even harder for a mem-

ber of a minority group to admit to having been abducted. "Minorities have enough trouble as it is. Adding an abduction story to that makes life even more difficult."

Eure says he hopes exposure to others' abduction experiences will help any African-Americans who have had a similar fate begin to talk about it.

This is the second time Eure — who has been a social worker and who teaches a Temple University-sponsored community-education class on UFOs — has tried his hand at putting on a UFO conference.

The first one, two years ago, was held at the North American Motor Inn on City Avenue. It drew, Eure says, about 400 people. "This one should be much bigger."

And more expensive: He has moved the event to the Pennsylvania Convention Center, where, he says, "My bill just for renting audio-visual equipment is \$10,000."

Eure says he needs at least 1,000 visitors — earthly, ticket-buying visitors — to help cover what he says will be a total conference cost of perhaps \$50,000 — the use of the Convention Center facilities, transportation and accommodations for the speakers, plus advertising and promotional expenses.

In addition to ticket sales, funds will come from "contributions," Eure says without elaborating.

"I want this to be a success not only to meet the expenses," he said, "but because I want Philadelphia to become, in the eyes of the world, a UFO center. This could be great for the city ... do wonders for tourism."

Temple history prof David Jacobs, 54, is known around the globe as a UFO expert to be reckoned with. He's been hooked on the subject since the mid-'60s — the era of America's first love affair with "Star Trek" — and hasn't stopped researching yet.

Intrigued by the possibilities of earthly visits by aliens, Jacobs first began to read about the subject recreationally. Within a year, he decided to turn the hobby into a life's work. Over the next 30 years, he says, he has come to believe in the validity of many of the abduction stories he has heard.

You'd think Jacobs, who in addition to his history roster teaches what he calls "the only regularly scheduled undergraduate course [on this subject] in the country —

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7 -
DAILY NEWS, Philadelphia,
PA - Nov. 15, 1996)

UFOs in American Society" would be anxious to participate in Eure's conference. But no.

Not only is Jacobs not on the speaker roster, he also won't even be attending as a listener.

His reason? The conference, he says, is not of the "scholarly, academic" type. And "scholarly" is important to UFO research.

For Jacobs' part, research includes much more than simply informal, anecdotal evidence. Questioning, cross-referencing, hypnotism, all have their part in Jacobs' exposure to countless claims. He has hypnotically regressed more than 100 people in the past decade, he says, in more than 700 sessions.

He says research shows that anyone can be subject to abduction.

"There are no factors that make one person more likely to be abducted than another. We have stories of people from age zero — newborn — to age 80. This is not an adult-onset phenomenon. We have abductees at age 3 who can articulate that beings they thought were 'doctors' came in through a window and took them away."

Jacobs and Eure do agree on at least one thing: There are no cultural lines when it comes to alien abductions.

"Anybody and everybody can be abducted. It cuts across all class lines, all geographical borders, all cultural and racial lines," Jacobs says.

All Eure would add is: If you are a member of a minority group, and you have an abduction story to tell, don't be afraid to do so.

At this weekend's conference, you might just find some willing listeners. ■

Abductions, E.T. cetera

Here's a sampling of the abductees, authors, Army veterans and "authorities" scheduled for the UFO conference.

FRIDAY, "The Beginning of It All Unlocked" includes talks by Zecharia Sitchin, author of "When Time Began," about the effect of extraterrestrials on the early shaping of human life; anthropologist Arthur David Horn, who wrote "Humanity's Extraterrestrial Origins"; Noel Bausher-Szundy, a social worker who will speak on UFOs in the Bible; and Chelsea Flor, whose topic of "sacred geometry" includes possible alien connections to Egypt's Great Sphinx.

SATURDAY's schedule, subtitled "Awesome Personal Experiences," includes Travis Walton of "Fire in the Sky" book and movie fame, who says he was abducted for five days; Brian Scott, who will describe the Arizona desert experience noted in our cover story; John Twobirds, a Chippewa/Choctaw elder and decorated Army veteran who will speak on his contact with alien beings; and Helga Morrow, who speaks about being contacted at age 5 by a benevolent E.T.

SUNDAY's program, "Behold... The Untouchable Truth Revealed," features Bill Holden Sr., a former Air Force mechanic who tells of seeing aliens give UFO demonstrations to the government; Bill Hamilton III, who has researched UFO/alien phenomena for more than 40 years; Richard J. Boylan, a hypnotherapist who is described as an authority on what the government knows about UFOs and aliens; and Alfred Bielek, listed as "an actual major participant in the Philadelphia Experiment," the reported 1943 trip forward and back in time of a vessel at the Navy Yard in South Philadelphia.

— Rick Selvin

TRIBUNE REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Sept. 3, 1996

Book focuses on Pennsylvania UFO encounters

By Rege Behr

FOR THE TRIBUNE REVIEW

If you think you've seen a UFO, Bob Teets wants to talk to you.

Teets, president of Headline Books in Terra Alta, W.Va., is seeking stories about sightings for a book called "Pennsylvania UFOs: Close Encounters in the Keystone State."

When Teets began work on his last book, "West Virginia UFOs," he said he expected to hear from a few dozen people. Much to his surprise, he was contacted by 135 respondents who thought they had seen a UFO.

"What's astounding is that after the book came out I heard from over 700 people at book signings and other places who had similar experiences," Teets said.

Radio appearances on talk shows in Pittsburgh since then have produced a similar response, prompting his latest effort.

"I was kind of surprised at the number of listeners calling in from western Pennsylvania," he said.

Teets said he feels the UFO phenomenon is relatively untapped — or ignored — by mainstream news organizations.

"As a journalist in regards to a hot story, I feel like I'm on the 50-yard line," he said.

UFO sightings are frequently dismissed as the ravings of crackpots and the mentally unbalanced. Yet in his travels across the country for the Human Potential Foundation, a non-profit group near Washington, D.C., for whom he worked as a research editor for two years, Teets has interviewed more than 2,000 people from all walks of life who claim they have had some type of contact with an unidentified flying object.

"It's not justified saying all these people are delusional, crazy or affected in some way," said Teets. "They're an average cross-section of peo-

'As a journalist in regards to a hot story, I feel I'm on the 50-yard line.'

—Bob Teets
AUTHOR

ple, ministers, school teachers, coal miners and farmers. It can't just be coincidental that they're all crazy or on the fringe."

Teets' interest in the subject was heightened after working for the foundation, an organization bankrolled by New York billionaire Lawrence Rockefeller and devoted to areas of new science, such as paranormal consciousness and inter-species communications. Paid to travel around the country to attend conferences and conduct interviews, Teets became fascinated by the stories he heard about UFOs.

"This field needed journalism," he said. "There are a lot of terrestrial interests trying to control people's interest in the subject. An identifiable clique of powerful people promote the idea that UFOs are here to terrify the planet, a smoke-screen to cover terrestrial events that occur."

One possibility is the government is involved in promoting myths about flying saucers as cover for experimental aircraft. Teets said the stealth fighter was flying for 10 years before its use in the Gulf War, and if any test flights were reported as UFO sightings, so much the better for national security.

"That was fine by the government," Teets said, speculating there may have been other efforts by the United States, especially during the Cold War, to deflect attention from top secret projects.

Teets, however does not dismiss all UFO sightings as hoaxes or cover-ups. Working with

the foundation, Teets helped develop a briefing document that was sent to President Clinton's science adviser, Dr. John Gibbons, delineating possible origins of UFOs.

"One possibility is that UFOs can be explained in terms of science, naturally occurring phenomenon that really aren't the result of gray creatures in spaceships," he said. "Another possibility is that UFOs are non-human intelligence that pre-date human society and interface with us in different ways. Some may think of them as angels, some may think of them as demons."

Teets himself feels there is merit to many suppositions about the existence of UFOs.

"It could be and probably is all of the above," he said of the possibilities he referred to for UFO origins. "Going back to ancient times, the Bible, the Koran, ancient texts, Sumerian cuneiforms seem all to prove we have definitely been in contact with some sort of non-human intelligence. I don't see how anyone can argue the point."

Although there are many theories about the origins of UFOs, Teets feels it's perfectly natural to have different feelings and explanations about sightings.

"As a journalist, you know when you have five people as eyewitnesses to an event, you have five slightly different variations of the story," he said.

"It's the same thing with the explanations for UFOs. There are people who say seeing a UFO makes me feel wonderful, while another will say it scared the heck out of me. Another will look at a ship as a way of meeting aliens. Still another will say I don't trust what I see because there's a guy in the basement of the Pentagon shooting something at me, while someone else will kneel down and say this means something in a religious way."

Anyone wishing to relate a story about a UFO sighting in Pennsylvania can call Teets (800) 570-5951.

MORNING WORLD-HERALD, Omaha, NE - Dec. 18, 1996

Ball of Light Leaves Scientists in the Dark

BY JULIE ANDERSON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A strange ball of light flying off the top of a thundercloud over Sarpy County that Creighton University researchers captured on videotape apparently has scientists stumped.

Dean Morss, assistant professor of atmospheric sciences, showed a six-frame sequence of the ball blasting upward and to the left across the video camera's view at about 1,800 miles a second at this week's meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

The frames were posted on the Internet, Morss said. Scientists who had seen the posting before the meeting could not identify the mysterious ball, which was spotted from Bellevue.

"It's something that you're going to have to scratch your head and think, 'What kind of phenomenon could form this kind of light?'" he said.

So, was it a UFO? Morss said he doesn't think so. More likely, he said, is that it's some kind of electrical effect such as the ones scientists have been studying in a quest to learn more about

how thunderstorms work.

Some of the effects flashing above thunderheads, discovered just since the late 1980s, have names such as "Elves" and "red sprites," which are the phenomena Morss and Air Force Lt. Paul McCrone, a graduate student, were studying when the video was taken.

Scientists have been trying to determine just what causes the phenomena and whether these previously unknown complexities of thunderstorms may affect global weather and ozone or pose threats to satellite communications, new generations of high-flying planes or the space shuttle.

They have been using the Great

Plains' wide-open spaces to observe the phenomena.

In another report at the San Francisco meeting, Stanford University researchers said they had confirmed that Elves flash across the sky in 50- to 60-mile-high rings that sometimes spread to 200 miles across, expanding outward faster than the speed of light and lasting a fraction of a millisecond. Elves is short for Emissions of Light and Very Low Frequency Perturbations from Electromagnetic Pulse Sources.

The Stanford researchers said their models indicate lightning can generate electromagnetic pulses that travel outward and upward and produce light

when they hit the lower ionosphere, a portion of the atmosphere.

McCrone, who is stationed at Offutt Air Force Base's Global Weather Central, took the Bellevue video the night of Aug. 21 from a hillside near 36th Street and Cornhusker Road.

He was looking out over a thunderstorm in western Kansas and southeast Colorado using low-light, high-speed video equipment on loan from Los Alamos in New Mexico.

Morss said they spotted the fiery ball when they reviewed the videotape. The whole flash lasted a tenth of a second. Morss said he checked with Midlands Community Hospital to make sure they didn't have any helicopter flights that night. "This is about 20 times faster than any helicopter that ever flew," he said. Nor was it another type of aircraft, or ball lightning.

"It's got to be some kind of trapped charge that popped out the top of a thunderstorm," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

NEWS SENTINEL, Ft. Wayne, IN - Sept. 7, 1996

Noble farmers quietly report two crop circles

By LISA RAMIREZ
of The News-Sentinel

The farmers who found the circles didn't report them right away because they didn't want people trampling their crops.

Two more crop circles have been spotted in northeast Indiana, but farmers harvested the Noble County fields before experts could examine the phenomena in their unspoiled state.

Farmers found the circles in July, but didn't report the circles right away for fear that their wheat crops would be trampled by scientists, researchers and the public, said Roger Sugden, a field investigator and member of Texas-based Mutual UFO Network Inc.

Sugden said he and a research team from Eastern Michigan University visited the circles, located in Indian Village and Washington Center, on Labor Day to measure, photograph, inspect and catalog them for their files.

Crop circles have been found around the world. They usually are found in fields, with no tracks leading to or from the circles. Some people say they are made by supernatural forces. Doubters think they are more likely the work of

clever pranksters.

The two new discoveries triple the number of crop circles found in northeast Indiana this summer. On July 14, farmers found a V-shaped pattern of three circles in Whitley County.

Another crop circle was found July 3 in Paulding, Ohio, by pilot Mike Dobbela, his wife and two other relatives during a plane ride. It measured 93 feet in diameter in a field farmed by Dan Arend and his two brothers.

Sugden and another group that investigates mysterious phenomena, the Massachusetts-based BLT Research Team, said the crop circle in Paulding was not man-made or created by UFOs.

Instead, they say, it was an atmospheric phenomenon.

Nancy Talbott, director of field research for BLT, said various tests and studies conducted from samples taken from the site revealed atmospheric energies in soil samples.

Talbott believes the energies may come from unknown atmospheric condi-

tions, such as the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer, which could have caused extra radiation from the sun to reach the atmosphere. The combination of radiation and the Earth's atmosphere may have created electrical charges that formed a vortex, hit the ground and formed the crop circle.

Sugden said the Indian Village finding, near the intersection of Gilbert Lake Road and County Road 950W, was a pattern of three connecting circles; the largest measured 100 feet in diameter, the second 45 feet and the third 33 feet. The one in Washington Center, in a field on County Road 900W about eight miles south of Ligonier, had four unattached circles; three were 33 feet and the fourth was 44 feet.

However, no scientific studies were conducted on them because they had been discovered too late and the wheat had been harvested.

"We couldn't tell if it was a hoax or not," Sugden said. "That's too bad. Hopefully others won't do this."

— Regional —

Residents see mysterious light

AMARILLO, Texas — According to the Amarillo Globe-News in an article Wednesday, Jan. 1, a mysterious red light moving across the sky Monday night was reported to authorities.

The light looked like an early New Year's celebration to several people who spotted the object.

Jim Elfelt and his whole family watched the light stop and start, zigzag and shoot out beams of light, he said.

Elfelt's son, John, said he was outside the family's southwest Amarillo home around 10:10 p.m. when he noticed a big, red light in the southeast part of the sky.

After the whole family came outside at his bidding, the object began zigzagging after having been stationary for eight or nine minutes. Its position he said was just to the left of Orion. It moved to the northwest and then at one point was directly overhead, the man reported.

The five people watching the object said two beams of light shot out of it. Then they saw a flash, somewhat like fireworks. Elfelt said the beam was not a steady light but sparkled and seemed to be very similar to the effect one gets from watching fireworks. The bright beam stopped and the shower of sparks radiated out.

