

UFO

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The hills are alive with the swooping of UFOs

By JULES CRITTENDEN

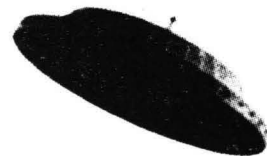
In the greatest rash of sightings in almost 25 years, UFOs have been reported swooping over the woods, mountains and swamps of northern New England this winter. Snowmobilers, drivers and people just

looking out their windows over the last six weeks have described at least 15 sightings of strange moving lights and saucer-shaped objects to local police and the Mutual UFO Network, a nationwide group that investigates extraterrestrial claims.

"I don't think we've had anything like this

since 1973," said Ray Fowler of Wenham, Ma., MUFON's national director of investigations. "We've had sightings, but not sighting after sighting after sighting."

In one case, an elderly woman from Cole-



were familiar with some of the reports, but could not say whether any were legitimate or false.

UFO sightings are not uncommon in the north country.

In the early 1970s, repeated sightings — or "flaps" in UFO jargon — were reported along the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border.

Fowler speculates that UFOs may have been attracted by nuclear weapons at Pease Air Force Base and military industries in the area.

He has no idea what would attract aliens to the frozen north of New England.

"There's nothing up there. There's some paper mills, but essentially there's nothing but woods, fields and ponds," he said.

Typically about 80 percent of UFO sightings are attributed to natural or manmade causes, Fowler said. The rest are classified "unknown."

MUFON member Sandra Black, a law enforcement officer who lives in Clarksville, N.H., is investigating the latest reports. She said she has not found any evidence yet that anyone saw a manmade object or Aurora Borealis — the Northern Lights.

Peter Geremia, the director of MUFON New Hampshire, said a direct encounter as described by the Colebrook woman requires extensive research.

"It's the kind of thing that is so bizarre, you have to be very careful you're not dealing with someone who is delusional," Geremia said. "This type of case we don't take at face value."

UFOs North Country Sightings Real 'Flap'

By LORNA COLQUHOUN
Union Leader Correspondent

COLUMBIA — On a clear night in January, a full moon and a sky dotted with stars accompanied Beverly Higgins on her drive home from work.

All of a sudden, there was something else. "It was ten to seven," she recalled. "I was on Route 3 coming home from Littleton just before the Columbia trailer park when I saw this thing across my windshield, just above my steering wheel."

As she watched it move across the sky from the Vermont side of the Connecticut River, she thought it was airplane. Or maybe a helicopter.

But she knew it was neither. "It was oval — I counted six windows and there was a green light in front of it," she said. "It hovered slowly, but there was no noise."

Within a couple of minutes, it took off over the mountains and Higgins continued home. "There was nothing about it that frightened me," she said.

Higgins is not alone in her sighting of an unidentified flying object. Since the beginning of the year, nearly a dozen UFO sightings have been reported to Sandra Black of Stewartstown, a local investigator for the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON).

"It's called a flap when a lot of sightings are reported in a short span of time," she said.

And it seems that the North Country is the only place in New Hampshire where UFOs are being spotted.

"We have no other reports from around the state of anything exciting," said MUFON state director Peter Geremia of Rye. "Sandra seems to have all the excitement."

Since becoming an investigator for MUFON in 1993, Black has checked into about 17 reports a year. She started getting busy this year on Jan. 15.

"The best one was reported on Jan. 23 on Route 26 in daylight," she said. "Two people were coming home from work at the Balsams when they saw a large saucer-shaped object standing vertical on

end."

The previous day in North Stratford, a witness reported seeing an object the size of a house. "There were pink and blue lights glowing around it," she said, adding that the lights condensed into one, moved to the northeast and disappeared.

In Stratford last month, a woman and members of her family saw a saucer-shaped object in the Stratford Hollow part of town. A few days later, the woman spotted the object again.

Sightings have been reported in Clarksville, Berlin, Jefferson, Stratford and Columbia.

"It's not all that unusual," Black said. "But to have so many people report it to the newspapers — that is unusual."

Several stories about UFO sightings have appeared in local newspapers.

"There is less and less ridicule about it these days," she said. "Most people are in wonder about what they saw and want to know what it is and they want to see it again."

Higgins agreed.

"I've had no one make fun of me," she said. "In fact, people have told me that they have seen what I have seen."

The North Country flap comes at a time when the state MUFON chapter is about to start "shaking some bushes," Geremia said, recruiting new members and investigators for various parts of the state. A call-in talk show with a Concord radio station is scheduled for Thursday and the state meeting will be held at the Manchester Public Library on April 5, beginning at 1 p.m.

And Black will continue to chart sightings for as long as they last in the North Country.

"You can probably compare this to a Stone Age person seeing 21st century technology," she said. "What they are seeing is technology ahead of its time. Most people are in awe."

As for Higgins, she said she hopes to again see what she saw that night in January.

"I may never see it again, but I'll keep looking up," she said.

UFO reported in South County

By Journal Staff

A mysterious green object was reportedly seen streaking across South County skies Friday night, emitting beams of light as it soared southward.

Less than three hours after sightings by two families in the Kent area, residents in California reported seeing a bright green object streaking south, said Peter Davenport of the National Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting Center in Seattle.

A family in Kent and another in Covington gave similar descriptions of an object emitting green-colored beams, Davenport said yesterday.

Both families say the shining object appeared at about 8:20 p.m. Friday. Shortly after 11 p.m., there

were reports of a green object streaking south, roughly paralleling Interstate 5, near Stockton, Calif.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said the agency had received no such reports of an unidentified flying object. An FAA duty officer said there have been recent sightings of meteors from the annual Geminid meteor showers.

But Davenport said the descriptions Friday didn't sound like most meteor sightings "or other natural phenomena."

"What they are, I don't know," he said.

The nonprofit UFO Reporting Center gathers data on reported UFO sightings and makes the information available to the public, Davenport said.

Northern exposures?

UFO sightings in northern Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine have skyrocketed in January and February. UFO investigators refer to a series of sightings in a small area, within a short period of time, as a 'flap'.



Staff graphic/Michael Bertrand

Strangers in the night

Author tries to explain his close encounters of the most terrifying kind

By Connie Lauerman
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

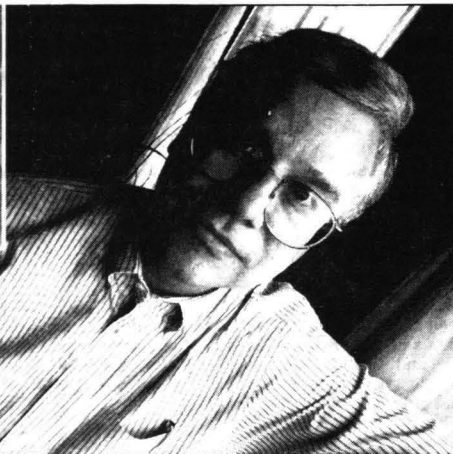
This is the story of one man's attempt to deal with a shattering assault from the unknown.

So began Whitley Strieber's 1987 book "Communion," an account of his extraordinary experiences with what may or may not have been aliens at his rustic upstate New York cabin on Dec. 26, 1985.

"Communion" was a non-fiction bestseller for Strieber, who is also the author of such successful novels as "The Wolfen" and "The Hunger." "Communion" also was made into a 1989 movie starring Christopher Walken and Lindsay Crouse as Strieber and his wife Anne.

Those books and the film helped fuel the public's ever-growing appetite for stories about UFOs and close encounters. Witness the immensely popular film "Independence Day" and such hot television shows as "The X-Files." But people who go public about UFO encounters take the risk of being labeled wacky, at best. The matter of UFOs and extraterrestrial visitors is controversial, and many people reject it out of hand.

"[The public] eats up the movies and TV shows, but my stuff, where



Tribune photo by Chuck Berman; Illustration by Ted Jacobs™

People flock to "The X-Files," says Whitley Strieber, "but my stuff, where I'm claiming something real, has a much smaller audience."

I'm claiming something real, has a much smaller audience," Strieber said during a recent visit to Chicago, promoting his latest book, "The Secret School," about his memories of childhood encounters with aliens and new theories to support such assertions. "A lot of people read 'Communion' but then

after that... There's a loyal core of readers, most of whom have had the experience. They're working with it because they can't get away from it. The rest of the public, I think, is waiting to see whether or not they have to deal with it."

Strieber himself was skeptical

He is not alone

The whole area of extraterrestrial visits and abductions is problematic. Reports of UFOs and strange encounters have increased, but little money is available to pay for studies to prove or disprove their legitimacy.

"I don't know if I'm on the trail of alien contact or not," Strieber said. "I don't even care. I know that I'm on the trail of something unknown that's important because it has to do with the human mind and the way we view ourselves and possibly the meaning of our presence on Earth. I'm not going to stop until I get a handle on it. I've got a lot of scientific directions I'm going in."

After "Communion," Strieber wrote "Transformation," "Breakthrough" and recently "The Secret School" (HarperCollins), accounts of recurring encounters, recovered childhood memories and his dogged efforts to find an explanation for his experiences and, in the process, those of thousands of other "witnesses" who have written him letters since the publication of "Communion."

Strieber says he has received more than 200,000 letters indicating "a great deal of variation" beyond the standard scenario of seeing light or some sort of space-

probes into your nose all the way up to your sinuses and into your head. I lay in a sort of chair while they flashed lights and tried to induce seizures in my brain. It turned out that my brain was unusually stable. That was the most abnormal thing about my brain, which was a relief but also very disturbing because then I walked out of there with my last shot gone. There was nothing left after temporal lobe epilepsy except the one thing I did not want to think, that it was an unknown.

"It was very scary. I really obsessed on it after that. That was when I started walking out in the woods. I couldn't turn away from it. I couldn't bear to know it was out there somewhere and not try to get a handle on it. I'm working on that still."

The price of going public was steep. Strieber says his "commercial life" as an author and screenwriter has been "precarious." For his family, he says, it was worse. His son was subject to ridicule from classmates. His wife was socially ostracized.

The Striebers, who now reside in Texas, were virtually driven out of their isolated upstate New York cabin where they lived part-time. Intruders easily bypassed the home's alarm system, rifled his files and put a virus on his

'I don't know if I'm on the trail of alien contact or not. I don't even care. I know that I'm on the trail of something unknown that's important because it has to do with the human mind and the way we view ourselves.'

Whitley Strieber

computer that nearly destroyed all of his work. Open cans of gasoline were repeatedly placed beside the oil burners in the basement, he claims. He was often on the phone with the local police.

In the early '90s, after he wrote the novel "Majestic," based on reports of a 1947 UFO crash near an Army air base at Roswell, N.M., Strieber was contacted by a Senate committee investigating illegal military and intelligence activity, which queried him about his sources for the book. At that time he believed his home in Brooklyn was under obvious surveillance.

craft, humanoid entities and then being transported for medical examination or experimentation.

That type of experience is "really rare," Strieber says. "It's actually far more interesting and strange than that kind of humanization."

"This is a really wild and weird experience. For example, this [experience] usually happens to people when at least one other member of the family will be in some way aware of it. It's generally ultra high-level strangeness."

"By that I mean people report seeing very, very vividly real-looking ghosts of their dead friends



Tribune photo by Chuck Berman

Since Whitley Strieber went public with his own close encounter in the book "Communion," his professional life has become precarious.

and relatives in the context of close encounters with aliens. Familial contact is very common. If the parents are involved, so are the children, who are profoundly affected by the experience and not often frightened.

"These are long, complex letters [from people who say they've had such experiences]. There has never been a careful study done of the people because there's no money [available] to do it. My impression is that there are quite a number of people who are unusually bright among this group."

Visitors and implants

Strieber, 51, grew up in San Antonio and says he wanted to be a writer since childhood. He briefly attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., and earned his liberal arts degree from the University of Texas.

He studied film in London in the late 1960s and upon his return to America worked in the advertising business in New York. He quit to become a Director's Guild trainee and worked on the movies "The Owl and the Pussycat" and "They Might Be Giants" before returning to advertising. In 1977 he began writing imaginative thrillers and has been writing ever since.

He is also involved in research and currently has been looking into implants, small foreign objects that some people believe have been put in their bodies by alien visitors. Strieber says he used to regard implants as fantasy, but now he is not so sure.

"I've enlisted the help of a laboratory in Texas and another foundation to do the financing along with my foundation, the Communion Foundation, and so far we

have studied one object that has come out of the leg of Jesse Long, a man from California.

"It looks like a little shard of glass but it is not ordinary glass at all. We don't know what it is but it has characteristics like a type of glass invented in the '70s to coat things like dental implants to keep the body from rejecting them. Both he and his mother claim it was in his leg since 1954. He was told by the so-called aliens that did this—and I might add that one of them appeared to him to be a human being—that he would not get sick after it was put in his body."

Strieber is convinced that science has the tools to discover the truth.

With the popularity of camcorders, videotapes of encounters are now being made, and Strieber says that those "videos can be analyzed."

"The objects taken out of people can be examined in materials laboratories and their bodies examined by physiologists. Their narratives can be studied by psychologists and, hopefully, with PET scans we can even learn to differentiate between their true memories and false memories, which are essentially mistakes. Believe me, I will be the first in line for all these studies because I really want to find out the answer to this."

"If this is something that's physically real, and it's beginning to look like that may be true, at least in part, I would like to be the person that proves that because I've been through the mill. I would like to come out with some recognition of the fact that it turned out I wasn't entirely wrong."

HERALD, Everett, WA - Feb. 15, 1997

UFO COVERAGE

Media choose to ignore

The sonic boom that was heard recently in two states from the flyover of a military spy plane has brought up a very interesting point. Back in the '60s and '70s when UFO sightings were considered newsworthy, there were reports of radar tracking of objects flying many times the speed of sound, yet there were no sonic booms. Back in 1968 I saw six objects in formation fly from horizon to horizon in a matter of seconds. If they had been "physical" objects there would have been a sonic boom intense enough to cause physical damage, but there was utter silence. There is also almost utter silence in the media on the subject of UFOs, yet in Mexico City, there has been almost daily sightings, radar tracking, close encounters with aircraft and thousands of video and film records of UFO antics. Camera and video experts have even set up classes to teach the average citizen how to get the best pictures, yet as far as our media is concerned, there is nothing going on in Mexico City.

I can't help but wonder how many other things are going on in the world that our media have chosen to consider as not newsworthy. Does the media have the right to select what information reaches the public?

WILLARD WINQUIST
Everett

UFO Researcher Gordon Issues Annual Report

The UFO Hotline number for Researcher Stan Gordon of Greensburg continued to be active during 1996 with calls from the public and various agencies concerning strange sights in the sky and other alleged unusual encounters.

Incident reports were received from 14 counties across Pennsylvania during 1996. Gordon began to take UFO sighting reports form the public in 1969, and in 1970 he founded the first of three volunteer UFO investigating groups in Pennsylvania.

Since November of 1993, Gordon continues to be active as time permits as an independent researcher and investigator of UFO sightings and the Unexplained. Attempts are made to investigate as many of the firsthand reports he receives. Gordon also maintains an active correspondence with various other researchers and organizations, as well as a communications center which provide sources for information as well.

After 37 years of research involvement, Gordon still finds that most of the UFO incidents reported can be explained by natural or man-made explanations. Many are misidentifications of bright planets and stars seen in a clear sky where the atmospheric conditions make them appear to flash colors, jump around, and appear and disappear. Bright meteors and re-entry of space debris, lights on aircraft, illuminated

blimps, laser shows, and even advertising searchlights have led to sighting reports.

But Gordon also indicates that incidents are reported every year, not only in Pennsylvania, but from many other parts of the country and from around the world, which can't be so easily explained away.

"UFO sightings are reported by witnesses from all walks of life including trained observers such as air traffic controllers, commercial pilots and state troopers. These people have no reason to make up such reports, and quite often are baffled by what they observed," Gordon states.

The public and other agencies may report unusual sightings on Gordon's UFO Hotline 24 hours a day at 412-838-7768 phone/FAX. Those wishing to report past or recent UFO sightings or other unusual experiences by mail can write to Gordon at 6 Oakhill Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is appreciated. Gordon is also still active in pursuing information on the Dec. 9, 1965, UFO incident near Kecksburg. If you were a witness or at the scene in 1965 or have any other information on the event, Gordon would like to hear from you. While some 1996 events are still being researched, the following are a few of the incidents reported.

Crabtree — (Westmoreland County) Jan. 21 — A multi-colored object began to move in a zig-zag pattern and go upward in the sky. A bright beam of light emitted from the object towards the direction of the witnesses. As the object passed nearby, a

triangular shape and multiple circular lights could be seen as the object moved away in the distance.

(Fayette County) February — A trail of large footprints were observed in the freshly falling snow. The footprints were estimated at 15 inches in length, and with a large stride between each track. Historically the area around the Chestnut Ridge has produced numerous sightings of large hairy creatures. There are many incidents on record from area residents who claim to have had encounters with Bigfoot.

Centerville (Washington County) — Feb. 8 — A large diamond-shaped object, golden color, covered with numerous white lights, and emitting beams of light was reported suspended in the sky for a period of time. The object at times reportedly turned on its side, and spun like a top.

Montgomery County — March 24 — People outside comet watching, observed a translucent triangular shaped object about 1,000 feet above the ground moving across the sky at a constant pace. On the evening of March 26, in Allegheny County, witnesses observed a formation of five orange glowing triangular shaped objects. The objects made no sound as they moved across the sky.

Oct. 22 — Allegheny, Fayette, Westmoreland counties — At 10:40 p.m. observers reported what appears to have been a bright meteor moving through the sky. The object was described as green, orange and blue in color with a tail and emitting debris as it continued on its journey.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Nov. 27, 1996

Skywatch Diary

Compiled by Carole Baker

Details of the sighting that took place recently near Bagdad, Florida have now been made available. The sighting took place on Sunday, November 3, 1996 at 8:35 p.m. Central Time and lasted approximately one and a half minutes.

The witness, a woman, was driving home in an easterly direction along Old Bagdad Hwy. in Milton, Florida. She was accompanied by her two year old child who was sleeping in the back seat. She was driving with the car windows partly open.

She first noticed the object when she was approximately one quarter mile from it. It appeared in the sky in the clearing between the trees on both sides of the road straight ahead of her, when she was approximately 100 yards from a railroad track crossing the road. It was at the level of the tree tops and appeared quite large. The shape was elongated and oval

with a row of five or six colored lights along the central line of the object. The "body" appeared to be simply solid black. As the witness observed the object, it hovered for about one minute before it began to move very slowly off in a northerly direction. "This object was clearly not a helicopter or airplane...there was no noise," the witness states. The lights along the side of the object appeared to be blinking and were colored red, yellow, blue and green. Given the close proximity of the witness to the object, it would appear that her ability to discern the unusualness of the object is quite reliable.

The witness continued her journey home, keeping a lookout for the object, but was unable to see it again. It had travelled off in a northerly direction toward Hwy 90 in Milton, roughly on a parallel path with the railroad track. It would have travelled toward a built up area, with stores and

restaurants, so there is a possibility that there may have been other witnesses. If anyone else did see this object, we encourage them to call the hotline number below.

Another quiet week of skywatching at Shoreline Park. There was a little excitement on Wednesday evening when an anomalous light was sighted in the sky in the area of the Sans Souci Condominiums on Fort Pickens Road on Santa Rosa Island. The sky conditions were mainly cloudy and the light was only visible for a second or two, so it is impossible to determine its source.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report, or wish to contact the experienter's support group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON hotline at 438-3261, and...Keep Looking Up!

HERALD ARGUS, Laporte, IN - Nov. 18, 1996

Illinois crop circle stumps UFO investigator

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

GRAYVILLE, Ill. — UFO and paranormal investigator Michael Christol of Owensboro, Ky., has another mystery to add to his files: a crop circle discovered last month west of Grayville.

Since 1980, he said, he's investigated everything from odd lights in the sky to the the alleged cover-up of a UFO crash at Roswell, N.M.

Robert Horton, 82, of rural Albion, Ill., discovered the circle near Grayville last month at a remote location near the Little Wabash River.

Armed with a bright yellow Geiger counter and a small blue box with an assortment of switches and flashing lights, Christol examined the nearly 1-acre site a couple of weeks ago but came up with little evidence to explain the mashed-down cornfield.

He said he could find no evidence of an extraterrestrial landing. Recent rains, though, could have diluted any residual forces left behind by an unidentified flying object.

"At this time, there is no conclusive evidence that proves or disproves you've had an extraterrestrial visitation," Christol said. He then took soil and cornstalk samples, and videotaped the site.

Christol, a grandfather, says he takes his work very seriously and works with the Mutual UFO Network, an international group that studies the paranormal.

He said his next step will be to turn evidence collected over to fellow UFO investigator Tom Theofanous of Toronto.

Samples will be analyzed at the University of Toronto, Christol says, to determine if there have been any changes in the corn's cellular structure or its chemical makeup.

He said he has his own theory of what causes crop circles.

"These patterns could be produced by microwave energy from a satellite being projected on corn fields," Christol said. "They may be doing it to stir people up as they test the use of microwaves as weapons."

Christol says he has placed clumps of grass in a microwave, turned on the power for about 30 seconds, and duplicated the patterns seen in crop circles.

Theofanous is expected to visit the Grayville site in early December.

Adding to the local mystery is a report from a Grayville oil-field worker who claims he saw eerie lights around the time the crop circle appeared.

