

# UFO

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## UFO, ET conference takes off in Victorville

■ For those who believe, it proves to be an informative and supportive experience.

By MARK MUCKENFUSS  
Sun Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE — For those of you worried about first contact with extraterrestrials, forget it.

It has already happened and it continues to happen.

As many as 200 different species of sentient beings have either met with or abducted human beings from Earth.

That, at least, was one of the positions put forward Saturday on the first day of the UFO and ET Phenomena Conference in Victorville.

"Abductees" and "contactees" shared their stories of alien encounters.

Former Air Force and commercial pilots showed photos of their run-ins with unidentified flying craft.

And ufologists talked of military coverups and government conspiracies.

A crowd of about 50 attended the first of two days of talks.

For those who believe, it proved to be an informative and supportive experience. And even for those who maybe weren't swallowing the entire package, it was fun.

"I'm kind of jealous," Janice Samsing said with a chuckle. "It seems like everybody's seen something, but I never have."

Samsing, the owner of Pyramid Books in Hesperia, was one of several vendors offering tables of books, videos and paraphernalia dealing with UFOs as well as New Age subjects.

A recent UFO sighting in Hesperia created a stir and some attention from UFO groups, prompting Samsing to augment her shelves, already packed with mostly metaphysical selections, with more books on flying saucers.

"I believe something's going on," she says, referring to the UFO phenomenon. "I just don't know what. I've read enough to be thoroughly confused."

William Holden, who runs a real estate and printing business in Victorville, organized the event. He said he isn't worried about winning converts.

"We are not asking you to believe in UFOs and ETs," he told the audience in his opening remarks. "We are asking you to do your homework and research and make a choice about what you believe."

Holden spent 15 years in the Air Force, during which time he had several UFO encounters, he said, one of which included top military personnel meeting with aliens at a landing site near White Sands, N.M.

Others reported less concrete encounters.

Dan Stingley of Riverside said he remembers very little of his contacts. Usually, he said, he is taken in his sleep and the aliens induce amnesia before they return him. He believes the beings are largely benevolent.

### STRANGE ENCOUNTERS

#### WHAT'S NEXT

The UFO and ET Phenomena Conference continues from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. today at the Holiday Inn, 15494 Palmdale Road, Victorville. For more information, call (619) 245-6565.

"I think they're kind of watching out for us," he said. "To one extent, it's kind of a hands-off situation. But at the same time, they won't allow us to destroy the planet."

This is the first conference Holden has put on. On Saturday, he found himself hoping for the arrival not of spaceships, but of more attendees. "This is a \$16,000 event," he said. "We've taken in \$5,000 so far." Still, he seemed undeterred. "It's a tremendous message that needs to be heard."

TIMES, Washington, DC - Feb. 16, 1997 CR: N. Fisk

## Is U.S. spaced out on outer space?

By M.L. Lyke  
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UFOs have arrived on Planet Earth, culturally at least.

Fifty years after the first modern report of "mystery disks" in this country's skies — near Mount Rainier in Washington state — supermarket tabloids are packed with alien abduction stories and reports of interstellar trysts.

On the Internet the most popular subject, besides sex, is UFOs.

Enthusiasts download the latest on a "spaceship" allegedly following comet Hale-Bopp. Online skeptics give tips on making UFOs from aluminum plates and cottage cheese containers.

One online entrepreneur offers tongue-in-cheek "UFO abduction insurance," advising: "Don't leave Earth without it."

The big screen is overrun with invasion movies like "Independence Day" and "Mars Attacks!" Coming soon: "Contact" and "Starship Troopers."

Scheduled for Disney World is ExtraTERRORestrial Encounter. The trend rakes skeptics, who worry about the dumbing-down of America.

"Saying there's life on other planets is very reasonable. Gotta be. Not an issue," says Seattle's Bill Nye, known as TV's "Science Guy."

"Saying that there's life on other planets and they come here and visit us and take people up in their ships and put probes up their spines — that's very unreasonable. No! Stop it!"

### UFOs in the U.S.A.

The most recent Gallup Poll on UFOs, conducted Sept. 3-5, 1996, shows:

- 87 percent of Americans have read or heard about UFOs.
- 12 percent have seen something they thought was a UFO.
- 45 percent think UFOs have visited Earth in some form.
- 48 percent believe UFOs are "something real," 31 percent think they are "just people's imaginations."
- 72 percent believe there is life of some form on other planets in the universe.
- 38 percent think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe.
- 71 percent believe the U.S. government knows more about UFOs than it is telling us.

But the invasion seems unstoppable. Fashion designers tout "UFO-inspired" creations in sleek, silvery fabrics. Art galleries draw record crowds with UFO art. A hot-ticket show in New York last fall included work by Washington state artist Stephen Powers, who uses colored hair curlers and other "found objects" to create architecture for outer-space.

Nowhere is the alien invasion more apparent than on television. "The X-Files" is a mass-audience hit. "Sightings," "Encounters" and "The Extraordinary" attract the

curious and the convinced. And aliens wage battle hourly in kids' cartoons.

The latter leaves some ufologists wondering.

"Could it be there's another reason so many children's programs are dedicated to space, to fighting aliens?" asks Seattle UFO researcher Peter Davenport. "This is just conjecture, but could it be that somebody is trying to condition a population?"

That won't be necessary.

Last year a Newsweek poll reported 48 percent of Americans believe UFOs are real, and 29 percent believe we've made contact with aliens. Another 48 percent think there's a government conspiracy to cover it all up.

Don't be silly, say skeptics.

"The government can't even cover up a president's affairs. How could it cover up something like this?" says University of Washington astronomer Don Brownlee.

In UFO literature, a UFO sighting within 500 feet is called a "close encounter of the first kind," or C-1. A sighting with physical evidence is a C-2, a sighting of the UFO's occupants a C-3.

A C-4 is actual contact with those occupants — intense contact, according to a growing number of "alien abductees" going public with stories of having their sperm removed for hybrid breeding, floating through walls or being carried on a beam of light into a spacecraft.

"Every experience is unique," says hypnotherapist Sharon Filip, a specialist on abductees. (Hypnotherapists, who need no special training to register in Washington state, treat patients through hypnotism.)

Filip has worked with about 120 self-described abductees over the past half decade. "Most of the people I deal with are very sane, very ordinary, very educated — they just happen to have had unusual things occur to them."

She claims many wake up with unexplained marks on their bodies: bruises that look like fingerprints, rashes, cut marks. They may have odd dreams or unusual fears. Or they may see strange beings. "They'll turn their head, and suddenly they're no longer there."

Filip, who has recalled memories of seeing an alien over her own basinette as an infant, has a steadily growing clientele in the Northwest. "My client base has definitely increased," she says. "It may just be that people are becoming more aware."

Or it could be mass hysteria, say skeptics.

"Many of the principal advocates of UFO abduction seem to want the validation of science without submitting to its rigorous standards of evidence," said the late astronomer Carl Sagan on a "Nova" show about abduction.

Back down on planet Earth, some mental health professionals have a different take on the phenomenon.

Says Chris Dagadakis, director of emergency psychiatry at Seattle's Harborview Hospital: "I've never encountered anyone in the emergency room who has made such a claim who is not psychotic."

TIMES, Farmington, NM - Jan. 30, 1997

## Local UFO group has its first meeting

DARREN MARCY  
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 people crowded into a room at the Farmington Civic Center Wednesday to discuss the formation of a local UFO group.

Clark Hathaway and Dr. Richard O'Neill are organizing the group for people interested in UFOs, including alien abductions, cattle mutilations and unidentified sightings.

Hathaway recently moved to this area from Sacramento, Calif., and said his first sighting came when he was just a kid.

Hathaway describes how he and a friend were playing near San Miguel, Calif., when he was 9 years old. They both saw the object, and after telling his father who was in the military, Hathaway said he was visited by a high-ranking officer who told him he didn't see anything.

"He told me I wasn't to talk about it," Hathaway said. "If I talked about it, my rump was in hot water and so was my old man's."

That was in 1952, but Hathaway said it wasn't until the 1960s that he started studying UFOs and not until the early '90s did he actively begin investigating sightings and unexplained phenomena.

The audience wasn't all convinced and some left early. But more than half raised their hands when Hathaway asked how many had seen a UFO. Eight claimed more than one sighting and four raised their hands when asked who had been abducted.

Hathaway and another audience member

shared their abduction stories and O'Neill said that kind of interaction was exactly why an organization was needed in the area.

"There's a lot of information out there," O'Neill said. "Not everybody is interested in alien abductions. Not everyone is interested in cattle mutilations, but these things are going on."

O'Neill and Hathaway said they envision a group meeting monthly. They hope members will share information, bring in speakers, take field trips and become active in UFO investigations.

One member of the audience, Cheri James, of Farmington is writing a book on a local UFO crash.

According to James, an unidentified craft went down in Hart Canyon near Aztec in 1948.

But there have been many other sightings in this area including a sighting Feb. 9, 1996 when many callers reported seeing a green light that split into two. The object was reportedly seen for two hours as it traveled some 40 miles from Largo Canyon, southeast of Blanco, to La Plata.

"You folks just don't know how famous the Four Corners are for UFOs," Hathaway said. "We feel like there is a need for a group in this area. And it's quite obvious to me, we need an abduction support group here as well."

The next meeting has been set for at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the civic center.

Information: Hathaway, 326-6348, or O'Neill, 326-1744.

# Monroe men documenting UFOs

**M**ulder and Scully, they're not. They're not even Mulder and Mulder.

But like the investigators from television's popular "X Files," John Tosti and Lynn Taylor spend a lot of time looking into strange and unexplainable phenomena.

And at the end of each episode, they're always left with more questions than answers.

The Monroe County men are skywatchers — people who observe and document, to the best of their



**MIKE LEONARD**  
H-T Columnist

abilities, that broad and often fascinating phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects.

It's peak season for sightings, too, according to Tosti, who has been a serious skywatcher for about five years. "They appear more in mid to late winter, for some reason," he explained Thursday from his rural Monroe County home near Lake Monroe. "Lately, the skies have been as active as I've ever seen."

He popped a videotape into his VCR to show his latest sighting, captured with his new, 8mm camera over Lake Monroe Wednesday night. While it was difficult to discern what the object was, it radiated or projected an extremely bright light that reflected off the water. It didn't move like an airplane or helicopter. And it made no sound.

Tosti has a fairly large collection of tapes made of such sightings, some 10-15 hours of various, unidentifiable lights in the skies. Taylor says he has about two hours of film himself, all taped since last March.

Some of the episodes do provoke wonder, such as one that seems to show two "probes" shooting off from a central object — and then returning to it.

"It really gets your adrenaline going," Taylor said. "So much so



**Local UFO researchers** John Tosti, left, and Lynn Taylor have spent countless hours pursuing and videotaping objects that have appeared in the skies over Bloomington and surrounding areas. STAFF PHOTO BY JOE BLACK

that it's too much for some people. It scares them."

The fear comes from several directions: fear of the unknown, fear of the potential of alien contact, fear of police and governmental authorities, fear of being thought crazy.

"We got past that a long time ago," Taylor said, when asked if he worried whether people think he's loopy.

"Oh, I've had people think I'm nuts," Tosti added. "My mother and father-in-law, in particular. Until I was finally able to prove to them, I'm not making this stuff up."

Both men concede, readily, that there are many things in the night skies that may seem strange or suspicious to the unskilled observer, but not to them. Airplanes, helicopters, satellites and certain atmospheric conditions can all be misread by amateur skywatchers.

"I see a lot of military helicopters out at night — Apaches and Hueys," said Taylor.

Often, both men say, they see military aircraft in tandem with UFOs, which opens the door to all sorts of conjecture. "Whatever is going on, there's definitely a government interest in these nocturnal lights, a military interest," Taylor said.

The military planes and helicopters may be tracking alien UFOs or monitoring their own experimental aircraft, the men theorize. What is interesting, they say, is that they never see an attempt to intercept the unexplained nocturnal lights that move in ways that known aircraft do not move.

Last fall, the men experienced a wild night near Kirksville, in which they tracked several "yellow-orange spheres" and even saw one appear to lift off the ground. At the same time, they also encountered land-based vehicles appearing to monitor their movements.

Later, Taylor writes in the Bloomington UFO Network (BUFON) newsletter, an acquaintance who began making inquiries into the evening's activities was visited by an FBI agent who strongly discouraged the man from poking around further.

The agent said the FBI was conducting a "sting" operation in the area, which Taylor doubts, because the FBI wouldn't likely admit to such a thing, especially to an ordinary citizen. "That leaves two possibilities, in my estimation," Taylor writes in the BUFON newsletter. "Either, the FBI has a darker secret to protect, or these agents were not FBI in the first place."

That encounter is just one reason why Taylor and Tosti want people to know what they're doing, and want others to take up their avocation of watching the skies. If an agency of the government were interested in silencing them, they reason, it would be much more difficult to do so if the men have public profiles as UFO chasers.

But, also, "We're trying to get as many people as possible interested in this, not so much to confirm what we're seeing as to add to the body of information we have," Tosti explained.

"There's a lot going on up there — a lot that would make even the most skeptical observer wonder what's going on," he said.

The invitation comes with a caveat, however. "Once you've seen the kind of things we've seen, it changes your world," Taylor warned. "I've had to step back from it on occasion myself, because you can become so emotionally involved that you approach that precipice where obsession takes over."

To report UFO sightings or learn more about Tosti and Taylor's work, contact Taylor at 3843 Anderson Road, Bloomington, IN 47408, at 339-3660, or at LT1000@aol.com.

Mike Leonard can be reached at leonard@heraldt.com via e-mail.

# UFO sites on internet

The truth is out there, and so are some of the web sites devoted to UFO's, alien abductions and extra-terrestrial activity.

The Center for UFO Studies has a site at <http://www.cufos.org/>. The site has a section on Roswell (where a recovered alien corpse is allegedly housed in the government's infamous "Hangar 18") and a frequently asked questions listing. A sub-site on abductions offers helpful advice on what to do if you are abducted by aliens.

The International Roswell Initiative (<http://www.roswell.org/>) has even more material related to the Roswell Incident. It also is extremely skeptical about the alleged alien autopsy film footage recently shown on a FOX television show.

The Roswell Group maintains its "Hangar 18" site at <http://hangar18.horizonco.com/>.