Sometimes the light was bright, sometimes dull and flickering. The light eventually reached the western part of the sky, the family said.

It stayed still for a while, **got real bright, then just disappeared.** Elfelt said the object seemed too high to be a planet, the Globe reported. The article stated he speculated the object could have been a hot air balloon or a blimp.

The family called the police department and learned a police officer had already called in and reported the object. In addition, the dispatcher said the Amarillo Police Department had received several calls Monday night concerning the object.

'Crop Circle' Still Perplexing For Many in Butte, Neb., Area

BY PAUL HAMMEL
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Boyd County Sheriff Duane Pavel said Monday that new information has convinced him that a mysterious "crop circle" found in a barley field just west of Butte, Neb., was not the work of vandals.

Pavel issued letters from two investigators offering theories that complex atmospheric phenomena created the curious, 30-foot circle surrounded by a 4-foot ring.

Pavel said he's stopped looking for midnight pranksters who might have flattened the barley. They left no visible tracks, he said.

"It was some sort of energy release," Pavel said. "Where the energy came from, who knows."

A researcher with the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which is based in Buffalo, N.Y., said there was no proof that such circles were anything but a prank.

"You explain it the same way you explain graffiti," said Joe Nickell Sr.

The discovery of the crop circle July 22 created a stir in Butte, a village just south of the South Dakota border and the closest town to a proposed repository for low-level radioactive waste.

Dozens of people, including instructors from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and South Dakota State University who study unexplained phenomena, visited the site. Pavel said he was interviewed by more than 40 radio stations. A local bar sold dozens of T-shirts reading, "Beam Me Up, Butte."

The sheriff also clipped samples of the flattened barley plants and shipped them to W.C. Levensgood, a retired university professor from Grass Lake, Mich.

Levensgood has published a theory that crop circles are produced by complex, ion plasma vortices that may originate during energy exchanges between electrical storms and the ionosphere.

In a letter to Pavel, a researcher who helps Levensgood said that lab reports showed evidence of lengthening of plant stems and "magnetic material" within

the circle that suggested intense heat. Those features strongly indicate the presence of a plasma vortex, wrote Nancy Talbot, a researcher from Cambridge, Mass.

Pavel also received a letter from a New Waterford, Ohio, environmental engineer suggesting that it was a "negative energy spin," or reactions between carbon in the soil and farm chemicals.

Walter Andrus Jr., international director of the Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas, said the farm-chemical theory sounded "off the wall." But his organization supports Levensgood's work.

Nickell, however, said Levensgood's work was shoddy and had no support within mainstream scientific circles.

It all leaves Butte-area residents still reaching for an explanation. Butte bar owner Thad Davis, one of the first local residents to see the circle, said he couldn't imagine how pranksters could have produced the perfectly round pattern, but he didn't know what might have formed it.

He doesn't swear they're out there

UFO researcher wants to put aliens in context

By Michael Hill
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Some watch the skies for strange lights and alien ships. Michael Craft has been watching the watchers.

His new book, "Alien Impact," tells their wild tales: UFO abductions, subterranean alien bases, mutilated cattle, government conspiracies, crop circles, magic fairies. The book is a primer of UFO tales that asks the age-old question: What are people seeing in the sky?

"ALIEN IMPACT"

St. Martin's Press. \$23.95.

Readers expecting an answer befitting the "X-Files" will be disappointed, because Craft doesn't pretend to know. But after years of research and travel, he rounds up some unusual suspects. Yes, he says, there could be alien visitors out there. But he also explores the possibility of prankster spirits, electromagnetic phenomenon, hoaxes and higher consciousness.

Craft wants to put the UFO phenomenon in context by giving a wide sample of claims, and then allowing readers to consider the causes. Skeptics need not pick up the book; Craft's intention is not to debunk the many theories he presents.

"I definitely feel that this is not going away. Every day it's getting bigger," Craft said in a telephone interview from his home in Ojai, Calif. "We need to find some way to cope with it, and denial is not an effective way of coping with anything, and blind belief is not effective either."

Alien tales have been around as long as recorded history, with ancient cultures referring to heavenly visitors as gods. In medieval times, strange lights in the skies were chalked up to evil spirits.

The first mention of the now-common term "flying saucer" dates to a 1947 Associated Press dispatch out of Pendleton, Ore., about a strange object streaking through the after-

noon sky, according to Craft's research.

Since that time there's been an explosion of alleged alien encounters. Craft is intrigued by their breadth — and their similarities.

Time and again alien visitors are described as gray with big eyes. Witnesses often describe strange ammonia smells accompanying the sighting, with a resulting loss of time afterward.

For those witnesses abducted by aliens — and supermarket tabloids attest this happens often — they too report similar experiences: psychic messages and fumbling sorts of bodily examinations, many of which focus on reproductive organs.

Sound crazy?

Maybe, Craft says, but he says he can "hear some wild stories — completely unbelievable ... and at the same time you hear these commonalities."

Craft, 38, spent years researching his book. But even before that, he had been devouring books on mythology and the paranormal since he was a kid in Baltimore. Years as a Tai Chi instructor and jobs at New Age centers such as the Omega Institute have expanded his contact with the paranormal.

The book is a tapestry of Crafts' inner travels along with exhaustive document research and interviews. In "Alien Impact," Craft explores:

■ small towns in the English countryside, where farmers are mystified by the exacting circular patterns in their grain crops;

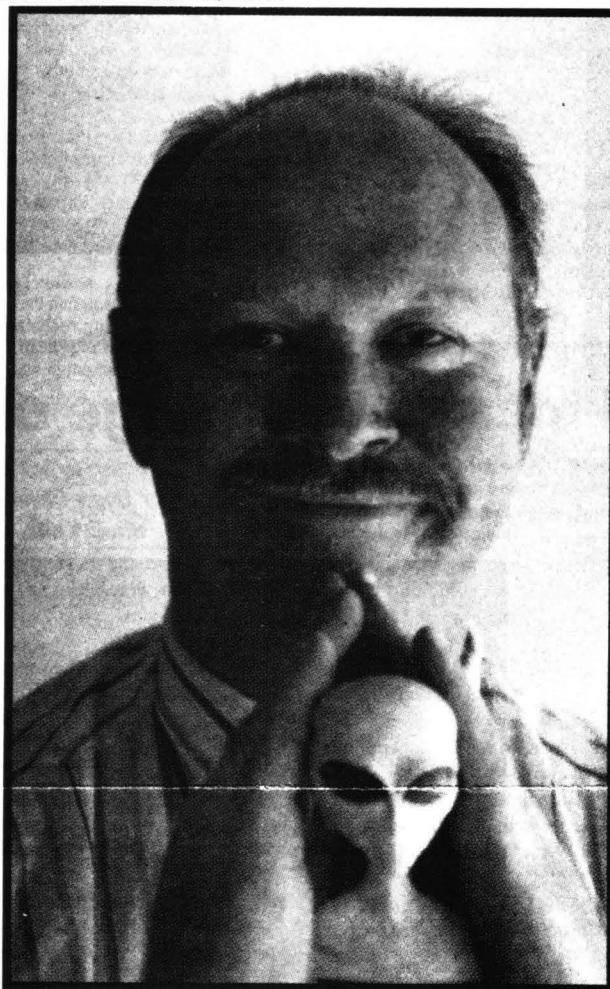
■ a remote Ohio farm, where a family was terrorized by a group of red-eyed, hairy giants;

■ ancient claims of spirits, fairies and mermaids;

■ Bolivia, where a farmer claimed he had sex with a barking red-headed alien because the far-flung race needed stock from a "good stallion";

■ research that suggests early civilizations were given technical know-how by aliens;

■ a conference of UFOlogists who reveal details of the government's secret time control experi-



Associated Press photo

To show how aliens are often described, writer Michael Craft holds a small clay figurine in his home in Ojai, Calif. By exploring the conceivable and the ridiculous in his book, "Alien Impact," Craft hopes to provide a nonjudgmental picture of alien visitations.

ments and a treaty between FDR and the aliens.

The conceivable and ridiculous are infused throughout "Alien Impact." Part of the reason is to give a non-judgmental picture. But Craft believes it's also impossible to divorce UFOs from other unexplained phenomena.

"You cannot study ghosts, the UFO field, or cults or any of these things without connecting to all these other fields," he said. "It's almost like there's all these different camps out there exploring the same thing with a different language."

In other words, maybe the aliens aren't from out there after all. Craft explores the possibility of strange

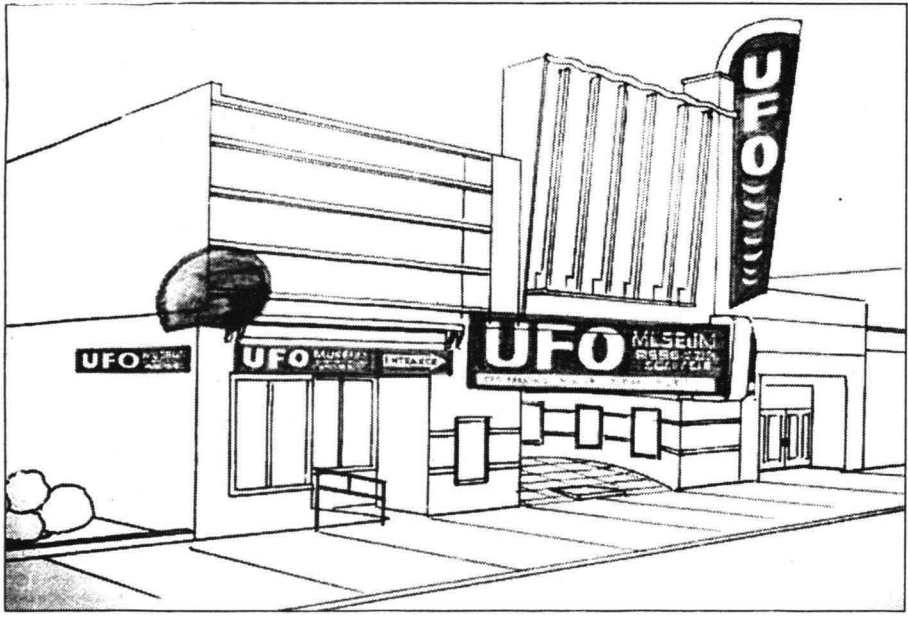
lights being Earth-based, maybe electromagnetic anomalies or signals from the spirit world.

Craft said modern reports of alien encounters often bear a striking similarity to traditional accounts of fairies, goblins and elves — even down to appearance, speech and mode of travel.

Maybe what's lacking, Craft says, is a belief system that takes that into account and tries to make sense of it.

Craft wants his book to be a start.

"I do believe that there is some sort of phenomenon that we can't explain with our science, and it is not just psychological."



This is an artist rendering of what the International UFO Museum and Research Center's new building. The museum is expected to move into the old Plains Theater Jan. 1.

UFO museum moving

SUZANNE ZALEV
RECORD STAFF WRITER

UFOs will be able to park on the roof of the International UFO Museum and Research Center next year if they drop in for a visit. The museum is moving from 406 N. Main St. to the Plains Theater Building, 114 N. Main St., Jan. 1. Max Littell of the museum said among other improvements, the roof will be strong enough for UFOs to park on. "We're running out of room," he said of the current location, which is about half the size of the new one. The current location is

owned by the city of Roswell and is scheduled for demolition. The museum will occupy the entire Plains Theater building including the adjoining gift shop. Museum-goers who do not drive flying saucers will have the use of 66 spaces in the parking lot. Littell said the extra space is needed because of the increase in visitors — the museum has 150 visitors on a slow day. The museum has had about 129,000 visitors since it opened in 1991 — and more than a third of the visits have been in 1996.

Local men spot strange object

By Shannon Woodworth, City Editor

Two West Frankfort men are convinced that they saw a UFO while deer hunting this week. "It was round and flat and looked to be silver in color," said the man, who agreed to tell his story under the condition of anonymity. "It was pretty big, wasn't flying very high and it didn't make any noise." A phone call came into *The Daily American* Friday morning from a local elderly woman who had heard the two men's story and she said it was believable. The woman told the newspaper who one of the men who says he saw a UFO is. The newspaper contacted both men Friday night. Both men are known in the community and life-long residents of West Frankfort. It is the kind of Friday the 13th story and put shivers up your spine even if you don't believe in space aliens. Sometimes these types of stories can be explained after top secret military aircraft, which are being tested by the government, are made public. Still others insist that space aliens do exist and that UFOs have spied on the earth for years.

"I wasn't going to tell anyone I saw it because I figured everyone would think I was nuts"

If this is true, the space aliens at least saw the two men who were wearing bright orange hats carrying shot guns over their shoulders hunting for deer. The younger of the two men said he saw the UFO about 5 a.m. while hunting near Buckner. "I wasn't going to tell anyone I saw it because I figured everyone would think I was nuts," he said. But later that day, another man, who is related to the other, said he saw the same type of craft while hunting near 18 Bottoms Road. "When I heard that someone else had seen it, I was relieved and decided to talk about it," he said. Officer Ray Blades at the West Frankfort Police Department said that he doesn't know of any reports to authorities in Franklin County concerning UFOs. "If we get any reports, we'll certainly keep an eye on the sky," Blades said.

Readers asked to report UFO sightings in area

One of our readers reports that she has been able to sketch likenesses of unidentified flying objects (UFO) from her Estacada-area home. She believes there must be a number of other people in the Estacada, Eagle Creek and Colton areas who have seen what she has seen. While there will always be skeptics, we know the woman to be of

sound mind and is not the type who would say she saw something she hasn't seen. If you have seen UFO's in the area, we're filling our reader's request by asking you to write to her ONLY if you are a serious-sighter. No crank notes or calls, okay? Send the date, time and description of your sightings to: UFO Person, P.O. Box 423, Estacada, OR 97023 or call 630-5114.

He expects the museum to close in the current location on Dec. 31 and reopen in the new location Jan. 2. "We don't want to be closed for a period of time for any reason," he said. The new museum will have new exhibits, a stage with programs, a video room and more partitions for exhibits. It will still have the flying saucer on the corner of the roof. The retailers currently occupying the space will be moving — the museum has signed a 10-year lease with building owner Durwood Jones.

BEACON, San Francisco, CA - Jan. 5, 1997 WEEKLY UFO ROUNDUP

REPUTED ALIEN CAPTURED IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

On Saturday night, December 21, 1996, residents of Ahyud, a village just outside the city of Akko in northern Israel called the police to report "luminescent blue disks" flying over their farms. At 11 p.m., Mrs. Zyona Damti, 34, looked out a window and saw "an alien" standing in front of her father-in-law's barn. She described the entity as 20 centimeters tall and "humanoid: head, trunk, two arms, small hands, two large black eyes. The color was greenish—the umbilicus was clearly visible." Mrs. Damti told her father-in-law what she had seen, but he replied that "it was nothing."