John Cox said he was driving west of Grayville and stopped to watch. "It dropped below the clouds and it looked like something falling. Then it just stayed there. I don't know what it was," he said.

Cox also claims he saw the lights of an airplane that appeared to be on a collision course with the object.

TIMES, Santa Maria, CA - Jan. 8, 1997

Throw back veil of secrecy

To the Editor:

As a one-time UFO researcher I was pleasantly surprised to see the UFO phenomena back in the media again. There has been quite a bit of coverage lately on TV and your article on the subject was noteworthy. The recent Santa Maria Times article ("Quest for UFO Information Turns Toward Former US Presidents," Dec. 30) dealt with the frustration of UFO researchers in obtaining data from the Truman and Eisenhower libraries relative to UFO events of the late 40s and early 50s.

Those UFO researchers looking for interesting events involving our presidents should contact former Pres. Jimmy Carter. I have seen a copy of a UFO sighting report signed by Carter, then governor of Georgia. His sighting entailed a strange light in the evening sky as witnessed by Carter and several of his colleagues. During Carter's first presidential campaign he promised that if he was elected he would release governmental information on UFOs. Well, Carter was elected, and guess what, he never mentioned UFOs again. But maybe he will talk about it now. Or maybe this only serves as another example of governmental secrecy involving UFOs. Most likely there is a high-level bureaucratic secrecy concerning UFOs but who needs this information, anyhow. You can get your own UFO data and plenty of it — it's in your own backyard.

My own experience has shown that there is a wealth of UFO lore in the form of unreported sightings as told by ordinary, but credible, folks. One problem, however, is that there is literally too many unreported UFO events for the few qualified UFOlogists to handle. It has been estimated that 10 percent of the US adult population thinks it has seen a UFO... an enormous amount of potential data. Further, it has been estimated that only several percent of all these events have ever been reported. So the modern day UFO investigator only needs to sift through, analyze and document this mountain of untapped data... an enormous job for only a handful of people.

There may be more raw data on the way. According to TV's "Hard Copy" of Dec. 31, (there) has been a recent spate of UFO sightings in these top five states — Washington, Oregon, California, Michigan and Florida. In all probability, this information originated with amateur UFO researchers, not the US government.

Walt Greenawald
(ret.) aerospace engineer/UFO researcher
Santa Maria

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM
Nov. 3, 1996



William R. Lyne

My View

UFO editorial was unscientific 'dupe literature' along government lines

I couldn't resist responding to your Oct. 19, 1996, editorial, which asked, "Is science too hard for UFO theorists?" Science is apparently too hard for government cover-up dupes.

I notice that no name is signed to the editorial, so to whomever you are, I say you do this community a gross disservice by demonstrating the very unscientific examples of making false assumptions, that all "UFO theory" automatically entails "aliens," or that a local ex-FBI agent, Ken Rommel, is a "scientist."

Ken Rommel — no longer an FBI agent at the time he carried out a pseudo-investigation under a \$50,000 grant from a clandestine federal agency, funneled through the Santa Fe D.A.'s office — is no scientist. His education is in the law, so he knows how to deceive. You obviously are no scientist. The purpose of Rommel's "investigation" was to determine what the public had knowledge of, so as to manufacture a false report around it, to be used by people like you to further deceive the public regarding so-called "cattle mutilations."

The most obvious and unscientific mistake of logic you make is the omission of the most rational assumptions, that cattle mutilations — thousands of documented ones — and man-made flying saucers — millions of documented sightings by reliable witnesses — have been around for many years. Those who reject the false (government-introduced) "alien" scenarios, must admit that cattle mutilations are secret government-conducted "medical-weapons" research, and flying saucers are man-made, government operated machines, as the most rational assumptions. It is grossly irrational to assume that all reliable witnesses of flying saucers and cattle mutilations find science "too hard," or believe in "aliens" — or "God" for that matter. I made my first close-up daylight sighting of a flying saucer along with even several other witnesses — including a certified aircraft identification expert — in 1953. I absolutely believe in no mystical, superstitious, or "spiritual" beings or "other-dimensional" entities of any kind.

It takes energy, courage, perseverance and intelligence to continue to search for the truth. The easiest, laziest, most cowardly thing to do is to believe the government lies that neither flying saucers nor cattle mutilations exist. Meanwhile, only dupes believe the 'other' covertly government disseminated lies, that "aliens" are responsible for flying saucers and cattle mutilations, with the obvious intent of discrediting rational witnesses and analysts by association. Your editorial is a fine example of unscientific "dupe literature" along government lines. It is ironic that you repeat the comments of "scientists" of U.C. Berkeley and Sandia Labs, some of the very labs responsible for the "mutilations" or involved in developing the ships observed. Officer Gabe Valdez, a State Police investigator from Dulce, was entrusted through his duties to the people of New Mexico with investigating the mutilations, having at his disposal the New Mexico State crime lab and its forensic scientists. His courageous 1980 conclusion was the mutilations were "...defense-related government medical experiments."

The blunt fact is that our government conducts particle beam weapons tests on, "mutilates" and destroys, the privately owned livestock of its citizens. All tissue and fluids necessary are removed, to analyze for ionizing radiation damage. The only eventual object is to develop and covertly use these weapons on human beings, who will



Ionel Talpazon, who says he experienced "blue energy" as a boy in Romania, with his UFO art. It is now on exhibit in Manhattan.

Jack Manning/The New York Times

Flying-Saucer Art Invades New York

By Trip Gabriel
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Anyone stopping in for a game of pool and a Rolling Rock at the Hudson Grill in SoHo here is greeted by an ET-like figure waving from the window.

Three feet tall, formed of latex over cotton, he (she?) is the work of John Sheldon, a sometime waiter and cook in New York, who says he has been fascinated by unidentified flying objects since he had a UFO "sighting" on a fishing trip with his father in the 1950s. In obscurity, he has made ET sculptures for more than a decade.

"You think you're the only one," Sheldon, 56, said, "but I'm finding out there's a whole network of people doing this."

The little gray creatures with big eyes just keep advancing.

Invaders from Mars and elsewhere, they are stalking back into movie houses and onto television screens this fall, and also infiltrating cultural territory where they have rarely been seen before: art, fashion and music.

No fewer than three downtown ex-

hibition spaces are showing art with UFO and alien-abduction themes. At the opening last week of a show at Hudson Grill, a club kid with a painted silver face mingled with artists, while upstairs flying-saucer poetry was recited and flying-saucer rock rang out.

In popular culture, interest in UFOs has waxed and waned, from the World War II sightings of Foo Fighters, military slang for flying saucers, to the band Foo Fighters formed last year by Nirvana's former drummer, Dave Grohl. Today flying-saucer fascination seems bigger than ever. Interviews with psychologists, historians and artists suggest a variety of reasons: apprehension over the millennium, distrust of government and traditional information sources, New Age spiritual yearnings and anxieties about sexuality in the risk-averse 1990s.

Though true believers would disagree, it is probably safe to say that the deluge of UFO images tells us less about aliens than about ourselves.

"The Judeo-Christian world view, and beliefs that people grew up with, in many cases have failed them and no longer answer the great existential questions," said Barry Beyerstein, a

professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, who has studied reports of UFO encounters. "People are looking for answers from different channels. UFOs are a marriage of high-tech and a strong religious desire to believe."

ON the day the Hudson Grill show opened, Andre Van Pier showed his UFO-inspired fashion collection, including wide "Mothership" hats for women and men's silvery jeans and jackets.

"The futuristic look is strong now; its acceptance is major among buyers and retailers," Van Pier declared. A costume designer for movies and rock stars, he took credit for accessorizing the slime-ball aliens in "Independence Day" with silver neck rings, bracelets and kneepads.

Much of the UFO art in galleries has the visceral intensity and unschooled technique of work that goes by the name Outsider Art. Some artists claim firsthand encounters with UFOs, and they bring to their flat compositions and simple palettes a visionary intensity.

"I'm treating it with as much respect as I can," said Phil Demise Smith, who assembled the Hudson Grill show, "Spatial Relations: the UFO Experience" (through Sept. 30). "For me, it's a very strong metaphor for lots of things I know to be true: the idea of something greater than ourselves, whether God or Allah or Buddha. There's a human need for this kind of belief."

At the American Primitive Gallery in SoHo, where an exhibition of UFO-themed art by 18 individuals opened Thursday, there are wild and colorful drawings of saucer propulsion systems, annotated in Romanian, by Ionel Talpazon, who thinks they will be of more interest to future scientists than art collectors.

Talpazon, 41, traces his interest in UFOs to an encounter with a "blue energy" that passed over him one night as a boy in rural Romania.

When Arne Anton, the owner of American Primitive, announced that he intended to mount the show of UFO work this year, he was overwhelmed by the response. "The artwork is just coming out of the woodwork," he said. "It strikes a chord."

Air Force jet caused alarming sonic boom

Now, about those flying saucers ...

Staff and wire reports

Questions remain about a loud boom that rattled windows and set off car alarms up and down western Oregon and Washington on Tuesday evening.

Was it a meteor, as one television station reported? Or an explosion? Or visitors from another world?

Air Force officials were quick to blame the Navy on Tuesday night. In turn, the Navy said it was the Air Force doing military operations.

On Wednesday, the two branches of the military got their story straight.

"It was us," conceded Air Force Lt. Wilson Camelo at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, Calif. He said the noise was a sonic boom caused by one of Beale's two SR-71s — also called Blackbirds — on a training mission.

The offending plane took off from Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California at 5:23 p.m. and flew a route approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, Camelo said. The boom came, he explained, when the plane broke the sound barrier.

"Mach 1 is the speed of sound. We fly Mach 3," Camelo said.

An FAA spokeswoman in Seattle contacted Tuesday night apparently had not been informed of the approved flight.

Meanwhile, a Medford pilot, who would not identify himself, reported that he saw "three strange lights" near Crater Lake Tuesday evening — at the time of the boom.

The pilot was flying a small plane from Bend to Medford when he spotted the unidentified flying objects.

He said he also saw several military jets pursuing the strange lights. The jets flew at incredibly high speeds, hugging the contour of the earth at about 5,000 feet above the ground, he said.

"They were playing with us," he said of the lights, which sped away from the military aircraft. "It was the damndest thing I've ever seen in my life."

Camelo declined to comment on the possibility that the military was chasing spaceships.

"I don't even want to go into that," he said.

But Camelo did say that it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to see the SR-71 aircraft, a military reconnaissance plane, at night.

"By the time you hear the boom it's already past you," Camelo said. "The sound is traveling past the aircraft."

Jackson County Sheriff's Lt. Ed Mayer could neither confirm nor deny any reported UFO sightings.

"Actually, we have one of those UFOs in custody, but I can't tell you that," Mayer quipped.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, OR - Feb. 6, 1997 CR: K. Olson

appear to have died of "natural" causes, such as AIDS, mycoplasmic pneumonia, tuberculosis, cancer, or "hantavirus." This research on mammals has been conducted since as early as 1966. We can safely say that whatever will work on the cattle will work on humans.

UFOs — more properly, "man-made electro-propulsive aircraft" — have been an operational reality for over 60 years. They were initially tested as early as 1915 by Nikola Tesla, who invented electropropulsion around 1893. This greatest invention of all mankind is concealed by our government, on behalf of international oil, transportation, manufacturing, political and banking interests. The "national security" lies no longer apply.

If you believe everything government agency spokesmen tell you, you are a dope who knows nothing. Otherwise, you could work for the CIA or NASA, disseminating false propaganda for them, instead of pretending to be a responsible newspaper editor interested in "scientific truth."

William Lyne of Lamy is an artist and writer. He has self-published a book titled Space Aliens From the Pentagon.

Objects Seen In Sky

By JEFF LINVILLE
Staff Writer

A recent rash of unexplained sightings in the western Piedmont has some residents wondering if what they are seeing are UFOs or some new military aircraft being tested over area skies.

People from Germantown to Yadkinville, King to Pilot Mountain have seen unidentified objects in the sky over the past three months. Reports from two separate incidents described similar light formations.

George Fawcett, a former Mount Airy resident and avid UFO researcher, said he has received "a slew of reports" since November in areas just south and east of Mount Airy.

After hearing of sightings through the Mutual UFO Network, Fawcett, now living in Lincolnton, checks with airports, police departments and weather bureaus, seeking a logical explanation. However, no obvious cause can be found for at least two sightings, according to Fawcett.

First-Hand Account

An incident on Nov. 15 has attracted attention, for four people in one vehicle saw the same unexplained object at the same time.

Bill Foster, an advertising agent for the *King Times News*, was traveling with his wife and two friends on U.S. 601 south of Yadkinville when they encountered something they couldn't explain.

Foster said they had left Bermuda Run near Advance and were traveling north on U.S. 601 near the intersection of U.S. 801 around 11 p.m.

Up ahead near the flashing lights of the intersection, a distance of about nine miles, appeared three lights in a triangular formation, he said. At first glance, he thought the lights might be a trio of helicopters passing over the highway. As he drew closer, his opinion changed.

"All I could see was a sort of flashing or strobe light, like on top of a school bus." Three such lights appeared to be the corners of a large object. While Foster said he could not make out the shape of the aircraft, he found he couldn't see the stars near the lights and knew something had to be blocking his view.

"The damn thing was half the size of a football field," Foster recalled.

One of the passengers said, "That's awful low for a 747. Where's he think he gonna land?"

The craft was moving too slow to be a jet, Foster pointed out to the other occupants in the car. The object was traveling slowly, just above treeto level.

Assuming what he was looking at must have been driven by a helicopter-type propulsion, Foster lowered his window to listen for the tell-tale chopper sounds.

"The scariest thing is there was no sound," said Foster. He wondered how anything so large could travel soundlessly.

Fawcett said he didn't hear of Foster's story until December. By the time he began calling airports and weather monitoring stations, videotape footage from that night had already been taped over with new footage, eliminating the chance of learning if the object was a large weather balloon or hot air balloon.

Second Sighting

A Stokes County man gave a description of an unidentified aircraft similar to Foster's story a month later.

On the morning of Dec. 19, Jack Edwards was traveling with his boss on N.C. 66 near Rural Hall when he saw something in the sky a few miles up ahead.

The skies were still dark that morning around 6:45, and Edwards could see lights shining from an oval-shaped object.

Driving closer, Edwards said he couldn't tell if the object were stationary or traveling at a very slow rate, but could make out at least five bright lights.

"I've been around a lot of aircraft; I was in the military," said Edwards. "This thing wasn't like anything I've ever seen before ... it was as big as a jumbo jet."

The craft was in the sky off to the side of the road as the truck pulled closer, but the two men were close enough to make out the underside. While the top seemed to have a dome shape, Edwards described, the bottom formed a triangle with bright points of light in each corner.

Trees along the highway obscured Edwards' vision for a stretch of road and, when the truck emerged into a clear area, the object was gone.

"I'll be honest with you. It shook me up a bit," admitted Edwards. "My first thought was, 'They're here.'"

While he wanted to share what he had seen with others, Edwards said he was hesitant to speak out because of what others would think of him. If he admitted to seeing a UFO, then people would begin to think he is suffering

from mental illness, he believed.

In fact, his boss, who was in the vehicle with him, refuses to discuss the incident, fearing such perceptions by the public could hurt his contracting business. Such worries could be a reason why none of those reporting sightings have turned in a report at sheriff's offices.

Alien Fever

When people experience such unusual events, it can set off a rash of false alarms, according to Fawcett. Having researched many incidents and being actively involved in field investigation, Fawcett, 67, wrote a book on the subject in 1975 and has a new book nearly completed.

Alien fever gripped Surry County more than 20 years ago after a reported UFO sighting. In 1973, reports of a spacecraft landing on Buck Shoals Road sent the media and some local residents into a frenzy.

Fawcett, who was living in Mount Airy at the time, said he recalled the local authorities holding a press conference at 3 a.m. and again at 6:30 a.m. to handle all the media questions. Fawcett himself was so besieged by telephone calls that he rented a motel room in Winston-Salem so he could get some sleep.

False alarms abounded throughout the county as one person thought he saw a UFO which turned out to be a parachute caught in a tree.

Another man reported space aliens in his back yard. When he arrived at the home, Fawcett discovered the property owner to be rather intoxicated and staring out the window at an opossum family in a tree.

So distraught was one deputy sheriff that the young man mistook the water tower in Holly Springs to be a spacecraft in the dense fog and nearly took shots at it with his pistol.

Such calls make studying sighting patterns difficult, said Fawcett. However, more than one report has been documented of triangular-shaped lights in another city.

Fawcett said in 1975 sightings similar to those recently reported occurred in Lumberton. Researchers were able to rule out shooting stars, airplanes and helicopters, but were unable to identify what was seen.

"I know what I saw," said Edwards. "Well, I don't know what I saw, but I definitely saw something."

INDEPENDENT, Gallup, NM - Nov. 5, 1996

'Punk UFOlogist' recalls Gallup Incident

By Malcolm Brenner
Staff Writer

GALLUP — When he isn't crafting custom furniture, building straw-bale houses or playing with his rock band to make ends meet, Christopher O'Brien can be found chasing lights in the sky, analyzing crystal "skulls" or poking into dead cows.

"I'm into anything people think is weird," O'Brien told a dozen people who attended the First Annual Gallup UFO Symposium at the Downtown Health Club Monday night. "I'm just that kind of guy."

O'Brien was the only one of the evening's three featured speakers who showed up. Symposium organizer Robert Allen, who owns the club, and journalist Bill Collier never arrived.

"Maybe they were abducted," O'Brien joked as he began his talk.

The self-described "punk UFOlogist" hails from in Creston, Colo., a small town at the north end of the San Luis Valley. A native of Bellevue, Wash., O'Brien moved to the valley eight years ago and has spent the past five years probing the weird goings-on there, when the pressures of time and his over-extended bank account will permit.

His first book, *"The Mysterious Valley,"* has just been published by St. Martin's Press. It documents some of the 600 sightings of unidentified objects and cases of animal mutilations. O'Brien's investigation — an average of one incident every three days, if he is to be believed.

"I consider this area one of the most intensive for unusual aerial activity anywhere," he said Monday night.

O'Brien's interest in UFO's



Chris LaMaster/Independent

UFOlogist Chris O'Brien illustrates his theory of how U.S. military planes fly wing to wing carrying lights which they flash in sequence to make people think they are alien space craft.

traces back to a bizarre experience when he was seven. Nervously chewing a wad of gum, he described being awakened in the night by three-foot-tall bug-like creatures who chased him out of his house and around his suburban neighborhood before he was found by his sister.

What struck him about the creatures was that when they turned sideways to him they disappeared. "They had no depth," he said. He doesn't believe the experience was a dream or a nightmare.

His parents scoffed at his story,

but years later, O'Brien found that UFOlogist John Keel had investigated seven other, similar cases in the same area, at about the same time.

Now, O'Brien said, Keel is one of his mentors, as is French UFOlogist Jacques Vallee, the model for the character Lacombe in the Steven Spielberg film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

O'Brien considers himself something of a radical among professional UFO investigators. "I enjoy kicking UFOlogical shins," he said. "They need to be kicked." He

calls the infamous 'Roswell Incident' — the alleged 1947 crash of an alien spaceship and subsequent government cover-up — "a dead horse."

Unlike many UFO investigators who command much higher fees for their speaking engagements, O'Brien doesn't necessarily believe UFO's come from other planets. "There's a high probability most of this stuff is military," he said.

He thinks many of the San Luis Valley sightings are government tests of secret aircraft, or — some

what more sinisterly — "A program of sleight-of-hand," designed for "conditioning the masses."

"The media, military and government are trying to get us ready for something," O'Brien said, but he wouldn't be boxed in about what that might be.

He has established a network of about 100 spotters scattered throughout the valley who can contact him and each other through a phone tree to report sightings. O'Brien had some videotapes of unidentified objects with him, but because Allen didn't show up with a VCR and a TV set, he wasn't able to show them at the symposium.

One event which interests O'Brien is the so-called "Gallup Incident" of Jan. 12, 1983. O'Brien and other saucer buffs claim an alien spacecraft crashed near Gallup, but the military quickly removed the debris.

The story shows how UFO "incidents" grow out a series of puzzling but unrelated events. Lynn Bartels, a writer for the *Independent* at the time, covered the story in front-page articles on Jan. 13, 14, and 15.

An unusually loud blast was heard at 5:30 p.m. on the evening of the 12. Several large meteorites, one of them green, were observed falling. And local law-enforcement officials found a small fire burning in the hills seven miles east of Gallup off I-40.

Authorities speculated a meteor impact had caused the fire, even though astronomers said meteors aren't hot enough to start a fire when they hit the ground and no impact crater was found.

The next day, a resident of the Continental Divide reported numerous military helicopters and vehicles in that area. An undersheriff found

physical evidence that dynamite had been exploded at the scene, perhaps causing the fire. The FBI and state police dug holes to take soil samples; the holes were later mistaken for blast craters.

On Jan. 14, the *Independent* and the *Durango Herald* were both told by separate sources that the explosion was caused by jets breaking the sound barrier, but this was never officially confirmed. Meanwhile, scientists from Los Alamos Labs said the boom was due to meteors breaking the sound barrier as they entered Earth's atmosphere. (The Quadrantid meteor shower takes place in early January.)