Up-to-date reports of UFO sightings can be found at "UFO Round-up," located at <http://www.ftch.net/~ufoinfo/roundup.htm>.

One woman's recollection of her alien abduction experiences can be found "The Alien Jigsaw," located at <http://www.alienjigsaw.com/>.

Conspiracy buffs can view UFO-related Freedom of Information files from various government agencies at "The Black Vault" (<http://www.primenet.com/~greeney/ufo.html>).

For UFO material from the country formerly known as the Soviet Union, the "Russian UFO Page" is located at <http://www.wic.net/page/rusweb.htm>.

Other international sites are "UFO-Norway" ([http://www.norconnect.no/~brenne/ufonor\\_e.htm](http://www.norconnect.no/~brenne/ufonor_e.htm)) and "Australasian UFO Sightings" (<http://yoyo.cc.monash.edu.au/~johnno/>).

Closer to home, the Springfield-based Rational Ex-

## CYBERBLADING the NETRODOME



by Mike Springston

amination Association of Lincoln Land (REALL) has a newsletter at <http://www.reall.org/>.

Alien implants are among the topics found at the "Art Bell Talk Radio" site at <http://www.artbell.com/>.

Finally, the Chupacabra, a blood-sucking mythical creature with strong ties to Puerto Rico, is believed by many (who believe in such things) to have once been an alien pet. More information on this creature can be found at the "Chupacabra Home Page" at <http://www.princeton.edu/~accion/chupa.html>.

Have an interesting web site? Contact us at [leftypen@ns.egyptian.net](mailto:leftypen@ns.egyptian.net).



# 'UFO' debate goes on

Officer says he  
saw helicopters

By LAURA HINCHEY  
The Daily Courier

An officer with the Prescott Valley Police Department saw an unidentified flying object last week, but said he believes it was helicopters.

The object or objects have yet to be explained, but have been widely reported across many parts of Arizona, including the Paulden and Prescott Valley areas, where the objects apparently were seen first.

"It was a helicopter without a doubt," said Prescott Valley Police Sgt. Ron Lowman. "You could tell by the V-formation they were flying in."

Others aren't convinced the objects were man-made or man-driven.

Peter B. Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle, said the object could not have been any type of conventional aircraft.

Davenport, in an Internet report, said the object was witnessed by several people as it apparently hovered silently. And it covered the distance between Paulden and Prescott, not less than 30 miles, in about one to two minutes, Davenport said.

"Also, the lights seen on it were not consistent with any type of strobe lights, or navigation lights on any type of known aircraft, either private or commercial," Davenport said.

The object moved too fast to be a balloon or the Hale-Bopp comet which is virtually stationary relative to other heavenly bodies, Davenport said.

The last report to NUFORC was from Kingman, where a young man en route to Los Angeles called from a phone booth and reported seeing a large and bizarre cluster of lights moving slowly in the northern sky.

Luke Air Force Base spokeswoman Sgt. Rolla Suttmillier said Friday that the base had received no calls Thursday night regarding the UFOs. She said no planes were sent out that night.

But Luke spokeswoman Sgt. Michelle DeMers said calls did come in on Friday asking if the objects were jets from the base. But, she added, any calls reporting UFOs on Thursday night would have been referred elsewhere.

In contradiction to Suttmillier's statement on Friday that Luke does not send fighters out at night, DeMers said a squadron was flying between 6 and 9 p.m. Thursday night, but only around the base. She said only two F-16 planes of the squadron were out during that time frame on training flights, and they were back in by 8:30 p.m.

Davenport said a lengthy telephone call was received by NUFORC from one or more parties who claimed to have been personal witness to a "scramble" of F-15C fighters. They said the fighters had intercepted the object over downtown Phoenix, photographed the object with gun cameras and returned to base.

Davenport said the sources went on to describe how the base had "closed down," how the pilots of the fighters succeeded in approaching to within one mile of the object and how their targeting radar had been "neutralized" by the objects.

Davenport said the sources provided copious details about the inci-

BEE, Modesto, CA - Jan. 2, 1997

## 'The Unexplained:' The rest of the UFO story?

By Olin Chism  
The Dallas Morning News

Critics complain that programs such as NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries," Fox's "Sightings" and their ilk are nothing more than television's version of supermarket tabloids: They present sensational tales of alien abductions, UFO sightings and government conspiracies with hardly a glance at contrary evidence.

The makers of "The Unexplained," a new weekly series making its debut at 7 p.m. Thursday on the A&E cable network, say it's different. It will take a harder look at such claims, they say, and give skeptics a real chance at rebuttal.

Does "The Unexplained" live up to its billing? Not entirely, though the first episode does give the naysayers more of a voice than they are accustomed to having.

The opening program, "UFOs vs. the Government," looks at four reported sightings of UFOs that have received widespread

■ Premieres tonight at 7 on A&E

attention in some circles and have been dismissed by government investigators.

The opening titles will hardly be reassuring to skeptics. The titles flash before spooky background scenes: nocturnal lightning flashes, a candle mysteriously going out, what appears to be a flying saucer taking off at night before a stunned man, a human skull, bubbling chemicals (or maybe just colored water) in laboratory flasks. Hardly suggestive of scientific inquiry, this could be the intro to a horror program.

The first case originated in 1980 at an American Air Force base in eastern England. Several Air Force personnel saw mysterious lights in a nearby forest, went to investigate, and became convinced they were witnessing visitations from alien spacecraft. The next night more airmen

went into the forest with similar results.

The case has taken on special significance for UFOlogists because these were trained military men and therefore supposedly objective observers not prone to hallucinations. The case simmered awhile but eventually became so notorious a British commission examined it — and eventually dismissed it.

"The Unexplained" does a dramatic re-enactment of the incidents, and if the re-enactments accurately reflect what went on, then, by golly, maybe the aliens did pay a visit. This conviction is reinforced by the earnestness with which the interviewed airmen — now retired — tell their tale.

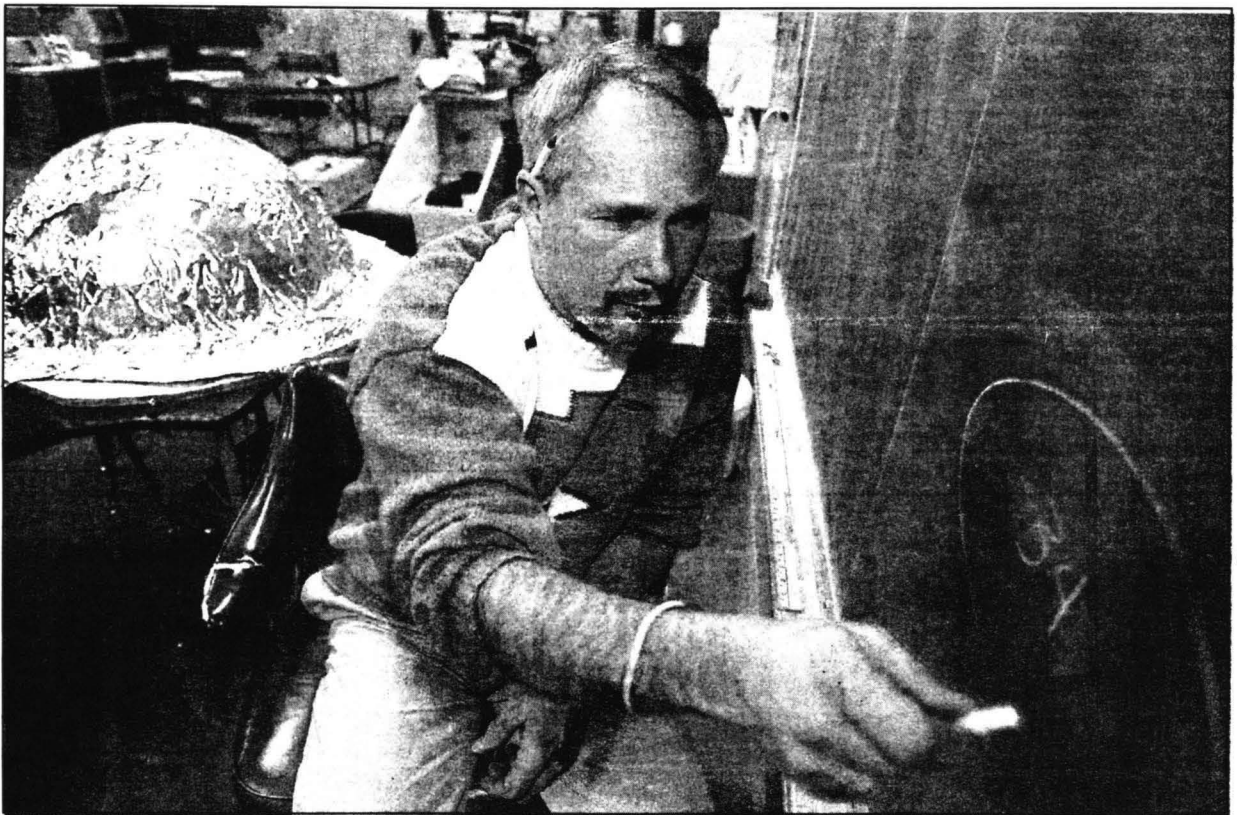
However, a skeptical investigator — also a retired military man — takes a different view. What they saw, he says, was the rotating beacon of a distant lighthouse periodically flashing through the tree tops. "To me, this is just a case of where a

number of people saw some lights, got a little excited, thought about UFOs, and all of a sudden everything they see is UFOs."

The other cases are a 1989 series of Belgian UFO visitations, which included an encounter with two NATO jet fighters; a 1967 alien spacecraft landing in rural Manitoba; and the mysterious goings-on at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

Each is treated similarly: a convincing re-enactment, solemn interviews with witnesses, interviews with skeptics including scientists and government investigators, and a closing suggestion by the narrator that something strange is going on. The possibility of a government cover-up is a continuing theme.

The producers of "The Unexplained" clearly do not want to antagonize the believers in UFOs, but at least the unbelievers are not ignored.



M. Scott Mahaskey/The Courier

Daryl Stangl describes the circumstances of a newly-discovered Iowa crop circle. Stangl, an elementary school teacher, leads a

local UFO interest group and hopes to increase awareness of UFO issues.

## S. Iowans believe we are not alone

By LYNN OKAMOTO  
Courier staff writer

OTTUMWA — They're teachers, nurses, farmers and students, and they've come together with a common cause: to talk about unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

About a dozen Wapello County residents, led by Pickwick Elementary School teacher Daryl Stangl, recently celebrated their first year of membership to a local UFO interest group.

dent, citing precise times, the names and ranks of the pilots, contents of radio conversations with the pilots while they were in the air, and many other aspects of the events that night.

Davenport said his staff has been unable to corroborate any of the claims.

A sighting reported to NUFORC from Dewey was from a man and his family who reported seeing the object hover for several minutes above them. He reported that based on his flying experience, the object was not

### UFO interest group to hold meeting

OTTUMWA — The next S. Iowa UFO interest group meeting will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 15, at 205 N. Oak St., Agency, or call 937-5785 for information.

terest group.  
The group doesn't have an official name yet, and most members won't

more than 1,000 feet above the ground.

The man emphasized that there was absolutely no sound emanating from the object; it was absolutely silent and moving at a very slow pace.

Davenport asked that anyone with more information call the hotline number, 1-206-722-3000. The Internet page is located at [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com).

CR: A. Magee

admit to having anything to do with it. But Stangl says members are not only interested in life beyond the planet Earth — many have experienced it.

"These people aren't crazy, they're just like you and I," he said. "They're doing their best to deal with it."

Aliens in Ottumwa? It may sound strange, but Stangl says there's a tremendous amount of activity taking place — everything from cattle mutilation and landing traces, to

real-life abductions — here in Iowa, especially near the Wapello County and Davis County border.

"These things are happening in our area, people just don't want to talk about it," he said.

Stangl remembers his own encounter with a UFO when he was a little boy growing up on a western Iowa farm.

"I remember it very distinctly," he said. "It was early in the morning, around three or four."

Stangl said he and his brother looked along the horizon where the sky met the field above their house. What they saw, he said, was a spaceship with different lights on it.

"I was scared to death," he said. "It left me with dreams for the rest of my life. I wake up with cold sweats."

Stangl found a way to deal with his experience by joining the national group MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, and by forming a local interest group. But many others refuse to share their experiences with the unknown, for fear of being labeled crazy and losing their jobs.

Now, Stangl wants to get the word out that if you've been abducted or have seen a UFO, you're not alone.

# Skywatch

## Diary

Compiled by Carole Baker



No sightings to report this week, but the skywatching weather was terrific and we also had the added pleasure of visiting with Chris Fowler, a researcher from Wales who has been spending his vacationing here in the Gulf Breeze/Pensacola area. It is interesting to be able to speak at length with a researcher from another continent. I am amazed at the information that is common knowledge here in the United States that is not known of in Great Britain and Europe and vice versa. It shows just how much more understanding we may have if only researchers would be in touch with each other more openly and allow a constant exchange of information.

Chris lives in a suburb of Cardiff, Wales and had attended college with the intention of being a zoologist until he decided to take up UFO research full time. Gulf Breeze had some influence in his decision, since he told me that what really got him interested was reading Ed Walter's book, "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" in 1991, after seeing some of the photos in Tim Goode's book. He then began networking with other people in his area who were involved in UFO investigation and his research into the subject became an all consuming passion. Chris belongs to the British branch of the group "Operation Right to Know" and has taken part in several demonstrations to spur the release of information outside the British House of Commons and the Ministry of Defense.

Not only a researcher, Chris has had three sightings personally. The first was on July 1st, 1994 in Wiltshire, England and lasted about ten or fifteen seconds. Chris described it as being "bubba-like", i.e. a red light which blinked on, pulsed and then blinked off again. His second sighting, which was shared by two others at the same location, a man in nearby Caerphilly, Wales and three boy scout leaders on a nearby mountain took place on May 11, 1996. The witnesses all reported seeing a ball of white light, which was very solid and bright with no "aura" as is associated with electrically generated lights. The sighting lasted approximately one minute and was followed shortly by some unusual helicopter activity in the same area. Chris called the local newspaper and they wrote up the sighting, which resulted in his being contacted by the other witnesses. Chris also experienced a daytime sighting July 8, of this year.