At 8 a.m. the following morning, December 22, Mrs. Damti went outside and found the entity lying on the ground in a large pool of "green liquid." She called the police. Responding to the call were Officer Asher Ben Ezra and his partner. Shortly after the officers confirmed the claim, over 50 Israeli journalists converged on the scene.

Barry Chamish, who covered the incident for Israel's *Magazin* 2000, interviewed Yisrael Damti, Zyona's husband, who said, "You'd better hurry. The body is disintegrating quickly. Most of the head has melted away."

The Damtis put the body in their freezer to halt decomposition. By that time, the remains had shrunk from 20 to 5 centimeters. At 2 p.m., the remains were taken to Technion University in Haifa.

Also on the scene was reknowned psychic Uri Geller, who reportedly suggested that the Damtis call in NASA. Despite many requests from the media, Yisrael Damti allegedly refused to permit the entity to be photographed before the autopsy began at the university.

Not everyone believes the remains to be those of an extraterrestrial. Dr. Fischman told Barry Chamish, "What you have here is a lizard which hatched too early. It is covered in a multi-layered gelatinous sac. When it shed the sac, it left amniotic fluid" all over the ground.

Doron Rotem, who investigated the case for the Israeli Association for UFO Studies, said he believed the remains to be the embryo of "a chameleon or a salamander."

The case received a big play in the Israeli media, with TV coverage on Channels 1 and 2 and hourly broadcasts on the Galey Zahal (Israeli Armed Forces Radio). As a result, more people came forward with UFO stories.

A farmer in Ahyud said aliens had stolen 18 of his sheep the night of December 21. In the nearby Arab town of Tamra, an Arab shepherd reported that his sheep had been stolen, too. (See the following Israeli newspapers for December 24, 1996: *Maariv*, the *Jerusalem Post* and *Yediot Achronoyt*. Many thanks to Dr. Leon Liebrecht and Barry Chamish for this story.)

UFO SPOTTED IN CENTRAL GEORGIA

On Saturday, December 21, 1996, at 10:30 p.m., a man and woman living near Bullard, Georgia (population 275) saw a UFO hovering near the southern perimeter of Robins Air Force Base.

"The sky was clear and visibility excellent," reported Brenda Hughes. "We went outside to take a look at the weather. I noticed Paul looking at something in the sky. He said, 'There is something up there, and it's not a plane.' He works at Robins AFB and knows every plane that flies. I joined him, and we watched it hover just south of the base. We watched it for almost three minutes. It would appear and then disappear. It had lights that went all around it. And a red light with the white lights. It was my husband's first sighting."

UFO VISITS ARIZONA POWWOW

On Sunday afternoon, December 15, 1996, at 2:29 p.m., UFO researcher Bill Hamilton was watching a Native American dance at the Indian Market at South Mountain Park in Phoenix, Arizona when he sighted a UFO.

"I gazed up at the crescent moon and saw a round, silvery object moving south at about 5 degrees below the moon. It made no sound and had no wings or appendages. Just below it, seemingly separated from the object, was a blinking green light (not like an aircraft light). It seemed to be signaling or just blinking. The object moved slowly to a dead stop and hovered. Then it just vanished from sight. Sighting time—approximately 10 to 15 seconds."

SIGHTINGS CONTINUE IN THE CAMARILLO AREA

On Tuesday, December 24, 1996, the bright white UFO seen earlier this month returned to its haunts in Camarillo, California (population 37,732). The UFO appeared at 4:45 p.m.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

GAZETTE, Clacton, England - Oct. 4, 1996

Eyes to the skies for Ron and his fellow UFO enthusiasts

The TRUTH is OUT THERE

IT was 11.17pm and I finally saw something.

Suddenly from the left two distinctive bright orange lights appeared and started moving.

I made a grab for my binoculars to try and identify this life form before it vanished back into the stratosphere.

Ron West leaned over and said patiently: "That's an AA van, I'm not interested unless it takes off."

Ron is used to such escapades and as chairman of the Essex UFO Research Group he speaks candidly about alleged Government cover-ups, alien abductions and other dimensions.

As soon as we arrive at Holland Haven Country Park, Ron and his group set up the Camcorder (protected from the elements by a Safeway carrier bag) and the powerful night-sights.

Presumably Fox Mulder went on these sort of sorties before teaming up with the FBI and dealing with the X-Files, so armed with a pair of high-power binoculars and a warm coat I was happy to head for the field and look skyward.

SIGHTINGS

We started, looking, peering and squinting to see any shimmer of light, any flash of movement from a, so far, protective sky.

We sat for a few hours recounting tales of sightings, how one ship had crash-landed in Wales and how the craft had been secretly recovered, how Independence Day was a bit too much and how the X-Files were normally spot on.

There are some incidents that always crop up with ufologists; Roswell, Area 51 and Kenneth Arnold's flight are held in high esteem.

It's a good job they do have those camp-side stories as it seems as if all alien lifeforms had given Clacton a miss tonight.

One woman was telling how the sightings were getting earlier as maybe they wanted to be seen now when Ron shouts: "Did you see that?"

I hadn't but apparently a streak of white light had burst down from under the cloud cover and just as suddenly vanished.

I was prepared to conclude it was a shooting star, mainly because I hadn't seen it.

There were satellites, there was Jupiter and now I can pick out The Plough and the Seven Sisters with consummate ease.

It was approaching midnight and we were completely alone in the field.

Alone until a police car pulled up. An inquisitive WPC wanders over wondering what we are up to.

We wind down the window and explain: "We're looking for aliens."

Ron is used to people being bemused.

Undeterred, Ron and his group sometimes stay out until 5am to try and find something.

DIMENSION

"Why they are coming I don't know but they are. I don't think they are man-made but there is something out there and I'm not saying it's alien, I'm not saying it's from outer space, it could be inter-dimensional, it could be from another dimension, from the past or present.

"I believe everything is possible until it is proved different," he said.

He first started believing in the fifties when he in the Army, based in Hampshire and had a sighting.

And he's sure he is not the only one who has seen.

"Most of my friends believe it but they won't say anything because of the ridicule, but they have been coming here for thousands of years, if they wanted to have taken over they would have taken over long before now.

"We know they are there but we



"Why they are coming I don't know but they are. There is something out there but I'm not saying it's alien" - Ron West, chairman of the Essex UFO Research Group.

Report: MARK BEALES

can't prove it, one could land on the White House or Hyde Park tomorrow and they would turn around and say 'it's Beadle'.

Having had more hot chocolate, I peered out again and even the stars had hidden now.

I wondered if the recent news that Mars once harboured life could have strengthened Ron's resolve but he confides that he and many others have known about that for a long time.

He has no particular theory as to why we are being visited but points out: "What would we do if we had a spaceship and went up into space

and came across a planet that could sustain life?

"We would send down a party and dissect life."

Ron is a man with a mission, to boldly find what no man has found before.

He and the other ufologists have claims that beggar belief, but believe them they do, and

vehemently.

For an objective group of investigators they do tend to be infatuated with the subject matter but then it's hard not to find the idea of life on other planets a romantic notion.

Maybe the truth is out there. ● If you would like to know more about the group call Ron on 01255 431391.

UFO INFO

THE UFO phenomenon really heated up after 1947 when Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold was flying over the Cascade Mountains in Washington when he spotted nine crescent-shaped crafts - hence "flying saucers."



CLOSE Encounters of the Third Kind is not just a great film it is also a term used for any contact between a human and an alien.



BETWEEN 1947 and 1969 the US Air Force had a real X-Files department, investigating UFOs as a possible threat to national security.



Ufologist Ron West - encouraging people to look for sightings in Clacton.

WALTHAMSTOW GUARDIAN, London, England - Oct. 3, 1996

Several sightings of 'triangular, orange UFO'

A MAN from Howard Road, Walthamstow, claims to have seen a mysterious craft in the sky at 2.40am on Friday, the same night as the eclipse of the moon.

He described the unidentified flying object as 'triangular and orange in colour'.

Roy Lake, a London UFO specialist

to whom the man reported the sighting, says the description bears out other sightings across the capital over the last few weeks.

"In September last year we had only three reports of UFOs. This year, we have had 40. They include several of this triangular object with green lights which has now been seen in

Walthamstow and Chingford.

"There is definitely something big happening," he said.

Mr Lake wants to hear from anyone else who has seen the UFO. All phone calls will be treated in complete confidence.

Call Mr Lake on 270 9919 or his colleague on 0171 684 0775.

MONMOUTHSHIRE BEACON, Gwent, Wales - Aug. 8, 1996

UFO reported

A UFO sighting has been reported to Monmouth Police.

A local motorist was travelling on the A40 near the Raglan Services at 8 pm on

Sunday when he saw a black, flat, ragged-edged object, measuring 15 ft by 12 ft, in the sky. He likened the object to a solar panel from a satellite.

Riddle of 'UFO' lights remains

THE mystery of strange lights which appeared over North Worcestershire last week remains unsolved.

Several readers rang the *Evening Mail* to say that they had seen a bright triangular-shaped light in the Bromsgrove area last Wednesday night.

Many said that the lights appeared to fluctuate, to hover in the sky and then to move position.

So far there appears to be no explanation for their appearance.

West Mercia police also said they were not aware of anything which could account for the lights and UFO investigator John Hanson from Alvechurch had no explanation for their appearance.

But he said lorry drivers from Birmingham who were in the Oswestry area about four weeks ago had also reported seeing something strange in the sky.

Expert prepares to join UFO hunt

A TOP UFO trouble-shooter is preparing to beam in to help solve the mystery sightings that have got the whole county talking.

Simon Harris is hoping to find an extra terrestrial explanation into the objects spotted off the county's coast.

The latest sighting involves multi-coloured flashing lights spotted between Skegness and Boston.

He said: "I shall be liaising with Lincolnshire Police as they were central to the sightings. I hope to talk at length with them to fill in all the details about what they saw."

"This case is exciting in that it has been confirmed by a number of official sources, which is most unusual. The video footage is also very interesting."

"There has been a lot already uncovered but I believe there is more information which can be brought to light."

A special MoD "cell" which looks into UFO activity is also investigating the object, which was first spotted off the county's coast in the early hours of last Saturday morning.

Baffled

The Echo also revealed a transcript of a conversation between RAF radar operators, coastguards, a tanker skipper and the police on the night of the sighting.

It showed how official sources were baffled by the

by Jason Mellor

object which was caught on radar for more than seven hours.

London-based Mr Harris (30) has been hot on the UFO trail for more than three years and goes all over the country on his exhaustive searches.

He became convinced there was something out there when seeing a mystery object in the skies while on holiday in Portugal.

● Echo readers continue to bombard our office with their own stories of UFO sightings. Here are two of them.

I saw bright lights in the sky 13 years ago and it was reported in the Echo dated October 10, 1983, so it's not the first time things like this have been spotted in the county and I'm sure it won't be the last.

Benjamin Franklin, St Clement's Close, Rowston, Sleaford.

I distinctly saw an unusual light in the sky over an easterly direction last Wednesday, which was much brighter than a star.

Mrs Mabel Burwell, Grantham Way, Wasingborough.

FAULKIRK HERALD, Stirling, Scotland - Aug. 1, 1996

Family astounded by flashing lights of UFO

A LOCAL family has been left baffled by an unidentified flying object.

Audrey Batchelor, of 48 Park Avenue, Stenhousemuir, her boyfriend Jim Donnelly and mother Claire, couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the brightly-coloured object hovering in the sky. It had a series of flashing lights around it.

The UFO stayed in sight for around five minutes before vanishing — leaving Audrey, Claire and Jim dumbstruck.

Reliving her brush with the unknown, Audrey (20) said: "Jim and I were getting ready to go to Glasgow last Thursday night. I was sitting in the car with my son, Dale, when I looked up at the sky and saw this thing hovering. I peeped the horn and Jim came out and saw it as well. That was when he shouted for my mum."

Jim (25), who lives in Glasgow, said: "It looked as though it was hovering above fields over towards Denny."

"It was really big and had different coloured lights all around it. It definitely wasn't a helicopter. I've never seen anything like it."

Report: KEVIN SCHOFIELD
Picture: LEON MCGOWRAN

The astounded trio then decided to take a closer look at the mysterious object, but it was gone before they got the chance.

Jim said: "We tried to walk towards it, but it was gone in a split second. The three of us were standing watching it, but then it was gone. I don't know anything that could have moved that quickly — it just disappeared."

He added: "When me and Audrey drove to Glasgow, we took all the back roads and I was driving with one eye on the sky. But we never saw it again."

Jim, Audrey and Claire's experience has received a sceptical response from their friends and family, but they are still convinced that what they saw was not of this world.

Audrey said: "I just can't explain it. I know for a fact it wasn't a helicopter or an aeroplane. It was definitely unidentified."

Puzzle of two UFOs

UFO hunters may be heading for Wilsden after bright coloured craft were twice spotted hovering over the village in recent weeks.

Retired lorry driver Thomas Daw was mystified by bright lights gliding silently in the night sky.

Leeds Bradford Airport and West Yorkshire Police have no explanation for either sighting.

Mr Daw first spotted the flying object three weeks ago at midnight from his house in Royd Street.

"It was very brightly lit and moved very slowly across the sky," he said. "It was absolutely quiet and didn't seem very high."

And he watched a similar craft over Wilsden for half an hour at 4.30am on Sunday September 1.

It is not the first time a suspected UFO has hovered over Wilsden. In January 1994 pensioner Stella Hamilton saw a cigar-shaped object with twinkling lights gliding towards Oxenhope and Haworth.

Fife man tells of "triangle" in sky

Only a day after reports of the Douglas area of Dundee being buzzed by a UFO, a man from Glenrothes came forward with his tale of a similar experience.

Edward Preston was standing outside his house at around 9 pm last Sunday.

"I was watching the sky in the west, trying to catch a glimpse of the planet Jupiter when I noticed it."

"The shape caught my attention first of all, a perfectly equilateral triangle."

Texture

"I've seen jets before and none of them are perfect triangles, the cockpit normally juts out, but this was like nothing I've seen before."

"It wasn't a matt grey, because I could make out texture on the bottom with my binoculars."

"The aircraft, or whatever it was, moved over from west to east over my house, the sighting only lasted eight to 10 seconds, because I called my wife when it first came into view, but by the time she got outside it was disappearing into the distance."

"Because I don't know the size of the craft I can only guess, but it would appear to have been flying at about 1000 feet."