After that the story vanished, replaced on the front page by the seizure of Navajo Chairman Peter MacDonald's documents.

At the time there was no evidence and no speculation that the "incident" was caused by a UFO crash,

or that the military was involved in a crashed saucer recovery and cover-up.

O'Brien confesses to a fondness for the bizarre: "Science has stolen most of our mysteries," he said. Native Americans have "exalted" knowledge of extraterrestrials, referred to as "the Star People" in their legends, "but that information is not revealed to nosy white boys like me."

While he stresses that he's a stickler for accuracy, O'Brien made dozens of unsubstantiated, off-the-cuff statements. At one point he said another UFOlogist had shown him 30 "implants" allegedly recovered from the victims of "alien abductions." No one in the audience challenged that statement, or asked O'Brien how he knew the implants weren't fakes.

While UFO "debunkers" accuse UFOlogists of getting rich by bilking

the masses with their books, lectures, and TV appearances, O'Brien doesn't have to worry about those kind of accusations. At the end of this two-hour impromptu speech he was happily peddling copies of his book and a 30-page list of weird happenings in the San Luis Valley, both for the bargain basement price of \$5.00.

"That's great!" he remarked after several copies had changed hands. "Now I have enough money to get home!"

In Person

Looking
Into the
Alien *Ex*
*Machina*Physicist Bob Wood
Wants to Know
How UFOs Get HereBy RUSS LOAR
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Attention extraterrestrial visitors: If your travel plans include an Orange County flyover, you might want to stop by Bob's house.

Bob Wood, a former director of research and development at McDonnell Douglas who holds a doctorate in physics, would like to chat. The 68-year-old Newport Beach resident has spent the last three decades trying to answer a single, basic question: How did you get here?

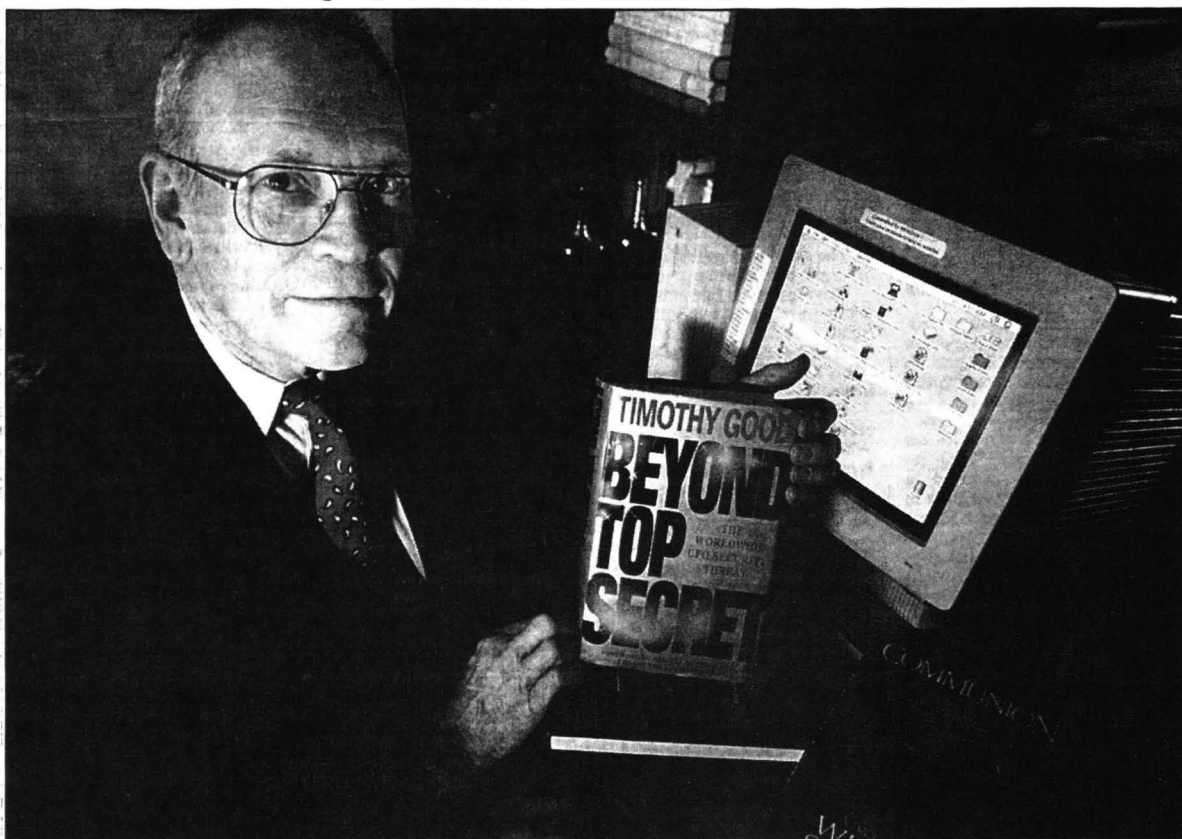
"We're just a little bit behind in understanding all of the technology used by the aliens, or visitors—or whatever you want to call them," said Wood, research director of the 5,000-member Mutual UFO Network and its Orange County chapter. "But there are ways to figure it out and build such craft. I don't accept the idea that we won't be able to replicate their capabilities."

But he does accept the idea that visitors from other worlds have been coming to Earth for a long time. And in 1967, he managed to convince McDonnell Douglas that the idea was worth studying.

The giant aerospace company allowed him to assemble a small team of researchers to investigate reports of UFOs and alien encounters, with the goal of discovering the underlying science that could make their visits possible. The project ended after two years with no definitive results, but the research made him a believer.

"I read a book, then I read another book, and pretty soon I'd read about 100 books and I decided this was no joke, there was something to it. The preponderance of eyewitness accounts was just so overwhelming, I couldn't ignore it."

One of the most intriguing UFO accounts Wood has investigated was reported in 1965 by Orange County highway inspector Rex Heflin. Wood ranks it as the county's most significant UFO sighting to date.



CHRISTINE COTTER / Los Angeles Times

Bob Wood: "We're just a little bit behind in understanding all of the technology used by the aliens, or visitors—or whatever you want to call them."

Profile: Bob Wood

Age: 68

Hometown: Little Falls, N.Y.

Residence: Newport Beach

Family: Wife Charlotte; two grown children; two grandchildren

Education: Bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, University of Colorado; PhD in physics, Cornell University

Background: McDonnell Douglas Corp. researcher and executive for 43 years, including eight years as director of research and development; director of advanced development for space station project

UFO research: Investigated reports of sightings and conducted scientific research on possible methods of UFO space travel for McDonnell Douglas, 1968-70; director of research for Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) since 1993; founding director of research for the Orange County section of MUFON since 1995

Who are those guys?: "I'd say there are several civilizations that might be involved, based on the in-depth interrogation of witnesses who are willing to go on record. Extraterrestrial societies could be better at some things, such as propulsion. But that wouldn't make them necessarily better in ethics."

Source: Bob Wood; Researched by RUSS LOAR / For The Times

Los Angeles Times

"During his normal routine, somewhere near Dyer and Myford roads, he saw this craft right in front of his windshield. He had a loaded Polaroid camera on his front seat because that was his job, to photograph things that needed to be fixed. So he took a shot right through his front window."

Heflin took three photos before the hat-shaped UFO left the area. "He drove farther and then got out and took a picture of the smoke ring that was left behind after it accelerated out of sight."

The first three photographs were published in an Orange County newspaper more than a

month later. They were examined in 1967 by the Condon Committee, a team of scientists from the University of Colorado commissioned by the Air Force to conduct an independent study of UFO reports.

"The Condon Committee declared that maybe it was a hoax, because of their inability to prove that it couldn't have been a small model," said Wood, who first met Heflin in 1968. "He seemed quite credible to me. And there were other things that were consistent with other sightings: His radio crackled and went out just as the UFO was close. And he described a wedge-shaped region of light on the bottom of the craft. He never knew that this light was on his photographs. It was only later that the researchers found it on the photographs."

Wood and Pasadena researcher Ann Druffel have obtained the original photos, which were taken from Heflin in 1965 and mysteriously returned to him in 1993. Heflin said he'd given the photos to someone claiming to be an official from the North American Air Defense Command. But NORAD officials denied contacting him.

"He told me that he'd gotten a phone call from a female voice that said, 'Have you looked in your mail box recently?' He said, 'No,' so he went out and looked and there was nothing there. He went out and looked a half-hour later, and some-

body had left him his original photographs inside an envelope."

Using the latest computer technology, Wood hopes to determine if the photos are indeed genuine.

"You couldn't have done this five years ago. We will be using a new technique for finding patterns in photographs—it's basically a computer scan."

Of the 300 sightings reported to MUFON each year that are considered unexplainable, about 10 are from Southern California. The 100-member Orange County chapter gets only a few calls each month, and most have earthly explanations.

"You have to think of multiple explanations for these anomalous things. Many times there are reasonable explanations, and you don't want to be led down the wrong path."

For those unexplainable accounts of UFOs and alien encounters, Wood said there is no consensus on whether the visitors are friendly or hostile.

"I'd say there are several civilizations that might be involved, based on the in-depth interrogation of witnesses who are willing to go on record. Extraterrestrial societies could be better at some things, such as propulsion. But that wouldn't make them necessarily better in ethics. There's significant evidence that people have been abducted, but for the most part, the interest seems to be one of curiosity and seeking understanding."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Feb. 12, 1997

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

We still have yet to record the first sighting of 1997 from Shoreline Park, or as far as we know, in general in the area. There have been no calls to the Hotline as yet this year. A call was made to the Project Awareness office regarding a witness having seen an anomalous light while driving west along Highway 98, through the Naval Live Oaks area recently. Upon interviewing the witness, however, the event was brief and distant, and it was difficult to determine the exact nature of what was seen.

Whitley Strieber's new book, "The Secret School" is another must read. Whitley continues to allow us to accompany him on his own journey of discovery of his involvement with the visitors. As with his previous books dealing with the visitor phenomenon, Whitley shares in intimate detail the revelations of his current experiences. In "The Secret School," we see Whitley as both a child in Texas, being initiated into "The Secret School" and through his experiences we are even given a glimpse of Whitley's potential

future, and as such, our own. This is a fascinating book. Whitley allows us to understand that we should not be searching for "E.T.s." The visitors are already here, have been here, probably since the beginning and will be here for the future. What we should be doing is learning how to interact with them. The book is reassuring in that it allows us to feel comfortable with contact with the visitors, and allows us to gain some insight and understanding into a possible agenda. This book is a valuable contribution since it steers away from the negative fear-ridden aspects that are often associated with this phenomenon. I strongly recommend everyone who has even the smallest interest in this phenomenon not to miss this wonderful book. If nothing else, the writing itself is outstand-

ing, although it is the content that will grip your mind and give you pause for thought.

Whitley Strieber will be one of the featured speakers next month at the 5th Anniversary Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference. Hotel rooms are going fast, so if you are one of those last minute people, make a reservation right away. The Conference is on March 21st, 22nd and 23rd at the Beachside Resort, Pensacola Beach. That hotel is already full, but the adjacent hotels still have rooms available. You can pre-register for the whole event, or buy individual tickets to the lectures and events. For more information, contact Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or

you would wish to contact the Experienter Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-261. Keep Looking Up!

Artist Peggy Kane renewing ties with Delaware friends

By Joanna Austin
Staff writer

Artist Peggy Kane, formerly of Magnolia, has always followed her own path.

Six years ago, that path took her to Arizona, where she now makes her home. The move has brought many changes in both her lifestyle and her art, but she still likes to maintain her Delaware ties, including her membership in the Dover Art League, which she helped found in the early 70s.

Old friends and new fans will have a chance to catch up with Kane while she is in Delaware for a reception in her honor at the Dover Art League on Sunday, Nov. 3 in conjunction with being featured as the League's Artist of the Month.

Now 49, the New Jersey native moved to Delaware in 1969 and stayed 21 years, becoming well-known as a painter and portraitist. She has shown her work in solo shows in New York City, Dover, and Tucson.

Kane's work was also visible during her 10 years as Exhibit Arts Specialist for the Delaware State Museums, for whom she painted numerous historical scenes including a carefully researched artist's conception of an ancient Native American burial ceremony, now on display in the museum's permanent archaeology exhibit.

Her interest in Native American culture and other aspects of southwestern life were part of what drew her to Arizona.

In a recent phone interview, Kane talked about her still-evolving art and its connection with another of her interests which has grown since moving out west — UFOs.

In Arizona, unlike Delaware, she said sightings are extremely common in the clear skies over the desert.

Kane is currently a co-host on UFO AZ, a live TV and radio show broadcast from Tucson and airing in 17 cities including New York, Seattle, Los Angeles and Albuquerque.

On the show, Kane has interviewed top UFO experts as well as many people who have experienced alien abductions and close encounters.

With the growing popularity of UFO AZ as well as nationally-known shows like "Sightings," "Strange Universe" and "The X-Files," Kane said UFO believers are no longer "on the fringe."

In fact, Kane said, surveys indicate that 50 percent of the population now believes in the existence of extraterrestrials.

"There's still skepticism, but people aren't laughing anymore," Kane said, adding that "there's a lot of closet believers out there who are afraid to fess up because of ridicule."

Of the "X-Files" premise about a government conspiracy to cover up the existence of UFOs, Kane said "there's an element of truth to that program," calling it "fictionalized but somewhat based on true stories."

However, Kane said she doesn't believe the government is denying the existence of UFOs because of its own involvement with them — it's simply trying to avoid the kind of wide-

spread panic often found in science fiction.

Kane also doesn't believe world conquest — as portrayed in recent films like the hugely popular "Independence Day" — is the goal of extraterrestrials who visit Earth. Instead, she said, films like "E.T." and "Starman" and TV shows like "Alien Nation" are closer to reality.

"If the aliens wanted to take over, their technology is so much more advanced they could have done it a long time ago. I don't think that's what they're doing here," Kane said. She believes aliens have been visiting Earth for several hundred thousand years, perhaps even intervening at key points in history to save humanity from itself.

Kane is currently working on a series of paintings of gods and goddesses from mythologies all over the world which may have been influenced by extraterrestrial visitors. She has so far completed four and is researching more with an even-

tual goal of combining about 50 in a full-color book with their respective stories.

"My art has become more narrative. I'm trying to convey information, to tell a story rather than reveal the secrets of my soul," Kane said of how her work has changed to reflect her interests.

"I've discovered that the universe is really much bigger than I thought, and the story of our humanity is much grander, so that's what I'm trying to portray," she said.

Kane's work, including prints and small gold leaf pieces done over the last two years as well as ten original pieces which will be shown only during the week of her visit, will be on display at the Dover Art League, 21 Lookerman Street in Dover from Nov. 2 to 30. The League will host a reception for the artist from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3. For more information, call 674-0402.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH: Former Magnolia resident and Dover Art League founding member Peggy Kane will be featured as the League's Artist of the Month for

November. Kane now lives in Arivaca, Arizona. Photo courtesy Peggy Kane.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Dec. 27, 1996

Ancient bowl at UFO Museum might have come from aliens

JULIE MARIE BROWN
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Was there extraterrestrial contact with ancient cultures?

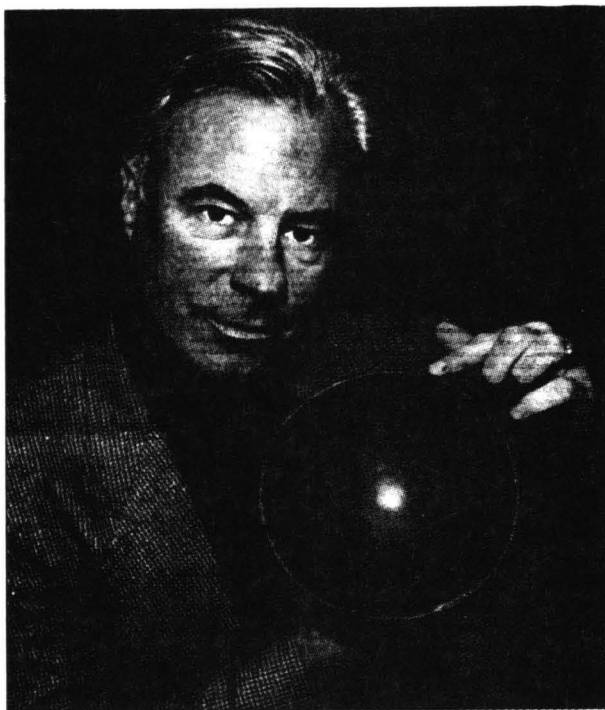
"There is a very strong belief ancient cultures had contact with advanced life-forms," said Deon Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

The museum's Ancient Cultures and Their Connections to Extraterrestrial Life-forms exhibit is the study of just such a possibility, Crosby said.

The exhibit received a new ancient artifact Thursday. Stephen E. LaChapelle, president of Worldtel Interactive Inc. in Santa Monica, Calif., placed on loan to the museum a compote bowl from Equator. It is part of his personal pre-Columbian art collection.

The bowl, which is more than 600 years old, depicts six figures each equipped with what appears to be a "space helmet" or possibly a halo, LaChapelle said.

The ancient figures have



Mike Pettit photo

Stephen LaChapelle, of Santa Monica, Calif., is donating a pre-Columbian artifact to the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell. The museum is planning to display the bowl in its Ancient Cultures and Their Connections to Extraterrestrial Lifeforms exhibit.

head covers touching the sky in an obvious way, he added.

Crosby said the exhibit includes the hand-carved wood replica of the most famous of the Mayan temple tomb inscriptions: the Palenque Astronaut. The wood carving suggests an astronaut sitting at the controls of a space ship. This piece is out on loan right now, but should be back at the museum Jan. 1, she added.

The exhibit also includes photos from Anasazi artifacts found in Arizona and petroglyph research by Tony Rullan.

"This exhibit will continue to grow," Crosby said.

The museum also is working with Arizona State University on research and exhibit items for the exhibit.

"To us it shows that extraterrestrials have been part of ancient cultures," she said.

Anyone see that bright circular object hovering over a freighter in the ship channel in the Sound?

Gary Ramon, his girlfriend, Robin Spratley and sons Gary Jr. and Christopher did.

"My 13-year-old said 'what's that bright thing above it,'" Gary said. "It wasn't a plane, it was too bright. It was circular. It stayed there about 30 to 35 seconds and it was gone. It was weird."

Gary said it had the appearance of a fluorescent light. All of a sudden, it was gone.

Gary and his crew were near Edgewater Village and it was about 4:30 p.m.

"They want to call it a UFO," he said. "I believe in them. Anything's possible. I just know it was no aircraft."

SUN HERALD, Biloxi, MS - Jan. 30, 1997 CR: J. Gillis

UFO sightings being reported

STEVE MILLER
San Pedro Valley News-Sun

On numerous occasions over the past two years, UFOs have been spotted flying over the Dragoon Mountains, according to reports cited by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an investigative organization which recently set up shop in Cochise County.

The last reported sighting of UFOs over the Dragoon Mountains occurred on Sept. 18. According to MUFON, a witness that frequents the area reported seeing many flying objects approaching Middle March Pass from the northeast.

"These objects appear at night, and usually display a white strobe light. Usually coming in singularly, at times they approach in greater numbers, and have been sighted regularly over the past two years," the MUFON report stated.

The UFOs reportedly appear on such a regular basis that the witness has been able to video tape several encounters. So far, the objects have not appeared regularly enough for MUFON investigators to sight them.

The incidents are presently being investigated by MUFON; but as of yet, no findings have been determined.

The organization, which in June opened a Cochise County office in Sierra Vista, is a non-profit and federal tax exempt corporation made up of volunteers who investigate UFO sightings.

"Right now I have a real good, hard core group of investigator trainees," said Whitey Reese, director of the MUFON Cochise County Section.

When asked if he believed in extraterrestrial life or space travelers visiting Earth, Reese said, "That's a hard question. ... I keep an open mind. I stress to all of our members, and especially the investigators, that they must keep an open mind."

He described a man with an open mind as someone who "will start leaning toward believing anything

and something ~~will~~ come up to change his mind entirely - that is a man with an open mind."

Reese, a retired electronics technician who served 22 years in the military and 22 years in the civil service at Ft. Huachuca, has never seen a UFO first-hand, but he said he keeps an open mind on the subject.

"I have not seen what I would call a UFO," he said. "I have seen things that I did not know what they were. I have never seen what is normally classified as a UFO."

Reese said the investigators are trained from the MUFON Field Investigator Manual and they follow strict scientific method.

"We try and stay within the scientific mainstream," he said. "As soon as you start to include psychic findings and the likes, the scientific mainstream will not even look at it."

Reports from the Cochise County branch of MUFON are disseminated through the state headquarters in Phoenix and the national headquarters in Seguin, Texas.

MUFON State Director Tom Taylor, who appointed Reese to head up the Cochise County section, said he has seen four or five UFOs in his lifetime. His first encounter occurred when he was 17 years old and he saw a UFO maneuvering in the sky.

"When they make 45 degree angle turns at incredible speeds, it is not something man made," said Taylor.

He said MUFON, which has been operating since 1967, is dedicated to trying to unravel UFO mysteries.

About recent announcements by the U.S. government that there is possible evidence of life on Mars and water systems on the Moon, Taylor

said, "The human race is being braced for even bigger revelations. ... The government is being forced to disclose more and more. I believe they have been keeping it a secret."