"Truth Seekers Review" is a bi-monthly magazine in Great Britain to which Chris is a regular contributor and he assures me that some of the material he has gathered during his visit will be appearing in that magazine shortly. He also contributes to "UFO Reality" magazine and has been asked to contribute to the Gulf Breeze section in an upcoming UFO book by John Spencer which will be published soon in the U.K.

Most of his time and energy is devoted to research, Chris admits. He travels a lot in search of the

truth and spends most summer weekends in Wiltshire, England investigating the crop circle patterns. He concludes that from his own experience and research that only a small percent of the crop circle patterns are "genuine." Many are actually hoaxes, but Chris states unequivocally that there is a genuine phenomena occurring in the wheat fields of England. UFOs are connected with these patterns, Chris feels, although they may not be directly responsible for their formation. There are many incidence of small balls of light viewed in crop which has a pattern form in it several days later. As far as Dr. Levengood's research is concerned, Chris feels that it is interesting but disagrees in a lot of cases with Dr. Levengood's determination as to whether some formations are genuine or not. He feels that other scientists need to get involved to qualify the results of this type of research.

I asked Chris about his family's reaction to his involvement in UFO research. He told me that his brother is also very active, and his parents, while open minded about the whole thing, are not really involved. Chris told me that since he has become involved in UFOlogy, his general outlook on life has changed and he thinks different things are important now, compared to before he became involved. Chris has experienced the same increase in synchronicities that most UFO researchers report, but has not had any personal experience with other areas in

the metaphysical field.

Recently, Chris has been most impressed with the quality of the evidence coming from places like Gulf Breeze and Mexico. He also feels that there has been a pattern unfolding since about 1990 with sightings being on the increase. He also feels that sightings are "more available" recently for being recorded on video. Although Chris feels that no mass landings are in our future, he does think that in our lifetime (Chris is in his twenties) we will see the human race acknowledge it's place in the Universe and openly deal with the intelligent life forms that are behind the UFO activity that we are experiencing now. There is no doubt in Chris' mind that the UFOs that people are witnessing are intelligently controlled and he completely rules out "earth lights" and other natural phenomena or military research as being responsible. "The evidence is just too strong," Chris states. He feels that the British Ministry of Defense, as well as the American government knows exactly what we are dealing with and are participants in a "drip feed" of information to the general public. He also feels that they are having a more difficult time keeping a lid on everything as public pressure and the frequency of events seen by multiple witnesses increases.

It seems that the media in the U.K. has much the same attitude as the media here in the U.S. Chris says it is hard to get UFO material printed in mainstream publications without the information being

changed or sensationalized. He also stated that "big name" areas in the U.S. such as Gulf Breeze are rarely touched on by the media the U.K. This holds true for reports from countries such as Mexico and Brazil also. The London Times and other newspapers such as the Daily Mail occasionally report sightings by pilots, and these are usually treated seriously.

Chris told me that he believes that abduction experiences are real, but that not all people reporting them are actually having them. He states that he has no personal involvement of this kind, that he is aware of.

Overall Chris' hope for the future of UFOlogy is that more information will be shared by researchers and made more widely available to the general public. Chris is obviously out to find the truth of the matter and is very meticulous in his search.

It was a pleasure skywatching with Chris and talking with him at great length. If anyone would be interested in hearing more about research in the United Kingdom and Europe, or would like to share information, please write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152 and I will make sure your letter is forwarded to Chris in the U.K.

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!

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Nov. 6, 1996

# Skywatch

## Diary

Compiled by Carole Baker

An exciting sighting to report this week. Actually, the sighting occurred last Friday, Oct. 18, at 9:33 p.m. The witness was alone, but we are hoping that someone else who saw this amazing craft will read this and phone the hotline.

The sighting was in Pensacola on Main Street near the junction of Barrancas Avenue, just north of Pensacola Bay. The witness was driving east along Main Street. She noticed that there were no other cars around, and questioned in her mind the safety of driving down such a dark street alone at night when she could easily have taken a different route. She was just passing the Owsley Lumber Yard when something caught her attention. Her first thought, trying to rationalize what she was seeing, was that someone had constructed a UFO for some kind of exhibit and had stored it in the lumber yard. "I thought someone had made a huge model and stuck it on a pole" the witness stated. However, to put her own mind to rest, she threw her car in reverse and backed up to the point where she had seen the craft "hanging" between the two buildings. "This was definitely a craft. It was silhouetted in the ambient light and the light from the moon. I definitely got the impression of a smooth metallic surface." The witness went on to describe the shape of the craft as being similar to that

of a sombrero type hat, but without the turned up brim. "I would estimate that it was between 15 and 20 feet across and about eight to ten feet high at the tallest point. The top was rounded and smooth." As the witness stared at the craft, the intensity of her amazement was heightened when suddenly lights came on around the "band" of the craft and it sped off toward the water (south) at tremendous speed. "The lights came on and it began to move in the same instant. It went extremely fast up and away toward the Bay. The lights were an odd orange-red color. It was gone very quickly." Apparently the lights appeared on the craft in the area of a hat, if one were using that for comparison, where the ribbon or band would be placed. "I just sat there with my mouth open," the witness told me. "It was just amazing!"

Investigators have returned to the scene in the days that followed and found that behind the buildings between which the craft had been seen, there is a large circular driveway and a field beyond that which goes down to the Bay. "It is very empty back there," one investigator told me.

Veteran researchers in the area recall other sightings in the same vicinity in 1991 and as far back as the early 1950s there is a report of a long red cigar-shaped object being observed and then "just dis-

appearing" in the same area, along Barrancas Avenue. Another report which was featured in the Ed & Frances Walters book "UFO Abductions in Gulf Breeze," Avon Books 1994 (pp. 279) speaks of an orange glowing object being seen moving down Barrancas Avenue in the summer of 1952.

Assuming that the craft continued on its path out over the Bay to the south, it may have been visible from Gulf Breeze or Ft. Pickens on Santa Rosa Island. If anyone did see anything anomalous in the sky around 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25, please call the hotline number below.

Many people heard the loud "boom" at around 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday evening, Oct. 29, and there has been a lot of media coverage, both on the television news and in the Pensacola News Journal. So far, it seems, there has been no explanation found. The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze area has a history of these inexplicable "skyquakes," and it seems they have been more frequent during the last 8 years. This time period coincides with high levels of UFO activity in our area, although there are many reports of UFOs and some of skyquakes that predate this period. We have at least one report on record of recent date where skyquakes preceded and followed a night of intense UFO activity. Could these inexplicable "booms" be related to UFO activi-

ty in our area?

As a footnote, we heard on Thursday that the Mississippi National Guard had come through and taken the blame for the "boom." Apparently without the knowledge of air traffic control at NAS Pensacola, Pensacola Regional Airport and Eglin AFB, the Mississippi National Guard was flying F15's along the Gulf Coast on Tuesday night on training exercises.

Also of note this week, on Wednesday night, Oct. 30, on our local ABC affiliate aired the "Gordon Elliott Show" which dealt with UFOs. It is worthy of note because they showed some excellent new UFO video footage and this was followed by some interesting discussions. If you have not had the opportunity to see this program, it is worth looking out for a rerun.

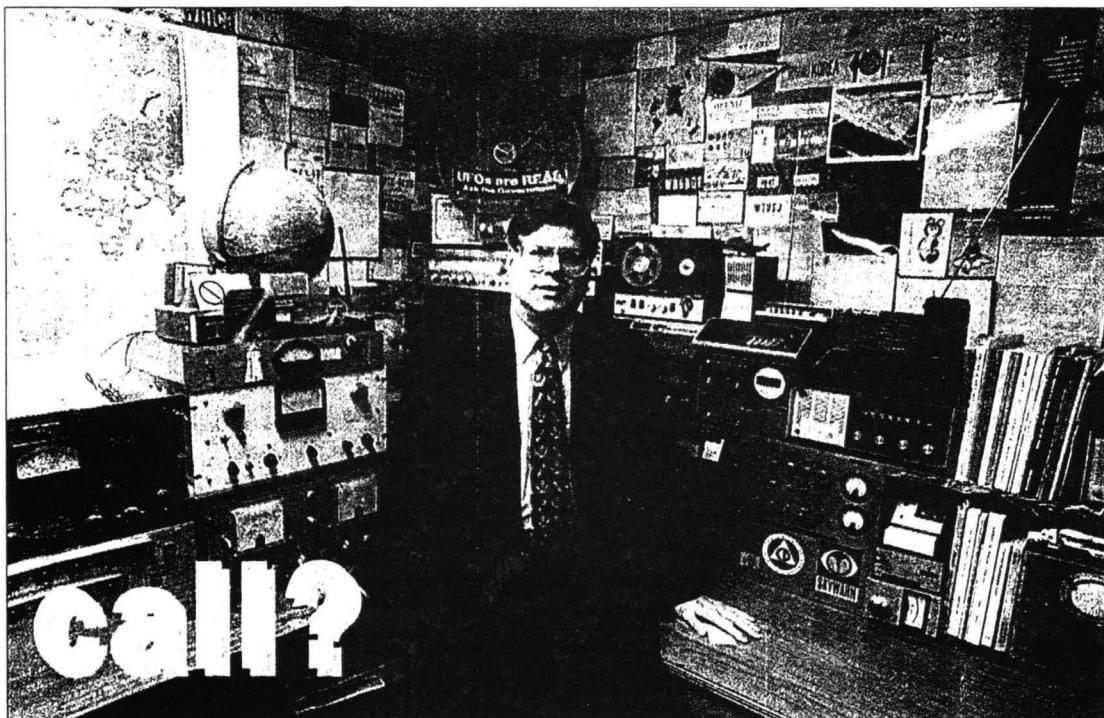
So, one way and another it has been an interesting week. We had one visitor on Monday night at Shoreline Park from Alabama, but apart from her visit, it has been "as usual."

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 438-3261and,

Keep Looking Up!



Stan Gordon operates a UFO hotline from his Westmoreland County home.



(Herald-Standard Photos by Dale Lockhart)

# Who you gonna call?

*When weird stuff happens — Bigfoot strolls through your front yard, for instance — UFO hotline operator Stan Gordon wants to know*

by Cindy

**B**right white lights flash through the sky at night. A strange object, 100 feet in diameter, makes loud humming sounds as it hovers just above the ground.

Tall, hairy, apelike creatures walk upright through a field and then vanish into thin air, leaving behind an unusual odor.

These are just some of the unbelievable tales of strange encounters with UFOs and Bigfoot that Stan Gordon has documented and investigated during more than 30 years of research.

The 47-year-old Greensburg man is the founder and director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), a statewide clearinghouse for these reports.

Gordon had previously founded the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group in 1970, which was expanded to the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in 1975.

Although PASU, an all-volunteer research unit, ceased operations in November 1993, Gordon remains active in the field as an independent researcher and investigator. He continues to operate a UFO hotline from his Westmoreland County home.

In the basement of Gordon's home, monitors hum, scanners crackle and lights from electronic equipment flash. A series of antennae pull from the sky the latest information from local, state and national radio sources. A shortwave radio enables Gordon to monitor happenings on an international scale.

During more than three decades of research, Gordon said he has investigated and documented as many as 14,000 cases from all over Pennsylvania, including UFO, Bigfoot, mountain lion and black panther sightings.

Gordon is now in the process of

entering the details of each of those cases into a computer file.

"I can only estimate at this point how many cases I've investigated because I'm trying to get them entered into a new computer file," he said.

Although he has investigated many cases, Gordon has never seen a UFO or Bigfoot.

"In a lot of cases, I've seen the

physical evidence at the scene," he said. "The labs analyze the materials that we find. I have some castings of fresh Bigfoot footprints that I made during an investigation. In many of the circumstances, we're on the scene within minutes."

His interest with strange encounters began in 1959 when Gordon was only 10 years old. His parents gave him a radio for his birthday,

which ironically is Halloween Eve.

"I was listening to the radio that night, and they were talking about ghosts, UFOs and other unexplained phenomena," he said. "I went to the library the next day, and I began to read books about the subject."

As the years went by and his interest continued, Gordon began to keep a scrapbook of unusual stories that were reported in local newspa-

pers.

"After I would read about something unusual happening, I would call people to talk to them about what they had seen," he said. "I guess that's how my research began."

On Dec. 9, 1965, Gordon said he remembers when something reportedly fell from the sky in Kecksburg, a small Westmoreland County community. Gordon was 16 years old at the time.

"News reporters were not allowed into the area," Gordon said. "Some people claim that the object was removed and taken away on a large flatbed truck that was escorted by the military. But the government will not confirm that anything was located."

Gordon continues today to investigate information concerning the controversial UFO crash/retrieval case near Kecksburg. He has been the primary investigator of the event for many years.

Since 1987, Gordon said, many people have come forward with information about the Kecksburg incident.

"There are people who arrived in the wooded area before the military," he said. "These people claim that they saw the object imbedded in the ground. I'm convinced that something was removed from the ground that night."

Gordon speculates that it was either a Soviet manmade space probe that would have had re-entry control capability and could return intact to the planet or an extraterrestrial space craft not from the Earth.

"There have been other alleged objects that have been recovered during the past 20 or 30 years," he said. "A lot of these reports are manmade space crafts. There are other reports that it could be something much stranger."

From the time of the Kecksburg incident in 1965, Gordon began



Stan Gordon's collection includes casts of purported Bigfoot prints taken at sighting locations in Westmoreland, Crawford and Mercer counties; a small cast of a mountain lion track; and a plastic container holding a hair sample from a reported Bigfoot sighting.

investigating thousands of UFO and other strange encounters reported across Pennsylvania.

"The Kecksburg incident was so interesting because it made big news at the time," he said. "It was national news, and all of a sudden the news reports stopped. The military said nothing was found, and it was a bright meteor in the sky."

"It really got me interested in the subject," he added. "Was there a reason why our government said these things didn't exist? I began to go out to sightings, interview people and keep records."

During the late 1960s, Gordon acted as a telephone report sighting coordinator for the UFO Research Institute of Pittsburgh. He has been internationally recognized as an authority on the subject of UFO and Big-

foot phenomena.

Gordon gained prominence from his first-hand investigation into the 1973 Bigfoot/UFO series of sightings and encounters which occurred in Pennsylvania. This outbreak brought worldwide attention to the subject and was a major news story in the media for several weeks.

Because of his expertise on the subject of UFO and Bigfoot sightings, Gordon has been featured in dozens of news stories about his investigations.