"This was one of the things that struck me as strange, especially as the craft did not make a sound."

"It was not a case of seeing strange lights because there were no lights to see on the craft, the only reason I spotted it at all was because it was a beautifully

clear night and the moon was shining right on it."

"I was perfectly prepared to accept the sighting as a jet, perhaps travelling back to RAF Leuchars but after reading the story paper I started to query it."

Leuchars

A spokesman from RAF Leuchars said today they had no aircraft over Glenrothes at that time on Sunday night, however the spokesman said "that doesn't rule out the possibility of civil air traffic or traffic from elsewhere, but it definitely wasn't from Leuchars."

Mr Preston dismissed the sug-

gestion of civil aircraft, saying that the speed, height and shape of the craft did not correlate with that idea.

Instead he thinks another explanation is much more likely and more terrestrial than little green men. "The craft I saw was so advanced that if it was launched by RAF Leuchars or another military base they're not very likely to admit it."

This sighting was reported only a day after lights spotted over Douglas, and only a month after a strange light was reported in the sky over Arbroath and follows numerous unexplained sightings of lights over Tayside and Fife earlier in the year.

Strange sight in the sky

Regarding reports of pilots seeing UFOs.

In 1962 we were installing a chalet camp at Hopton, between Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Because the roofers were laying felt on the roof, we were looking up into the air.

We became aware of a Vulcan bomber above us, flying in from the direction of the sea. This did not arouse our interest, until we noticed that it had apparently turned, and was going back out to sea. None of us

had seen it turn, and it amazed us that this could change direction so quickly.

The next morning the EDP was full of a sighting of a UFO from Kessingland (south of us) to Cromer (north of us). Many people of my acquaintance later claimed that they had seen it. It resembled a flying wing, with lights on the leading edges.

After I put a letter in the EDP regarding this sighting, I was

contacted by a man at Cambridge University who was carrying out an investigation into it.

Many years later (in the late 70s) I bought a book on UFOs and the photos were of the usual flying saucers, except the last one. This showed a photograph of exactly what I had seen, with the caption: "This has only been reported four times in the world."

This was vindication of our sighting many years previously.

With the talk of UFO landing on earth under difficult circumstances and the fact that they also have their problems, one begins to wonder about the recent TWA crash. Do they ever collide by mistake, and cause this type of disaster? Perhaps one day we may know the answer.

R L MAILEY,
Station Road South, Belton.

The day the aliens came to N Yorks

TO mark the start of the new X-Files series tonight at 9.30pm on BBC1, SIMON RITCHIE looks at one of North Yorkshire's strangest UFO stories

IT was a crisp, February morning in 1979. Phil Shepherdson was riding his motorbike along the twisting country lanes near Easingwold when he



BARREN LAND: The corner of the field near Easingwold, where Phil Shepherdson believes he saw the UFO — nothing will grow there



Phil Shepherdson: still haunted by his encounter move and I could not think. I was rooted to the spot.

"Suddenly my mind did not accept it any more and I got on my bike and took off to work."

Phil worked as a chemical technician at Rowntrees at the time. He cannot remember what time he got to work that day although

he knew it was later than usual. He did not tell his workmates or anybody else of his encounter. He blanked it out from his mind.

"I would have been ridiculed. I just forgot it. I did not want to believe it. In the back of my mind it was an aircraft that I saw, a terrestrial aircraft — but the thing was hovering silently above the grass and there was not a blade out of place. Then it flew off at tremendous speed."

He never spoke of the sighting, until the nightmares began 11 years later. At the same time there were reports of UFOs and crop circles in the Crayke area.

"It was through these nightmares that I remember more about the incident. The

two figures by the craft seemed to be crouching down at first as if doing something to it, then they stood up and looked at me.

"And when the craft left it did so at such a tremendous speed."

Phil, who is a founder member of Yorkshire UFO group, the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign, believes his sighting was one of many on that day back in 1979.

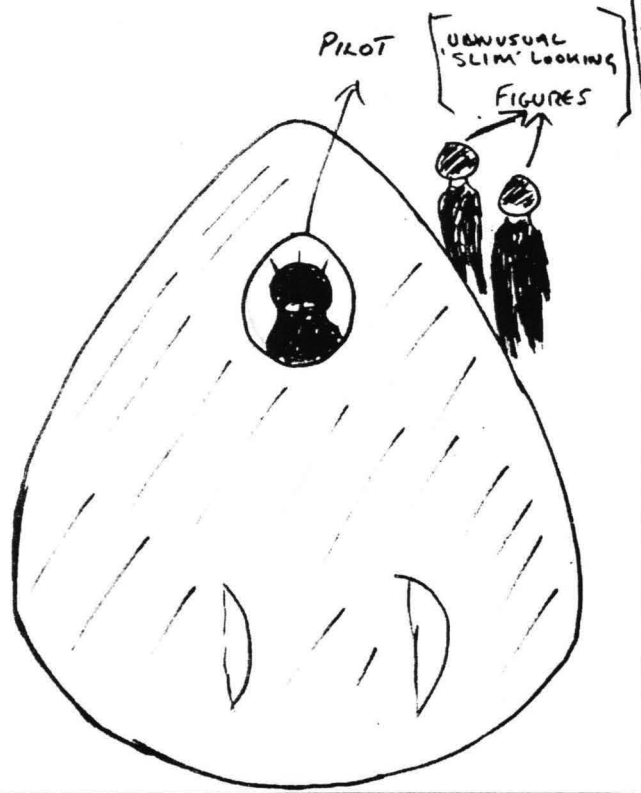
UFOs were spotted in the Rossendale Valley, Lancashire, and Blackpool and at 3.30am a black triangular craft was seen by a man driving in New Earswick, York. He said the object had an orange light in the centre.

● If YOU have had a close encounter with a UFO or a brush with the paranormal contact Simon Ritchie on 01904 653051 ext 347.

Close encounter with spaceship

UFO ENCOUNTER

CRAYKE N. Yorks 26th FEB approx 8:00am.



SKETCHY DETAILS: A drawing by Mr Shepherdson, showing the craft he saw on his way to work in February 1979

UFO reported to Police

GWEEK resident Joan Lewer is not the sort of person to believe in little green men coming down from the sky.

But when she looked out of her window one evening last week and saw a yellow light she did wonder what it was. So much so that she rang the police who in turn contacted the Cornwall UFO Society.

Mrs Lewer lives with her husband, Mike, but was watching television on her own when she sighted the object.

"I just happened to look out of the window when the adverts came on to see if I could spot a badger," said Mrs Lewer. She then saw a strange object in the sky. It was bright yellow.

"It was like half a circle with a humped bit in the middle," she said.



Light in the sky ... Joan Lewer

"At first it seemed very low to the ground. It was not a reflection. It had no windows and no markings on it. It was quite large. There was no noise with it."

She said she was looking east at the time towards Constantine and then went back to watch the film. When the next break came she looked again and it was still there.

"I wondered if I should wake my husband but decided not to," said Mrs Lewer. "I went to watch the film again and it had gone."

It was then she decided to telephone the police who said they would investigate. They passed the information onto observers who contacted the UFO Society.

"I have never seen anything like it before. The more I thought about it the more it could not be explained."

WISBECH STANDARD, Cambs., England - Oct. 11, 1996

Mystery lights in night sky

THE source of "strange" bright lights spotted in the sky off the South Lincolnshire coast at the weekend remains a mystery.

Police, the RAF and shipping reported the appearance of two large, unexplained objects above the Wash in the early hours of Saturday.

Baffled personnel at RAF Neatishead, near Norwich, spent hours tracking the UFOs, described by witnesses as large, about a mile up in the sky, and with blue, white, red and green flashing lights.

The Ministry of Defence said it was taking the sightings seriously and "all possibilities" would be covered.

Spokesman Nigel Sergeant said: "We

are trying to prove that it does not represent any sort of security threat and that it was not an aggressive intrusion into our airspace.

"This is one of the bigger sightings recently and has caused quite a bit of interest."

Skegness police called the coastguards at 3.14am on Saturday after seeing a number of objects flashing in the sky, which were also spotted by colleagues at Boston.

Sightings, which continued until the objects disappeared off radar screens at about 11am on Saturday, later came from a tanker and a civilian aircraft, while two military radar stations verified "strange" traces.

Flight Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We have not been able

to offer an explanation. The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up. We will be investigating the matter thoroughly."

Witnesses heard no aircraft noise and military radar showed no aircraft, civil or military, in the area — apart from the civilian flight which reported "strange lights."

Military officials said no airforce planes had been scrambled to investigate as the objects were not seen as a threat.

Coastguards put forward the theory that the lights might have been Venus rising in the morning sky.

But Ian Morison, a scientist at the radio astronomy observatory at Jodrell Bank, said this was unlikely as the planet would not have been visible after sunrise — or displayed such a range of colours..

UFO spotted over Falkirk

A FALKIRK man was left baffled by a mystery object he saw in the sky on his way to work.

The man telephoned the Falkirk Herald this week to say he spotted the object above the Magpie Inn in Maggie Woods Loan, Falkirk, at around 11.50 p.m. last Thursday.

The Royal Mail worker, who did not wish to be named, said: "I was going to my work when this light came up behind the Magpie. It was about 500 feet above the pub and it was lit up really brightly."

"I would say it was roughly the size of a medium-haul jet, but it couldn't have been a jet or a helicopter because there was no noise. It was moving at about 10 miles an hour towards Bantaskine and then it just disappeared."

The man added: "When I got to my work, two of my workmates said they had seen it as well. I'd never seen anything like it before, although I've always had an open mind about that sort of thing."

A Falkirk police spokesman said they had not received any telephone calls from other people claiming to have spotted the mystery object.

FALKIRK HERALD, Stirling, Scotland - Oct. 10, 1996

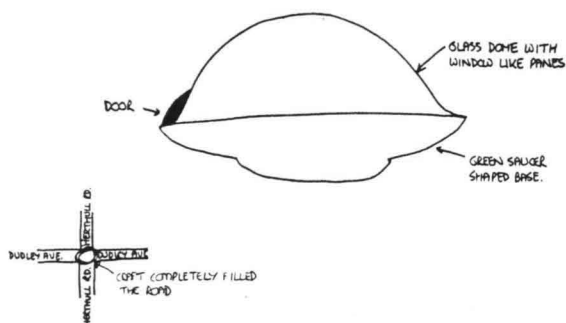
SEEING is believing

Interest in UFOs and the paranormal has never been so great. Kate Anderson went in search of the truth and spoke to Gladys Spencer, of Leicester, who can recall her close encounter as if it happened yesterday...



This thing came from nowhere. It landed in the middle of the road. It was like a ball with a flat bottom and there were 'people' inside. Where they came from, I don't know. Men from outer space they reckon...

SKETCH OF UFO AND WHERE IT LANDED



Above: Drawing of the UFO by Gladys with a plan of where it landed

Opposite: Gladys in her front garden, not far from the sighting of the craft

Right: Will she be able to spot another one this year?

do you believe in aliens? Gladys Spencer certainly does. For Gladys, 82, claims not only to have seen a UFO, but to have had an even closer encounter with an alien. It may sound incredible, but Gladys can recall her encounter as clearly as if it happened yesterday.

Gladys, who lives in Thurnby Lodge with her beloved dog Scruff, became something of a local celebrity after her appearance on Radio Leicester's Talk Back programme in April, which dealt with the UFO phenomenon. She enjoyed being able to share her experience with other people. It was, she says, a relief finally to get things off her chest and it brought back a lot of happy memories.

Although now in her early 80s, Gladys remembers that fateful day very clearly, only the date and time elude her. But it was quite some time ago because Gladys recalls that Thurnby Lodge Estate was still being built.

The day had started out just like any other and as usual, Gladys could be found in her favourite place - sitting on the wall on the corner of Dudley Avenue. But this wasn't just another ordinary day...

"This thing came from, well I may as well say nowhere. It landed in the middle of the road. It was like a ball with a flat bottom and there were 'people' inside. Where they came from, I don't know. Men from outer space they reckon."

The craft, which Gladys refers to as a 'bubble' or 'globe', completely filled the road. "It was like a saucer on the bottom and that was green. It had a glass dome, like window panels and it had two steps that went into the bubble. I remember it ever so well. They were sitting on green slatted seats. A beautiful green. I haven't seen that green again since then," she says.

"There were people inside this globe - I think there were four of them - and one of them came and spoke to me. He was wearing normal, everyday clothes - a suit I think - and he said 'Hello. Are you all right?' He looked human and he spoke English, the same as us. I was amazed."

In fact, Gladys says the alien looked a lot like Radio Leicester's John Florence and she got quite a shock when they first met. "It was such a strange feeling, as if I'd been followed. It was very, very strange."

Gladys insists that she wasn't scared by her close encounter; in fact she remembers feeling drawn to the UFO. "It was a very queer feeling, as if something was drawing me to the globe but I'd got to hold back. I can't really describe."

Then the globe disappeared as silently as it had arrived, heading off towards Uppingham. Shortly afterwards, Gladys remembers hearing that scorched ring marks had appeared on a nearby field. Was this further evidence that 'they' had been there? Gladys certainly thinks so. Either that or a very strange coincidence.

Gladys, who has lived in Leicester all her life, clearly enjoys talking about her experience although she is the first to admit that a lot of people may find her story difficult to believe. It's only now, thanks to TV documentaries and shows such as *The X-Files* that people are beginning to talk - and listen - more.

And since her appearance on Radio Leicester, Gladys has been thinking - and talking - about her experience more than ever. "I often think about what happened. Why did I see it? Was I meant to sit on that wall? They must have known that I would be there and that's why they landed there."

Although Gladys doesn't know what they wanted, she knows what she saw: "It was very strange because they seemed to be looking around. They seemed to go everywhere there were new buildings."

Gladys knows she'll probably never know why they chose her but she's very glad they did. In fact, she'd gladly relive the experience all over again. "It was a very pleasant experience. I wasn't afraid. There wasn't anything to be afraid of."

Gladys continues: "It made me feel happier, not afraid, not afraid of life. I've always felt as though I'm guarded. I've felt that way for a long while."

Although Gladys talks about her UFO encounter with such passion, she is the first to admit that before her experience, she didn't give much thought to the existence of UFOs or extraterrestrials, yet alone believe that they existed. In Gladys' case, seeing really is believing and she now spends many a night outside in her back yard, watching, just in case.

"Some nights and I look up at the sky, see something and think, 'What's that?' And it isn't a star. So what is it?"

And Gladys isn't watching alone. UFO sightings may still seem relatively rare, but only one or two people out every 100 or so who see UFOs actually report their experiences - and out of these only around five per cent can be classed as 'genuine unknown'; cases that, after as much analysis as possible, still defy explanation.