He said he has seen NASA photographs - not yet made public - that show ancient ruins on the dark side of the moon. "They are very striking," he said.

"I hope (the government) will be more forthcoming and honest with the American public. Belgium has disclosed to their citizens that there is extraterrestrial crafts traveling over that country," he said.

Other reports of UFO sighting in Cochise County include a "large, well illuminated triangle" flying in the sky about two miles south of Tombstone on Oct. 21; a hovering light spotted over Sierra Vista on Sept. 14 and Sept. 19; and an "erratic

nocturnal light" that traveled through the sky about four miles north of Willcox on Aug. 5.

The Sierra Vista sighting was found to be the planet Venus being mistaken for a flying object. The Tombstone sighting is still under investigation by MUFON. The case of the Willcox sighting is closed and MUFON classified the object as "unknown."

"'Unknown,' means we do not know what it is," said Reese. "This does not mean they are extraterrestrial vehicles."

He said the classifications assigned to closed cases by MUFON are subject to change by the headquarters in Texas.

"Nothing is impossible," he said. "Some things are highly unlikely, but nothing is impossible."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Sept. 11, 1996

Skywatch Diary

by Carole Baker

Labor Day weekend is, of course, the official close of summer and Fall fast approaches. For us here on the Gulf Coast though, fall comes in slowly and we can look forward to a few more weeks of warm weather before things start to cool off. We have had a lot of rain and thunderstorms during the last week. The Labor Day weekend itself was very wet, which resulted in limited skywatching activities. There was quite a crowd at Shoreline Park on Sunday night though, despite the heavy rain earlier in the day and a storm later in the evening which resulted in everyone going home. A family who frequently skywatch had come over from Mobile to eat a picnic supper and join the group for the evening. We were also pleased to welcome back one of our regular skywatchers who had returned just that afternoon from a trip to Oklahoma. While there she had a sighting! She was driving around the north shore of Lake Lugent in Quartz Mountain State Park outside of Granite, OK (in the southeastern part of the state). The sighting occurred on Friday, August 30, at 8 p.m. She saw a large orange ball of light over the lake. The sighting lasted a total of thirty seconds with the light blinking off and on again once during that time period and then blinking out, not to return. As a native of the area, she remembers a flap of sightings back in 1966 which

caused quite a lot of interest and investigation. At that time there were several sightings of actual craft and evidence that the sightings were picked up on local radar.

It is interesting to note the progress of the planets and constellations across the sky. It is a way of marking the passing seasons. Jupiter, with attendant moons now appears in the south/southwest and Scorpio with the red planet Mars in its midst in the southwest now. The summer triangle is still visible overhead, but soon we will be looking for Orion in the eastern sky and the other familiar fall/winter constellations, Cassiopeia and the Pleiades. Looking out at the stars really puts things in perspective and confirms that we surely are tucked away on one small planet in one small corner of the Universe.

Wednesday evening saw quite a large group out to skywatch including some visitors from Illinois. Of interest during the evening was the launching from the Shoreline Park boat ramp of a USAF boat. We have seen this boat launched from Shoreline Park on several occasions. It is a very sophisticated "cigar" type speedboat with huge outboard engines. The crew use night vision equipment and there is a new addition of a large ramp type structure on the rear of the boat. Of course, when you approach them and ask what they are doing, they won't tell you! It seems odd that with all of the potential launch spots

closer to Eglin or NAS Pensacola that they would choose Shoreline Park from which to launch this boat. At the same time the boat was being launched, two skywatchers reported seeing a red light "pop in the eastern sky at about a thirty degree elevation. It was only visible for about five seconds, and with such a short duration, and considering the partly cloudy sky conditions, it is very difficult to determine the source.

Chris and Debbie from Ft. Lauderdale, FL were visitors on Thursday evening. They had both experienced sightings as children, Chris in Pittsburgh at age thirteen and Debbie driving with her family across "Alligator Alley" in south Florida at around age nine. Chris has had an abiding interest in UFOs since his sighting and was hoping to see something at Shoreline Park. Unfortunately there were no sightings on Thursday evening, but we enjoyed talking with Chris and Debbie very much.

The Project Awareness Conference in Tampa is this coming weekend, September 13th, 14th and 15th. The speakers are: Courtney Brown, Budd Hopkins, Colin Andrews, Linda Howe, Dr. Roger Leir, John Carpenter and Micheal Lindemann. If you need information, you can contact Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888. It is not too late to be a part of this exciting Conference!

A quiet week on the hotline again, with no sightings reported. If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON hotline at 438-3261,

Clinton man says government covering up UFO sightings

By Samar Abulhassan
Macomb Daily Special Writer

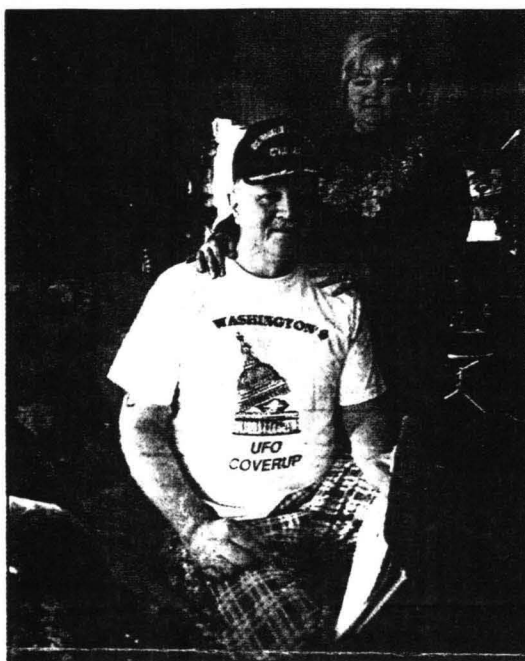
You don't have to be a believer to appreciate Chester Grusinski's story.

The Clinton Township man's testimony of spotting a UFO almost 30 years ago has been met with skepticism by many, but that hasn't stopped him from pursuing the truth about UFOs. The truth, he believes, that the government continues to withhold.

It was 1958, and Grusinski, then 18, was aboard the Franklin D. Roosevelt aircraft carrier cruising the Caribbean near Cuba, when he was called up to the flight deck by fellow crew members.

It was there that he first made contact with the "little light following the ship."

As the light came closer, Grusinski said, it appeared to be a "cigar-shaped" figure, about 75 to 100 feet long. He said the UFO floated midair for several minutes and he could feel the heat on his face.



Chester Grusinski, here with his wife, Carol Ann, believes that he saw a UFO while aboard the Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1958.

"There were silhouettes of figures looking at us," he said. "They had no features and you can tell they weren't human."

Grusinski said the bottom then turned a "bright, cherry red" and took off.

After the incident, Grusinski said, no one would admit anything happened. He said the CIA came aboard shortly after, but he was told they were investigating a gambling problem.

Since then, Grusinski has become consumed by UFO phenomena, collecting photos, letters and documents from witnesses who came in contact with UFOs from the same ship at various times.

He has photos of a 1952 UFO sighting, during "Operation Mainbrace," taken from the deck of the F.D.R. as the object "overtook the NATO fleet." He also names a 1953 incident reported by a Navy commander in the Mediterranean, which was also tracked by the radar.

Grusinski said there were two sightings in 1956, while the ship was at anchor in the port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He said a witness drew a sketch of the objects and sent it to the Defense Department, but was told to tell no one for 20 years.

So why have UFOs been drawn to this one ship?

At that time, the F.D.R. was the first U.S. carrier that had thermonuclear capability and was the only one allowed to transport the hydrogen bomb, Grusinski said.

Through his research, Grusinski obtained a list of everyone on board during the 1958 "sighting" and has written letters to all of them. But he still hasn't found any witnesses.

Requests under the Freedom of Information Act to the Navy, CIA, and the National Security Agency have yielded no information.

But this has hardly discouraged Grusinski. He was featured on "Sightings," a television program out of Sterling Heights, in 1995 with other UFO witnesses, and has written a screenplay about his experience.

Grusinski said he is willing to "meet the government half-way."

He would settle for open congressional hearings, anything that would shed light on the matter.

"We're getting to a point now where there's a lot more awareness of UFOs," he said. "I think they may release the information soon."

Confession adds fuel to UFO theory

Roswell museum releases book detailing dying man's story about alien ship

By DAVE NELSON
Avalanche-Journal

ROSWELL, N.M. - UFO experts here believe the confessions of a dying man have provided another piece to the puzzle surrounding that infamous event in 1947 - when Roswell and flying saucers became intertwined.

In his last months, Jim Ragsdale, a New Mexico truck driver who was about to die of terminal cancer, told his daughter he'd been keeping something from her. Something she may have a hard time believing. He told her he kept the secret to protect her to protect himself and the rest of his family from others who wanted the secret to die.

He'd seen that strange disc crashing near Roswell in July 1947, almost 48 years to the day before he died last July.

In a book released last month by Roswell's International UFO Museum, Ragsdale describes the crash this way: "From the northwest there was a big flash, an intense, bright explosion, and then, shortly thereafter, with a noise like thunder, this thing came plowing through the trees, shearing off the tops, and then stopped between two huge rocks. It was propped up against one rock. It was about 20 feet around. As it was approaching, huge streams like fire were coming out from behind. After the impact, silence."

The implications

If his story is true, it would mark the first eyewitness account of the crash and bolster the theory of researchers who believe two alien spacecrafts collided. Theorists maintain that one craft was destroyed in the collision, scattering debris over a New Mexico sheep farm, and the other crashed several miles away.

"For a long time, there was no talk about a craft. It was just debris," explained Max Littell, a UFO museum volunteer who produced a book and video of Ragsdale's story. "We've never had anyone else say they saw a craft actually land, and we've interviewed hundreds of people."

Those familiar with the Roswell incident know that after a night of intense thunderstorms in July 1947, which provided a boom residents have recalled as louder than any thunder they

had heard, a local rancher found unusual debris scattered across his land near Corona, N.M. Some of the debris was said to look like aluminum foil that couldn't be burned and would return to its original form if it were crumpled. Other parts reportedly contained unidentifiable hieroglyphics.

The rancher, suspecting the debris could be from military operations from Roswell Army Air Field, brought some of it to the sheriff in Roswell, who notified the base for assistance. In the following days, the military released a statement to the media saying it had recovered debris from a flying saucer and subsequently changed its story.

The military maintains that the debris came from a weather balloon and that Major Jesse Marcel, who investigated the debris, misidentified the wreckage.

Ragsdale's is the latest story UFO researchers have uncovered that contradicts the military's position. It also adds credence to the accounts of two nuns working in a Roswell hospital who saw a bright object plunging to the ground in the direction of the Capitan Mountains, where Ragsdale was camping during the alleged sighting.

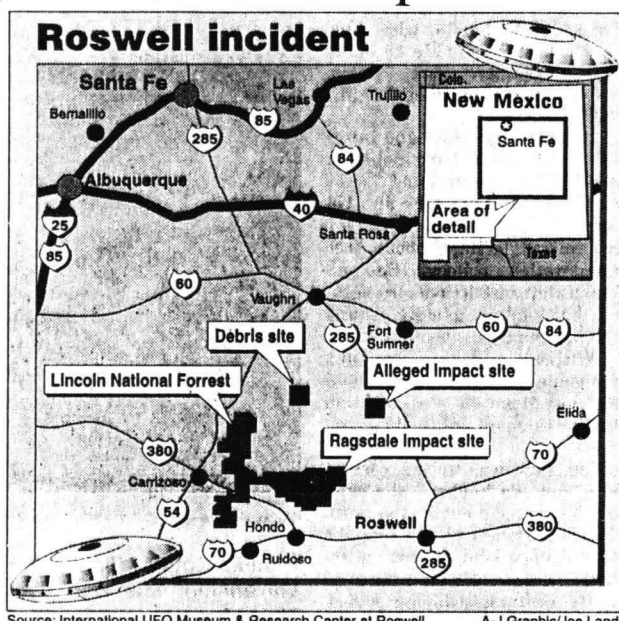
It also provides a new theory in how the military could have covered up the incident.

Littell said people have been wondering for years how a truck carrying a 20-foot disc could have gone through Roswell unnoticed.

In a book released two years ago, "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell," experts alleged that the crash site was north of Roswell, along U.S. 285. That would have meant the military had to transport the craft through Roswell to a train station.

But the Ragsdale site is about 53 miles northwest of Roswell, just north of the Capitan Mountains along Pine Lodge Road, which wasn't heavily traveled at the time. The site is closer to Carrizozo, which had a train terminal with routes to the West Coast, than to Roswell, which only had a station with few destinations.

"That could explain why no one in Roswell saw it," Littell said. "Carrizozo was just a small



town, and the military had roads blocked off all the way there."

Stan Friedman, a UFO researcher quoted in Ragsdale's book, has been following the Roswell incident for years and is credited with resurrecting the interest in Roswell about 15 years ago. He said in the video he had received an anonymous phone call in previous years, telling how the military took the craft to Carrizozo. But nothing substantial had come of that theory until now.

What Ragsdale saw

Ragsdale was 22 and living in Carlsbad when the Roswell incident occurred. He'd planned to meet his girlfriend, who lived in Las Cruces, near Boy Scout Mountain at a secluded campsite for the weekend.

As he tells it in the book, the two found a spot behind a clump of trees near a campsite in the Lincoln National Forest.

"We were lying in the back of my pickup truck, buck naked, drinking beer, and having a good ol' time when all hell broke loose," his account stated.

After a bright explosion, a 20-foot disc came flying through the trees and imbedded itself among some large boulders, according to his testimony.

"We were scared but curious," he told interviewers. "We went

down to the crash of this disc-like thing. There was a hole in one side about four feet wide and two feet high. There was junk scattered around the disc and we picked some of it up. I looked inside the hole, and inside, there was a chair that looked like a throne. It looked like it was made of rubies and diamonds. There were other little chairs - four or five and a lot of instruments on a panel.

"There were also the little people, four of them. They looked like midgets, about four feet long. Their skin, if it was skin, was sort of gray and when I touched one of them, it felt like a wet snake."

His report of alien bodies isn't isolated.

Roswell funeral director Glen Dennis has publicly detailed how the military called him asking for small, hermetically sealed caskets. He didn't have any in stock, so they asked how to make them. When he went out to the base, which was normal since he had a contract with them, he was forcibly removed. His girlfriend, who was a nurse at the base, told him later they had performed autopsies on non-human bodies. The girlfriend died in a plane crash weeks later.

According to Ragsdale's account, he and his girlfriend

waited for daylight and then gathered some of the debris in their truck. That's when he reported seeing military vehicles pull up and decided in his words, "to get the hell out of there."

They showed the debris to some of Ragsdale's friends, who are all dead now. In the months that followed, his girlfriend was killed in a car crash that he told interviewers did not have enough impact to result in her death. Littell said he checked the police report and agrees. Then Ragsdale's home was burglarized, and the thieves only took the debris and a pistol.

That's when he decided never to mention what he had seen.

Coming forward

He lived with the secret until November 1994, when Ragsdale decided to unburden himself. His health had deteriorated and so had his spirits, recovering from a recent divorce, so he moved into his daughter's home in Oklahoma, where he was to die.

Judy Ragsdale Lott remembered taking long vacations to that same campsite all her life and watching her dad stare dreamily at the sky. But she wasn't prepared for the story of what her father says happened there.

He told her about the spacecraft and the little people inside. He told her how his girlfriend mysteriously died, and how on a few occasions people tried to run him off the road.

He told her he'd kept the secret for years to protect the family.

Lott has said she doesn't believe in UFOs, but she also doesn't believe her father would lie to her. So, she contacted the UFO museum and agreed to have him interviewed. Neither she nor her father were paid for their story, according to the museum.

"The last few months when my dad came to live with me, until his death on July 1, 1995, have been very traumatic and almost mystic to me," she writes in the book.

"I am not a believer in UFOs, but I certainly have my doubts now and a million questions. I wish my dad had told me sooner about his encounter with the flying saucer and the little people. Maybe I could have helped quiet

his fears and made him more at peace with his life. It's too late now and I'm sorry."

Credibility

Like everything else in Roswell's UFO museum, Ragsdale's story is put out for visitors to decide for themselves whether they believe that, as UFO followers say, "We are not alone."

But Littell and some UFO experts like Friedman believe Ragsdale's account makes a lot of sense.

"I don't think a man on his death bed would tell his daughter about how he was fooling around with some girl in the woods unless the whole story

unusual experience 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!

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

Well, if we are to get some skywatching in, Mother Nature is going to have to co-operate. Now the fog has cleared up, it has become very cold and rainy. Of course, we should not complain, we are in far better shape than those people in the North West and California who are clearing up from floods and landslides. It makes one wonder if all of these odd weather patterns recently have something to do with the last publicized test of HAARP on December 15th. I know a lot of people who became ill around this time and then we have all this weird weather. Makes you wonder.

A look back at the sightings of 1996 yielded some interesting information. We had a total of

twenty-eight sighting events reported (bear in mind that some of these events were of multiple objects/lights), twenty-seven of which were night sightings and one of which was a daytime sighting. The busiest month turned out to be November with five reports and the slowest months were March and April with no reports at all. The actual sighting statistics show: January - 3, February - 1, March - 0, April - 0, May - 4, June - 4, July - 2, August - 3, September - 2, October - 1, November - 5 and December - 3. Although the frequency of reported sightings is somewhat less than we observed in 1995, 28 events in a twelve month period is still significant.

I spoke at length this week with

Houston based researcher John Culver who works with Project V.I.S.I.T. His particular area of fascination is propulsion, and he is putting together raw data at this time. He was especially interested in a sighting we had reported in July 1996, where a "rolling" effect was observed.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and make those reservations for the Fifth Annual Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held at the Beachside Resort March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Hotel rooms are filling up fast so don't wait until it is too late. There is another stellar line up of speakers including Whitley Strieber, Courtney Brown and Nick Pope from the U.K. It will be a very interesting weekend. For more information, you can contact Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888.

If you have a sighting or

was true," Littell said. "He had no motive for lying. I just don't see how a man could sit on his death bed and lie to his daughter."

The museum puts so much stock in Ragsdale's account that they've devoted a special section for it. A map that covers a whole wall shows where the debris was found, where experts first believed the second spacecraft landed and the Ragsdale site. It also sells the book and video to its visitors, and a percentage of those sales will be put in a trust fund for Ragsdale's grandchildren.

Littell said the museum doesn't plan to submit the story to Congress, but rather let the scores of curious visitors make up their own minds.

"We're not trying to convert anyone here," he said. "We just lay it out there on the table and let them decide."

Skywatch Diary

Compiled by Carole Baker

Sunday evening, December 8, 1966, saw quite a large group of skywatchers at Shoreline Park including some friends from Ft. Walton Beach who were visiting one of our regular skywatchers and decided to come along on the watch. Unfortunately they were not rewarded with a sighting.

Many of our regular group has been under the weather this week. There is a "flu like bug" going around and several people have fallen prey to it. Hopefully next week will result in everyone feeling better and with the weather's cooperation we can look forward to a good week of skywatching.

Last week I mentioned a sighting in north Pensacola which was still under investigation. My thanks to our Chief Investigator, Bill Ford, for allowing me to go along with him when he interviewed all three witnesses. The sighting was at very close range and perhaps one of the most significant reports we have received this year-to-date.

The sighting took place at approximately 5:50 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 1996. Weather conditions were cloudy and drizzling with the temperature around the 60 degree mark. The sighting took place over a power sub-station at the junction of Jernigan Road and JoJo Road, in north Pensacola. Adjacent to this site is a church, and this is where the witnesses observed from.

Two witnesses were driving to a local mall from their home in northwest Pensacola when one of them was paged. She knew there was a telephone she could use at her church, and drove directly there to return the page. As the two witnesses drove up to the church outbuilding where the telephone was, one of them noticed a large bright orange light over the power sub-station. "I was joking around saying it was a UFO!" the witness told me. The second witness saw the light and they stopped the car. Still watching the light, one of the witnesses tried to use the telephone in the Church building. "It was all just static," the witness states. "You could not get anything but static."

Meanwhile, as one witness was trying to use the telephone, the other witness, carrying the pager decided to go toward the power sub-station to get a closer look at the light. "I just wanted to see what it was," she told me. "It was perfectly round and just hovering there, low above the power thing." As she walked toward the sub-station, the pager began acting strangely, vibrating and beeping at the same time (which it is not designed to do) and no numbers were showing up on it. The other witness saw what her friend was doing and became hysterical, calling the second witness back.

Together again in the doorway of the Church building, the two witnesses watched as the central ball of light began to interact with the power sub-station. "There were sparks, like from a sparkler just raining down from this big orange ball of light to the sub-station. Then as we watched, two smaller balls of light, the same color, kind of rolled out from the big one and hung there next to it." One of the witnesses estimates

that the large ball of light was about two inches across at arm's length and the other, smaller lights, were about half that size. The witnesses both went on to describe how they watched for over five minutes as the small balls of light would merge back with the larger ball and then separate from it again. This occurred three or four times. "When they went back in, the sparks started going up to the big ball instead of raining down," one witness stated. "You know there was something intelligent controlling the thing, because every time a car would come by and shine its headlights, the whole thing would disappear, like someone flipped a switch, then when the car went by, it would switch back on again," the witness who approached the sub-station told me. "As I got closer to

it, it was just one big ball at that time, I could see it was very bright, but there was a darker ring around the outside of it. I could not see any structure."