He has appeared on "Inside Edition" and "A Current Affair" and has been invited on other television talk shows as well. In 1989, Gordon was visited by a television crew from NIPPON TV of Tokyo, Japan, who interviewed various witnesses about UFO encounters in Pennsylvania.

Although he is now married and has a full-time job in the electronics field in Pittsburgh, Gordon still attempts to continue his research around his regular work schedule and his busy family life.

"I try to research the cases as best I can," he said. "I am in touch with other researchers around the state and the nation who are interested in the same unexplained events. We share our research with each other."

After three decades of research, Gordon still finds that most of the UFO incidents reported can be explained by natural or man-made occurrences.

"I have an interest in the unexplained," he said. "I want to be skeptical, but open minded. You try to find a logical explanation. But sometimes, you can't be sure."

"You quite often find out that it's lights on an aircraft, bright beams of lights from search lights or blimps that glow in the dark. You can figure out what people see," he added. "After that, what does this whole category represent? There may be more than one explanation. Some could be extraterrestrial visitors or unknown natural phenomena."

The public and other agencies may report unusual sightings on Gordon's UFO Hotline 24 hours a day at 838-7768 phone/fax. Those wishing to report past or present UFO sightings or other unusual experiences by mail can write to Gordon at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

## Fayette a hotbed of unexplained phenomena

On Oct. 25, 1973, 15 witnesses saw a bright white object hovering close to the ground in the West Leisenring area.

Three of the witnesses ran to nearby farmland where they reportedly saw a 100-foot diameter UFO, which was making a strange humming sound.

Moments later, the witnesses claim they saw two tall figures with long arms and hairy bodies walking upright along a nearby fence line.

The witnesses, who were armed with guns, said they noticed a very unusual smell. They quickly fired several shots over top of the creatures. They claim a round of live ammunition struck one of them.

As the creatures turned around and walked into the nearby woods, the witnesses claim that the bright white object simply disappeared.

This UFO/Bigfoot sighting is just one of more than 14,000 strange occurrences that Stan Gordon, an independent researcher from Greensburg, has investigated and documented during 30 years of research.

Shortly after the West Leisenring incident occurred, Gordon said a state police trooper arrived at the scene. The trooper reportedly saw a bright glowing area, and the animals wouldn't go into the area.

"Even a famous psychiatrist came to Fayette County and interviewed the witnesses," Gordon said. "The psychiatrist determined that the witnesses were telling the truth, and he published an article in a journal about the incident."

During three decades of research, Gordon said he has learned that Fayette County and the Chestnut Ridge mountain region are a "hotbed" of unexplained phenomena — ranging from UFO to Bigfoot sightings.

Gordon said the unexplained activity stretches from as far south as Preston County, W.Va., to as far north as Indiana County, Pa.

"Fayette County has historically been a hotbed of reports for unusual activity, but we don't know why," Gordon said. "There are certain geographic areas around the country like that."

"There are theories about why these things occur in certain areas," he said. "But in Fayette County, we haven't been able to come up with a good reason why it happens."

Gordon said the West Leisenring sighting and several other incidents reported in Fayette County during the mid-1970s are classic UFO/Bigfoot sightings that are quoted in UFO books today.

"Two of the Fayette County incidents have become famous because they were both UFO and creature sightings at the same time."

Those are very rare," Gordon said. "Most of the unexplained UFO sightings appear on their own."

Although UFO and Bigfoot sightings occurred in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, Gordon said many witnesses were reluctant to talk about it.

"You don't have the ridicule today because of the media and television coverage. I think that's why more people report the sightings," he said. "The last big outbreak of UFO sightings across the nation occurred in 1973 when there were also Bigfoot sightings in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland and Illinois."

From 1972 through the early 1990s, there were many reports of Bigfoot sightings every year.

"But there is still a lot of ridicule associated with Bigfoot," he said. "I interviewed two people

who had sightings years ago. They had no way of knowing each other, but their stories were amazingly very similar."

Gordon said the latest Bigfoot sighting in Fayette County occurred in February 1996 when a trail of large footprints were observed in the freshly falling snow near South Connellsville. The footprints were estimated at 15 inches in length, and with a large stride between each track.

"I've investigated many Bigfoot sightings in Fayette County in the past 30 years," he said. "Our earliest record of a Bigfoot sighting is 1931 in the Indian Head area. But the witness didn't come forward until the 1980s because he was afraid of the ridicule."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Feb. 5, 1997

## SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Well, we are still awaiting the first sighting of 1997 at Shoreline Park. We were able to skywatch a couple of nights this week between rainy nights and foggy ones. It is still bone chillingly damp and cold, which makes it seem a long evening when there is no activity to get the adrenaline pumping. So, we just have to keep going and keep waiting.

An interesting report came my way this week courtesy of a Field Investigator and dear friend from Foley, Alabama, Clopton Jones. The Mobile Press Register carried the story on January 25, 1997, but there were some other, most interesting details that the Press Register article did not address. Mr. Jones did a fine job of investigating the situation and I quote directly from his report:

"On Monday morning, January 20, 1997, at about 6:15 a.m., a Summerdale, Alabama farmer found one of his cows dead inside his pasture fence alongside a dirt road. This was just after daylight. He reported that steam was rising from all over the cow and there were no human or animal tracks anywhere close, and no other vehicle had been on the road that morning. Two coyote tracks were some distance away in the road. He reported that his other cattle were 'really spooked.' It was a real cold morning, the official weather report showed a low of 29 degrees that morning. If any trespasser had not come out on that road, he would have had to travel a half a mile across the pasture to another road. The owner and his relatives made a thorough search for tracks, blood and any other sign, but found nothing.

The cow was 17 years old. She was missing a piece of skin from her stomach about 12"x 18" in size near the back of her right front leg. There was a 5" circular opening cut in the flesh in the area of missing skin. Part of her lungs and intestines were pulled out of this opening before she was found, and one test was clearly cut off from the udder. The owner stated that the cut around the missing skin was even and serrated. The cow had been drained of virtually all blood. There was no evidence of any kind of struggle whatsoever, nor dragging. Her feet had not even kicked.

The police and the Farm Crimes Division of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry were notified immediately. The investigators who arrived at the scene at first said that the cow had been shot and her "guts blown out." A check of the cow's organs at autopsy revealed virtually no blood, but a small round perforation was found in her liver. The investigators decided that the cow had been shot and killed by a .22 caliber bullet. However, neither a bullet nor an exit wound

was found inside the cow.

Frequently in cattle mutilations, one eye is removed completely. This was not the case here. The owner stated that both of the cow's eyes were "sunk in a good inch" when he examined them and he had never seen that on a dead cow before. In the cattle mutilations that took place in the Bellingrath area of South Mobile County in January of 1995, each of the cattle (three cows and one bull) had one eye missing, the rectal area, reproductive organs and tongue were missing and the cows were bloodless, as was the bull, according to published press reports. With a steaming carcass, as in this current case, is it just possible that the "mutilation" was not completed before the owner showed up?

On Saturday afternoon, January 18, 1997, around 5 p.m. some 37 hours before this animal was found, a neighbor, known to this investigator, was approaching his residence down a dirt road, which is located some 500 feet past the mutilation site, and saw a large craft of some type, in the air just above a line of trees along a small creek. He determined that it was beyond the trees and watched the craft for 5-7 minutes. It was oval-shaped and it appeared to have a "bar" of something going straight up from the top of it. Lights were going up, and then down this bar. The distance to the craft from the witness' observation point would be approximately one-half mile. He went to his residence to get his roommate to come out and look at it, but when they came back out, it was gone, or completely below the tree line. This was on a totally clear afternoon. On being asked about the size of the craft, he compared it to the distance between a house in a nearby field in relation to a road, some 400-500 feet.

On Monday night, January 20 at around 10 p.m., an acquaintance of my son (my son is also a Field Investigator), called him to report an anomalous bright light in the sky. The witness lives approximately one and a half miles north of where the mutilation occurred, and the direction he gave would have put the "light" in the immediate vicinity of the mutilation. He reported that he also saw it at the same location on the previous night. These sightings would have bracketed the mutilation time."

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

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT - March 20, 1997

## Who Sees UFOs? Those Who Believe in UFOs

BY JOAN O'BRIEN

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Believing is seeing when it comes to UFOs, ghosts and other apparitions, a University of Utah professor argues.

Research by psychology Professor Shaun Vecera shows that expectations, belief and previous experience can influence visual perception. That is, the person who already believes in ghosts and aliens is the one who sees them.

The same thing can happen to a large group as well, as long as they share a belief in phenomena such as UFOs. Last weekend, for example, at least 200 people in southern Utah and northern Arizona reported strange lights that many attributed to UFOs.

One Salt Lake City television news station showed home video of the triangular and zigzag-shaped lights. But the news report did not offer any scientific explanation of the mysterious lights' origin.

"You find that people who believe in this type of thing are more willing to label it as a visitor from some other world," Vecera says.

Expectations and beliefs play a role in more down-to-earth visual processing, as well.

"If I show you something that you're extremely familiar with, like an upright letter, you process it quickly and accurately," he says. But show someone a letter or number out of context, and they will process the information incorrectly.

Such research in cognitive psychology can explain false memories, he says, adding "it is easy to implant a false memory in someone, particularly in someone who is open to suggestion."

That is the premise of the False Memory Syndrome Foundation, a Utah advocacy group for people accused after alleged victims recover memories of childhood sexual abuse or other trauma.

While Vecera argues that some psychotherapists can actually induce false memories in patients, he does not discount the suffering of abuse victims.

"It's an extremely sensitive issue and I would want to note that this in no way is trying to belittle people who have been abused. It's not anti-victim. The issue centers on memory itself."

Vecera is not so understanding of those who believe they have seen aliens, ghosts and space ships. And he is bothered by the media outlets that lend credibility to their sightings.

"It contributes to the dumbing down of society in general," he said of movies, news reports and other media that perpetuate beliefs in the paranormal. "It's not as severe as someone being falsely accused of child abuse, but I see both as negatives."

Mildred Bieseke, director of Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network's state chapter, chafes at such talk.

"People who believe that way are usually people who haven't done any investigation with an open mind," she said.

In other words, Bieseke makes the converse of Vecera's argument: Those who don't believe in UFOs cannot see them.

Bieseke believes in UFOs — and has not seen one. She remains hopeful, however.

"I'd like to see one, though I wouldn't like to be picked up," she said.

Bieseke and others who believe in UFOs are not scientifically illiterate, U. history Professor Robert Goldberg says. In fact, he points to data showing that believers are better educated than average Americans.

Goldberg is writing a book about conspiracy theories, including one related to a 1940s incident in Roswell, N.M. A number of Americans believe that a spaceship crashed there and the government recovered — and then kept secret — some alien bodies.

Like Vecera, Goldberg does not believe in UFOs, but he takes seriously those who do.

"The word 'skeptical' means that you're still not sure. That's where I put myself."



# Film shows a UFO hit

TIM O'BRIEN

Entertainment Editor

CE1 = Close Encounter of the First Kind - Sighting of a UFO  
CE2 = Close Encounter of the Second Kind - Physical Evidence  
CE3 = Close Encounter of the Third Kind - Contact

DIXON — What do "The X-Files," "PSI Factor," and "Sightings" have in common? Well, a few things.

First, they are TV shows that deal with the paranormal, including UFO's.

Second, they have all contacted an organization in Dixon about story lines.

Third, none of the executives of these shows has seen what this organization has in their possession.

You heard right, and now the Rev. William Heft wants to get the word out -- again.

Heft is executive director of Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), which is located in Dixon. APRO was founded in 1952 by Carol Lorenzen in Illinois, and later moved to Tucson, Ariz., where it remained until the early 1980s. Both Carol and her husband Jim passed away during the early 1980s. Leadership of the organization was then passed on to Heft and his wife, Lucinda. In 1987, they brought APRO back to Illinois and established it as a not-for-profit organization.

IT REALLY ISN'T a surprise APRO has decided to get back in the spotlight. Heft notes, with all the attention on the subject, it is time to let people know they are here and they investigate cases. However, one item in particular, has Heft hoping everyone will want to see. Yes, maybe even the producers of "The X-Files" may want to get a hold of this file.

Heft has recently been sent a copy of UFO evidence that "will blow you away".

"The film I have received has not been seen by anyone except for APRO and a sister organization in Canada," Heft said. Those interested in the subject of UFO's and the like, will get a chance to see this film for themselves on Thursday, March 13, at the Loveland Community Building, Dixon. The film will be shown at 7 p.m. Heft also said APRO will try to show a film once a month, beginning with the March 13

## CURRENT CASE STUDIES

□ **Lee County:** Mysterious tracks were first found on a few farms in 1993. These have been described as a visitation because of the nature of the tracks. In March 1994, the tracks reappeared, but only on one farm. Intense investigation is still in the works and soil samples have been taken. Bicycle tracks, remote control items, such as cars, etc., have been ruled out. It has been estimated that the six mile track was made by an object that weighed 35-pounds, and is no taller than 18 inches. One expert describes the event as coming from above.

□ **Byron area, starting in Lee County:** Two officers reported seeing a UFO following a train, which was heading toward Byron. As the train passed an intersection, a strange lighted object followed. Other reports from Byron have been occurring more frequently in the past few years.

## OTHER INCIDENTS, BUT NOT REPORTED TO APRO ... YET

□ **Since this section first ran a series of encounters with UFO's, it seems as if the skies are still alive over the Sauk Valley area.**

□ **More UFO sightings have been reported since news broke of a 1980 encounter outside of Rock Falls by an eyewitness.**

**This new one occurred near the Dixon airport in 1991. Two women were driving on Route 38 towards Rochelle. Their car had just driven past the runway, near a gravel road off to the right, and it happened. A woman said the brightly-lit object hovered near a farm off in the distance.**

**So far the incident in 1980 and 1991 are similar in a couple of ways. No matter what the shape of the object is, they generally do not make a sound. As was the case of this hovering craft.**

**Some may say the sighting on July 3, 1991 was part of electrical storm that was in the night skies that evening. But, was it?**

event.

Heft acknowledges that some people are skeptical about this type of subject, but after seeing this film, he said viewers will say, "There has got to be something here." However, Heft and APRO take no stance themselves, they simply gather the facts and dispense the information. "We do not take any position on the enigma of ufology," he said.