Still, nobody really knows exactly what's 'out there' but whichever way you look at it, Gladys' story does seem to lend evidence towards two possible theories. Supporters of The Time Travel Hypothesis believe such crafts as the one described by Gladys are in fact piloted by humans from the future who have discovered the secret of time travel. After all, many alleged reports of alien sightings don't describe 'little green men' but 'humanoids'.

But perhaps the most popular theory is The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis. This suggests that UFOs are piloted by sentient beings from other planets who are beginning to reach out into space to try to make contact with other civilisations such as ours.

Only time will tell which, if either, theory will prove correct. Gladys certainly doesn't have the answers, only more questions.

She would love to make contact again. "I would like to see the others because there must be more of them, a lot more."

Like the X-Files' Fox Mulder, what Gladys has seen has made her more open to believe. The truth could be out there. Like Gladys, we just have to keep looking.



Admit it, someone, there are UFOs about

THE term UFO conjures up different visions. From little green men visiting earth from faraway planets to suited, secret service types, wearing dark shades, driving matching cars, attempting to cover-up highly classified military information.

The former is straight out of 50s B movies; the latter rapidly gaining credibility.

Earlier this year I interviewed retired Carlisle fireman Jim Templeton.

The unassuming and amiable Mr Templeton is famous for a photograph he took of his daughter Elizabeth, in 1964, on Burgh Marsh, eight miles west of Carlisle.

The picture was processed by Kodak and produced a spaceman-like figure on the colour print, located just behind the head of the five-year-old child.

It baffled Kodak and legions of experts, all queuing to discredit amateur photographer Jim's mind-boggling picture.

To this day Jim maintains there was no one else in the area at the time.

However, soon after the picture was developed two men paid Jim a visit and drove him in their dark Jaguar car to the marsh, which is not far from Chapel Cross Power Station.

The men showed him ID cards and claimed to be Government investigators.

They asked some unusual questions about the behaviour of local animals at the time and wanted exact information about the type of weather conditions on the day.

Apparently they became annoyed when Jim dismissed their suggestion that the figure was just an ordinary man in the fields.

They drove off leaving Jim alone with a five-mile walk back to his home.

Apart from Jim's and a few other unexplained stories, here in Cumbria we don't appear to have many close encounters, or specific alien sightings.

The Pennine corridor appears to be the North's UFO hot spot.

Although there is one unexplained story in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, as we approach the year 2000, sightings and alien abductions are on the increase with apparently more than 3,500 UFO encounters officially reported by military and aviation pilots.

I have been interested in the so-called UFO phenomenon for as long as I can remember but like many, need to see more convincing evidence, not just murky clips of film with barely visible lights leaping around the screen, although I do appreciate it's difficult to film or photograph at night something that suddenly appears out of nowhere.

During the past ten years two significant stories have emerged.

One from American scientist Bob Lazar who claims he worked with alien technology at Area 51, part of Nellis Air Range, in

Nevada; and an incredible tale from a reputable, former U.S. major Robert Dean, who says he read sections of a 'Cosmic Top Secret' NATO-funded document during the 1960s.

But unfortunately no water-tight proof?

One of my contacts, Jenny Randle, author and story consultant on TV's 'Strange But True' maintains the triangular shaped object spotted around the Morecambe Bay area and other parts of the UK and Europe, is military.

"Why not?" she asks. "It was 20 years before the U.S. officially admitted the Stealth existed."

Simon Lewis, member of the highly-respected North Lancashire UFO Research Group, recently - and seriously - featured on a Granada Television two-part, peak-time news slot, agrees.

He believes the British Aerospace Eurofighter operates over Cumbria and North Lancashire and could be mistaken for the

The (personal) view from here

by Adrian Mullen



elusive triangular-shaped craft.

His sources claim secret 21st century fighters are test-flying over our region using flightpaths to and from an airbase in Scotland. These days more and more people are giving the whole subject greater thought and whether from a military, alien source or a collaboration between both, the mystery grows.

The recent 'Independence Day' blockbuster film, however entertaining, does very little to enhance what is a serious and fascinating subject.

A subject which has far greater implications than most people realise.

If the craft spotted in the now famous Manchester Airport incident is not of alien manufacture and is of terrestrial origin, its

speed (in the region of 5,000 mph) and alleged manoeuvrability proves how technically advanced the scientific establishment has become.

If it's true - and I firmly believe it is, just consider the advances in computer technology - why doesn't someone admit it? At the very least it would be interesting to know what taxpayers' money is partly used for!

The way I see it, it is becoming more difficult to distinguish between truth and the cunning hoax. Maybe a spectacular fly-past over Morecambe Bay would suffice!

EASTERN DAILY PRESS, Norwich, England - Oct. 15, 1996

'Stump' UFO verdict is absurd

M MOORE, Long John Hill, Norwich.

I was very interested in the authorities' explanation of the strange lights in the sky (EDP, October 7 and 10).

I have just realised that all my years of British education and advanced studies have been completely wrong.

It seems that the Boston church known as "The Stump" is not on dry land after all. In

fact, it is situated somewhere in the North Sea, or the Wash, or the North Norfolk coast, or at Yarmouth, or even floating in the sky miraculously above the A47 in Norfolk.

This apparent cover-up by the authorities is a sad reflection of their thoughts on our mental capacity and of our education system.

I for one refuse to be treated as a simpleton and challenge the Government to come clean on this sighting and of similar

cases reported by intelligent (and often well-qualified individuals) throughout the UK over the past 40-odd years (Warminster, Rendlesham Forest, etc).

Perhaps the Government should also include geography in its educational priorities for our children.

If not London might one day suddenly float in the Bristol Channel, or start hovering by some miracle above the Isle of Wight.

MAIL, Harborough, England - Sept. 5, 1996

Readers' UFO sightings start to pour in

The truth is out there...

(SOMEWHERE IN HARBOROUGH)

Last week we reported how sisters Violet Windridge and Josephine Lee saw a UFO from their Harborough back garden. Since then our phone lines have been buzzing with your sightings. And they all seem to come from the same area of town **MANDY RYAN** reports

● The Knight family of De Lisle Close, Harborough witnessed an object similar to the one seen by two sisters last month.

Stephen Knight said: "We also saw this object while sitting in the garden. We watched as it proceeded towards Leicester, it was travelling at about 100mph.

"It was a disc shape with a dark centre surrounded by edge lights and there was a low humming sound like an ordinary aircraft and its motion was wobbly."

Mr Knight added he does not believe in aliens but he said: "If I did I would certainly argue that I had seen one."

● The same night sisters Violet Windridge and Josephine Lee witnessed a UFO, so did Sue Jepson on Welland Park Road - with seven other witnesses.

She said: "We were having a barbecue in our garden and at about 7pm on August 18 we saw an object flying south to north. We thought it might have been from the Northampton Balloon Show but it was behaving very strangely, it moved very fast and looked like a dark shape with a silver skirting around it.

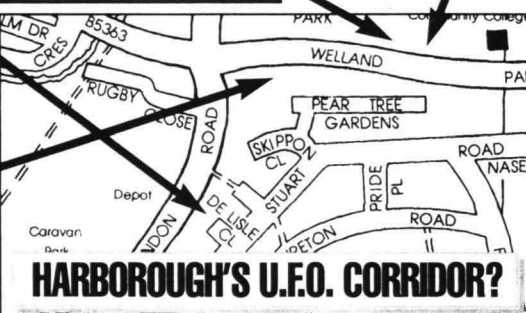
"I have a very open mind about these sort of things."

● A mother and toddler spotted a UFO in broad daylight.

The mysterious flying object was spotted by three-year-old Nathan Raimi on Friday and his mum Susan (pictured above). Mrs Raimi of Welland Park Road said: "We were walking down Welland Park Road about 1pm. Nathan said 'look at that' and I saw something which was bright, white and looked like a triangle darting here and there and everywhere. And then suddenly it went."

Despite being quizzed by relatives about whether she had seen a weather balloon or aeroplane, Mrs Raimi is convinced. She said: "When I told people they laughed at me but I know what I saw."

● PICTURED: Susan and Nathan Raimi who spotted something very, very strange in Welland Park Road.



HARBOROUGH'S U.F.O. CORRIDOR?

● Kevin Paitman and his friends entered the twilight zone last weekend when they saw a mysterious flying object. He said: "I was sitting in a garden in Welland Park Road at about 7.30pm when I saw something black about 1,000 ft up. There was no noise but it was fast and took about ten seconds to travel the full length of the sky. It was a round wedge shape with a fin on the back."

VISITOR, Southport, England - Sept. 27, 1996

Cover-up on UFOs — expert

A UFO expert says the truth about the mysterious craft that have been spotted in the skies over Southport is being covered up by the UK and USA governments.

At a packed meeting of the Lancashire UFO Society this week, Tim Matthews, chairman of the society, said UFO sightings have been reported in this country since 1947. Mr Matthews showed the audience leaked documents that he claims prove that the Governments on both sides of the Atlantic are involved in a major cover up.

By Graeme Goundry

One of the documents - which has recently been re-classified - came from the top secret Government department Air Staff 2A. It stated: "Our policy is to play down the subject of UFOs."

In the last six months sightings in the Southport area have included:

- Shocked motorists in Meols Cop Road seeing a huge black triangle, with a white light in each corner, hovering over a field.
- A terrified couple driving along New Cut Lane saw the same triangle "moving too fast to be a plane."
- An Ainsdale man came forward to say he had seen the craft while walking his dog.
- Various sightings of the black triangular UFO have been reported over the Scarisbrick area.
- In Birkdale a strange white object shaped like a jellyfish stunned a group of eight witnesses.
- This week drivers in Ovington Road and Norwood Road contacted the Visitor to report seeing a giant green, egg-shaped UFO.

Some experts have claimed that the triangular UFO, dubbed "Silent Vulcan" is a Stealth

bomber being developed at a secret British Aerospace "skunk works" hanger at Warton, but the company denies existence of the project.

Tim Matthews told the 200 enthusiasts at Monday night's meeting in Southport that, between 1989 and 1991, a wave of Silent Vulcan sightings took place in Belgium. The phenomenon was "brushed under the carpet" by the Belgian Government.

"The Government must know what's going on," said Tim Matthews. "I think that what we are seeing is a mixture of terrestrial and extra-terrestrial phenomena but I don't know why they are here. There is definitely nothing flying out of Warton, I've talked to people that work there and people in the know and what's at Warton is on a computer, it's not a real aircraft."

During the meeting Mr Matthews was given first-hand accounts of a staggering 54 local UFO sightings.

"This goes to show the level of interest in the subject. A lot of it is down to programmes like the X-Files. What can I say? I'm gobsmacked."

A Southport man at Monday's meeting told the Visitor: "Beyond doubt I'm a believer. There's obviously a Government cover-up going on. It's just like mad cow disease. We are dealing with an alien life form and I think it's based on this planet."

But Mr Gordon Leek, of Princes Street, who was at the meeting with his young son, was unimpressed by Tim Matthews' arguments: "I think it's all unconvincing, pseudo-scientific piffle."

MAIL, Oxford, England - Aug. 8, 1996

Something weird in the night sky

By MAXINE GORDON

DAVID Packham and his mother Edith were watching TV at their Wolvercote home one November night in 1980 when a whining sound came from the set.

The noise was like that made by an electric motor and it grew louder and louder until it reached a deafening pitch.

Despite the racket, the picture remained clear. Mrs Packham put her hands over her ears as David began to turn the volume control on the TV in an attempt to silence the relentless din. The noise was so loud that David was convinced the set was going to explode. He turned down the volume, leaving the set on.

David drew back the curtains and peered outside to see what might have caused the noise. There was nothing in the street. Then he raised his eyes to the sky - and stared in amazement.

"I saw a round, bright-green, light hovering over Port Meadow some 800 yards away and about 400 yards high," he recalled.

"I went outside for a clearer view and watched for about ten minutes. There was no noise, just total silence.

"It slowly began to move to my right for some 200 yards, hovered there for a few minutes then returned to its original place.

"I went back inside and called my mother to the window. I checked the TV. The noise was still there.

"I joined my mother at the window and after about five minutes the light began to move directly away from us - gathering speed at an unforgettable rate. It climbed in an arc away from me. In less than a split second it was a mere speck in the stars and was soon lost to view.

"We turned the sound on the TV back to its original



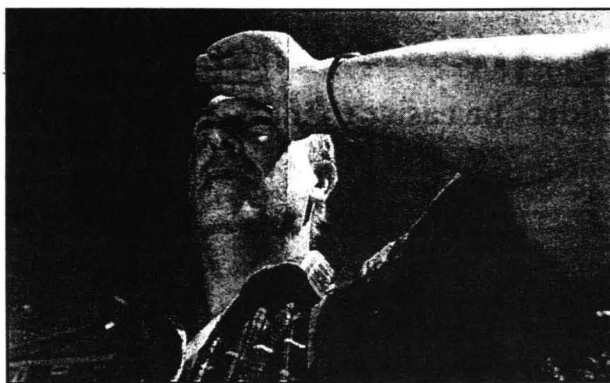
setting and at first the noise was still there - but it gradually faded away back to normal."

David, now 55, of Ulfgar Road, Upper Wolvercote, says he always believed in UFOs - but after the sighting he and his 83-year-old mum are now convinced.

He said: "I don't think the human race can be the ultimate life form the universe has thrown up."

His only disappointment is that none of his neighbours witnessed the strange green light above Port Meadow that dark night 16 years ago.

Do you have a tale of the unexpected that you would like our Ox Files researchers here at the Oxford Mail to investigate. Write to us at Ox Files, Oxford Mail, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone us on 01865 244988.



KEEPING WATCH: Oxford Mail reader David Packham couldn't believe his eyes or ears back in November 1980 when he saw something strange in the night sky

UFO sighted

HINCKLEY HERALD & JOURNAL, Leics., England - Sept. 4, 1996

AN EARL Shilton man has reported the sighting of an unidentified flying object over Hinckley.

Trevor Radford from Bellevue Road in Earl Shilton saw the object travelling parallel with Station Road in Hinckley, approximately 300 ft up in the air.

The sighting occurred last Wednesday at 11.10am, as Mr Radford was leaving the dentist.

Mr Radford said that the object maintained an exact height and trajectory as it headed towards Burbage, and that it rocked slightly as it progressed in a perfectly straight line.

It was described as being of a square or oblong shape, with substantial depth to the body.

Mr Radford said "It definitely wasn't a bird and it definitely wasn't a meteor. It moved in a straight line at between 10 to 15 miles per hour, and never varied

in height, just oscillated slightly."