After watching this display for about 2-1/2 to 3 minutes the two original witnesses were joined by a third. From the third witness' description, it would appear that by this time the UFO was moving away, beyond the sub-station. "It looked to me to be about a mile beyond the power plant thing" the third witness states. "I could see lights in a triangle shape." This witness described the size at arm's length as being about 1 inch across. "It looked to me like they were in a perfect triangle, all sides the same." After the three witnesses watched amazed for another approximately 2-1/2 minutes, all three concur that "... it just went out and never came back on." Immediately after the final disappearance of the UFO, the pager returned to its normal functions and the telephone line became clear.

The UFO was not more than 80 yards away from all three witnesses. The one witness who ran toward the power sub-station, was at one point much closer than that, but just how close is not possible to determine. The witness cannot remember how close to the sub-station she got before her friend called her back. "We were excited. My friend was freaking out, so I ran back. I'm not sure how close I got to it," she told me.

Two of the witnesses have had previous UFO sightings; one had a previous sighting here in the Pensacola area and the other had two previous sightings in another state. The third witness had never seen anything unusual before.

Apparently, we were told that there were some other witnesses in the vicinity who also saw the UFO on that Friday evening. However, we have been given no further information as to how to contact them. Therefore we would urge them to come forward and contact the hotline number below. As always confidentiality is our

prime concern.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report, or wish to contact the experimenter's support group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON hotline at 438-3261, and... Keep Looking Up!

CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, GA - Jan. 18, 1997

A favorite spot for UFO visits?

Tales from LaGrange: The area, known for close encounters of the alien kind, is sure to be a hot topic at a meeting Sunday in Smyrna.

By Jack Warner
STAFF WRITER

LaGrange — The photograph would be a pointless snapshot of a turkey-wire fence, a pasture and a line of trees in late summer if not for the bell-shaped thing hovering in the sky.

Because of that, it's the latest addition to a pile of oddities that suggest the countryside around LaGrange is a hotbed of Unidentified Flying Objects.

On the other hand, 50 or more sightings a year may have come to light merely because the area is a hotbed of UFO investigators, according to John Thompson, state director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

Thompson runs an insurance agency on the square in LaGrange. Above his desk is a sign asking, "HAVE YOU SEEN A UFO? Please tell me."

"Most people who see one tell their family and their friends," Thompson said, "but they're embarrassed to talk about it otherwise. They're afraid of the ridicule."

That fear of being laughed at is presumably what has stymied the investigation of the "Valley UFO," as Thompson calls the bell-shaped object. The photographs were sent anonymously to news outlets by a man who called himself "Mr. Z" and said he snapped the pictures Sept. 16 on his farm near Valley, Ala., just across the Chattahoochee from Georgia.

The Valley UFO and other events will be the focus of a statewide meeting of MUFON at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Smyrna library. The public is welcome, Thompson said.

There are six different pictures of the Valley UFO and an accompanying letter, but that's all. "We've been unable to locate the place where they were taken

or the person who took them," Thompson said.

Investigation showed that the weather seen in the pictures was consistent with the weather in the area that day.

Thompson said he was able to rig a coffee mug using five strands of fishing line to produce similar photographs. "The trick is not the distance the picture is taken from, but not to catch any sunlight reflecting off the support lines."

His conclusion: The photographs "are not in themselves enough to prove that a genuine UFO was caught in broad daylight loitering over a farm pasture."

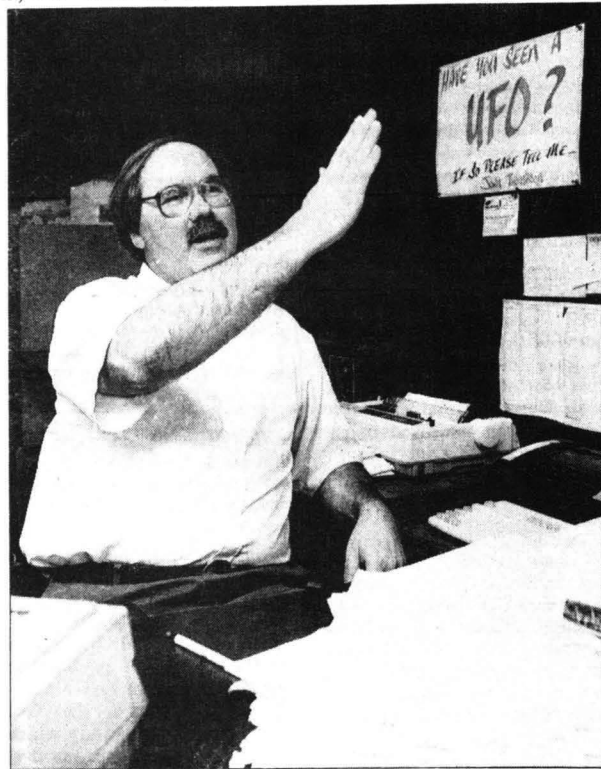
While investigating almost 100 reported sightings that have come to light in west Georgia over two years, Thompson says, he has talked to people who, he is convinced, have not only seen UFOs but have been abducted and examined, sometimes repeatedly, by their short, almond-eyed, gray crews.

A peculiarity of west Georgia sightings seems to be selectivity: One person or group of people see something that should have been seen by many others but apparently was not. A man and his daughter who had been fishing from a boat told Thompson about a Volkswagen-sized, egg-shaped craft that reportedly was in plain view of a landscaping crew that apparently never saw it.

Another witness, a retired dentist and former Air Force veteran who — for fear of ridicule — asked that his name not be used, said he had a similar experience.

It was almost three years ago, he said, and he was driving down Hamilton Road in midmorning.

"I saw something shiny above the trees," he said, still uncomfortable telling his story to a stranger. "I looked up and saw a short, fat, hot-dog shape flying



DWIGHT ROSS JR. / Staff

Georgia Mutual UFO Network leader John Thompson tells how a military jet crashed near an earlier UFO sighting.

from left to right. It was more rounded at the ends than a blimp, and it was flying faster. It looked to be moving at about the same speed a small aircraft would."

He said he was convinced it wasn't a blimp, but nonetheless made calls to airports in the area to see if there were any blimps in the area. There were not.

"There were no markings at all on it. No gondola. No windows that I could see," he said. "This thing was flying over part of LaGrange. A lot of other people should have seen it." There were, however, no other reports.

"I don't rule out something from outer space," he said, "But it seems more likely the military is involved. How can it exist without the government not knowing about it?"

That, of course, is central to any UFO theory. But federal and military authorities continue to insist they have no reason to believe UFOs are anything but natural phenomena misinterpreted by observers.

Thompson, who also is a board member of the fledgling International Society for UFO Research (ISUR), says UFO hunters are becoming convinced that just collecting verbal reports is a waste of time.

"The next step is to get instrumentation packages out into areas like this to record radioactivity and electromagnetic disturbances," he said. Money, of course, is a stumbling block in the path of these efforts.

Skeptics wonder why technologically superior aliens would insist on pussyfooting around like this for decades, if not centuries. Why not reveal themselves?

"Good question," Thompson admits. "But something's going on. Trust me."

For more information, call John Thompson at 706-845-1145. Those with Internet connections can read about UFO matters at ISUR's and MUFON's home pages. <http://www.isur.com> and <http://www.mufon.org>



Green men out, grey in

By Jo Knowsley

LONDON — Little green men from Mars are history.

Today's alien is nearly always a little grey man with huge oval eyes. Patrick Huyghe, a New York-based authority on UFOs, has written a book on the changing images of the alien to celebrate 50 years of research on the subject.

Our guests from outer space tend to look like whatever the public expects them to look like.

"The little grey alien, such as those featured in the film *Communion*, appears to have become the modern face of the creature from outer space," says Huyghe.

"Reptilian creatures and the non-humanoids which were popularly reported in the Forties and Fifties are still sighted, but more rarely."

Huyghe has documented an extraordinary range of alien creatures. They include headless bats, fluorescent midge amphibians and a tall green lizard. And he's written a book about them called *The Field Guide to Extraterrestrials*.

It was in 1947 that Kenneth Arnold saw something unusual over the Cascade Mountains and a local newspaper coined

the term "flying saucer."

There have since been millions of "sightings" of spaceships and aliens, and many people claim to have been

abducted and forced to have sex with the creatures or at least to undergo medical examinations.

Huyghe accepts that some alien sightings could be colored by the times in which they occurred and the country in which they took place.

In the post-war and Cold War periods, for example, public fears of invasion were intense and UFO sightings increased

accordingly.

In his book, a picture taken in Scotland purportedly of an alien, bears an uncanny resemblance to a set of bagpipes.

Another, from America, shows a creature which looks like an astronaut.

It was taken shortly after the first moon landing. Today's Greys, he admits, might owe some of their popularity to Hollywood. Yet he believes that aliens exist.

Of his book, he says: "I didn't set out to convince anyone. I just wanted to document the evidence. Some sightings do come down to rational explanations but a large number cannot be explained by science."

Britain's leading UFO-logist, Jenny Randles, is critical of this approach.

"UFOs are in no way synonymous with aliens but certain people in the field enjoy linking the two."

"Some researchers see it as a way of raising the UFO profile and gaining funding. But I see it as damaging the image of some serious research."

"Governments around the world continue to spend money researching UFOs but not because they are looking for, or hiding, aliens."

"They are studying what many of us believe are natural phenomena — specific geological and climatic conditions which cause UFOs but which are not understood."

"Aliens might exist but they should be seen as separate from UFOs, which could be an energy source we can learn to harness to benefit modern living."

— Sunday Telegraph

ST JOHN'S 'BUZZED' BY ALIENS, OR WAS IT JUST THE RAF?

WHO is the mystery woman who spotted a UFO flying over the centre of the Island?

The unnamed part-time cleaner from St John's earned herself a centre page spread in the latest issue of *UFO Magazine* with her bizarre tale.

Under the pseudonym of Dawn Milburn, she claimed to have spotted a slow moving oval or wedge-shaped 'object' flying above Slieu Whallian on Friday, September 13.

The married 38-year-old said the dazzling white object was then surrounded by two black unmarked aircraft.

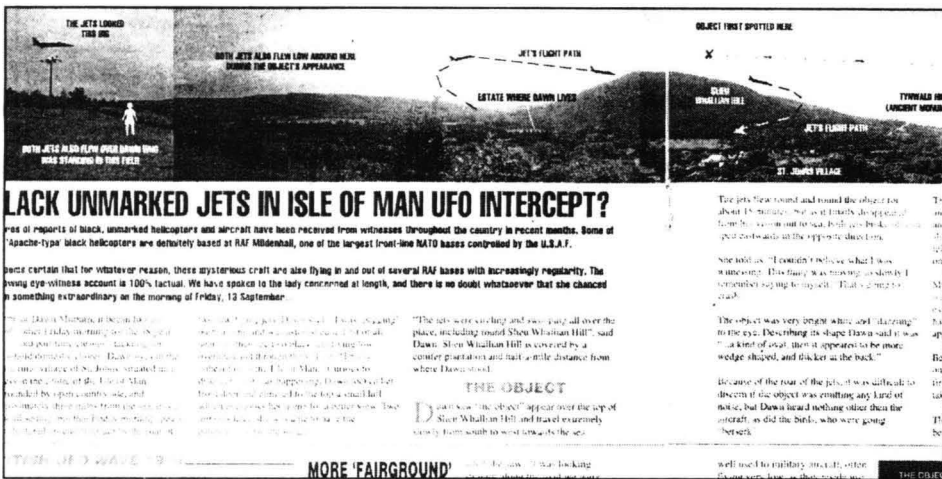
They flew round it for 15 minutes before speeding east while the object nipped off towards Peel.

RAF JETS

Funnily enough, her close encounter coincides with a large Territorial Army exercise which was taking place the same day and in exactly the same location!

It featured 250 Scottish troops and RAF jet fighter aircraft flying over the Dalby Mountain area to simulate battle conditions.

UFO Magazine devoted a page complete with annotated pictures to 'Mrs Milburn's' story —



How *UFO Magazine* reported the St John's resident's story

headlined: "Black unmarked jets in Isle of Man UFO intercept?"

Editor Graham Birdsall said: "I used a pseudonym, but she's alive and well and lives there."

"I was speaking to her last week and I have had a lot of people trying to get in touch with her, but she is relying on me to keep her out of the spotlight."

"All I am reporting is what the lady said. She could not under-

stand it. "The story is accurate and she is living in the Island, but she asked for confidentiality."

"At the end of the day that's what she has asked me to do... I'm not going to do a Michael Knighton on her."

Michael Knighton, the chairman of Carlisle United football club, threatened to resign last week after a Cumbrian newspaper revealed details of his close

encounter with a UFO. However, Mr Birdsall said all the other details about the mystery woman were genuine.

He added there were many reports of 'weird and wonderful things' happening around the Island — including radio reports last week of bizarre lights appearing over the Irish Sea.

'Mrs Milburn's' experience was said to have happened at 10am on September 13. Aircraft taking part in

the Territorial Army exercise were scheduled to simulate combat between 9am and 10.30am.

PUZZLE

She was so shocked by her alleged close encounter that she climbed a hill nearby to get a better look before ringing her husband who was working in the UK at the time.

He told her it was the military exercise, which had been advertised in

Isle of Man News-papers' publications.

But in the article the woman claimed it was the first time she could recall an exercise taking place there.

However, the puzzle remains... who is the married 38 year old part-time cleaner living in St John's whose husband was working away in England in early September?

It's almost worthy of the X-Files.

Triple UFO alert

A LOCAL UFO investigator has appealed for witnesses to three alleged nighttime sightings to come forward.

Two women reported the first incident when a black triangular object, with rounded edges, appeared above a field near the Trefnant to Tre-mairchion road in the Vale of Clwyd on June 25.

Margaret Fry, of Llangernyw, says there was a second sighting of a UFO — this time "a golden cigar shape" — by a lady looking towards

Llandernog on July 15 from Denbigh Castle.

A third recent report of a mystery flying object was made by three holidaymakers on the A5, while driving from Holyhead, on Anglesey.

They claimed they'd seen "three concentric grey rings... moving jerkily, at the same time revolving anti-clockwise, pulsating like a jellyfish".

Now Mrs Fry wants to hear from anyone else who may have spotted the UFOs. She can be contacted on (01745) 860537.

DAILY RECORD, [City Unknown], Scotland - Oct. 14, 1996 CR: M. Fraser

X-FILES GRAN

AGRAN is at the centre of a real-life X-Files investigation.

Specialists believe 63-year-old Margaret Ross has sensational evidence of a UFO.

Margaret captured pictures of a UFO on video from her home in Falkirk.

The tape shot from her bedroom window shows a pulsating

bright object in a cloudless early morning sky.

It then turns into a half-moon shape with four dazzling diagonal bars.

Yesterday, Margaret said: "I wasn't frightened — I was speechless. I just watched in awe."

Experts are poring over the 40-minute tape.

Lights — and slime rain

First it was strange lights in the sky, then fireballs; now it has rained slime in southern Tasmania.

Australia's UFO hotline was kept busy over the weekend with more calls from Tasmania over two days than it has received from the state in four years.

The culmination of a series of yet-to-be-explained phenomena was a report by Marlene Smith, who woke up to find blobs in front of her house in Kempton, about 25 miles north of Hobart.

"It was queer stuff, white-clear jelly, oodles of it," Smith said.

"I've lived here for 56 years and never seen anything like it. We could have got a bucket of it."

The slime came after a night of thunderstorms — during which her husband, Barry, saw a ball of yellowish fire fall from the sky and disappear over the horizon.

The Smiths weren't the only ones to be affected. A nearby farmer also found a paddock covered with the jellylike substance on the same morning.

The Smiths' son-in-law collected a small sample to send to the UFO hotline, which will have it analysed.

The hotline had a record number of calls from Tasmania with sightings of lights and fireballs and sightings of lights and other unexplained events were reported from an area spanning about 400 miles on mainland Australia.

THANET'S THE PLACE TO BE FOR ETs, SAYS UFO BUFF

MORE amazing sightings of alien spacecraft have been reported on the Planet Thanet.

A number of people have now reported seeing a strange triangular object surrounded by little red balls of light.

And UFO experts monitoring the area are becoming increasingly convinced that the island is being singled out by alien beings orbiting Earth.

The Thanet Times revealed how several residents had seen a bizarre formation in the sky dubbed the Flying Triangle.

They included fisherman Tom Cruickshank, of Guildford Avenue, Westgate, who said the aliens had entered his bedroom and left strange scorch marks on his chest.

Then holidaymaker Pamela Davies called our UFO hotline to say that she had seen exactly the same configuration flitting over rooftops in Cliftonville.

Another caller, who was too frightened to leave her name, described the same triangle of light and fiery balls.

Now Chris Rolfe of UFO Monitors East Kent, which has been studying the sightings, believes there is a definite link.

He said the last sighting reported was by a couple who spotted an object the size of a Boeing 747 hanging over Margate.

He said: "They said it was one extremely big bright light which split into smaller ones and then re-formed before shooting off at high speed with a glittering plume. There have been so many sightings of UFOs in this area that we believe the area must be being targeted."



Pamela Davies, who says she has spotted the "Flying Triangle"

BT1579/7

READING CHRONICLE, Berkshire, England - Oct. 11, 1996

Strange lights at Cemetery Junction

A TILEHURST resident has claimed she saw a UFO streaking across Reading's night-sky last week.

Stephanie Syms said: "I was waiting at Cemetery Junction and was gazing at the sky because it was so clear."

"I was watching an aeroplane fly across the sky and then suddenly a weird triangle of light appeared, much larger than the plane. At each point there was a bright light."

"It wasn't the right shape to be a helicopter or plane and it wasn't Concorde because it made no noise as it crossed the sky in a blink of an eye."

Stephanie, who works for a computer software company, said she was not a UFO fanatic but added: "It is arrogant of mankind to believe they are the only beings in the universe."

HORNCastle NEWS, Lincs., England - Oct. 16, 1996

Was it a UFO they saw 10 days ago?

STRANGE lights spotted in the skies over Woodhall Spa and the surrounding area are being probed by the police, the coastguard, the RAF, a London based expert and the Ministry of Defence, it has been revealed.

The lights, which some are saying were caused by a UFO, were spotted on Friday night and were still visible on Saturday morning.

Residents of Woodhall Spa, Stixwold, Bucknall and Horsington reported seeing a bright light in the skies on Friday night.

Shortly after these reports came more, this time from residents in Skegness and Boston. Observers said that what they saw was similar to the UFO shown on 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'.

Dozens of others reported seeing a mystery object hovering above local villages and hamlets.

Something strange showed up on RAF radars at around the same time. Ordinarily it would have been investigat-

ed by one of the Air Force's secret 'Q' aircraft, but none of the aircraft were available as they had left their base in Scotland to embark on a different mission.

RAF Neatishead in Norfolk tracked the strange object on the radar as it travelled across the county. Said one senior officer: "The object appeared on our radar — and stayed there for a number of hours. It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which would suggest it was not a weather balloon."

"We will be investigating the matter thoroughly, and are already collating information from independent reports we have had to suggest there is something to follow up."

Simon Harris has been investigating sky phenomenon all over Britain and the rest of Europe for three years, after seeing what he believed to be a UFO in Portugal. He is also studying the mysterious lights: "I will be talking to the county police force, as they have been

involved in these strange sightings. I have many questions to ask them."

"What has been happening in and around Lincolnshire is stirring stuff, and has been confirmed through a number of sources. I have seen video footage which is very interesting."

"I think that we could be on to something and I hope to be able to trawl up more vital information on the subject. A North Sea Oil Rig officer, RAF radar and a tanker skipper have all made statements about seeing strange lights in the sky above the county and at sea."

The Ministry of Defence have special amenities which report all known UFO sightings. Meanwhile, police in Lincolnshire are investigating the strange phenomenon. They say that in the past 'sightings' have been weather balloons or planes.

Airports and RAF bases in the North and East Midlands have confirmed that no planes or helicopters were in operation at the time of the sightings.

Cigar-shaped flying object spotted in skies

CORNWALL may be described as a land of legend, but those seeking a real mystery should perhaps look skywards.

Sightings of strange flying objects are a common occurrence in the county.

The Cornwall UFO Research Group (CUFORG), based in Truro, is contacted daily by members of the public who claim they have seen an unexplained phenomena.

The latest report was of a cigar-shaped silver "ship", spotted high in the skies near Tregony.

The witness, a businessman from Truro and a self-confessed sceptic, said: "The object was 200ft long and moved at tremendous speed."

"I watched it for three minutes — then it disappeared."

The incident was reported to Camborne police and CUFORG.

WEST BRITON, Truro, England - Oct. 17, 1996

TREND: An "alien abduction alarm" that warns people of approaching UFOs.

THE PROBLEM: Space aliens are coming down in UFOs and abducting humans, resulting in "serious trauma" for the abductees and their families, says inventor **Byron Fox** of New Westminster. "Now, I have not been abducted and I have never seen [a UFO]. The fact is, there is a massive number of people that have experienced unexplainable things. Literally, millions of people — whole villages in China, there's a little town in Scotland that's being harassed by UFOs."