Without going into too much detail about the film, he offered a teaser. "All I will say, is that there is an international aircraft that is about to land when the radio tower tells the pilot to watch out, because there are two UFO's nearby," Heft said. "Well, they hit, and we have it on film and we see the damage," Heft said.

And, he said, this area has a great deal of UFO activity. Currently, there are two cases

under investigation. One is in Lee County and the other took place near Byron. Heft also notes that UFO reports do not fade away, because one that happened 20 years ago may happen again. Thus, the research is an on-going process.

**HEFT NOTES THAT APRO's** existence is to help resolve some of the many questions posed by the continued existence of UFO reports. "It (APRO) has led the UFO research effort, pioneering those concepts which are now the mainstays of the field," Heft said. "It sought interest and support from the academic community and established the ever-growing panel of scientific consultants," he continued.

APRO initiated the concept of UFO symposia as a means of providing these consultants an opportunity to exchange and pub-

## APRO

Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO).

APRO was founded in 1952 by Carol Lorenzen in Illinois, and later moved to Tucson, Ariz., where it remained until the early 1980s. In 1987, APRO was brought back to Illinois and was established as a not-for-profit organization. Executive Director is the Rev. William Heft of Dixon.

lish their ideas.

The idea of recruiting a special contingent of field investigators to conduct on-site research was also initiated by APRO. APRO is continuing to seek those individuals who would like to join the ranks to fill the position as field investigator. There is no cost to join and no experience is needed.

**ANOTHER REASON FOR** the existence of APRO is the information gathered. "Because it comes from individuals of such diverse backgrounds and is collected under such a variety of circumstances, much of which sometimes cannot be verified, we must put forth a disclaimer that we do not take a stance by using any personal or published theory," Heft said.

Heft continued, "Many ufologists are convinced that UFO's are evidence of surveillance of our planet by extraterrestrials. Some ufologists claim that all UFO sighting reports can be simply explained away. Belief and unbelief run rampant on this subject and there is in the end no agreement among anyone as to what is fact and what is not."

Ever since man has looked upward and wondered if we are indeed alone in the vast universe, the questions about alien beings has been with us. That is why APRO is adamant that they take no position in regards to the cases it is offered, other than to record all possible facts, and then present the facts to the public, allowing them to make their own conclusions.

APRO also tries:

1. to be a place where people can report UFO experiences without fear or ridicule.
2. to pursue a vigorous comparative study of all reports.
3. to be a good source of information to individual researchers and the general public.

## SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Well, another week of rain and fog. The only clear night we had was Saturday the 22nd, which was great, because the full moon rose around six-thirty and was very large in the sky as it rose, a deep tan color and then very bright as it reached its zenith. The cold wind made skywatching rather uncomfortable, though, and no report of any sightings from Shoreline Park has come in. However, one of our skywatchers did note something anomalous on his way to Shoreline Park from Holley-by-the Sea. Harold Bosch, who moved to this area a few years ago from New Jersey, was driving down a dark, straight road in Holley-by-the Sea, Manatee Street, when he noticed a large white light ahead of him in the sky. "I thought it was a plane at first," Harold told me, "but it seemed too large and low, then it turned a deep yellow color. That's

when I realized it was not a plane. Then it brightened and became very bright and larger and then just "blinked out." I continued to observe that sector of the sky and it never did come back on - it was a very clear night, and there were no other lights visible. It was about the size of the eraser on the end of a pencil at arm's length or maybe a little larger." Harold called his observation in to the hotline and feels that what he saw was just another one of the unusual anomalous lights that are so often reported in this area. "It must have been just above the shoreline of the Bay, south of me" Harold stated.

We are all looking forward to some better skywatching weather and also the opportunity to view the comet Hale-Bopp as it approaches. Hopefully, the weather will have improved to allow some good skywatching to be

done by those visiting the 5th Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference that is just around the corner.

The subject of Hale-Bopp may be one of the subjects brought up in question and answer sessions at the Conference, since it is a topic of great interest at this time. One of the speakers has recently had some controversial involvement in the Hale-Bopp issue, Courtney Brown, PhD. His lecture at the Conference entitled "A Time of Choices" will discuss the ongoing research conducted through remote viewing by Dr. Brown's Farsight Institute. There is apparently much new information about the civilization that once thrived on the planet Mars, and Dr. Brown will elaborate on how the process of Scientific Remote Viewing is used to investigate extraterrestrial life and the UFO phenomenon. Dr. Brown will also

preview his new book "Cosmic Voyage: A Scientific Discovery of Extraterrestrials Visiting Earth."

Also speaking on the Friday evening at the Conference will be Whitley Strieber. A great favorite of Project Awareness Conference attendees, many of us will be anxious to hear Whitley's latest views and experiences. He will be reviewing the last five years of the UFO phenomenon in a lecture entitled "The UFO Knowledge Explosion: Five Years of Miracles." The lecture will detail late breaking information concerning implants, crop circles and strange events worldwide. Whitley will also discuss the implant study that he has been personally involved with, as well as showing some incredible new UFO footage and an image of an alien that has been shown to be probably authentic! Should be a very interesting evening, and I am sure Whitley will also be talking about his latest book, "The Secret School."

I feel sure that these two speakers will participate in the Researcher and Speaker Panel that is scheduled for Saturday evening

at the Conference. Entitled "Ufology - Where Are We Now and What Have We Learned," this should be a highlight of the weekend's events. These panels are always stimulating to watch and listen to and other controversial and heated discussions ensue. Rarely is one able to witness an assemblage of this caliber discussing the subject of Ufology from their respective viewpoints. It is an event not to miss!

For information on booking hotel accommodations or lecture information for the 5th Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference call Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888. The Conference dates are March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. See you there!

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 438-3261 Keep looking Up!



These are just three of 144,000 circular configuration symbols Riley Martin says were downloaded into his neurological syntaxes after a visit to an alien space ship.



About 500 of Martin's drawings will be on exhibit at the conference on Saturday, at the Best Western Inn in Solebury, where he will deliver a seminar on his experiences with his alien friends.



The alien life's symbols are drawn in ink – not pencil “because I don't have time for mistakes,” Martin says.

# alien art invades area this weekend

By Steve Wartenberg  
Staff Writer

In 1953, when he was just 7 years old and living in rural Arkansas, Riley Martin claims he was “abducted and taken aboard a UFO.” After seeing strange lights for three straight nights outside his bedroom window, he and his faithful dog, Brown Boy, finally had to investigate.

“I went down to a clearing by the river and we saw the ship,” Martin said in a recent phone interview. “It was moored to the ground by three flexible legs and it was dancing like a cork over the water. It must have been 30 feet across from rim to rim and 18 feet deep.

“It had brilliant lights and I could feel the electrostatic from it in my hair and on my skin.

“From the bottom of the ship a chute came out and two beings came out, directly toward me. I was naturally afraid at first, but they took me by the arm and assured me they wouldn't harm me. They took me aboard the ship – I was incapacitated – but was fully cognizant of what was going on around me.

“I heard them talking and even though I couldn't speak verbally, I talked back with thought and they turned and looked at me, somewhat surprised, and they began to talk to me and it all began – this incredible odyssey that has been with me all my life.”

On Saturday, at the Best Western Inn in Solebury, Martin will deliver a seminar on his experiences with his alien friends – Tan and Nela, from the planet of Biaviian – and also exhibit his art, which is inspired by his alien friends.

He also is the author of “The Coming of Tan,” which chronicles the events of his four different trips to the mother ship. Actually, he's only the co-author.

Tan, whose full name is O-Qua Tangin Wann, is his collaborator.

Sure, many will doubt the authenticity of Martin's story or the wisdom of publicizing him and his beliefs in a newspaper article.

It's a difficult story to believe and he doesn't have any real proof to support his

case – just his stories and drawings. He's a convincing speaker, but, hey, he claims he's been with aliens.

Then again, there are many people out there who believe in aliens.

And a lot more who want to believe.

“The X-Files” is one of television's hottest shows and “Star Wars,” after all, is about a bunch of aliens.

“I believe that most people, being of logical mind, have come to the conclusion that the universal creator did not put us alone in this universe,” Martin said.

Why Martin?

It's a question he's been asked many times and he still doesn't have an answer.

“I certainly am not a



On Saturday, at the Best Western Inn in New Hope, Riley Martin will deliver a seminar on his experiences with his alien friends from the planet of Biaviian and also exhibit his art, which is inspired by his alien friends.

Riley Martin will deliver a seminar on Saturday at the Best Western Inn, 6426 Lower York Road (Route 202), Solebury. It begins at 8 a.m. and costs \$22.50 per person. (There's no mention of how much aliens have to pay.) The art exhibit, which is free to the public, begins at approximately 6 p.m. Information: (609) 397-8446.

paragon of virtue,” he said. “I'm not an educated man, I only went to eighth grade, and nothing I can see about me would give me any special dispensation.”

Martin has led a tough life.

He said he's spent more than a few nights behind bars. He claims he's been, among other things, a common laborer, a bare-knuckle fighter, a whiskey maker and a soldier of fortune.

He recently moved to Allentown and soon might be moving to New Hope.

He's appeared on numerous radio programs, including Howard Stern's, and a few television shows, including the one hosted by Jerry Springer.

He also claims he has an ability to “look into people's spirits and maybe to heal pain” and make a woman younger just by making love to her.

Former “Dynasty” star Joan Collins has been trying to get in touch with him for months, according to Martin.

After the first visit, Tan returned in 1964, in 1975 and again in 1987, each time bringing Martin to the mother ship to teach him the ways of the universe.

Until after the final visit, Martin had no memories of his time with Tan. Then, after several sessions with a hypnotherapist, the memories came pouring out.

He wrote his book and then began drawing at a furious pace.

“Back in 1975,” Martin said, “when I was aboard the great mother ship, they fitted me with a kind of virtual-reality headset and through a strobe light effect, they downloaded 144,000 of these circular configuration symbols into my neurological syntaxes.”

“After I finished the book, the symbols began to download. I draw them in ink – not pencil – because I don't have time for mistakes.”

Curtis Cooperman, who runs Historicity Productions, a company that published Martin's book and is running the seminar, first met Martin at a UFO conference in Philadelphia in 1994.

“A friend of mine, a military pilot, told me about him,” said Cooperman, who believes in aliens – and Martin. “He said he's heard a lot of lectures and Riley's was the best.”

Working out of a small office in his home, Cooperman's mission is to promote Martin and his book and make the non-believers believe.

And make money for Martin and himself.

About 500 of Martin's drawings will be on exhibit at the conference. They also will be for sale at \$35 each. Buttons also will be on sale for \$3.

Martin said he and Tan agreed to put off his next visit to the mother ship – scheduled for 1997 – until May 5, 2000.

“That is the time, astrologically,” Martin said, “when all the planets will be aligned in a straight line.”



# ABDUCTED BY UFOs

We live in strange times.

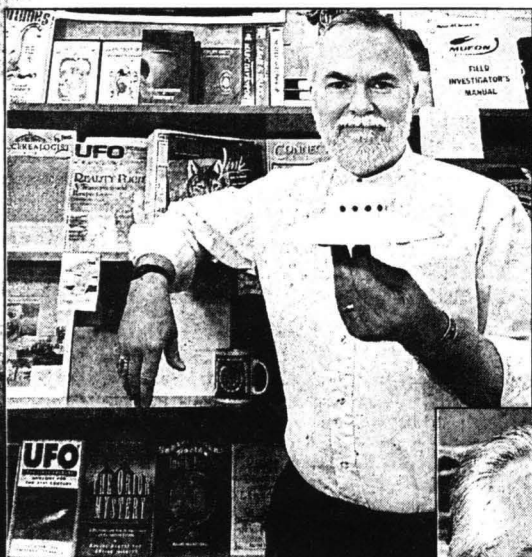
Three generations of Americans have been entertained and terrified by such big-screen stories as "War of the Worlds," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Independence Day." On the small screen, "X-Files" and "Dark Skies" intrigue the next generation.

Our fascination with space creatures manifests itself everywhere in this, the 50th

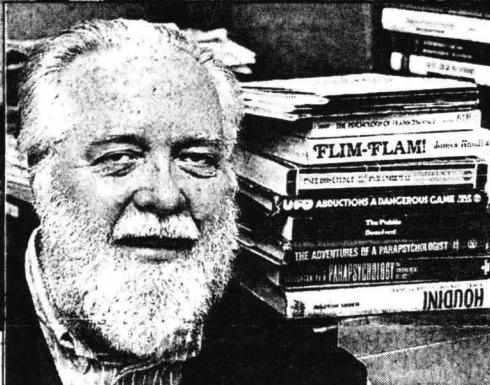
anniversary of the much-disputed Roswell Incident in New Mexico, which marked the beginning of the modern-day UFO story.

Seemingly ubiquitous stories strike a chord with a society both titillated by tabloid accounts of dark-eyed, large-headed beings and immersed in a wealth of alien-inspired literature and allegations of government cover-up.

What's going on?



GAIL FOLDA/Lincoln Journal Star  
▲ For more than 10 years, Scott Colborn has hosted "Explaining Unexplained Phenomena" on KZUM. His longtime interest in UFOs began with a 1974 sighting.



GAIL FOLDA/Lincoln Journal Star

► Don Jensen, who teaches a class on paranormal psychology, says the current wave of alien encounters and UFO sightings can be explained by rational means.

## A short history of sightings in Nebraska

June 1947: U.S. Forest Service employee Kenneth Arnold reported nine shiny, crescent-shaped objects flying in formation near Mount Rainier, Wash.

July 1947: Air Force officials announced that they had discovered debris from a crashed flying disc near Roswell, N.M. The next day, they said they were mistaken — the debris was from a downed weather balloon.

Thus began the national debate over UFOs.

In Nebraska, the earliest reports of odd objects in the sky occurred in 1897 — long before air flight and weather balloons. Sightings were reported across the state, including an umbrella-shaped object seen over Beatrice.

Newspaper reports over the next decades show that lights in the sky and odd objects had been spotted from Arthur to Alliance.

Leo Sprinkle scoffed when he first heard the reports of alien craft downed in the New Mexico desert in 1947.

Then, in 1949, he had a sighting of his own.

The retired University of Wyoming psychology professor has studied UFO phenomena for almost 50 years now and was involved in Nebraska's most highly published UFO case.