The report follows several sightings which were recorded by the Leicester UFO Research Society during May and June.

Eight separate sightings were reported over Hinckley, Barwell, Wolvey, Burbage and Enderby.

The chairman of the UFO Research Society, Colin Hill, said that these sightings formed "part of a pattern of aerial activity over the Leicestershire area that has been building up over the past couple of months."

Trevor Radford said of his experience "It was the middle of the morning, in the town centre, so someone must have seen something."

Anyone who may have seen something unusual in the skies should contact the Hinckley Herald on 01455 891965, or the UFO Research Society on 01455 614013.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Aug. 7, 1996

Picnic riddle of UFO swoop

By Nicholas Cecil

IT was black, it was flat, and it cut through the crisp evening air leaving an invisible trail of mystery and disbelief.

The oblong UFO, measuring 15ft by 12ft and with ragged edges, was seen travelling at about 60 mph across the A40 at Raglan services, near Monmouth.

David Brandon, aged 55, from Monmouth, a former British Steel employee, was sitting at the picnic area of the Raglan services at 8pm on Sunday, when he saw the object descend.

At first it was only a distant speck but it came down and passed about 40 ft over his head.

Solar

"It floated down like a glider on a sort of flight path of 25 degrees but I can't find it."

It reminded him of a solar panel from a satellite - that is his only explanation for the object.

Police in Monmouth have filed details of the sighting to Gwent police headquarters.

An Defence Ministry spokesman said: "The MoD is not a UFO spotting organisation. We are here to defend the United Kingdom.

"If we get reports we look at them to see if there is any defence threat to the UK and if there isn't, which is the case so far, we don't do anything about it."

LINCOLNSHIRE DAILY ECHO, Lincoln, England - Oct. 8, 1996

UFO mystery gathers pace

MORE sightings of a mysterious flying object in the skies above the county have been reported.

Two women travelling back to Metheringham from Skegness said they saw a strange white light which hovered above their car.

The news comes after the Echo revealed yesterday the Ministry of Defence is investigating a possible UFO sighting off the county coast picked up by RAF radar.

The driver of the car, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "It was

pouring with rain and just after midnight. We had been out to see friends and were driving back towards Metheringham.

"All of a sudden there was this bright white round light which hovered over the car. When I stopped the car it disappeared.

"We didn't like to say anything we just looked at one another. It wasn't a reflection I'm certain of that."

The incident happened just a week before radar operators at RAF Neatishead in Norfolk picked up a mystery object on their screens on Saturday.

It stayed on the radar screens for several hours and travelled 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon, said an RAF spokesman.

At the same time Skegness and Boston police and the coastguard also received calls about the white light.

An investigation is now under way.

Have you seen any strange or unusual objects in the skies above the county? Call the Echo hotline on (01522) 540001.



Flashback: From yesterday's Echo.

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England - Aug. 30, 1996

Close encounter with outer space

I'M JUST an ordinary person. I don't claim to be anything special."

Jessica Roestenburg, mother of five and retired care worker dismisses herself in such simple terms after having recounted a visit from beings from outer space.

In her modest but comfortable home in Stafford's Cramer Street, Manx-born Jessica recalls every detail of the life 42 years ago when her peaceful, idyllic day in the countryside near Ranton was shattered by an approach from another world.

The tale sounds incredible, but Jessica's matter-of-fact delivery has neither the flourishes of an over-imaginative mind nor the staring intensity of a crackpot. It simply sounds true.

"It was a beautiful autumn day, but cold and frosty. There wasn't a cloud in the sky.

"My husband had gone to work and my sons had gone to school. I was left at home with my little girl and the dog. At Ranton Vicarage Farm, we had no running water or electricity and it was hard going, but it was a beautiful old place.

"I took my little girl out for a walk, as usual. I had to light the fire so I could make the evening meal.

"I started to get washed and changed in the outhouse, when I heard this noise - a sort of hiss like when a blacksmith puts hot iron into water but much louder. There were no jet planes then but I thought it was a plane crashing.

"I was worried because the boys hadn't got

home from school as they should have done by then. I went out to see what was happening and to my amazement they were lying flat out on the ground.

They shouted to me: Mummy, there's a flying saucer! I said what any mother would say: Don't be silly! But they were as white as sheets so I could see there was something wrong.

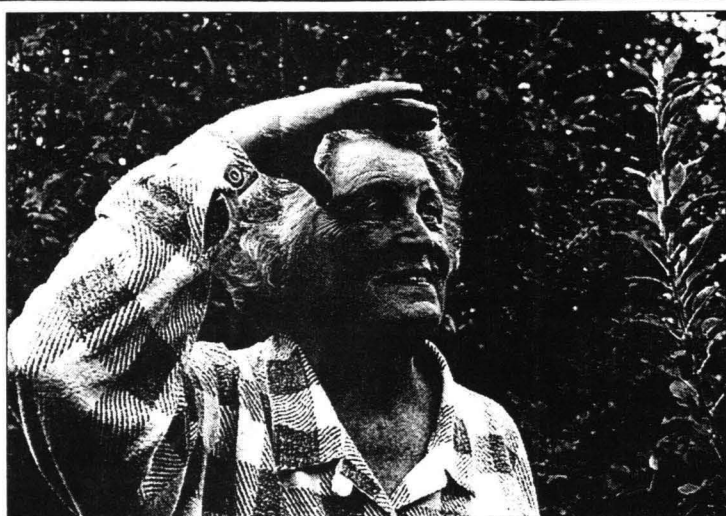
"Then I found I wasn't in control of myself. I walked up to the water pump in the garden and turned round but it was as though somebody else was making me do it. I wanted to look at the boys and ask them if they were all right, but I couldn't.

"Then I saw, suspended in the air, a massive disk - bright silver and shaped like a Mexican

hat. In the middle was a tubular light going round very slowly. It had a dome, like glass, and inside it were two beings looking down at us. They were the most beautiful people I have seen, but they weren't human.

Their foreheads were large in proportion to the rest of their faces and they had long golden hair. I could only see them from the chest upwards, and they were wearing what looked like vivid blue polo-neck jumpers and what looked like fish bowls over their heads.

"I couldn't move. I was absolutely paralysed. I wasn't frightened at that stage but I was mesmerised. It seemed to last for ages but it could only be for a few minutes. I felt all the tension go from me and a felt a sense of peace I have never felt since.



"I asked the boys if they had seen the same thing and they said yes. We ran into the field to see if we could still see it and I thought it had gone but one of the boys said: Look, there it is. It circled the cottage and then shot up vertically and disappeared.

"By now we were scared to death. We went into the cottage where I locked all the doors and hid under the table until my husband came home.

"When Tony got home, he could see there was something wrong. I told him what had happened but I could see he didn't believe me. He questioned the boys separately and decided to report it to the police.

"The whole of Ranton had never seen so many policemen. We had people from all over the place - newspapers, the lot. The Newsletter had the headline: Staffordshire housewife sees long-haired men from outer space.

"After that, my health started to suffer. I was frightened, so we left Ranton and moved to

Cannock Road. I went to see my doctor, who had read about what had happened, but he just thought I was round the twist. I insisted on seeing a psychiatrist and he said: 'There is nothing wrong with your mind but you do need to go to hospital.'

"He took me himself and they did a blood count. My blood count was so low they couldn't understand how I was still alive. The said they wouldn't be surprised if I was suffering from radiation sickness.

"For a while, I was in a terrible mess but gradually I got better. Then we moved here in 1956.

"To this day I don't know what they were. I don't believe they wanted to do us any harm. I'm convinced they wouldn't hurt one hair on my head.

"They are far more intelligent than we are. We must have looked a pitiful sight, standing there next to a water pump while they were in a spaceship. No matter what people say or think, they are up there."



TIMES, Seattle, WA - July 7, 1996 CR: T. Cridland/COUD-I

South Africa has its own Loch Ness monster

By ELLIS MNYANDU
Reuters

HOWICK, South Africa — Peering down the sheer, 300-foot drop of South Africa's Howick Falls is enough to make anyone dizzy.

But one person's vertigo is another person's proof of an evil spirit in the pool at the bottom that exerts a magical magnetism as it tries to suck victims into its underwater lair.

The legend of the monster, a creature said to look just like the one

in Loch Ness, Scotland, is drawing the curious to the small town of Howick west of Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal province.

"There's usually a fearsome spirit here which makes you feel like you are being dragged by some power into the waterfall," said Absolom Dlamini, 69, standing a safe distance from the edge of the falls, known in Zulu as KwaNogqaza — "the tall one."

Bob Teeney, who has a fast-food

shop at the falls, says he has actually seen an 25-foot long monster and claims to have the photographs to prove it.

Fuzzy pictures of what he says is the creature rearing its head from the pool line the walls of his shop.

One of the pictures, taken by a tourist, shows a pipe-like neck rising from a half-submerged swollen "body." Three smaller "monsters," which look a great deal like ducks, are swimming next to it.

Teeney says the duck-like objects are baby monsters that prove mom and pop monsters have made their home at the bottom of the falls.

He says the monsters belong to an aquatic, snake-like dinosaur family known as the Plesiosaur, dismissing objections by scientists who point out that this family has been extinct for six million years or so and, anyway, never lived in fresh water.

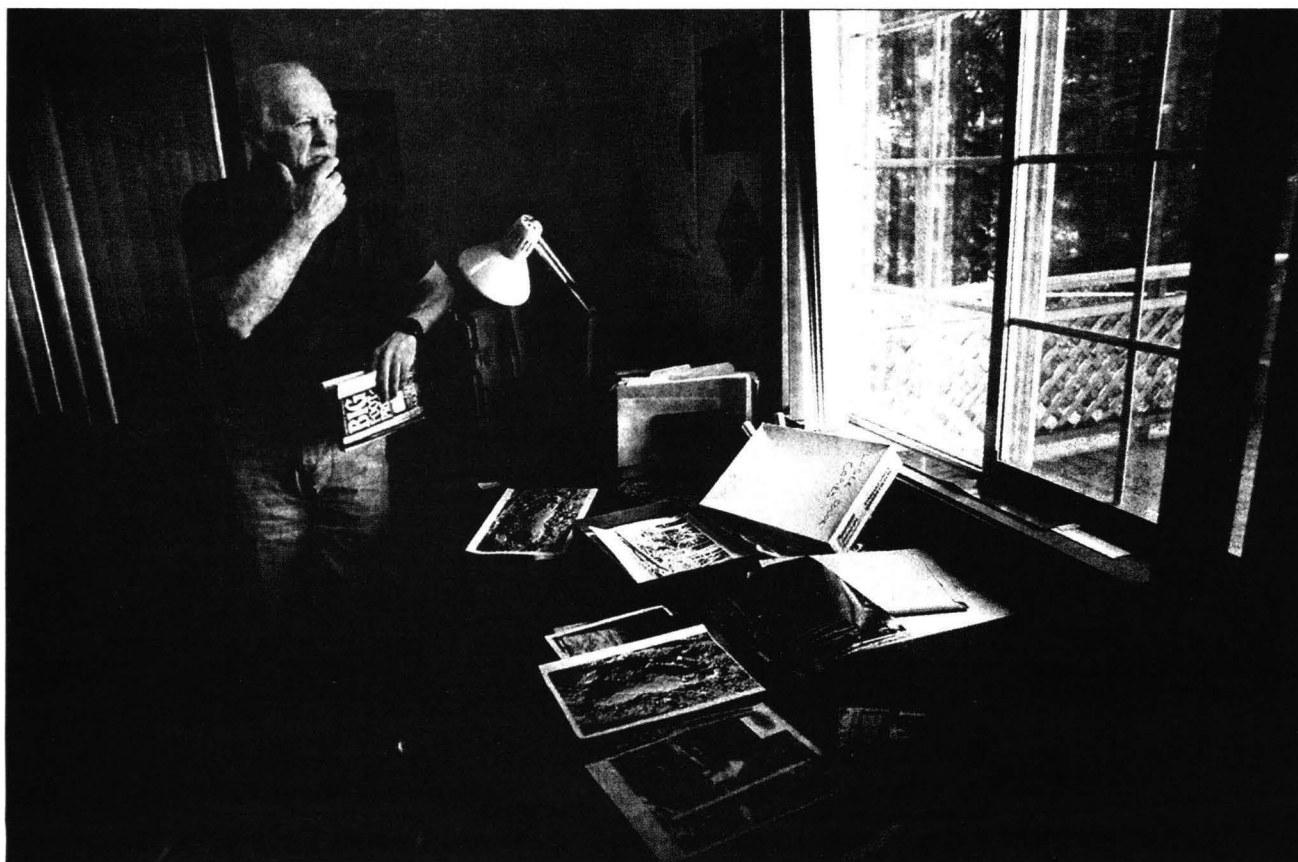
But anthropologist Sian Hall, who lives in Howick, says "sensation

seekers" have embroidered the myth passed on by generations of Zulus in the area that a giant water snake lives in the pool.

"There are no physical monsters in the Howick Falls," she wrote in a newspaper article.

"Giant eels, perhaps, and even huge otters, if that is your idea of a monster. We do not need to misinform the public, nor to use their gullibility to attract tourists to Howick," she said.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Nov. 13, 1996 CR: M. Dobbs



DAVE OLSON/The Columbian

Bigfoot hunter: Irishman Peter Byrne traded big game hunting in Nepal and India for the pursuit of Bigfoot in the Pacific Northwest. He now leads a large team of paid and volunteer investigators from his Mount Hood, Ore., office. Funded by The Academy of Applied Science until August 1997, Byrne says he hopes to receive an extension from the academy when his grant ends.

Big foot

Peter Byrne is
determined to
find the
mysterious
Northwest
creature who
remains
footloose

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
Columbian staff writer

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. — The telephone interrupts Peter Byrne in midsentence, and he pounces on it before the first ring ends. Snatching the receiver from its rest, Byrne holds it to his chest, shrugs and says, "Who knows? This might be the one."

The one is a person who can give Byrne the clue he needs to find a Bigfoot — either the most elusive creature in human consciousness or a worldwide hoax.

Byrne used to hunt big game in Nepal and India. Now 70, he still dresses the part with a safari hat and silk ascot. He says he has spent much of the past 35 years looking for this big-footed creature. He has a national toll-free number, (800) BIGFOOT. He has a staff of three full-time employees and a private office just off the main road here. Investors have given him hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment and funding.

Yet Byrne acknowledges he has never seen a Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, nor found any irrefutable evidence of their existence.