THE SOLUTION: Studying UFO reports, Fox says he noticed that strong magnetic and electrostatic fields tend to crop up simultaneously. He designed a device that detects this rare phenomenon. Supposedly, when a UFO is in the vicinity, the magnetic and electrostatic fields go crazy and the alien abduction alarm goes off "like a smoke detector."

THE SCIENTIFIC TERM: Anomalous Scalar Wave Detector. "That's the sort of two-bit

TREND WATCH

physics term that describes it. I threw that in there because the odd joker's going to know lots about physics and say 'well, do I know what I'm talking about?'"

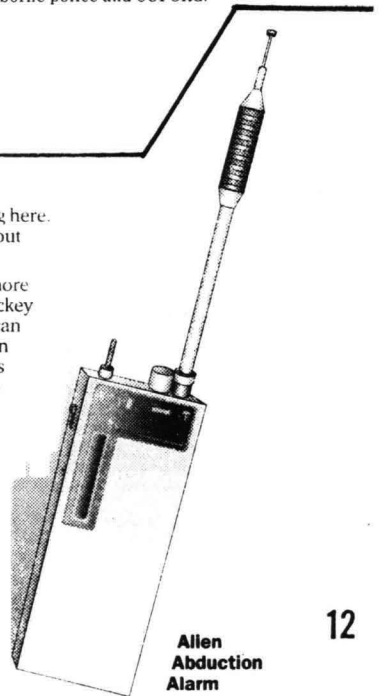
THE PRICE IS OUT THERE: \$399.

THE REACTION: "I've had incredible response," says Fox, who has only had the product on the market for three weeks. "Just this one little ad in *Shared Vision* [magazine] has brought me an amazing response. It's something people feel fairly strongly about. I get a lot of people that quite aggressively respond to me: 'What are you, nuts? If they're going to come and get you, they're going to come and get you!' I say, well, if that's the way you feel, that's probably what's going to happen to you. Other people who are a little

more sensible say 'there's something here. I don't understand it, but tell me about it.'"

THE NEXT STEP: Fox has several more inventions, including an electric hockey puck that glows in the dark so kids can play at night, an earthquake location card and an ozone generator he says is being used as an alternative treatment for AIDS and cancer. He's working on two more UFO-related inventions: a device that will detect alien implants (a common complaint in abductees), and a set of binoculars that picks up the light from an object, de-modulates it and gives you a sound that corresponds to the light. "It's theory," he explains. "But if you've documented and logged all the earthly sounds, you have a pretty good idea what might be unearthly."

John Muckie



Alien Abduction Alarm

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Jan. 18, 1997 CR: G. Conway

Revealed: The UFO they hid for 30 years

Why was this
woman sworn
to secrecy
for so long?

By Roger Tavener

THE DATE: THE LATE SUMMER OF 1962.
THE PLACE: CHILLISWOOD FARM, TRULL, NEAR TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

NIGHT after night Anne Henson, a bright 16-year-old schoolgirl, sits in her bedroom and looks out of the window in awe towards the Quantocks.

She is fascinated by what she sees. At school during the day she can't wait to get home to see "the Thing". She hopes it won't be cloudy.

Farmer's daughter Anne would love to tell her pals — but a kindly man from the Ministry of Defence has told her firmly she must never talk about what she sees.

He has seen it too. So has her mother.

As the sky darkens it appears, hovering over the soft hills, from time to time moving within a tight circle, flashing in different colours, turning from red to blue to green and then back again.

At first she thought it was a helicopter, but she had borrowed her father's binoculars and seen clearly with her own eyes that it was an orb.

The nice man from the Ministry was equally fascinated and said he was investigating. It was an unidentified flying object, he confirmed. Perhaps she had discovered a new planet.

He repeated that she must under no circumstances discuss "the Thing".

In return the MOD man made out his secret report, stamped it "Classified" in red ink and filed it away in the Defence Department's heavily guarded X-Files office.

Anne's testimony must not be seen by the public for at least 30 years, it was decreed.

Only recently did the Quantocks "Thing" come to light under the 30-year rule, where it was discovered in the Public Records Office in Kew by leading UFO investigator and author Nick Redfern.

Anne's eye witness account and many others that have been buried for decades will feature in his forthcoming new book *A Covert Agenda*, to be published by Simon and Shuster.

Anne, who now runs a nursery at Chilliswood Farm, kept her word. She never breathed a word to anyone about the mysterious object she saw until she was traced by the Daily Press.

Speaking for the first time, the mother-of-three, now aged 50, said: "To begin with it was there night after night, so I wrote to RAF Chivenor and shortly afterwards this chap came to see me with his charts and compasses.

"The first few nights were cloudy, but then there were clear nights and we could see it. The thing was visible over a period of about three months. It was so exciting and I was dying to go to school and tell my friends about it but I wasn't allowed.

"In those days children did what they were told. It was being taken very seriously, but all the time I thought it was a bit ridiculous to be treating it in such a hush hush manner. I could never understand why it was such a big secret.

"They did write to me later and said perhaps it was a new planet, but there hasn't been a new planet. In those days we didn't hear much about UFOs, but I'm sure that is what it was.

"I have a very sceptical family, but I know what we saw and it has never been explained.

I did hear that the incident was referred to in the House of Commons, but just why it had to be kept under wraps for 30 years is beyond me. Just think what else they must have been storing away under the same system." Such secrecy has led UFOlogists to believe there is a "cosmic conspiracy," in which governments around the globe classify such information to keep the public in the dark and protect the populace from science fact which might cause panic.

The recently released movie *Independence Day*, based on an alien invasion of earth, simulated the chaos that could be caused by a genuine sighting confirmed at Government level.

Such is the interest in visitors from other planets that the film has been the biggest box office hit of all time.

Mr Redfern, aged 32, has close links with other investigators including Kristian Townsend of BEAMS, who has exclusively opened his XXX-Files for Daily Press readers.

He believes in UFOs, basing his opinion on factual sightings by bona fide wit-

nesses, officially recorded for and by Government agencies.

The Public Records Office is a constant source of high level information. Every January 1, previously concealed documents relating to 30 years before are released.

Some even more potent information is held for from 50 to 100 years, ensuring that most witnesses are dead by the time the papers become public.

"Anne's case is one of many which have come to light under the rule," says Mr Redfern.

"In the Fifties there were instances where fighter pilots were scrambled to intercept UFOs, but they were helpless because the other craft simply vanished or raced off as they approached.

One has to be convinced by their eye witness accounts, because they are highly trained professionals making out official, logged reports about what they had seen — hovering discs and so on.

"We are into the Sixties now in terms of what is being released, and there are fewer accounts from pilots, which could be because they are being held for release on a longer time scale.

"From my studies I believe that 10 per cent of sightings are in that category where the facts are hard and indisputable.

"They reveal that extra-terrestrials are penetrating our air space with regularity and the military can't do anything about it. They simply don't have the technology to have a hold on the situation.

"To admit that publicly wouldn't do a lot for morale."

Mr Redfern has in his possession a confidential CIA document relating to a UFO sighting by a British European Airways pilot in 1976 over Lithuania.

"If our Ministry of Defence has a file on this case, it wouldn't be released until at least January 2007," he says.

"I also have a document from the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency concerning a 1992 UFO conference in China. Our MOD in London is on the distribution list, which begs the question, if the MOD is only interested in UFO sightings over the UK, why is it receiving briefings from the Americans on conferences in China?

"The three-page document has huge chunks blacked out, even though it is 'unclassified'."

Ministry of Defence spokesman Squadron Leader Tony Cowan said he held a personal belief that it would be naive to think there were no other life forms in outer space.

But as a pilot he had never seen anything to back up claims that Earth had ever been looked in on by extra-terrestrials.

"There has been no evidence that we have been visited and absolutely no threat has been posed to national security," he says.

"We are not hiding anything. The MOD remains open minded and we have seen nothing which substantiates any claims of visitations.

We don't have a pat explanation why certain reports have been been filed under the 30 year rule. But you have to remember that in those days there was a cold war going on.

"I have no knowledge of advanced projects under way in Britain that may be confused with UFOs. But I did see the Stealth craft flying at the Farnborough Air Show.

"It had been secret for many years and I could understand how that could have been confused as being a UFO."

The Stealth aircraft, with its frightening and outlandish shape, is often cited by sceptics as a likely source of misidentification — especially as it was tested in Britain when it was still a closely guarded secret.

But UFOs have been around our skies for a great deal longer than the Americans' latest piece of military technology. There's more to the story than confused onlookers.

TOMORROW: Flying saucers — a figment of the imagination? Why a state-owned company quietly patented its own version.

Anyone who has information involving the British Government's involvement in the UFO subject can contact Nick Redfern at 20, Paradise Lane, Pelsall, Walsall, West Midlands WS3 4NH.

SCUNTHORPE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Lincs., England - Oct. 3, 1996

UFOs active claims group

By
PAUL BLOOMER

ically above fields in Scawby Brook; and a "soft droning engine" above the gardens outside a bedroom window in Spencer Avenue, Scunthorpe.

Formation

For one night-time observer "part of the sky seemed to be moving" over The Cocked Hat pub in Ferry Road — a whole mass of lights travelled across the sky "all in formation at the same speed".

There is also a report of "a white orb, fuzzy around the edges"

hovering five feet above the ground in Louth one November evening as the observer put out milk bottles on a doorstep.

Eventually it "just lowered to the ground and disappeared."

Additional sightings come from local area residents who used to live elsewhere — "a large ball of light travelling across the sky" several times in Surrey, and a 50-foot-long "silver cigar-shaped object" floating above roof level during daylight in South London.

Other strange happenings recorded include a bluish-white light shining in through a half-open bedroom door in Scawby Brook and "a presence" in the room which was "not liked."

Combustion

Probe editor Val Mitchell, founder of Scunthorpe BEAMS group, includes in the publication articles on hauntings, spontaneous human combustion, reincarnation, American "deep underground bases" and she reports that the Ministry of Defence has confirmed that "Britain has its own X Files".

Women say they watched UFOs for an hour

A WOMAN who watched brightly lit objects for nearly an hour above Breamore House, near Fordingbridge, is convinced they were UFOs.

By Roland Batten

Jennifer Hart and a woman friend were driving near Woodgreen Com-mon at night when they saw an intense light in the sky ahead.

Mrs Hart (50), of High Street, Woodgreen, said they got out, unable to stop staring at the light which seemed to be stationary.

"I could look at an electric bulb easier than looking at that light but it was so bright we could not help but study it," she said.

Mrs Hart said the light seemed to come from a long cylindrical object, which turned sideways.

She added: "It was far bigger than an aircraft and was silent."

"It was still for quite a while, then turned quickly disappearing into some cloud.

"At that moment, a second one appeared and came towards us before it too turned and went upwards into cloud."

She said a third light appeared and seemed to hover.

Mrs Hart said: "The whole thing lasted nearly an hour until we got cold. I drove home to try to get a closer look but they had disappeared."

Mrs Hart and her friend saw the lights on August 4 but were reluctant to talk about their sighting.

She said: "I am used to seeing aircraft as we are on a flight path and I certainly know what helicopters look like."

"I have an open mind about UFOs but I cannot believe what we saw were aircraft or helicopters."

UFOs continue to be active over Scunthorpe and the surrounding district, according to paranormal investigators who have logged a series of sightings.

The investigators are members of the local group of BEAMS, the British Earth and Aerial Mysteries Society, who are compiling their own 'X Files'.

They have logged reports of sightings in Spencer Avenue, Ferry Road, and near Atkinson's Warren, Scunthorpe, as well as in Winterton and Scawby Brook.

Scunthorpe BEAMS group, one of the area's fastest-growing organisations, has published reports of the UFO sightings in its journal *Probe*, now in its second edition.

Among the incidents is an encounter with a "droning" object with a "bright pulsating light, moving backwards and forwards" over Safeway store and subsequently over the rooftops of nearby terraced houses on successive nights, May 5 and 6 this year.

According to the report the UFO "was a definite triangular shape with a revolving light at the bottom of the triangle".

It tilted, hovered and "fired beams of light towards the ground" before zig-zagging away.

Other reports testify to more zig-zagging by an object with "a green tinted light" over North Street, Winterton, last Halloween Night; two flashing lights, one pink, one blue, moving around each other erratically.

JOURNAL, Salisbury, England - Sept. 5, 1996

Britain's X-Files team in a secret Whitehall office

TUCKED away in a tiny office at the Ministry of Defence's giant Whitehall building are Britain's answer to television's "X File" investigators Mulder and Scully.

They are a small team of dedicated officials who check through the hundreds of unexplained sightings from the UK's skies.

And, just like their fictional counterparts in the hit series, the agents from Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 are shrouded in secrecy.

An MoD spokesman revealed: "The office is run by a woman but I can't tell you anything more about her. She doesn't do interviews."

"We get asked about the office quite a lot. There seems to be an obsession with UFOs."

However, the real X-Files bureau is slightly more low-key than the glamorous world of TV extra-terrestrial investigation.

Officials rarely leave their desks to head for remote fields where they can crouch over patches of flattened

By Roger Bryson
Daily Post Staff

earth and peer at evidence of alien landing craft.

Instead, they tend to just write out a note of suspicious sightings that are channelled to the office from police forces or RAF bases before putting them in a dusty filing cabinet.

The MoD spokesman explained: "We need to keep records because sometimes MPs want to ask Parliamentary questions about sightings."

"The RAF is the defender of the country's air space and we need to establish with sightings that there was no hostile threat."

"We keep an open mind on the issue and there have been sightings where we have not known what they were."

According to MoD figures, there were 373 reported sightings last year. Perhaps significantly, a bumper year for strange phenomenon in the skies was 1978, when there were 750 cases logged. This was also the year when Britain was gripped by the

latest Hollywood science fiction blockbuster Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

An investigation into an unexplained light in the sky involves checking its position against radar and tracking devices used by civilian and military installations.

The spokesman added: "All kinds of things can cause mysterious sightings but there is usually a rational explanation."

Occasionally, Government officials are also called on to check pieces of debris that have fallen to earth.

Engineers from Manchester Airport were left stumped when a two-inch metal cylinder landed near Northwich in September. All they knew was that it had not come from an aeroplane.

A full-scale investigation was launched by experts from the Air Accident Investigation unit as UFO enthusiasts from across the North West braced themselves for a momentous find.

In the end, officials discovered it was in fact a piece of equipment from a parachute.

Tomorrow: The truth behind alien abductions.



□ X FILES OFFICE: The Ministry of Defence building in Whitehall where the secret UFO files are kept with, inset, TV's Mulder and Scully

SIGHTINGS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Flying triangle pops up all over county

UFO hunters have compiled an X-File on the mysterious 'flying triangle' spotted hovering over Derby.

Sinfin-based Phenomenon Research Association has followed Mulder and Scully's example and painstakingly put together first hand accounts of strange sightings.

Author Omar Fowler, who heads the group, says the craft was first seen in the county hovering over Bakewell on the night of September 26, 1993.

Since then it is said to have returned, with 52 sightings in Derbyshire between December 1994 and May 1995, in areas stretching from Matlock to Chaddesden and Allenton.

Hovering

In one reported sighting, a mother and her eight-year-old daughter spotted the craft flying over their car as they were driving through Sinfin in March last year.

They described it as having red, yellow and white lights and said it turned onto its side as it glided past.

In another sighting, in February last year, Mark Cheetham and his girlfriend were driving on

"It is far more likely to be a new type of alien craft that does not originate from planet earth"

Omar Fowler
- Author

by Simon Burch

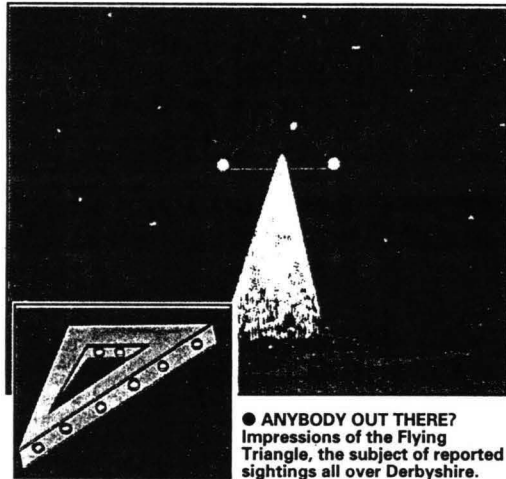
Moorfield Road, near South Wingfield, when they saw the Flying Triangle hovering 200ft over a cottage.

When they took a closer look they saw it had red and white lights. It then flew over their car and disappeared in the direction of Tansley.

Mr Fowler also lists examples of sightings from around the world, including Japan, USA, Russia and Puerto Rico, but leaves it up to others to decide if we are not alone.

He writes: "It will soon become obvious to the reader that what is being reported is not a new stealth aircraft. It is far more likely to be a new type of alien craft that does not originate from planet earth."

"You may come to the conclusion that the Flying Triangle craft exhibit performance capabilities beyond our present capabilities."



EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Oct. 8, 1996

● ANYBODY OUT THERE? Impressions of the Flying Triangle, the subject of reported sightings all over Derbyshire.

WALTHAM FOREST INDEPENDENT, Walthamstow, England - Oct. 18, 1996

Orange triangle hovered over garden

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Walthamstow boy has reported seeing a mysterious triangular craft hovering in the sky.

It sounds similar to one spotted all over London, says Roy Lake, an expert on unidentified flying objects.

"Last September we had three reports of UFOs. This year we have had 48. There is certainly a build-up and we think something big is going to take place," he said.

Young Alexander Klement woke up in his bedroom in Penrhyn Avenue in the early hours of the morning.

What he heard and saw then he described to his father John, who was sceptical at first but has now come

to think his lad is telling the truth.

Alexander said he woke because his sister made a noise, calling for her mum. Then he heard a "tish, tish, tish" sound coming from the back garden.

When he looked out of the window he saw "a big orange triangle in the air, just hanging there."

He said it had a rectangular bit at the bottom with three lights in it, the two outer ones green and the middle one orange. There was a bright glow round about.

Then, he said, the noise stopped and the lights

flashed on and off alternately, then stopped again.

Alexander was tired and went back to bed but the noise started again. When he looked in the garden the triangle turned on its side and flew off noiselessly.

John Klement, a lawyer, said he questioned his son about the sighting last month. He quizzed him several times until the boy was tired of the subject. He even had him draw the UFO.

It was only when he saw a report in the Waltham Forest Guardian about another alleged UFO, also triangular, that he realised there might be something in it.

Amazing UFO case of 'Jewish' alien Yosef

★ A SALE solicitor who has been researching UFO's for the past 16 years believes he has firm evidence that they really do exist.

Investigator Harry Harris told the *Jewish Telegraph*: "I hire medical practitioners specialising in hypnotherapy to carry out hypnotic regression experiments on individuals who claim an amnesia as part of a UFO experience."

Mr Harris, 54, also studies reports of radar-visual sightings provided by scientific and military sources. RAF and USAF personnel have recounted their experiences to him and he was a key researcher into the experiences of Todmorden policeman Alan Godfrey, who almost drove into a "spinning top" on the moors near his home in 1990.

Six other witnesses also saw the UFO from three different vantage points. After the incident PC Godfrey suffered time and memory loss, but he made startling revelations whilst he was being hypnotised by the late Dr Joe Jaffe and consultant psychiatrist Dr Robert Blair (now also deceased).

He described the alien, who communicated with him telepathically, as having a full beard, wearing a skullcap and answering to the name of Joseph.

Whilst watching video footage of himself under hypnosis PC Godfrey said to Mr Harris's wife Susan: "His name was not Joseph, it was Yosef."

PC Godfrey has had minimal contact with Jewish people and Mr Harris believes this statement lends further credence to

his views. He told me: "Alan Godfrey said we were the first Jews he had ever met."

Mr Harris also followed up the paranormal experiences of three women travelling from Telford to Shrewsbury back in 1981.

Like PC Godfrey, their car lost speed and they experienced memory and time loss. These women were hypnotised by Dr Albert Keller and Dr Jaffe and local homeopathic psychologist Leslie Davies.

Some time after their experience, two of the women decided to delve further into their paranormal experience by using a ouija board. But they were shocked when they were warned not to proceed.

When asked who was issuing the reprimand, they were told "Yahweh". These women had no contact with Jews and the word had no meaning to them.

Explain

Mr Harris has also studied radar evidence of crafts flying at abnormal speeds and executing exceptional manoeuvres over Belgium.

He interviewed Emil Schweitzer, a professor of physics, radar and electronics, on his analysis of the radar tapes and his interviews with the pilot and witnesses and was told by Schweitzer: "There is a seven out of 10 chance this is an extra-terrestrial craft. No known atmospheric nor aerial phenomenon could explain what was seen — and no known aircraft could fly at those speeds nor duplicate those manoeuvres."

Mr Harris concludes: "My interpretation of the data is that we have extra-terrestrial visitors. Many sceptics are totally ignorant of the evidence and dismiss it without looking

at the facts."

He would like to see a public enquiry into the phenomena by a panel of scientists chaired by a high court judge.

Anybody with a para-normal experience who would like to help Mr Harris with his research should contact him on 0161 962 6240 during office hours.

Meanwhile, Manchester hypnotherapist Moshe Kalman explores the psychological state of people who think they have been abducted by aliens.

And after hypnotising about 20 people who think they have been abducted by aliens or lost time, he has concluded that hypnosis is not an accurate tool for reaching the truth about UFOs or aliens.