December 1963: Ashland police officer Herb Schirmer makes this entry in the nightly police log: "2:30 a.m. Saw a UFO at highway 6 and 63 south sitting on highway. Believe it or not."

"I tried to radio in ... I had one hand on the mike and the other on my gun ... but the beam of light that came from the under side of the object kept me from doing anything."

Schirmer spent two days at the UFO Study Center in Boulder, where, under hypnosis, he remembered more about the event, including that the beings on the ship came from a neighboring galaxy.

Sprinkle was the doctor who performed the hypnosis. He has returned to the state several times to visit and counsel people who have experienced similar situations.

He believed Schirmer's story — but most did not.

"The lights that Herbie thought he saw were a reflection from some low cloud or fog reflecting off his headlights," remembered Arthur Riedesel, editor of the Ashland Gazette at the time.

"I don't think there's anything to it, and no one else did, either. His story never really cut the mustard," Riedesel said.

According to those who knew him, Schirmer was a level-headed young man, not prone to flights of fancy.

He returned to town the object of ridicule and derision. His marriage broke up, and he eventually left the state.

## ARE THEY REAL?

It depends on whom you ask

BY CINDY LANGE-KUBICK  
Lincoln Journal Star

**A**re UFOs truly unexplained otherworldly phenomena, or are they mundane events, bright stars and mind tricks? Sensible people disagree.

According to a recent Gallup Poll, 45 percent of Americans believe UFOs are real and 12 percent say they have seen something they thought was a UFO.

One senses that Don Jensen, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln psychology

professor and a confirmed paranormal skeptic, wouldn't take much stock in such a poll.

Believing, after all, doesn't make it so.

Even "seeing" a flying saucer doesn't make it reality, Jensen said.

To illustrate his point, Jensen held up a bright object in his

office. Stare at the light, now stare at the wall, he said. Something appears where nothing exists.

A negative afterimage, said Jensen, is one explanation when a person sees a bright, disk-shaped object in the sky. The flashing lights of an airplane is another, a

particularly bright Venus yet another.

Abnormal brain activity, memory construction, hypnotic suggestion are yet more explanations.

But spacecraft from another planet? Alien beings contacting people as they drive their cars or sit in their homes?

Not likely, Jensen said. "Scientists would be delighted to find a UFO and an alien being with which to interact and with which we could learn. It's not that we are against this possibility; we're against the acceptance of unsupported personal experience as valid evidence

### Additional reading

For more about UFOs and alien abduction, check out the following books:  
"Above Top Secret," Timothy Good  
"Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth," Curtis Peebles  
"The UFO Coverup," Larry Fawcett  
"Abductions: A Dangerous Game" and "UFOs, The Public Deceived," Philip Klass  
"Intruders," Budd Hopkins  
"Demon Haunted World," Carl Sagan

(continued on page 10)

of these possibilities.

"The most important thing is that modern science depends upon clearly stated ideas which are testable," he said. "The biggest difference between believers and skeptics is the assumption of accuracy in verbal reports and the absence of multiple working hypotheses that characterize modern science."

Jensen, who teaches a course in Science and Parapsychology, a summer reading course called "Parapsychology: A Skeptical Perspective" and staffs a Paranormal Claims Hot Line (472-9493), applies the analytical eye of a trained scientific observer to the burgeoning paranormal phenomena.

A quote by the late astronomer Carl Sagan — "extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof" — applies to out-of-this-world assertions,

Jensen said.

"The absence of hard evidence for these things is, to me, conclusive."

Jensen said that there is no material evidence of UFOs that cannot be explained and that all claims have been debunked, "neatly and directly."

Scott Colborn, owner of The Way Home bookstore in Lincoln, doesn't have all the answers, or enough evidence to satisfy Jensen (although UFOlogists say that plenty of evidence including radar reports, videotapes and more is out there.)

But the sky — and what might come from it — has held a fascination for the soft-spoken, right-brained man ever since he saw a UFO while sitting on the patio of his father's home some 20 years ago.

He had a second sighting in the

early 1980s.

"Both of those convinced me that there's a phenomena present that is able to manifest physically in our atmosphere and that it is a mystery worthy of study."

It's a fascination that has led him to extensive study of UFOs and resulted in the nation's longest-running paranormal radio show, "Explaining Unexplained Phenomena," which airs at 10 a.m. Saturdays on KZUM.

Over the years, people have come to Colborn with their stories, with news of local sightings. He started a local support group because he saw a need.

"My goal is to be as open as possible in my interest in this to allow other people to be OK about thinking about it ... with sharing their own encounters."

He's not a man on a mission, but he does feel strongly that the U.S.

government has covered up what it knows, has perpetuated "the big lie" on its people.

Through the years, Colborn has read just about everything out there on the subject — and he wants to spread the word.

His goal, he said, is not to convince people who've made up their minds that UFOs are bogus, or to spoon-feed the "glazed-over believers with 4-foot crystals on top of their heads," but to inform people who are open-minded enough to listen.

"The whole argument is not about whether all reports are true and correct, but rather that one report is true and correct," Colborn said.

"More and more people are coming around to the realization that we are not alone — we are being visited. They may come from other planets,

other dimensions; they may come from forward or backward in time."

Leaders of the 5,000 member Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas, estimate that well over 90 percent of all reported UFOs are in fact IFOs — identifiable flying objects such as airplane landing lights, meteors, ball lightning and weather balloons.

Four thousand pages of government documents deal with UFOs, Colborn said, adding that researcher Dr. Richard Hans has taken more than 3,000 reports from airline pilots alone.

Serious books have been written. Thousands of people have shared similar stories.

Probably not every report is true. In the meantime, keep your eye on the sky.

## Believers gather to share their stories

When Linda Hannaford looked up into the clear sky at dusk, she thought the pinpoint of light she saw was the evening's first star ... *Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight ...*

Six seconds passed — maybe 10 — and that dot of light ... *I wish I may, I wish I might ...* fell from the heavens until it hovered over her head, until it became a silver, egg-shaped craft close enough to touch. Close enough to send Hannaford's brother running, terrified, to the farmhouse; close enough to send Hannaford scrambling through the field behind him.

As she ran ... *have the wish I wish tonight ...* she knew that something, someone was on that odd aircraft.

"I knew that they knew what I was thinking — I just knew they knew."

Hannaford was 14 that summer night in 1961 just outside of Yutan. Today she is a mother and wife who drives to Lincoln every month from her home in Omaha to gather with a circle of people bound by one thing: Their encounters with the unknown.

For nearly 10 years, they have come together — Hannaford, Vicki Stadler, John and Annie

Foster, Mary and Fred, and others. Scott Colborn, owner of The Way Home bookstore where the group meets, joins the others around a table covered with snacks and soft drinks.

They live in a terrifying and exhilarating universe, group members say.

"You have a foot in two worlds, and you don't belong in either one, so you're all alone," said Foster, a retired engineer with intense blue eyes and a story that he's chronicled in dozens of black and white drawings and a yet-unpublished book.

Foster has spent the past decade recalling a lifetime of lost memories — memories that he says detail hundreds of encounters with alien beings.

This is a place where Foster and the others can escape their feelings of not belonging, of being crazy, of not being understood.

Here they can talk about little gray beings and strange objects in the sky. About



GERIK PARMELE/Lincoln Journal Star

▲ John Foster has illustrated his memories of what he says were encounters with alien beings. He and Vicki Stadler belong to a support group for people who have had unexplained paranormal experiences.

waking up freezing cold in a warm bed and bruises that seem to just appear on their bodies.

Here, people listen, understand and — more important — believe.

Even if their stories defy belief.

Believers — UFOers, contactees, abductees — say they have proof, proof that's good enough for them.

Vicki Stadler doesn't care if people believe her story or not.

The 45-year-old college student traces her first unusual encounter to childhood, following a bald-headed "old man" into the garage behind her house, seeing a blindingly bright light, waking up huddled in a coat closet hours later.

In 1964, she saw a cigar-shaped craft outside her Lincoln home. Her father called the U.S. Air Force to file a report in what was then called Project Bluebook. As an adult, Stadler had more odd, unexplainable experiences — vivid dreams, lost time after which she found intricate symbols carved in her skin, odd bruises.

"I think I'm having encounters with different beings, be they extra-terrestrial, interdimensional or whatever, I don't know. They're certainly not from around here, though," Stadler said.

"It's frightening — it's very frightening. There's a lot of anger involved, because things seem to happen to you that you don't have any control over."

"The strongest common thread here is the range of emotions people go through, emotions so strong you need some kind of support. Obviously we're here because we need that."

Annie Foster comes to the meetings with John, her husband of 38 years, because when he started remembering a lifetime of UFO encounters, he just about went crazy. The couple even separated for 18 months.

"After almost 30 years of marriage, he told me he recalled one incident. ... I said, 'Oh yeah?' It just really seemed implausible to me. I had never believed in UFOs," Annie said.

"I could just see John pulling further and further away, and you can't ask a psychologist what to do if your husband's been abducted."

But she knew this man. She knew that they were both normal, average, middle-class people.

"I just knew John too well to think he was nuts."

Colborn too knows the people who gather in the back of his store. He doesn't doubt their stories. They have tried to make sense of their experiences, to prove them rationally. He has referred them to mental health professionals who have concurred that these people are not unbalanced.

Eventually they come to the realization that something unexplainable has occurred, Colborn said.

"The group allows people to blow off steam in an atmosphere of support and caring without ridicule."

Everyone has a chance to talk about what's happening in their lives. Fred talks about a strange dream he had recently. Mary says she's trying to get on with her life, stop focusing on the "little gray guys." John talks about his feelings of alienation from his church.

The evening wears on, and Colborn runs out for a bag of popcorn and more soda. People tell more stories — about being whisked through walls and taken from beds into bright, sterile examining rooms. They describe situations and people and places.

These are not wake-up-in-the-middle-of-the-night terrors. They are wide-awake encounters — just like seeing the people in this room, Mary says.

The others agree, although in

some cases — like John's — memories come back in a burst of spontaneous recollection or are coaxed to the surface through hypnosis.

"I just don't see things that aren't there," Hannaford said.

Abduction stories are interesting and intriguing, said David Clevette, Doane College chemistry professor and "open-minded skeptic." Clevette taught a class called Science and Pseudo-Science on the Crete campus last semester.

He said that such stories can be traced to biblical times.

"But are they alien beings from another world?"

Maybe; maybe not.

"I truly think there is something there that is unexplained at this particular point in time. I personally believe that it is something that is going to be explained by science someday."

"It could very well turn out to be visitors from outer space. It also could very well be earthquakes causing lights in the sky."

Strange encounters with gods or angels, fairies and changelings, ghosts and demons have been a part of recorded history. The fairies of a long-ago age have given way to the slant-eyed aliens of the millennium.

"It's probably the same phenomena, but today's culture is more space-oriented," Clevette said.

What is the phenomena?

"Who knows? Something deep within our own psyches? Some sort of common hallucination?"

Probably 95 percent of these odd happenings can be explained, Clevette said, either through known phenomena or hoaxes.

There does remain a small percentage of these stories that are very intriguing, that are unexplained at this time."

DAILY COURIER, Prescott, AZ  
March 16, 1997 CR: A. Magee

## More area residents saying they saw UFO

By LAURA HINCHEY  
The Daily Courier

More locals have called in since Friday's story on UFO sightings.

A resident on Williamson Valley Road said the object was "directly over the house" on Thursday night.

Peter B. Davenport, director for the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said his organization has been swamped with calls since the original call on Thursday night around 7:30 p.m., by a retired police officer living in Paulden.

"We have had people calling in saying they saw the object anywhere from two to 10 minutes," he said.

Davenport said the center had a similar call from the Camp Verde area earlier last week.

He said that on Friday, at 4:15 a.m., a call came in that gave an extensive account about a military

interception of the craft.

Local resident Kim Keller said that she, too, saw the object in the sky Thursday night around 8:15. "I think it's military, like a stealth bomber," she said.

Keller said she called the airport to report the sighting and was told that two pilots had radioed in asking if there was a military assignment going on in the area.

One person speculated it may have been National Guard helicopters out of Marana, near Tucson.

Kirk Olson, a member of flight operations with the National Guard, said that although four aircraft flew Thursday between 4 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., none was in the Yavapai County area.

"They all were flying 30 miles north of Tucson and that vicinity," he said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR - April 2, 1997

## Pentagon halted UFO inquiries in 1969

WASHINGTON — Convinced there is no extraterrestrial threat, the U.S. military long ago stopped keeping track of UFOs, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday.

The suicide last week of 39 members of Heaven's Gate, a high-tech UFO cult, prompted a question at Tuesday's Pentagon briefing on whether the military follows UFOs.

Bacon said the Air Force investigated UFO reports from 1947 to 1969 but out of 12,618 reported sightings found no evidence of extraterrestrials or even of any aircraft representing exotic technology or a threat to the United States.

The Air Force stopped the practice because virtually all the UFOs it investigated were explainable as aircraft or weather phenomena and posed no threat.

Asked about the possible existence of UFOs, Bacon said the U.S. government "cannot substantiate that they exist." (AP)



## OSA discovers training agreement between military & forest service

Document may remove mystery from SLV "sightings"

by Pat Richmond

Open Space Alliance has discovered existence of an Inter-Agency Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the National Forest Service (Dept. of Agriculture) that could explain "strange lights" and other puzzling "phenomena" that periodically appear in night skies of the San Luis Valley and surrounding areas.

Contrary to media coverage promoting speculation about UFOs, some residents in the SLV, including retired military personnel familiar with Pentagon activities and procedures, have long believed that most night sky "sightings" are connected to military operations such as experimental testing of prototype craft, routine training maneuvers, or special aircraft used to provide coordinates for tracking and/or retrieving missiles launched from Ft. Wingate or White Sands.

During a visit to Rio Grande National Forest headquarters in Monte Vista, OSA's Pat Richmond had opportunity to chat with public relations officer Ron Jablonski. For over a month Richmond had observed nightly what she believed to be a helicopter with red and green strobe lights hovering near Poncha Pass as well as along the west face of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. Other San Luis Valley residents also had observed the presence of hovering aircraft above the La Garita Mountains.

Convinced that the helicopter's presence related to military training activities on the ground, Richmond asked Jablonski: "Is there an agreement between the military and the Forest Service that would allow night training activities within the Rio Grande National Forest?" Jablonski answered in the affirmative and started to retrieve a copy of a military training proposal from his desk. However, he decided that he could not allow Richmond to see the document because it was "just a Draft."