That is why each phone call to his Bigfoot Research Project is so important. It could be the hint, however subtle, that will lead him to the biggest game of all. A date, a time, a location. Any detail that Byrne could plug into an extensive computer database, then crank out the road map to his catch.

"The Bigfoot Research Project, may I help you?"

The teen-age voice on the other end of the line giggles and says, "Bigfoot's in my backyard."

Byrne hangs up. Alas, it's just another prank.

The phone rings again. "Bigfoot's in my house." Byrne hangs up.

The phone rings again. "Bigfoot's in my pants."

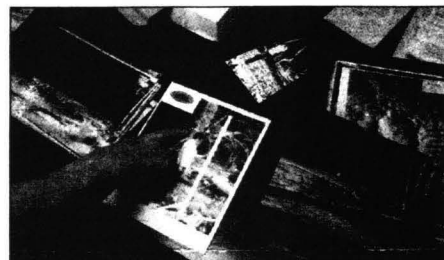
Byrne slams the phone down and scowls. His toll-free number gets as many as 3,000 calls a month from all over, he says. To prove it, he offers an inch-thick phone bill. Some are legitimate sightings, he says. Most are pranks. But he doesn't turn the ringer off. He doesn't turn on the answering machine. He does not want to miss the call, even though he knows he may never get it.

Grant ends in '97

Byrne also may be running out of time. He has received a five-year grant from The Academy of Applied Science, a private group of researchers in Boston that is dedicated to unconventional research pursuits. The grant ends in August. Byrne says he hopes for an extension.

Bigfoot research doesn't develop into a discovery overnight, he says. These creatures have avoided humans for a long time.

Many of the Pacific Northwest's Indians have age-old legends that speak of a tribe of large, hairy beasts that inhabit the mountains and forests. Norseman Leif Eric-



Sasquatch sleuth: Byrne has examined with care the 1967 Patterson film, which shows a female Bigfoot walking from the camera's view. Here, he shows the Bluff Creek, Calif., scene with a man roughly 6 feet tall and 160 pounds where the creature stood.

son and his band of explorers noted strange creatures roaming the woods of the New World. He described them as "horribly ugly, hairy and dark, with big black eyes."

Similar printed testimony has been found as early as 1785, when a paper that became The London Times published "There is lately arrived in France from America a

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17 - COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Nov. 13, 1996)

wild man, who was caught in the woods, ... by a party of Indians; they had seen him several times, but he was so swift of foot that they could by no means get up with him. He is near 7 feet high, covered with hair, but has little appearance of understanding and is remarkably sullen and untractable. When he was taken, half a bear was found lying by him, which he had just killed."

Hundreds of reports deemed credible by Bigfoot enthusiasts have been made since.

Fur trader David Thompson wrote in his 1810 diaries that he found several 14-inch-long, 8-inch-wide tracks near where The Dalles, Ore., is today. The Indian party he was with said they were made by a mammoth, an Indian name still used to describe Bigfoot.

Another settler, Elkanah Walker, wrote in an 1840 letter that the Spokane Indians "believe in the existence of a race of giants which inhabit a certain mountain, off to the west of us. ... They hunt and do all their work in the night. ... They say their track is a foot and a half long. ... They frequently come in the night and steal their salmon from their nets and eat them raw. If the people are awake, they always know when they are coming very near, by the smell which is most intolerable."

In 1884, railroad workers in British Columbia reportedly captured one of these mysterious creatures. They called it "Jacko" and caged him for a circus attraction. An article in the Daily Colonist reported, "Jacko ... is something of the gorilla type, standing about 4 feet 7 inches in height and weighing 127 pounds. He has long, black, strong hair and resembles a human being with one exception — his entire body, excepting his hands and feet are covered with a glossy hair about 1 inch long."

The article went on to say that Jacko was much stronger than a human, seemed reticent since his capture and didn't talk, "only occasionally uttering a noise which is half bark and half growl."

A few days after his capture, Jacko escaped from his cage during the night and disappeared.

In 1924, some prospectors near Kelso reportedly ran into the "mountain devils" while inspecting a claim on a branch of the Lewis River, about eight miles from Spirit Lake. The men said they saw four huge animals, which were about 7 feet tall and 400 pounds, walking erect. They fired at the animals, knocking one from a cliff into a ravine and scaring the others away.

Rain of rocks

That night, the animals bombarded the prospectors' cabin with a shower of rocks as heavy as 30 pounds. It caved the building in and knocked one of the men unconscious for two hours. A search party later found the cabin destroyed just as the men had described it. The area took on the name "Ape Canyon."

"From 100 years ago, from 200 years ago, all the people describe the same thing," Bigfoot hunter Byrne says. "I find that fascinating."

Yet no bodies have been found. No confirmed hair samples. No confirmed scat. No evidence at all acceptable to the scientific community.

Often the people who make these reports are odd mountain men or drunken hunters, Bigfoot buffs acknowledge. Many reports have proven false, making the creature's existence even more dubious.

But Byrne points out that 73 aircraft have been lost in the Pacific Northwest forests since World War II. Finding a Bigfoot in these woods is like finding a needle in a haystack, he says, only the needle is moving and doesn't want to be found.

He also mentions the fishing boat that caught a coelacanth off the shores of South Africa in 1938. That lobe-finned fish, now dubbed the "living fossil," was thought to be extinct for 70 million years.

Snow leopards, Panda bears, mountain gorillas and many other of today's mammals were unknown or considered myths 150 years ago. Bigfoot may join that list some day, Byrne says, with help from an ex-rodeo rider from Yakima.

Caught on film

On Oct. 20, 1967, the Yakima man, named Roger Patterson, reportedly stumbled onto a female Bigfoot as she walked across a sand bar in Bluff Creek, Calif. He was tossed from his horse, but recovered in time to pull out a movie camera and shoot about a minute of film. That film, which shows a hairy figure rapidly moving out of camera range, is the most accepted — yet also most debated — piece of evidence Bigfoot believers have.

Larry Lund, a Bigfoot investigator who lives in Vancouver, says the Patterson film has kept him in pursuit of the creature for the past 30 years. He spends about five hours a night working on leads, watching video tapes, looking at old reports.

"I get Bigfoot burnout every year," he said. "But then I watch that film again, and off I go."

Lund and others who have studied the film say the movement of the female Bigfoot, its muscle bulges and twinges, its mannerisms, its stride, its fingerprints, its perfect proportions, could not have been faked. Ray Crowe, who runs the 300-member Western Bigfoot Society out of his Portland bookstore, points out that the technology to make such a hoax just wasn't available

then. Special effects crews from Disney and Universal studios who have examined the film agree.

Byrne says, with all of his years of study in the field, the Patterson film still is one of the best pieces of evidence that Bigfoot believers possess.

Byrne brings out a stack of pictures he took at the Patterson scene with a roughly 6-foot-tall, 160-pound human placed in the same spot as the female Bigfoot. His calculations put the creature at about 7-foot-3 and 400 pounds. He ponders how a man in a gorilla suit that large could move so smoothly. He rhetorically asks why a hoaxer would make his con job more difficult by creating huge breasts on the creature.

"If it is a fake," he said, "it's incredibly sophisticated. ... Still, that's completely unacceptable to scientists."

So Byrne has set out to once and for all prove Bigfoot's existence.

The Irishman has an on-call team that includes 65 volunteers, possibly the best tracker in the country and two helicopters with infra-red sensors. Each sighting Byrne determines is legitimate — through personal interviews, site visits and a 100-question survey — is then entered into a FBI computer tracking system, which tries to establish a time or date pattern. He has logged 101 entries so far, mostly from the Pacific Northwest.

"I could be anywhere in the world," he says. "If I didn't think there was something out there, I wouldn't be here. There is too much evidence, too many sane people who have seen something — and who have seen the same thing — for this just to be myth or hallucination."

Field Director Tod Deery, who has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, says, "I was a

tremendous skeptic of this at first, and I still think there is a 10 percent chance that there aren't any of these things out there. ... But after experiencing the wilder places of this part of the country, I think it's plausible that a non-classified, land-dwelling life form exists."

Byrne recently bought and installed a custom-made, \$150,000 surveillance system on Mount Hood. Each camera station connected to the system costs another \$45,000.

He also has other expensive tools, including night vision goggles, video cameras and a biodart gun, which will take a tissue sample from an animal yet leave it unharmed.

Yet some competitors in the field still call Byrne a con man or a fraud.

John Green, one of Byrne's former colleagues, even went as far as to say The Bigfoot Research Project "has nothing to do with Bigfoot. The whole game is money and notoriety for Peter Byrne. The Sasquatch part is a joke."

Crowe of the Western Bigfoot Society says Green and other Byrne detractors just are jealous.

"Peter has an elaborate setup with plenty of funding, and they don't. It's that simple," Crowe said. "Peter has helped an awful lot of people get started looking for Bigfoot, and he goes out of his

way to help them as they continue along."

Byrne says he doesn't concern himself with his critics. He knows what will silence them.

Then Byrne politely excuses himself. He has a lot of work to do, he explains.

His telephone is ringing.

BIGFOOT BUSTERS

■ **Bigfoot Research Project**, Mount Hood, Ore., is a Peter Byrne-led team of paid staff and volunteers that is trying to scientifically prove the existence of a large, hairy, bipedal hominid reportedly roaming the forested mountain ranges of the Pacific Northwest. Most of the group's funding comes from the Academy of Applied Science in Boston, an institution that also has tried to prove that a "monster" has made a home of Loch Ness, Scotland.

■ **Call the research project** at (800) BIG-FOOT

■ **The Western Bigfoot Society**, Portland, is a support group for Bigfoot believers. Ray Crowe runs the society from his bookstore at 8622 N. Lombard St. and has an extensive private museum of Bigfoot memorabilia and evidence there. Crowe says the group, which meets and publishes a newsletter just about monthly, has more than 300 members worldwide.

■ **Call Crowe** at (503) 286-6585.

Hey, Bigfoot, I found you on the 'Net

Bigfoot may or may not exist, but dozens of books, newspaper articles and Internet sites about the creature do.

To learn more, check your local library and visit these web sites:

■ **The Bigfoot Research Project**, www.teleport.com/~tbrp, gives background on well-funded group of researchers in Mount Hood, Ore. Also cites material that supports Bigfoot theories, including history, sightings and footprints.

■ **Western Bigfoot Society**, www.teleport.com/~cave-man/wbs.html, gives Bigfoot sounds, society newsletters and links to other sites from Portland enthusiasts.

■ **North America Bigfoot Society**, www.fn.net/~mdennis/northa-1.htm, lists many of the Bigfoot researchers and Bigfoot societies in the United States and gives their e-mail links.

■ **Bigfoot Field Researchers' Resources**, www.moneymaker.org/bfrr, includes a geographical data-

base of sightings (Washington has the highest total with 111), online maps and access to a catalog of equipment needed to find a Bigfoot.

■ **Bigfoot: Man or Beast? Myth or Reality?**

fox.nstn.ca/~raygavel/links/bigfoot.html, includes instructions on how to spot a hoax, a breakdown into percentages of Bigfoot foot sizes, 15 to 16 inches most common, a breakdown into percentages of height, most likely 7 to 8 feet tall, and many stories of encounters.

■ **Ben S. Roesch's On-Line Cryptozoology Archives**, www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bz050/HomePage.cryptoz.html, has a lot of information about Bigfoot and other species of animals that are newly discovered, rediscovered or still unknown.

Or for daily updates, join the Internet Virtual Bigfoot Conference by sending the e-mail message "subscribe bigfoot" to majordomo@teleport.com.

— Brett Oppegaard



To kill or not: Bigfoot believers are split on whether they should kill one to prove its existence. Washington State University anthropology professor Grover Krantz says it's the only way. Byrne says he thinks enough hard evidence can be obtained through video images and a biopsy dart. The air-gun dart would need to hit the Bigfoot to extract blood and tissue samples, but then it would fall out — leaving the creature virtually unharmed and able to escape.



Candid camera: Peter Byrne's group spent more than \$100,000 to have a video surveillance system built and set up in the forests around Mount Hood. Sensors activate the system when any moving man-size or larger creature enters the designated area. So far, it has picked up only hunters, some common forest animals and the project's staff. Field Director Tod Deery can be seen as the small vertical shape in the center of the screen.



Photos by DAVE OLSON/The Columbian

(continued on page 19)



PHIET LUONG/The Columbian

Tall and meaty, Bigfoot lumbers around

■ **General habits:** Nomadic and nocturnal, with daytime activity only when disturbed.
■ **Demeanor:** Shy and non-aggressive, except when injured or threatened.
■ **General characteristics:** Face frequently described as apelike with a broad, flat nose and a lipless mouth. Head pointed with a sloping forehead covered by hair, including bangs. Arms longer than a human. Short neck and high shoulders.
■ **Height:** Mature adults range from 6 feet to 9 feet tall.
■ **Weight:** Estimates range from 300 to 600 pounds.
■ **Coloration:** Dark skin covered with hair that has been reported as black, beige, white and reddish brown.
■ **Strength:** Much stronger than humans.
■ **Movement:** Erect, or slightly stooped, with no evidence of the quadrupedal locomotion common with other large primates. Legs don't completely straighten as creature

walks, which gives an impression that it's gliding.

■ **Eyesight:** Superb, with some evidence supporting night vision.

■ **Hearing:** Exceptionally acute.

■ **Smell:** Highly developed.

■ **Eating habits:** Omnivorous.

■ **Sounds:** Reports have been made of strange whistles and shrieks.

■ **Life span:** Unknown.

■ **Number of living creatures:** Unknown.

■ **Reports:** Most common in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Northern California, Florida and areas around the Great Lakes.

■ **Foot size:** Ranges from 12 to 22 inches in length, most commonly 14 to 18 inches, and usually about 7 inches wide.

■ **Government protection:** Since 1969, it has been against the law to kill a Bigfoot inside Skamania County lines.

■ **Generally accepted scientific evidence of the species:** None.



INFO-LINE

Bigfoot unplugged

What does a Bigfoot sound like? To listen to some strange sounds that researchers claim may be Bigfoot caught on tape, call Info-line at 699-6000, extension 1684.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Nov. 28, 1996 CR: M.Quire

53-year-old tale of disappearing Navy ship won't vanish

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — Nevada may have its Area 51, and Loch Ness its monster, but Philly will always have the Philadelphia Experiment.

While newer versions of the story bring in UFO aliens and a vast government conspiracy, the standard version of this paranormal tale-urban legend tells of a top-secret science experiment that made a huge warship, the USS Eldridge, mysteriously disappear from the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard late one night in August 1943. Some say it became temporarily invisible while sailing to Norfolk, Va., and back; others say it temporarily broke through the space-time continuum and sailed to the 1980s.