He told me: "These people use the abduction scenario, which is popular in today's culture, as a screen memory in order to discuss real events in their lives which are too sensitive to discuss openly or they are fantasising in order to make a rather uninteresting life more interesting."

He continued: "I have yet to see any shred of information that leads you to think anything factual in the memories."

Mr Kalman uses hypnosis professionally to "help patients remember repressed memories to make them whole again".

He believes hypnosis is merely a tool to help people relax and progress towards the truth and added: "Hypnosis does not reveal the full proof, nor is it accurate."

● Last October Harry Harris, partnered by American Jewish nuclear physicist and world UFO authority Stanton T Friedman, won an Oxford University Union debate on the motion "This house believes the Earth has been visited by intelligent extra-terrestrials".



Harry Harris

Amazed by ball of light

ON Thursday last week I retired to bed about 11.30pm. Looking through my bedroom window I saw it was a fine clear night.

On such nights I like to look at the stars twinkling away, and often see the flashing lights of aircraft on their flight paths to and from East Midlands Airport.

About an hour later, I suddenly saw a brilliant ball of light emerging from behind the top of the giant ash tree at the bottom of my neighbour's garden. I leapt out of bed and grabbed my glasses — I don't possess binoculars — and watched this object travel silently at about 30ft high above the roof tops of the three neighbouring houses which adjoin my very long garden.

Suddenly it banked sharply to the right and disappeared from my sight but not before I had observed its huge, triangular shape which was outlined by several small lights.

I have never seen anything like it before and all I can say is WOW!

Mrs G. Jones,
Adelaide Close,
Mickleover.

More UFO sightings reported

FOUR new witnesses phoned UFO investigator David Cayton after a Goostrey woman told how she spotted a mysterious 300ft high parallel white beam over Jodrell Bank. Security guards David

Hunter and Ken Oultram say they spotted a silent aircraft shining a bright light while working the same night.

"We saw this long light appear in the sky," said Mr Hunter, 37, who works at Parkside Hospital. "At first we thought it was an aeroplane, but there was no sound."

He said the craft, about 15 metres long, then disappeared at speed towards Jodrell Bank.

David Cayton, who has been contacted by two other witnesses, claims there have been a wave of UFO sightings in Cheshire recently.

A farmer and his 14-year-old son claim they saw a similar light while fishing on Peover Hall Lake the same night — Sunday August 18.

"They say three lights approached from Macclesfield and after ten minutes they moved into a triangular formation," said Mr Cayton. "What really puzzled them was that one of the lights shot off at high speed towards Macclesfield leaving the other two."

Another woman told him how on September 15 she saw a bluish light for two minutes shining down from a craft outside her bedroom window in Ollerton.

"I've no doubt about the witnesses," said Mr Cayton. "I think the lights were extra-terrestrial craft who were monitoring the Earth. They've probably been doing it for hundreds of thousands of years."

Although Jodrell scientists say they've no record of anything unusual Mr Cayton is still hoping for other witnesses to come forward.

Call Mr Cayton on 0161 483 4956 or 0831 594331 in confidence.

Man speaks out about UFO sighting over Skegness



SKEGNESS man, Reg Greaves has revealed he witnessed an alien sighting over the town seven years ago.

Now Reg has chosen to come forward and speak about his alien encounter which was confirmed as genuine by British UFO Research.

The sighting occurred at around 4.50pm on December 16 1989. Reg had gone into town and was cycling back home to Kingshorpe Crescent, Skegness. As he reached his driveway, Reg looked up and saw what he described as a "yellow light like a planet" in the sky above him.

Reg told the News: "I called to my

wife, Joan to get the binoculars and then it moved!"

Reg described how the object descended, changed to a red pulsating light and disappeared travelling down towards Skegness and the coast.

He added: "Joan and I watched it until it was just a pinprick in the sky when suddenly the light became very bright, then it went off and a white/yellow light came on."

Reg said: "Suddenly the light shot back towards us at terrific speed Joan was getting ready to run! It stopped dead above us and a beam of faint light came down from it."

"When the beam came off there appeared to be a yellow oblong shape like a door with a light inside it. The door closed and then the UFO turned and disappeared."

Reg added: "I'm sure that whatever or whoever was on board that vessel knew they were being watched."

Reg was contacted by UFO expert for ITV's *Strange But True Encounters*, Jenny Randall after the incident. The sighting was confirmed as genuine close encounter and is now buried in the X files!

LEFT: Real life strange encounter witness Reg Greaves.

UFO fans chew on green beams and silver faces

By JUDITH HAYMAN

UFO sightings in Israel have increased over the past four years, according to *UFO* magazine editor Mark Birdsall.

Mr Birdsall said: "There has been a tremendous amount of activity in Israel, particularly over the last four years. People in Israel have become more aware of UFOs and are willing to report incidents. They are also know whom to contact."

In this month's issue of *UFO*, Barry Chamish writes: "Events are happening so quickly that it's becoming difficult to keep up."

Last June, *Maariv* reported that an Air France passenger jet had to make an emergency landing at Ben Gurion airport after being chased by a strange object. The plane was flying 3,000 feet above the Israeli coast when the crew saw a 50cm wide black object flying 30 metres above them.

An airport authority spokesman said: "We know there were no military launches at the time. So either we're talking about a weather balloon or a UFO."

In July, *Maariv*'s weekly UFO column, X-Files, reported a shining UFO in the sky above Pisgat Zeev (a suburb of Jerusalem). Meir Malka (36) said: "Suddenly I saw a strong light at approximately the altitude of a plane swinging side to side and upside down, its light intensity changing and I knew it was a UFO."

The UFO was also seen by several police officers and a private detective named Morano who video-taped it.

Later the same month there were reports from four youths and police officers of an ellipsoid-shaped craft over Lake Kinneret. One of the youths Oren Parness(20) said: "The closer we travelled

towards the Kinneret, the bigger it got. It shone in the sky at medium altitude in red, orange and white. Occasionally it emitted sparks upward. It looked like a group of coloured stars and it made sharp upward and downward manoeuvres."

Dozens of residents in the Southern Israeli town of Arad saw a strange craft later the same month. One witness Adi Lasker (18) said: "It was a saucer that emitted green... very green beams. I was never a UFO believer in my life, now I have no doubt that this was a self-illuminated space ship travelling from the ground to the sky."

Student Tal Igur (23) observed green beams but she also saw "a huge frozen, silver face staring ahead with torso and arms attached." A video tape of the phenomenon was broadcast on National television.

Interest in Israel is now so great that hundreds of people turned up recently to a discussion on the current UFO wave.

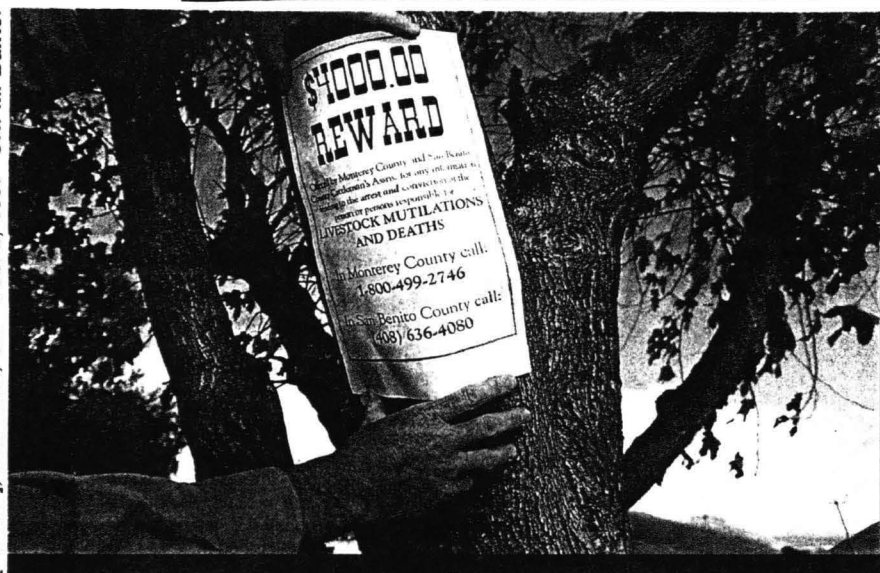
Demand was such that touts were selling tickets for £15.

Professor Ariel Cohen, Head of Atmospheric Studies at Hebrew University wrote to Science Minister Benny Begin asking for an end to "UFO hysteria."

But Cohen's request fell on deaf ears with Begin replying somewhat quizzically: "What hysteria? I don't recall hearing that people fainted after seeing aliens last week."

It now seems likely that the US television series *Encounters* will broadcast a programme on the Israeli UFO wave incorporating video clips taken by witnesses.

Mr Birdsall also reports an increase of UFO sightings in the UK. Manchester-based solicitor Harry Harris is one of the country's leading UFO researchers. His findings on people suffering time loss and amnesia following sightings were reported in the October 18 issue of the *Jewish Telegraph*.



San Benito County rancher John Nino posts a reward notice in his ongoing attempt to discover who mutilated his cattle. At right, Nino gazes across his pastureland.

WATCH THE SKIES

The mystery of cattle mutilation seems no nearer a solution than ever. So even no-nonsense ranchers are unwilling to dismiss some pretty unearthly theories.

BY TRACIE CONE

TO HELP set the mood for this strange journey into a story of—how did Rod Serling put it?—both shadow and substance, we need music, like “The Twilight Zone.” *Do-do-do-do.* A Serling-style narrator wouldn’t hurt either.

Consider, if you will, one Jean Barton, rancher, wife, recent past president of the California Cattlemen’s Association, one whose life might have been described as ordinary until...

“I know it sounds silly,” she says, then stops herself before saying something that people without her life experience might think, well, silly.

Let’s backtrack for a moment to say that Barton seems like a reasonable woman. This no-nonsense fourth-generation Lassen County cattle baron, a college home-ec major, isn’t the type to blame things beyond logical explanation on little green men. Or I should say she once wasn’t the type.

But when her cattle started turning up mutilated, their sex organs, tongues, ears and half their faces sliced off and carried away, all eight gallons of blood taken without losing a drop, well, what *else* was she going to think? What would you think if your solitary life in the

wholesome hinterlands had been rudely up-ended in a creepy, unwholesome way?

“A human or an animal can’t remove that much blood without spilling at least some of it,” she says. “You just can’t explain it any other way.”

“There were no tracks or footprints around the body and no bullet wounds, nothing to indicate how the cow died,” Barton adds. “It’s a mystery, a really sick mystery.”

Do-do-do-do. Do-do-do-do.

If you’re feeling content because these brutal incidents are a long way from the safety of your living room, think again. In the last four months of 1996, ranchers in nearby Monterey and San Benito counties found murdered livestock in conditions similar to Barton’s. Near the east entrance to Pinnacles Monument, a one-ton bull was dropped in his tracks with no apparent bullet wound or other trauma—his penis removed with a surgical-type, perfectly circular cut that penetrated no muscles, no connecting tissue. Outside of King City a heifer was found with her vulva and udder sliced cleanly away.

At points in between, the bodies of at least 10 other animals were found dead from September to December under peculiar circumstances. At least half of them were mutilated like a dozen others during the same period in places as far-flung as South Carolina, South Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma and Colorado.

Thousands of other killings have been reported off and on for decades.

What in the world—or out of this world—is going on?

Why are otherwise rational people blaming creatures that no one has proved to exist?

Law enforcement has investigated many of the cases over the past two decades, but gotten nowhere. Cattlemen’s associations across the country have offered arrest rewards—including \$4,000 in Monterey and San Benito counties—that have gone unclaimed.

Nobody has been able to explain, for sure, what’s happening, who is doing it—or why. For some that leaves only one entity they can blame—that dimension, as Serling used to warn us weekly, “between science and superstition.”

“There has never been an arrest or an arraignment on an animal mutilation charge in the 800 cases I’ve investigated,” says Pennsylvania writer Linda Moulton Howe, who since the 1970s has been something of a clearinghouse for mutilation reports. “I think there’s an important implication here.”

Do-do-do-do.

The making of a rural legend

Losing animals is a fact of life for cattle ranchers, who figure at least 1 percent of their herd might die each year from disease, predators, old age and modern-day cattle rustling. Ranchers say these mutilations don’t fit into any of those categories.

“These are not cases,” says King City rancher John Nino, “where somebody is killing them for the meat. At least that makes sense.”

What also doesn’t make sense is that someone or something has been slicing off the inedible sex organs of California cattle way longer than most people realize. In 1948, Annabelle Kelly remembers gathering cattle as a newlywed with her husband, Jack, near Standish on the Lassen-Modoc county line.

“We found four dead cows right side-by-side,” recalls Kelly, who called the sheriff. “I can’t remember all of the details, but they had their teats cut off, their tongues cut out, and some had their ears gone. It was just the same as all the rest—there weren’t any tracks, no blood, nothing. It was spooky at the time. I thought about it over the years, but we didn’t see it happen again until about five or six years ago.”

So why haven’t most people heard about the cruelty being inflicted upon the world’s hamburger source? For one thing, it’s not easy for the mainstream media to explain. Jean Barton, for instance, appears to be as normal as my mother, but you already may have judged her otherwise. If someone gets quoted and looks loony as a result, then others try to avoid the same mistake. If nobody will talk, it’s hard to report a story. Only lately have ranchers learned that mutilations are happening in many places, so some, like Barton, are putting aside their own egos to warn others. That’s part of the job of an officer of the Cattlemen’s Association.

“I don’t want my cattle to have died in vain,” Barton says.

Since 1983, there have been only five mentions of “cattle mutilations”

in the Mercury News. Only one was a story about mutilations, a report in December about the Monterey and San Benito cases. The rest were brief blurbs for upcoming TV shows.

The lack of publicity and the reluctance of people to talk about the subject is what frustrated Barton after her first incident in October 1995.

“I was talking to a vet about my case, and he let it slip that the same thing happened to a rancher in the next county,” Barton says. “I couldn’t believe it. It never got out of the sheriff’s office. We should have been warned.”

The paltry publicity means that, for a while, Barton thought she was the world’s only victim, that she had somehow been singled out for a gruesome practical joke that costs her \$800 per cow, or even some act of ecoterrorism. If she had only had a computer with Internet access, Barton could have plugged in the words “cattle mutilation” and found 10,000 articles, notations and paranoid rantings on the subject. She might have also heard something if she were a regular viewer of “The X-Files” or cable TV specials on the paranormal, if she collected old Topps bubble gum cards or listened to late-night AM radio.

Somehow, Barton missed all of those warnings. And she didn’t even see “Mars Attacks,” in which director Tim Burton, foreshadowing an alien invasion, sends a herd of flaming cattle stampeding down a country road. His message, a parody of the 1960s Topps cards depicting campy alien images: When space men arrive, they’re going to mess with our livestock first.

Why do aliens care about our cattle? In some parallel universe are they more worthy of extraterrestrial examination than we are?

There are Internet theories, including this by a group called AU-FORA, the Alberta UFO Research Association, which claims that 10,000 mutilations occurred nationwide from 1973 to 1979: *Physical evidence found on the dead cattle, such as missing body parts, and the lack of blood, suggests to them that someone has deliberately and skillfully killed these animals for some unknown purpose; although genetic experimentation is a popular theory.*

Other theories exist, complete with graphic photo documentation of the victims. Some believe the mutilations are the work of the goat suckers, also known as *el chupacabras*, 5-foot-tall lizard creatures with syringe-like teeth allegedly sighted in South Texas. Some believe that conspiracy catchall: It’s a secret government military operation.

It’s getting to the point, one investigator says, that the story is taking on a life of its own.

“These deaths are becoming a rural legend, like alligators in the New York sewer system,” says Michael Prodham of the California Department of Justice, who recently talked to ranchers about mutilations. “The story is everything from natural causes to, well, extra-terrestrials. Until we get evidence, we’re never going to know for sure.”

A shortage of evidence

(continued on page 18)

Now how about those brown cows, peace-loving vegetarians with no God-given way of fighting back? Must they just stand there and take it? Isn't anyone trying to help them?

The California Cattlemen's Association is at last talking openly about the problem. After the Monterey mutilations, the organization decided it better find out why animals that usually bolt like deer at the sight of humans are getting subdued and killed without a struggle. They discussed mutilations at their December meeting in Burlingame when the animal care committee devoted itself to educating members, hoping to persuade them to report future cases to a central hotline.

The ranchers' reluctance to report the killings might be the reason aliens are now the prime suspects. Since few ranchers and even fewer members of law enforcement had heard of the mutilation phenomenon, in the Monterey and San Benito cases nobody thought to perform autopsies on the dead animals. Without an autopsy, there is no way to know for sure how they died and who—or what—is the cause. Without proof, anything is possible.

"We've been treating these as isolated cases for so long that we have no scientific collection of evidence," says Jim Warren, animal care committee chairman and owner of 101 Livestock in Aromas. "We are putting standardized reporting procedures into place so when it does show up, we don't think that the rancher is off his rocker."

Prodhams makes his living analyzing crimes to come up with a probability-based guess as to who is responsible. This one, however, stumps him.

"Our experience with violent crimes is that people who commit them generally have a history of killing and torturing animals," he says. "But I'm talking about small animals, like mice, birds, things that are easy to control. Not cattle, where you have to hike 16 miles into the middle of a national forest to do it. That's more effort than a person would generally want to go to."

Spreading the word

Within a week after finding her first mutilated cow—in October 1995—Jean Barton decided it was her job as president and her moral duty as a rancher to start warning others about the cattle killings. She figured the best place to reach the most people likely to be affected was the Western Livestock Journal, an industry publication. She wrote a letter and faxed it to the editor:

"I could not believe the response that I got," Barton says. "I got phone calls from all over the country from people saying it had happened to them. I wasn't the only one! I was overwhelmed because people called me at their own expense to tell me about their own experiences. A man from Canada sent me a newspaper clipping about his own cow's mutilation. A vet in Modesto told me about a cow he had seen 20 years ago. It wasn't curiosity seekers calling, it was other ranchers. They were like my support group."

The response made Barton realize she had to keep getting the word out. The livestock journal was a good start, but stories published in it don't exactly become the talk of the town. Then she got another call, from producers of the TV show "Sightings," a syndicated program about alien abduction reports, crop circles, UFOs and other influences from beyond the four dimensions known to man. They wanted to interview her.

"I wasn't very enthused, because it's not my kind of a program," Barton says. "But I wanted the story

told, so [my husband] Bill and I dashed up to Susanville and were interviewed. We stood and pointed out our poor dead cow. It's not my program of choice, but it's amazing the number of people who say they saw us on it."

Crimes against cattle

John Nino is a strapping guy with pressed Wranglers, a denim shirt and a sweat-stained Stetson; he doesn't own a computer or TV, so he missed Barton's performance. After studying economics and politics in college, he decided against law school because he missed ranching on his family's 6,000-acre spread east of King City. He is president of the San Benito County Cattlemen's Association and his wife, Susan, is president of the Monterey County Cattlewomen's Association.

"We're lucky," he says, standing on the porch of his white wood-frame 1920s farm house, "to be able to live this lifestyle."

In the 1940s Nino's grandfather, Oliver, added cattle ranching to his fruit enterprise in Los Gatos, and, until last fall, John Nino diligently worked to build the herd up to 1,100 adults, with only garden-variety droughts and poachers to contend with.

Then in September a neighbor found two cows dead, with no cause apparent. A week later, another cow down the road dropped dead. Two weeks later, another neighbor's draft horse croaked a few days after its annual checkup produced a clean bill of health.

"You know when your animals are sick," says Nino, "and none of these were. With all of the deaths, I was beginning to think something was wrong."

Then, on Oct. 17, Nino found one of his cows dead.

"This one was a classic mutilation," says Nino, showing photographs of the dismembered carcass lying on its back, its back legs splayed open as if broken at the hips.

Nino has tried to make sense of the killing, to construct in his mind an explanation he can logically reconcile. He deduced she may have been attacked a couple of days before he discovered the body near a watering trough.

"A few nights earlier I remember the cattle were all stirred up; they were upset about something," says Nino. "Later I saw where they had pushed through a fence, and cattle don't just go through a fence unless

they're real scared or upset."

But who did it? Nino doesn't feel comfortable theorizing, and will do so only after a lot of prodding. Nino says that he doesn't believe in UFOs. The only theory he can accept is that the heifer may have been mutilated by a "cultist" high in the hills above his ranch, and maybe she spent the next two days staggering toward Bitterwater Road, where she was found by the water troughs. He says that may explain why, despite the mutilation, there was no blood on the ground by her body.

Around the same time similar events were happening in Colorado. On Nov. 6, near Burns, Colo., rancher Susan Nottingham found an 800-pound bull lying on its side. Upon closer inspection, she found that its genitalia, left muzzle and ear had been sliced off. The Eagle County sheriff investigated and found that while coyotes had circled the carcass, they never came within 25 feet. Buzzards hadn't landed on or near it. There were no signs of a struggle.

On Dec. 4 and 5, two cows and four calves had their genitals, an ear and eye removed in South Carolina. At around the same time, two cows were found mutilated in Oklahoma, one died near the Pine Bluff Indian reservation in South Dakota, and one near Great Falls, Mont.—the fourth there in four years.

At about the same time, someone cut the penis off of Guy Falsey's 2,200-pound Simbrah bull in San Benito County near Pinnacles Monument. There were no footprints or car tracks.