Jablonski stated the agreement would permit small groups such as the Green Berets to engage in special forces training within the forest. He emphasized that any activities involving helicopters or

other aircraft over Wilderness Areas would have to go through the NEPA process and would require approval all the way to the top—the Regional Forest Supervisor. Although Jablonski denied knowing the specifics of a finalized document, he referred to training activities being limited to times outside hunting season. He also offered the comment that trainees would not use laser weapons, but lasers might be used for locating or targeting either aircraft or ground personnel.

Richmond requested a copy of any document on file and subsequently received the Inter-Agency Agreement, which had been signed by DOD and DOA representatives in September 1994. Feature stories in the Valley Courier began focusing on reports of green fireballs, helicopters, and cattle mutilations in remote areas south of Del Norte the previous spring. (Coincidentally, according to Jablonski the Draft proposal on file at the RGNF headquarters was submitted through Gary Snow, who had worked in the La Jara District Office)

A cover letter accompanying the Inter-Agency Agreement indicates that all Forest Supervisors throughout the Rocky Mt. Region received copies of the finalized document. The Agreement requires the local Forest Supervisor to appoint a liaison officer to administer military requests for training within forest lands. Jablonski stated that as far as he knew Rio Grande National Forest has no liaison officer but that Snow may have served as liaison during his tenure in the La Jara office.

A search of files in the Monte Vista office produced no authorized permits for military use of RGNF lands. However, Jablonski suggested that District Rangers might

grant Special Use Permits without informing the Forest Supervisor's office. Since forest boundaries are "close" and indefinite in remote areas, military activities observed near Poncha Pass could have received approval through the Salida District Ranger's office rather than the Monte Vista or Saguache offices.

Applications for military use of forest lands hinge upon DOD lands being unavailable or inadequate for training. Either a Plan of Operations for a non-recurring activity or a General Plans of Operations for long-term use must be attached to a FS Special Use Permit. The Military's responsibilities include providing data necessary for NEPA compliance and repairing any damage resulting to FS lands or facilities. The Inter-Agency agreement allows use of fixed wing and/or rotary aircraft for airborne, non-tactical training operations. Plans submitted by the military must acknowledge confinement of vehicular travel to specified roads and prohibition of live ammunition and other ordinances except red emergency-condition smoke.

Besides designating a liaison officer, the Forest Supervisor provides personnel to ensure compliance with agency regulations and NEPA. Authorized FS officers can issue short-term Special Use Permits for non-recurring use. Three-year Special Use Permits for long-term or recurring activities require at least 90 days for processing to assure compliance with NEPA and are subject to appeal. Specific forest lands such as Wilderness Areas are cited as off-limits for military training use, and each Forest Supervisor may designate other areas off-limits as well. All military activities are prohibited dur-

ing deer and elk hunting seasons.

The Inter-Agency Agreement raises questions about the public's "right to know" and to participate in NEPA processes. This issue seems especially critical in relation to the RGNF revised Master Plan EIS which is now in its final stages, the six-year controversy over the Colorado Airspace Initiative (also in Final EIS stage), increased military aircraft activities both within and outside designated airspace, and public and media speculation about nighttime sightings labeled "mysterious UFOs."

Both the Forest Service and the military (as well as other government agencies) could provide San Luis Valley citizens with a clearer picture of exactly what is happening both on and over our national public lands as a result of Inter-Agency Agreements.

Military use of Rocky Mt. Region forest lands stems from federal statutes dating to 1897 and 1932. The current document, signed September 20, 1994, by David A. Anderson for Elizabeth Estill, Rocky Mt. Regional Forest Supervisor and Chief of Real Estate, Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, remains in existence until terminated by either party on 120 days notice. Annual review for compliance of terms, existing laws, and regulations is required. Existing permits can be terminated if in conflict with FS uses, plans, or requirements. The Inter-Agency Agreement acknowledges cooperation between the military and the FS in construction work, search and rescue, and fire control activities. The Regional Forester can terminate the agreement upon breach of conditions by the U.S. Army or any of its representatives.

DAILY COURIER, Prescott, AZ - March 14, 1997 CR: A. Magee

## UFO sightings in PV, other areas

Despite reports, Luke Air Force Base denies sending aircraft to investigate

By LAURA HINCHEY  
The Daily Courier

A man reported sighting UFOs above a shopping center in Prescott Valley at about 8 p.m. Thursday night, according to Prescott Valley police.

Peter B. Davenport, director for the National UFO reporting center in Seattle, said his organization's hotline received more than a dozen calls last night from several areas of Arizona regarding objects seen in the sky.

Davenport said the hotline began receiving calls for a sighting in

the Paulden area, then Prescott, then the Glendale area and the last report was for objects seen over Tucson.

A man from Paulden called *The Daily Courier* and said he saw five diamond-shaped objects with wispy tails around 8 p.m. last night. Upon hearing that other people have reported also seeing the objects, he said, "I'm glad to know I wasn't the only weirdo."

Kurt Milam, spokesman for the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, said they received some calls last

night from people who saw low-flying objects, but YCSO did not dispatch deputies to investigate.

A speaker at the Federal Aviation Administration said they had only received calls from people wanting to know if any UFOs had been sighted.

An astronomer called into the hotline office and told them he saw the UFOs in northern Phoenix, five of them with lights.

According to the hotline speaker, Luke Air Force Base apparently sent two jets last night to intercept the UFOs. The pilots re-

corded the objects on camera, and returned to base. Allegedly one pilot was shaken, and the base was locked down for the night.

Media liaison at Luke Air Force Base Sgt. Rolla Suttmeier said no aircraft were sent out and there was no lockdown, adding that the cameras on the aircrafts only take pictures of targets during practice.

She said the base received no calls Thursday night regarding UFO sightings. "We do not respond to something like this," she said. "And we do not fly in the evening."

## UFO Exhibit Attracts Curious Visitors

By Lauren Terrazano  
STAFF WRITER

Marshall and Sandy Aykroyd of Blue Point remember traveling one night along a desolate stretch of highway in upstate New York when they first caught sight of the powerful light stretching across the sky.

Their car died. Their headlights dimmed. It was that moment in 1974 that they became believers in extraterrestrial life.

Yesterday, they were among hundreds of believers, or at the very least, the curious, who gathered for "The UFO Phenomenon," an exhibit that opened last week at the Sands Point Preserve. Many came with baby strollers, with kids, or by themselves to tour

### Sands Point presentation opens

the show, which includes photo displays of crop circles, a replica of a space ship, and a multimedia presentation of a forest, complete with howling wolves, stars and a shining light streaking across the sky.

E.T. — legs crossed and giving a thumbs up sign — greeted visitors at the door yesterday morning. By 11 a.m., nearly 100 people had attended. On Friday, 800 people visited.

"It's close-minded to think there can't be a civilization more advanced than ours," said Sandy Aykroyd, who brought her children, Brendan, 10, and Jessica, 12, to yesterday's show. "I've

always been fascinated by it."

John Tarantino of Bayville brought his 9-year-old son, Luke, to help ease some of his bedtime fears. "He thinks there are aliens in his bedroom and that they stole his tropical fish," Tarantino said.

Marshall Aykroyd, a high school social studies teacher, said he came not so much looking for proof of alien existence, but at least more evidence to give weight to his 1970s close encounter. "There has been so much written, but no concrete documentation. Sure, you have these doubts."

His children were more interested in

a metal replica of a spaceship, which allowed them to walk through. "This is my favorite part," Brendan said.

Milton Kandel, one of the producers of the show, said he was pleased with Saturday's early attendance record. The show, he said, has attracted a variety of visitors — from "X-Files" fans to mothers and fathers with children in tow to those who have had some strange, unexplainable experience with UFOs.

Adam Lein, 15, of Hicksville, came for a variety of reasons. His high school science classes have taught him that possibilities exist. "Scientists have been finding more planets and stars capable of supporting life," Lein said. But he also had other motives. "I'm a big 'X-Files' fan."



**BUDD HOPKINS**  
Leary of alien motives



**JOHN MACK**  
Aliens want to help

## Battle of UFO titans sets down in Boston

By STEPHANIE SCHOROW

Call this a close encounter of the academic kind: Two of the biggest names in alien abduction squaring off over the most divisive issue in UFO research.

No, not whether alien abductions are real. That was a given for most of the crowd packing the John Hancock Hall Friday

night in what moderator Christopher Lydon called "our own Berkeley Street X-Files."

The real issue dividing John Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist, from Budd Hopkins, author of three books on the phenomenon, was this:

What the heck do these aliens think they're doing?

Prodding, poking, probing abductees. Terrifying them. Giving them moments of great joy — then messing with their memories. Hopkins' voice shook with fury when he described how some aliens tell their captors that they are their real parents.

"The aliens are extremely deceptive and operate in a covert manner," Hopkins said, as the sound system crackled and wailed. "We can't trust what the aliens are saying."

Mack, however, said he has seen abductees who were transformed by the experience, who formed a spiritual bond with the beings and who believed they were trying to help make us earthlings better.

"We're on the edge of something that is rich, vast, and we don't even admit exists in this country," Mack said.

If they're here to heal us, "I don't like their bedside manner," Hopkins remarked.

The dialogue between Mack and Hopkins was sponsored by the Cambridge-based Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, which was founded by Mack.

Mack, a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, raised eyebrows even within Harvard's arched walls over his bestseller, "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens," which suggests alien abductees might just be telling the truth. Hopkins, an artist, has been interviewing abductees for 20 years, although he's drawn fire for his use of hypnosis and suggestion.

Their discussion attracted several hundred true believers, nonbelievers and wannabe-believers, such as the trio of 20-something girlfriends. One had seen a UFO as a child with her sister: "My sister's always talking about it, I'm always playing it down," she said. Her friend had read just about every book on the subject. The third was along for

the ride.

While Mack and Hopkins are not exactly at opposite ends of the abductee debate, their difference in style was apparent even as they sat on the stage — the white-haired Hopkins was beaming, affable and relaxed; Mack was intense, acerbic and a compulsive note-taker.

Host Lydon, the National Public Radio icon, needled more than challenged: "How are these different from Elvis sightings?" was about the most difficult question he posed.

Well, Elvis sightings have a purpose: to prove the King's alive. Mack and Hopkins both say they aren't sure just what the aliens are doing on the third rock from the sun.

For example, abductees or "experiencers" report that aliens often show them terrifying images of the Earth devastated by pollution and other human disasters. Mack said these images, which could be of the aliens' own ravaged home world, may be to encourage us to take better care of our fragile world. Aliens "are making a desperate effort to communicate something about us to ourselves," he said.

"John is idealist," Hopkins said. Abductees are often heavy smokers and if the visions are ecological warnings, "they've failed miserably."

Mack insists experiencers he's treated have been inspired to become environmentally active; Hopkins retorted that was probably due to Mack's therapy.

Hopkins suggests that aliens show such images to gauge human reactions. "They are extremely curious about human emotions and interior life which they don't seem to have themselves," Hopkins said. (Paging Mr. Spock.)

The question-and-answer session was anything but, dominated by personal testimonies on abductions and rambling statements. One man, in the style of an old-time preacher, announced the Bible urged us to fight against aliens. "Are you ready for that?" he thundered.

Hopkins said, gently, "I think John and I are ready to do the best we can."

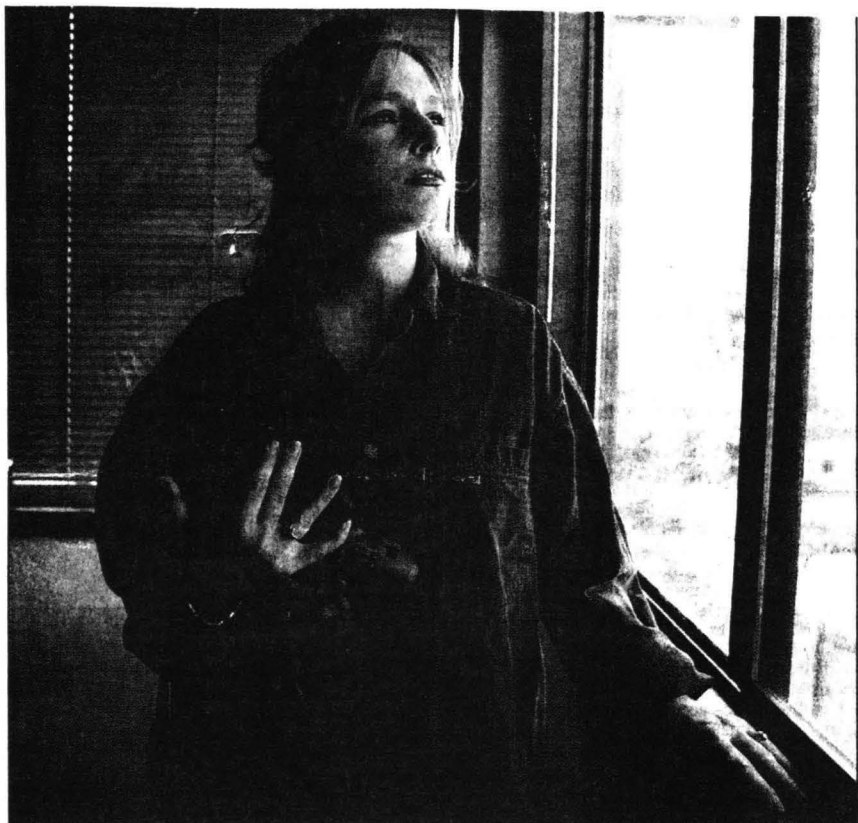
A young man asked eagerly if the pair knew of people who actually wanted to get abducted by aliens. "Yes," Hopkins said cheerfully, "but I've never been able to arrange it."

Asked if aliens, being technologically superior, were among us, Mack, a bit impatiently said it would be impossible to tell; he hadn't seen any little bald-headed men with big eyes running around Boston lately (he didn't mention Cambridge), although, he conceded, there have been reports of aliens disguising themselves in hat and coats.

Afterward, several audience members griped that the dialogue was a bit heavy on the academic jargon. "You had to take UFO 101 to understand what they were saying," said the woman who said she had seen a UFO.

"I can tell you all about that stuff," piped up her friend.

"Tonight, we're going to get a beer," her companion said.