The Navy denies it and calls the various versions of the legend "apocryphal stories."

None of this has discouraged the true believers. Recently, one of a handful of self-styled spokesmen for the experiment, Alfred Bielek, told a two-hour version of the story to the second UFO Phenomena Conference, held in the Convention Center.

As the legend has spread, it has spawned a handful of books and a 1984 B-movie, *The Philadelphia Experiment*. The legend also figures in a popular new book by James Redfield, *The Tenth Insight*, a sequel to *The Celestine Prophecy*.

Bielek, an electronics technician somewhere between 70 and 80, tells a rather elaborate version that involves his participation in some back-to-the-future-type time trips. He also claims a past identity as a brilliant physicist named Edward Cameron.

Bielek/Cameron said he was born in

Others say it temporarily broke through the space-time continuum and sailed to the 1980s.

1917 as the illegitimate son of a swashbuckling sailor. He got a degree in physics from Princeton, he says, and a doctorate from Harvard by the age of 22. Neither university has heard of him — by either name. He says he was taken under the wing of physicist John Von Neumann, the father of the computer.

During the war, he, Von Neumann, Albert Einstein and other luminaries were pulled into a top secret Navy experiment in

Philadelphia that was to employ a new technology to make ships invisible, said Bielek/Cameron. The science is too complicated to explain, he says, but it worked — although there were unfortunate side effects.

When the Eldridge allegedly disappeared from the shipyard and then reappeared minutes later, Bielek said, "two sailors were buried in the deck ... the molecular structure of their bodies was intermingled with the molecules of steel in the deck ... They were dying."

In probing the damage, Bielek says he was transported to 1983 in Montauk, N.Y.

Because of his time travel, Bielek says he got into trouble with the government for knowing too many secrets. His punishment? He claims his identity was transformed from a physicist to a mere technician.

Bielek says he began to regain the lost memory of his past when he watched the film *The Philadelphia Experiment* on late-night television during the 1980s.

The Navy wishes Bielek and other believers would just go away.

Navy public affairs officers in Washington say they've had so many calls since the 1950s requesting information on the experiment that they prefer to send out a fact sheet. The fact sheet says, in short, that the Navy has never conducted any investigations on invisibility, not in 1943 or at any other time, and that scientists do not believe such an experiment could be possible "except in the realm of science fiction."

cover of his dead steer, Scattini said, its scrotum and a 12-inch circle cut off its face.

"I'm sick over it," said Scattini, who's lost 11 animals under suspicious circumstances during the past 18 months. "Shoot, things are happening that shouldn't be happening. I know damn good and well it's no Martians doing this. That's silly."

In some cases it's unclear what killed the cows. Bullet casings or holes were found only in San Juan Bautista, where two cattle were apparently shot Oct. 4.

In Monterey County, the evidence suggests nothing more exotic than poachers. "There's nothing ritualistic about them," said Lt. David Allard, who added that deputies have been questioning two possible juveniles.

MERCURY-NEWS, San Jose, CA - Dec. 14, 1996

Cattle mutilations disturb area ranchers

By DAN REED

Mercury News Staff Writer

And DAN WHITE

Special to the Mercury News

This time, it wasn't rustlers poaching on John Nino's cattle. No meat was gone, only the Hereford's udder and genitalia, stripped away in a precise oval cut.

Two days later, a steer was found mutilated at a neighbor's ranch, its scrotum sliced off and carried away. On Nov. 25, a 2,200-pound bull was discovered near the entrance to the Pinnacles National Monument, its penis gone.

In the past two months, a dozen Monterey and San Benito county range cattle have been slain. Sometimes they were gutted, perhaps by poachers who were spooked before they could finish butchering. But in at least three cases, ranchers say, the livestock were oddly mutilated — a piece of jaw or the genitals carved away.

"I think maybe it's some sort of ritual or something," said Nino, a San Benito rancher who runs 1,100 head of cattle. "I think there is a sick person — or persons — doing this."

The local cattlemen's associations have posted a \$4,000 reward for information leading to the culprits, which may or may not be connected. There have been no arrests.

For the locals, the cattle mutilations bring home a bizarre phenomenon that for years has had conspiracy theorists convinced that the government, cultists — or especially — space aliens are butchering cows. But it also has been taken seriously enough to prompt tracking by the California Cattlemen's Association.

Overall, it's a case better suited for "The X-Files" than the local police blotter. Among other speculation, deputies have been asked whether *el chupacabras*, the mythological Latino werewolf believed to suck the blood out of goats, was responsible.

As for ranchers, angry over animal cruelty and economic loss, they're thinking of increased security. "We don't have armed patrols — yet," said Billy Whitney, president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association.

Goofy explanations for the slaughters — which have been reported for more than 20 years in several states — have flourished on the Internet and some late-night radio talk shows.

Many World Wide Web pages that mention the phantom cow killers also make sober allusions to flying saucers and crop circles, elaborate designs cut into fields supposedly by otherworldly artists.

But why would super smart spacemen pick on cows?

"I don't have a clue," said Linda Moulton Howe, a Pennsylvania documentary filmmaker who produced a 1980 show on the phenomenon. But Howe says her reporting "has raised the serious question that there is something non-human involved with some of these animal mutilations."

Stumped, the state cattlemen's group began documenting the mutilations after the Oct. 16, 1995, discovery of two carved up cows in a pasture on Lassen National Forest land.

Jean Barton, who owned the cattle, said each had one eye missing. Gone also were the teats, rectum and vagina on one; the udder, rectum and vagina on the other. No meat was taken, and the blood was gone. "It was like a laser had made the cuts, they were so smooth and straight," she said.

This year, two more cows were mutilated — also on Oct. 16 and in the same field.

Barton, former president of California CattleWomen Inc., reluctantly admits she thinks it was the work of space aliens. Her husband Bill, however, will only say that it's "damn strange."

Joe Nickell, a senior research fellow at the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, thinks it's all a bunch of nonsense.

He believes predators have eaten away the soft flesh, and as the dead cows bloat, the skin stretches making the "wounds look more precise than they were."

"This is an attempt to explain one mystery with another mystery," he said.

A. F. U.
Box 11027
600 11 NORRKÖPING
Sweden

Forest resident claims to be victim of government

Media focuses on strange activity at Black Forest home

By Marlene Beatty

Strange beams of light, auras radiating from bodies, faces in the mirrors, odd chemical smells, and sinkholes on his property...

Unexplainable paranormal activity? Not according to Steve Lee. He has witnessed all of these occurrences at his Black Forest home for the past four years. Lee claims that psychics say the land is haunted and government officials tell him that it's just his imagination, but he has his own theory about the bizarre apparitions he has captured on film and video.

He stated that he has collected evidence proving a government cover-up of some kind and he is trying to get officials to solve this case. Lee is not certain what is happening at his home, but his primary belief is that the government is performing biological testing on his five-acre lot and perhaps other areas of Black Forest as well.

The sightings started within the first year that Lee and his family moved into their dream home—a beautiful, rustic log cabin in a secluded part of Black Forest. "At first I thought I was losing my mind," said Lee. "There were strange lights in pictures of my kids and sometimes we heard voices."

Lee's story was recently featured on the television show *Sightings*, a program that reports on paranormal activities. "They brought out their special equipment for several days and found unexplained heat sources which could be videotaped with infrared cameras," said Lee.

The show also brought in a psychic who sensed the presence of ghosts. *Sight-*

ings will be returning to do more follow-up stories and NBC's *Dateline* plans to cover these strange activities also.

After gathering a collection of photos and other types of evidence, Lee took his case to the Sheriff's Department. However, he felt that he did not receive enough effort from them so he proceeded to notify the FBI. So far the FBI has only given him token phone calls.

"I just want something done," says Lee. "The police don't watch my house and no one is making an effort to solve this case. The FBI even told me not to talk to the press. That's why I think there's a cover-up going on."

The Sheriff's Department claims that they have investigated Lee's complaint, but found no evidence of a crime.

The family spent over \$70,000 on research, equipment, and technical analysts in hopes of discovering what exactly is happening to their home. Lee asserts that he doesn't believe in ghosts and that "someone is trying to make it look like paranormal activity." He says the FBI offered to buy his home and put him in a witness protection program, but he refuses to be chased from his property. He also believes that if he simply moved that the strange apparitions would reappear in his new home. That's because he is certain that the government has already performed the biological tests that have affected him.

Lee claims that the source of the strange

activity is the property of his neighbor, Lonnie Dexter. He said that he has witnessed as many as a dozen people entering Dexter's medium-sized dog house and that he doesn't know where they go. He feels that perhaps Dexter is part of the cover-up.

Dexter said that he doesn't know what Lee is talking about. Dexter has called the Sheriff because he said that Lee threatened him and his wife and Lee is currently under a permanent restraining order forbidding him from coming on Dexter's property.

"My wife has lived in this home for 18 years and we've never seen anything unusual," said Dexter. "I paint custom homes for a living and believe me, I'm not a government agent."

Dexter also said that the Sheriff's Department has come to his home and inspected his dog house, but they found nothing strange about it.

Lee believes that the police are trying to stop him from collecting more evidence by harassing him because they cannot solve the case. He said, "It's not really the Sheriff's Department's problem any more. They should make the FBI act on this."

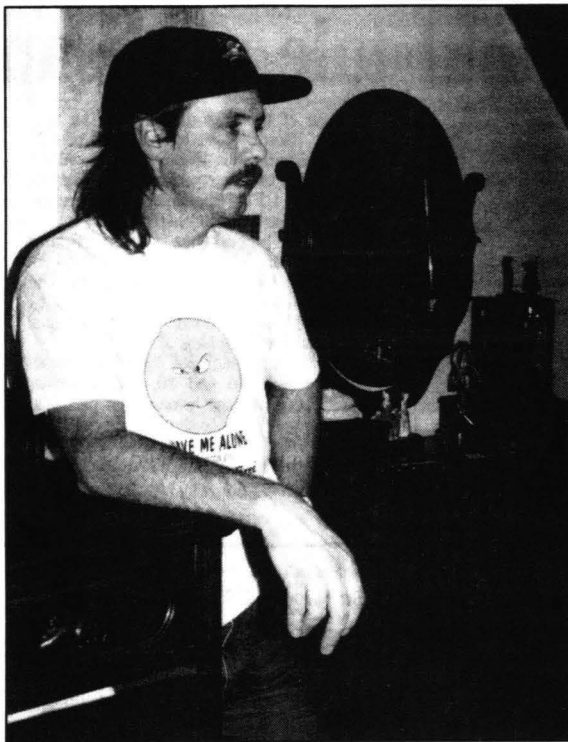
Lee, a former truck driver, no longer works because he feels his family is not safe. "Cars would follow me, strange cars appeared on my property, and I'm sure my phones are tapped," said Lee. "I keep my kids close to me and watch every move they make."

That's why Lee is offering his story to the media. He hopes the attention will pressure the government to solve the case.

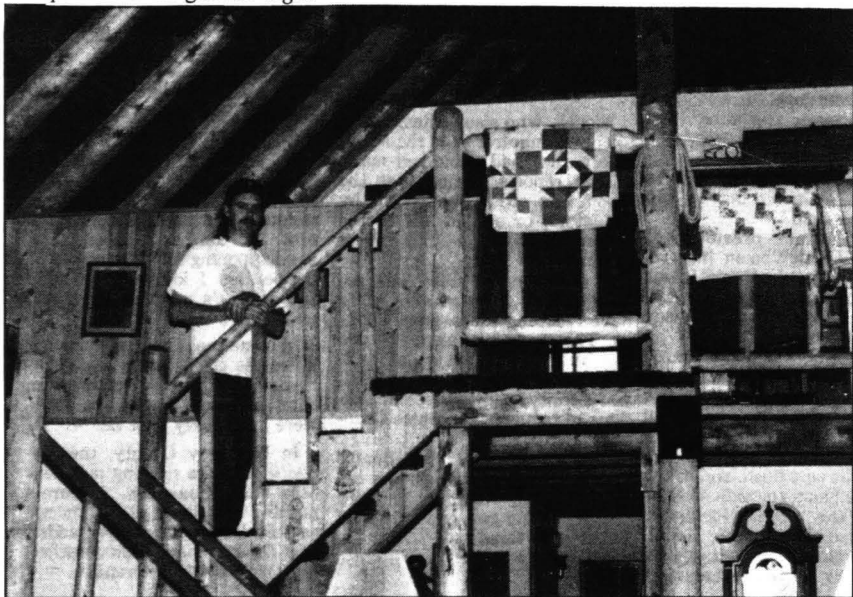
"Lots of people in the Black Forest area have called me and reported the same kinds of experiences." Most notable was state Senator Charles Duke who also claimed to see the images in photos he took at Lee's home.

"People are afraid to come forward," said Lee, "because they are afraid of the government." Lee claims that fear of the government is also hindering his search for an attorney to represent his case.

"I'm just an ordinary guy," said Lee. "I don't know why this is happening to me, but I just want it solved."



Steve Lee leans on a dresser in the bedroom where most of the apparitions have been sighted. He claims he has photographed faces in the mirror on the dresser. (Photo by Chris Flohr).



Black Forest resident Steve Lee is seen here in his log home that is the location of strange activity. Lee feels he is the victim of government testing that occurs on his property. (Photo by Chris Flohr.)

POST, New York, NY - Dec. 16, 1996

NESS HAS NO LOCH ON SEA MONSTERS

By BILL HOFFMANN

Move over, Loch Ness! A lake-side community in Russia now boasts of its own sea monster.

The residents of Benyok say they have evidence that a huge aquatic beast lives at the bottom of Lake Brosno.

There have been numerous sightings, and one man recently snapped a photo of the creature floating on the surface.

"I'm afraid," shuddered one elderly woman who lives in the small village 250 miles northwest of Moscow.

"I do not feel comfortable staying in this place. The monster could crawl into my house any day."

"It was big like this," said Tanya, another woman who believes the creature hides from humans near the lake bottom.

"I saw a head, like a fish — and big."

She sketched an eerie, snake-like head with a large eye on the side rising from the water.

Just like Loch Ness in Scotland, tourists have started flocking to Lake Brosno in hopes of catching a glimpse of the mysterious beast.

Locals who believe in the monster say it is much like a serpent, and one report estimated its length at 12 feet.

The sightings, however, are not prompting scientists to rush to the picturesque lake to conduct tests.

"It sounds like a country fairy tale, the kind of story told over the years in the countryside," said Lyudmila Bolshakova, an expert at Moscow's Institute of Paleontology.

Local historians say there have been sightings of the monster dating back to the 19th century.