"He was mean. We still can't figure out how someone could have got close to him," says Falsey, who lives in a neat red house off Highway 25. "There was no sign of a struggle. If he was shot or tranquilized he

Jean Barton shows the scrapbook she keeps documenting the mutilation of cows. At right, in a picture from her book, investigators examine one of the victims.

RICHARD KOCI HERNANDEZ



COURTESY JEAN BARTON

would have thrashed around. We couldn't find any bullet holes, and it would take a large-caliber gun to kill him. And the cut—it was so precise. Only an eighth of an inch of hide separates the base of the penis from the stomach cavity, and it wasn't perforated. It makes you wonder . . ."

Do-do-do-do.

The skeptics

One group it isn't making wonder is local law enforcement. Investigators with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office aren't buying any out-of-this-world theories.

"I'm sick of talking about aliens and flying saucers," says Lt. Jim Cronin of the King City office. "Like everything, there are a lot of different reasons why something might happen. One theory, there is a parolee at large who is currently wanted in this area. It's been suggested he is killing cattle in retaliation for being turned in previously. Some of it might be rustling."

San Benito County sheriff's deputies also suspect rustlers.

"There are no aliens at work here," says Lt. Michael Covell. "It's definitely a person, and it's the same person or persons. This has been happening for the past 15 years or so, very sporadically."

The investigations are being conducted by one deputy from each county, though the local sheriff's investigators admit that dead cows aren't their biggest worries, and most people in law enforcement are trained in homicide, not bovicide.

"A lot of our deputies think cows come in white cellophane packages from Safeway," says Cronin. "Most deputies that patrol rural areas like King City are new, and they don't spend a lot of time in police academy studying cattle anatomy."

The official sheriff's department's line is that the killings are motivated by revenge, probably from some low-life caught poaching in the past, one who happens to make cuts as precise as a surgeon's.

"I think it's someone mad at a rancher," says Covell. "I think he's doing this to throw everyone off base. I think it's a concerted effort by an individual or individuals to show who's the boss."

Why is Covell so certain Jean Barton and her support group are wrong?

"I worked our south county at night for eight to 10 years," Covell says. "A lot of that time I kept watch for night hunters. After all of that time on a mountain top, I never saw one

(continued on page 19)

space ship. I never was abducted. I was very disappointed."

The cult theory

There is one California deputy who isn't quite so quick to blame rustlers. Mike Schmidt of the Lassen County Sheriff's Office was on duty the day Jean Barton found her first dead cow. After that, he got pegged as the deputy dispatchers send to investigate Lassen's maltreated cattle.

"Lucky me," he says. So far Schmidt has seven victims and a case file six inches thick.

"These cases are so strange, they grab you and really make you want to figure it out," says Schmidt, who before Barton never gave much thought to the ways of life that make for regular viewing on "The X-Files." After Barton, Schmidt says he noticed that his local video store is full of UFO tapes, that television is loaded with stories about the supernatural, and from time to time he even tunes in to Art Bell, AM-radio's purveyor of things otherworldly.

"I didn't even notice these things before," he says.

Schmidt is an experienced investigator. But most human homicides have clues to follow—someone with a motive, a murder weapon, DNA, fingerprints—that usually lead to a suspect. These cases have none of that.

"That's what makes this case so interesting—there are no answers," he says. "If there were an easy explanation for this, it wouldn't be a story and we wouldn't be talking right now."

Schmidt says that if he had to bet, he'd put his money on cultists, devil worshipers, people who sacrifice animals to some deity most of us don't honor, then take the blood either to drink or use in another ritual.

But if it were people, wouldn't someone have cracked by now? Wouldn't at least one person have left the group and spilled the beans?

"Some of these groups are like the Mafia," says Schmidt. "There's only one way out. If you talk, you end up on a milk carton."

Pause, for a minute, to consider how a poor cow might feel knowing her lactations were being used to arouse public sympathy for some sicko with designs on her udder. Then allow Schmidt to continue.

"But if you say it's a person, then you stop looking at everything else," says Schmidt, "and we are nowhere close to being ready to close the book on this."

The aliens theory

Linda Moulton Howe wrote the book "Alien Harvest," which investigates reports of livestock mutilation back to the early 1960s. Once a docu-

mentary film maker in Colorado, she began following cattle mutilations full-time in 1979 because "you follow the story where it keeps leading."

The first mutilation story to get worldwide attention, she learned, was in 1967, when a horse was discovered in Colorado, stripped of its flesh from the neck up.

"In the summer of '79, we began seeing the same thing happening from Australia to the Canary Islands to Europe, the U.S. and Canada that is happening today," she says. "Animals were missing an ear, eye, part of their jaw flesh, the tongue, genitals and rectum."

First Howe tried to find human culprits for the mutilations, which she says occur most often in the fall and spring. If it was cults, then which ones? She turned to a Catholic priest who specialized in cults and exorcism. He said the cuts did not look like anything he had ever seen.

She found a sheriff in Arizona who thought a cult he had investigated might be responsible.

"His photos were horrific—blood everywhere," she says. "These are neat and clean."

She talked to ranchers and eventually became the person to call on the subject.

"She called me after my letter appeared," says Barton, "but I was getting ready to ship my cattle back for winter feed and I was real busy and I didn't know who she was. Now I would drop everything to talk to her, but she's just so busy."

Much of Howe's time is spent answering calls about yet another mutilation report. Dr. Leesa McCue, a veterinarian in Limon, Colo., contacted Howe two years ago after finding a mutilated buffalo she couldn't explain, then again when a buffalo turned up this past fall with its penis and scrotum removed.

"I can't really tell you who or what is doing it," McCue says, "but I can tell you that whoever or whatever is doing this is very good at what they do. If you take Joe Blow off the street, I doubt they'd do it as neatly."

Howe will speculate as to the culprits, basing her theory on volumes of circumstantial evidence she says she has collected. She says she has interviewed people who have seen strange lights and even stranger creatures near some mutilation sites. She doesn't understand why, when faced with the worldwide scope of the mutilations, many still expect to find a human responsible.

"Rustlers sounds more far-fetched than aliens, to me," says Howe.

What science knows

The little scientific investigative work that has been done on cattle mutilations comes from one source, William C. Levengood, a Michigan-based consultant to seed companies who, in 1989, began examining plants taken from crop formations, those geometric patterns that have been found in some grain fields. Levengood has published two scientific articles on the phenomenon—one in Denmark's "Physiologia Plantarum" and one in the "Journal of Scientific Exploration." Both explore the physical differences between plants taken from inside the formations and those growing at various distances away.

"There aren't many scientists willing to take on something like this," says Nancy Talbott, a Cambridge, Mass., psychologist who uses her own money to pay for Levengood's crop formation research because she is fascinated by the subject. (Levengood spent 10 years on the research faculty at the Institute of Science and Technology at the University of Michigan, Talbott says, and prefers to report his findings in sci-

entific journals rather than in interviews with reporters.)

"Many of these odder phenomena, like crop circles and cattle mutilations, are all lumped into UFO weirdness and immediately nobody takes it seriously."

There are some biophysical similarities, Talbott says, between the condition of the grains flattened in crop circles and the grasses growing around the dead cattle. The most prominent being that the level of mitochondria in plant cells, the part of the cell that produces its energy, is often reduced. Talbott says the finding indicates "some source of extremely brief, intense heat."

Are you saying spaceship exhaust fumes?

"Oh no, I'm absolutely not saying that," says Talbott. "The point is, we don't know what's causing it."

There are logical explanations for crop circles (besides the few definitely attributed to hoaxers), which could be stretched to include cattle mutilations, Talbott says. One is "plasma vortices," a whirlpool of charged particles that form in the upper atmosphere. Perhaps they spin to Earth, like tornadoes, and are reaching ground at this time because of the ozone layer depletion. There are other examples of geometric formations in nature, she says, that we readily accept.

"Snowflakes, for instance, are complex and unique but we don't think there is anything strange going on there because they are small and we're used to them," Talbott says. "However, with cattle, it's different. It's hard to imagine vortex instability cutting up cattle in weird ways."

"Frankly," Talbott adds, "he [Levengood] can't imagine at this point what in the hell is causing that."

The news is out

Barton became a one-woman publicity campaign. She began writing letters to the editor of newspapers in Red Bluff and Susanville. She also began carrying something in her saddlebags besides lunch and a hoof pick—a camera, just in case it happened again.

Ranchers in Lassen County learned to call her when they discovered anything suspicious, and Barton collected an album full of mutilation photographs, which she carted to the Cattlemen's Association's animal care committee so they could see the problem is for real.

Everyone in Lassen would have heard that they'd better not mess with Jean Barton's cattle because she's got her eye out for anything suspicious. And yet, on Oct. 16, 1996, a year after her first mutilation, Jean and Bill Barton found two more mutilated cows in the same meadow as the first.

"There were no tire tracks, no footprints, except for a coyote track in the mud," Barton says. "The grass was tall in the meadow, so there should have been something."

This one had an even stranger feature. Photos she took of this animal, with horns at least eight inches long protruding from each side of her head, show one horn completely buried to the skull.

"It was like she was dropped on it from a great height," Barton says. "I couldn't even pull her head loose from the soil."

Then she got hit again on Jan. 17, when someone mutilated her one-ton black Angus bull two weeks into the breeding season.

Why her again? Barton has an idea. "It might be because I'm the most vocal," she says. "It might be they're using me as a spokesperson. Why else are we so lucky?"

Barton can at least take comfort that her publicity effort is starting to

work, and ranchers everywhere are becoming more aware of the mutilations. In December, rancher Barney Bray, one of John Nino's King City neighbors, made a deal to lease a champion bull from a rancher in Oregon. Bray paid the man to have the bull shipped to King City for the upcoming breeding season.

One day, the man called him with a question. It seems he was having second thoughts about the deal.

"You're not in that area," the man asked Bray, "where spacemen are eating them cattle up, are you?"

"Oh no," Bray said he told him, "that's a long way from here."

Inconclusive results

Veterinarian McCue had hoped to find an answer to the mystery after the latest buffalo killing. The rancher had been hit before, so he knew to contact authorities, and he knew McCue was interested in the phenomenon.

To help matters, the animal—a female with its mammary tissue removed—was found within 48 hours after it died, perhaps still fresh enough for an autopsy to give a definitive reading.

"Whoever or whatever is doing this uses techniques that most people don't have available," McCue said in mid-December as she waited for toxicology results, "and immobilization is a big one."

McCue proceeded with the autopsy. She collected samples from the animal's liver, kidneys and gastrointestinal system and sent them to a laboratory for toxicology analysis, something she often does with livestock when she suspects they might have been poisoned by a bad batch of feed. She suspected that someone might be drugging the animals to knock them out.

One thing she was able to determine early on was that the buffalo had not been shot. A week later, the toxicology offered little else in the way of clues.

"The cause of death is unknown," she said then. "There were no barbiturates in its system, no signs of drugs or toxins in the animal. I was disappointed, but not surprised."

McCue refused to speculate on how the buffalo might have died, but she has not given up hope on someday finding a definitive answer.

"We learn and keep going," she says. "I'm sure it will happen again. I would hope that it doesn't, but I'll almost bet that it will."

Is the truth out there?

No matter what you think by this point, Jean Barton's peers don't think she's a crackpot. Her term as president of the Cattlewomen's Association ended in December. She recently was elected the group's legislative chairman, which means she is in charge of drumming up national support for bills affecting ranchers. She also starts to say, in her own defense, that she graduated from UC-Davis, but decides there "are so many nuts there that won't help my credibility." See? She's still got pretty good sense.

If this were a 1960s TV show, our theme music would fade in for these final paragraphs, the ones to remind you that strange, unexplainable things can happen to the most unsuspecting of us, that our lives can take weird turns even when we don't necessarily want them to and all we can do is hang on for the ride.

Jean Barton, mild-mannered rancher from a small California town, performed the simple act of riding her horse into a meadow. But events aren't always as uncomplicated as they seem. She had no way of predicting that a routine ride one typical fall day would unlock the door to her imagination and make her life like an episode of "The Twilight Zone."

"I don't think it's a cult. And I don't think it's animal terrorists," she says.

"Well, uh, I have never seen a flying saucer, and Lassen County is a hotbed of flying saucers..."

There's a long silence. Then aliens?

"Well," she pauses, "I don't know what else I can believe."

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A loch-y break for Nessie fans

INVERNESS, Scotland — The nutty-for-Nessie set in Scotland say they think they've found the secret underwater lair of the legendary Loch Ness monster.

George Edwards, a 45-year-old auxiliary officer in the Scottish coast guard, said he has spotted a 30-foot wide cave at the bottom of the 23-mile loch with a sonar scan.

"I came across the hole by accident one day as I was crossing Urquhart Bay while on a coast guard exercise," he said.

"My sonar reading suddenly fell an extra 30 feet, down to 826 feet. That is much deeper than this part of the loch is supposed to be."

He believes that the cave could be the entrance to a tunnel that connects Loch Ness to another loch or to the sea and is planning on releasing a non-toxic dye into the mouth of the opening to test his theory.

"This could be one of the most significant finds ever in Loch Ness," said Gary Campbell, secretary of the Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club.

Reuter

POST, New York, NY - Feb. 19, 1997 CR: R. Horan

CHRONICLE, Centralia, WA - Feb. 10, 1997

Dryad woman on the lookout for Bigfoot-type creature

BIGFOOT OR ALIEN? 73-

year-old says a creature is roaming the woods and she plans to capture it on film

By Larissa Pfeifer
The Chronicle

DRYAD — A 73-year-old woman from Dryad knows what she must do. Ruth Steele now arms herself with a camera, film and a keen eye.

She's scouting for a Bigfoot-type creature she said she's seen wandering the area. And Steele said she's not relenting until she documents the being with a photo.

"I made a point to get a camera and film — I'll get that feller," she said. "No question about it, I seen it. ... I'm not hallucinating — I've got a good mind."

You see, the Lewis County woman believes she's spotted either a Sasquatch or some kind of alien three times in the past six months. She didn't carry a camera with her those times, but she wants to prove what she saw.

Each sighting happened near rur-

al Doty and Dryad on the semiforested River Road. It's on that road Steele takes her evening drive nearly every day after either grocery shopping or playing bingo.

Residences and sheep, dairy, cattle or llama farms are scattered throughout the area where Steele said she saw the creature.

Gray, white and sometimes black fur covered the 7-foot-something tall humanoid Steele said she saw. The

animal's face appeared pink skinned. The creature appeared furry, walked upright and wore no clothing.

Steele first saw a creature in September 1996. The creature had black and dirty-white fur and it looked about 6 or 7 feet tall.

At each sighting, Steele saw the creature either walking or standing and shuffling its feet. It made no sound any of the three times she saw the creature.

During the most recent sighting,



Gary J. Cichowski / The Chronicle

Ruth Steele, 73, stands on River Road near Doty where she claims she saw Bigfoot.

in January, the creature was walking along a field by the road. Steele said the animal heard the car, turned and looked directly at her — its eyes shone red.

Steele insists she's not lying or imagining her sightings. She cites her honesty and a lifelong knowledge of forest animals from working in the woods. The animal wasn't a bear, cow or even a cougar, she said.

The incidents terrified her.

"It shocked the devil out of me when I seen it," Steele said. "I thought what in God's name is that? ... He wasn't no human. He's never nothing I'd seen in the woods."

The longtime Lewis County resident spent her life as a homemaker, mother of eight, carpenter and logging assistant. She said her family teases her that the next time she sees Bigfoot, he will be pulling a sled or something.

Steele, however, has another witness to verify her story. When she saw Bigfoot a second time, Steele was with her 41-year-old daughter Debra Steele.

The two had been driving along the Chehalis River near Doty at dusk last November.

Debra Steele, a Chehalis resident, said she saw a creature loping along by the road, swinging one arm. Then the creature turned toward her and the car.

"It looked me right in the face — it scared the pants right off of me," the younger Steele said. "I hope it's my last time. Yes, I'm still scared about it."

Anthropologist Grover Krantz doesn't classify Bigfoot sightings as implausible.

The Washington State University professor researched Bigfoot for three decades. He's talked to more than 100 Sasquatch sighters and published a book in 1992 called "Big Footprints."

He said it's simply not possible for every person's sighting to be fabricated.

Still some stories don't ring true, he said.

Krantz said one can spot a hoax Bigfoot sighting when people report the creature wore or put on clothing, used or picked up tools or talked.

The elder Steele said she believes the creature is migrating toward her home. Each time the animal appears closer to where she lives.

She's told more than half a dozen people about her sightings. Some believe her; some think she must be crazy, Steele said.

Krantz said Bigfoot doesn't present a danger. He said the creatures will not attack unprovoked.

"All the evidence we have on Bigfoot is (they're) perfectly peaceful. They're no more dangerous than a gorilla," Krantz said. "There's no reason to think they would hurt anybody. If one stood right next to you and swung his arm he could knock your head right off. But if he did that, it would be accidental."

Krantz said he knows of 50 to 60 Bigfoot sightings in Washington. He said the amount ranks the same as sightings in Oregon, California and British Columbia. The mountainous, forested regions attract the creatures, he said.

As for Steele's husband, 80-year-old Ester, he said he believes his wife. He said he's convinced because his wife has seen the creature several times, one of those while traveling with their daughter.

SAUDI GAZETTE, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Feb. 26, 1997 CR: C. Hart

Unidentified Masbate sea creature baffles scientists

MANILA, Feb. 24 (AFP)

SCIENTISTS and residents are baffled by an eight-metre (26-foot) long sea creature which washed up on the shores of the central Philippine province of Masbate, a newspaper reported today.

The creature was found by a couple in the coastal town of Claveria on December 25 last year, already beginning to decompose, the Philippine Star said.

A photograph of the creature's preserved skull, vertebra and limbs, published in the newspaper, and parts of its dried flesh were presented to marine and zoology experts who were at a loss about the creature's identity, the report said.

"Judging from what I see now, it's an eel-like fish. It must be an ancestral or primitive fish," Perry Ong, a zoologist from the University of the Philippines was quoted as saying.

"It had fins. But if it's a fish, where are the ribs? It's definitely not a mammal," Ong said, adding that the creature lacked the bone structure an ordinary fish would have, such as ribs, the first vertebra from the neck, and a thoracic and lumbar portions of its spinal column.

The skull had a hole in its head resembling that of a dolphin, but the experts noted it did not have the elongated nose of a dolphin.

"The head looks like that of a turtle," they said. Scientists have suggested carbon-dating the bones to determine if the creature is prehistoric.

EAGLE, Crestone, CO - Dec. 1996 CR: W. Jones

Mystery of the "Crystal Skull" revealed

by Christopher O'Brien

The mystery surrounding the "San Luis Valley Skull" has been solved. As *Eagle* readers will recall, Moffat, Colorado rancher Donna Koch found the enigmatic 6 1/2 inch high skull in February 1995, while riding the fence-line of her newly acquired ranch. The "Alien-looking" artifact immediately captured the imagination's of area residents. Excited word of the "find" literally circulated around the world. Channelers, psychics and true believers have had a field day. A 'full moon gathering' at the While Eagle Village attracted the curious from as far away as Arizona and Minnesota. Articles appeared in international publications, and this author included its discovery in the book, *The Mysterious Valley*.

Contrary to popular belief, the skull was not crafted by aliens, Lemurians, or Central American healers; the skull was created by Blake Street Glass Company artist, Brad Chadez, a seven-year veteran Denver glass-worker. The skull is just one of around 100 skulls Chadez has crafted over the past several years.

"I'm really sorry it went so far, I had no idea all this was going

on down there," the 31 year-old Chadez told me. "My parents own the ranch next door, and we left it there on the northeast corner of the property as a cornerstone." Chadez found out about the skull's vaulted reputation after family members read the recent *Rocky Mountain News* article and called him. Chadez immediately called the *Eagle* to clear up the mystery.

"I started making the skulls to sell in New Mexico at the Day of the Dead festival," Chadez said. "It was carved out of hot glass and I make all of my own sculpting tools."

"My parents bought the ranch sixteen years ago, and they're planning on building a house on the property. We put it there a while ago and I had no idea someone would find it."

Chadez seems surprised at the reaction people have had here to his artistic creation. "It was just one of my seconds... that's why we put that particular one there. I make full-sized ones that are larger." If that was one of Chadez's seconds, his other creations must be exquisite. Chadez has been selling his skull art-works at the Manos Galley in Denver for several years.

As with most "mysteries" there are no easy answers. The lit-

tle "ant-person skull" has had quite an effect on people. The reported strange phenomena that seemed to surround the skull have no obvious explanations. Exploding fires, sickened babies, bashed-in heads, broken video may give us some insight into the true nature of "perceived" power-objects. Perhaps if enough people think something is magical, and focus there intent on it, then maybe a mundane object can actually become magical. The discovery of the skull, and subsequent notoriety it has received, may be a lesson for all who have a real need for a so-called "mysterious" object. One investigator who sat with the skull for "eight days," claimed to have channeled an amazing amount of information that she attributed to the skull. Stories of Lemurian scouts and settlers and other skulls waiting to be found here were communicated to eager believers.

One has to wonder. Since the skull generated such overwhelming interest, verging on veneration, in many who have seen it, maybe Chadez would be well advised to start crafting them again. Chadez's work can be seen at Manos Gallery in Denver.