GEORGE MILLENER / The Register-Guard

Kari Malone spotted an unidentifiable object in the sky while looking out this window.

## Camera helps to catch strange light in the sky

■ **Mystery:** Woman not sure what she saw, but she did make a video.

By JOE MOSLEY  
The Register-Guard

SPRINGFIELD — The truth is out there. Kari Malone just doesn't know for sure what to make of it.

A yellow-orange light in the night sky. Van-sized and hovering. Seemingly sensing her watching. Changing shape; accelerating; rising quickly out of sight.

"I don't know; I don't know what to think," Malone says. "UFOs? Aliens? Who knows? I don't know what it was."

A textbook sighting. An indecipherable riddle.

And an important footnote: Malone caught it on videotape.

Whatever it was, it showed up unexpected and uninvited at about 7:45 p.m. last Saturday. Malone was standing in the living room of her east Springfield duplex, holding her youngest daughter, when she glanced out a window to the northeast.

She describes it as triangular at first, a glowing light with undefined edges, perhaps the size of her minivan and about a block and a half away, low in the evening sky.

"I just kind of looked at it in amazement and said, 'What is this?'" says Malone, who works for the custody referee's office at the Lane County Jail. "Then I called to my husband to come look at

it."

The couple grabbed their video camera and ran out onto the deck in front of their home, but the object seemed to react to their presence. By the time Kari Malone fixed it in the camera's viewfinder, it had become cylindrical in shape and moved diagonally across the sky to the southeast, beginning a rapid ascent.

"I mean, it was hauling; it was going fast," she says. "By the time we got outside, it was high in the sky. I had to zoom (the camera) on it to get what I got."

Which is a minute and 15 seconds of tape, showing a distinctly unusual light in the sky. It bumps and bounces as the camerawoman excitedly tries to track it while narrating, "This is a flying saucer; it's in the air." But for a few brief instances, the image is clear: a glowing round front with a cylindrical body visible behind.

"I'm not real big into the UFO theory," says Tom Malone, Kari's husband and the family skeptic. "But I do know it was real weird."

What puzzles the Malones almost as much as the object's appearance is the fact that no one else seems to have seen it. Neither Springfield police, the Lane County sheriff's office nor the Federal Aviation Administration received any sighting reports.

Joel Kaser, an air traffic control-

ler at the FAA's Eugene Airport tower, says he and his co-workers occasionally receive calls about mysterious lights. But he gently suggests that there's almost always a logical explanation.

"Like space debris that may be in the Southern Hemisphere, but might look like it's crashing into the south hills," Kaser says. "The atmosphere does funny things."

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, agrees that most "nocturnal light" sightings can be explained away. But he says there's no terrestrial accounting for a small percentage of the reports.

What the Malones reported seeing seems similar in many ways to past UFO sightings, Davenport says, although it's impossible to draw a direct link between any two events.

"That's like asking if a fingerprint coincides with another fingerprint," he says. "But (the Malones' account) is consistent with many, many other reports we've taken."

"There can be all different types of colors. And the change of shape is something we do not understand, but it is reported to us frequently."

Although the center received no other UFO reports last Saturday, Davenport points out that there were two unexplained and widely viewed events on successive nights earlier this month — one in Northwestern Oregon and the other in

Northwestern Oregon. The first, on Feb. 7, was a bright blue sphere that appeared to drop into the Eagle Cap Wilderness near Enterprise; the next night a green object was seen moving across the sky from Astoria to Salem.

"We get a lot of sightings over Oregon — a lot of good ones," Davenport says.

For the Malones, though, Saturday's incident was a first. And they don't expect a repeat showing.

"I mean, I'm not comfortable saying it was a UFO, by any means, but I am comfortable saying it was something out of the ordinary," Kari Malone says. "I just feel fortunate to have seen something like this in my lifetime."

While the strange light didn't convince Kari Malone that Earth is receiving extraterrestrial visitors, it did cause her to do some thinking about the possibilities.

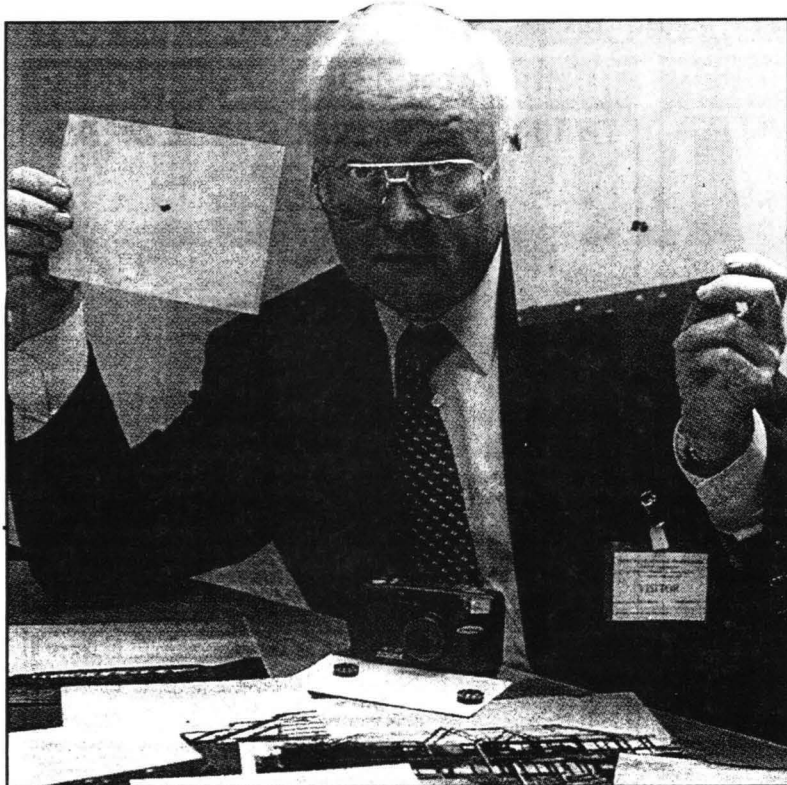
"Like when you see (UFOs) on television, or you see people who claim they were abducted, you kind of take it with a grain of salt," Kari Malone says. "You don't know what to believe."

"I'd never seen one, but seeing is believing, I guess. I believe what I saw."





NEWS OF THE WORLD, London, England - Jan. 26, 1997 CR: M. Fraser



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Surprised Jim snapped UFO on four occasions

## JIM'S SNAPS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

SEND for Scully and Mulder! Snap-happy Jim McLean has sparked an X-Files-style mystery after catching a UFO on camera—four different times.

An investigation is focusing on his amazing photos which were all taken on building sites in Scotland.

UFO experts are now closely examining the snaps which each show a dumbbell-shaped object moving across the skyline.

But construction worker Jim, 54, is in no doubt that he has had a close encounter with aliens. Jim's first sighting was in December 1995 as he photographed a building at his company's HQ in Mount Vernon, Glasgow.

He was amazed when the object appeared again four months later, this time in Rutherglen, Glasgow, when he snapped a rainbow.

And the strange shape turned up on two more pictures which were taken two weeks apart at Mount Vernon last August.

### Sightings

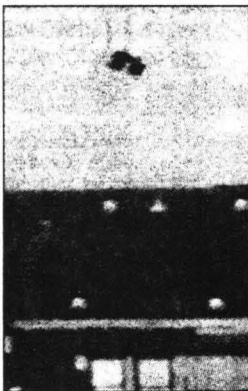
Even more bizarre, a compass he was carrying now points due south instead of north.

Jim, of Torglen, Glasgow, said: "The object is not in any other pictures taken immediately before or after."

"What happened with the compass makes it even more strange."

"A colleague said that could only happen if it was in close proximity to another compass—or with a strong electro-magnetic current. And that raises all sorts of possibilities."

"At first I didn't see anything. But when I had the



TAKE 1: UFO at Rutherglen

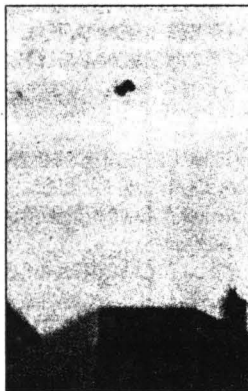
**EXCLUSIVE**

By MARIE SHARP

pictures developed there it was. I've checked my camera, the negatives and everything.

"Now I believe in UFOs and no one can convince me otherwise."

Ron Halliday, who has researched UFO sightings for years, said: "These pic-



TAKE 2: At Mount Vernon

tures do appear to be authentic.

"The problem with the compass being affected is a common feature of such phenomena."

Jim insisted: "I'm certain what I have captured is a UFO."

But he is having a trouble convincing pals.

He added: "Most people think I'm barmy but no one can give another explanation."

NEWS, Berwickshire, England - Oct. 3, 1996

## Secret craft theory on UFO

By SANDY BRYDON

THE UFO sighted by the crews of two Eyemouth fishing boats earlier this year could have been a secret test flight of an experimental craft being developed jointly by NASA and the US Air Force.

The sighting, on the evening of February 14, has been investigated by the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) who have concluded that it was "a sighting of unusual characteristics".

The UFO was sighted by the crews of two fishing boats while they were at sea 70 miles south east of Eyemouth. The fishermen described the object as triangular and black in colour with 15 red lights along its side and no navigational lights visible on its underside.

The crews of the boats made contact with each other by VHF radio to confirm the sighting. Both boats detected the craft on their radar systems and gave an exact location.

George Niedzwiedz of Coldingham, who investigates UFO sightings in the Borders for BUFORA told the Berwickshire News just why this sighting was so unusual.

"It was a sighting of unusual characteristics in that this craft did not display any anti-collision lights it appeared to travel very

slowly but it was large in size and the Ministry of Defence denied its presence."

He added: "On the information gained from the MOD they denied the presence of any aircraft — including the two fighter jets which overflew the boats 15 minutes after the sighting. The area the boats were in, or near, while fishing is a Low Flying Training Area and according to the Coastguard an RAF Nimrod was indeed overflying that area on the night in question."

### No airships

"I also contacted the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at both Edinburgh and Newcastle Airports and they confirmed there were no airships in that vicinity but that there would not have been any in the first place as these craft do not normally fly 70 miles out at sea."

"The CAA at both Edinburgh and Newcastle also stated that the area is beyond their RADAR capabilities of just ten nautical miles."

A phone call to the Police at Fettes, Edinburgh, confirmed no police activity at sea on the night in question although there was police activity on the mainland as they were carrying out a surveillance operation.

The craft seen by the

fisherman was described as half the size of a football pitch, silent and was detected on the boats' simple RADAR system.

Mr Niedzwiedz explained that there had been a report in the press recently about a flying craft named "Loflyte" (Low Observable Flight Test Experiment) which has been developed jointly by NASA and the United States Air Force.

He said: "This craft is large and triangular in shape. It appears from the press article that it has been tested all over the world and has been giving rise to UFO reports — but does it display anti-collision lights? I am sure it would not have been allowed to fly in British airspace if it did not."

### Evidence

"This craft may or may not have been the object seen by the fishermen but the evidence appears to give that impression. It is possible that more information will come to light at a later date, which may prove conclusive one way or another."

"Another point worth mentioning is that this craft would probably have been fitted out with the most up to date, highly sophisticated, electronic stealth equipment and counter measures costing millions so how was it detected on a fishing boat RADAR system?"

"Could it be that they wanted to be seen? Who knows!"

THE PEOPLE, London, England - Nov. 10, 1996

## RAF IN X-FILE ALERT!

ALIENS from outer space may be visiting Britain, the Government has sensationally admitted.

In an incredible letter obtained by The People, Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings.

And he adds: "So far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we letter was sent to Don Valley Labour MP Martin Redmond, who is trying to break the MoD's veil of secrecy over flying saucers."

He is concerned about a UFO with a red and green rotating light that appeared over East Anglia last month.

It was tracked by radar at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood for several hours as it hovered in the sky before flying 50 miles down the coast.

It was also spotted by the crews of a tanker and civilian plane, while a video — now in the MoD's hands — was taken by police.

"It's incredible no aircraft were scrambled when a target was picked up so close to the coast," Mr Redmond told Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

"This raises questions on the way we police the UK Air Defence Region."

Earl Howe replied that the RAF does not respond unless there is evidence UK airspace has been "compromised". He added,

By NIGEL NELSON

"To date no sighting has provided such evidence."

"We do not investigate further or provide an explanation for what might have been observed."

Mr Redmond is accusing the Government of covering up information on UFOs and says if there is no defence threat, there is no excuse for secrecy either.

"The answers I've been given lead me to think there is something more to this," added the MP.

"The only thing I know for sure is this whole issue is shrouded in secrecy."

Last week Defence Minister Nicholas Soames refused to reveal how many UFOs RAF pilots have spotted since 1966. He said the information would cost too much to obtain.

But he added: "Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace are identified by all available means, including interventions."



Pope... former MoD man

## EXPERT IN UFO PROBE ON ISLE

EXCLUSIVE

By MIKE MERRITT

TOP UFO hunter Nick Pope is probing a mysterious mid-air explosion which sparked a massive search nine days ago.

No explanation has been found for the blast off the Isle of Lewis, which was seen and heard by a dozen witnesses.

Pope - a former UFO investigator for the MoD - is now studying the mystery and has called for files on the case.

The author of a top-selling book on UFOs said: "This sighting off Lewis could be a UFO - I would not rule it out until I look at reports I have asked for."

The object lit up the sky and exploded into a ball of smoke, leaving vapour-trailing fragments falling to the sea.

The RAF and Coastguard mounted a two-day air-sea search, but no wreckage was found.

The MoD deny any knowledge of the blast, and civilian planes or drug-running aircraft have been ruled out. Experts also doubt it was a meteorite.

# UFO probe into radar mystery

INDEPENDENT, Cheltenham, England - Oct. 3, 1996

## UFO sightings spark help call

by Graham Buckley

A UFO research group is appealing for witnesses to help with their investigations into an increasing number of UFO sightings in the skies around Stroud.

Circular Forum head of investigations Robin Cole believes after a few barren years of sightings in and around Stroud, the area is once again becoming a centre of UFO activity.

"Stroud has quite a long history of UFO sightings which seem to go in waves of activity and inactivity. I think we are entering a time of increased activity," he said.

Recently strange objects and orbs of light have been spotted in the area.

In mid-August a couple who live in France

Lynch were watching gliders over Aston Down when they noticed a silver object passing overhead, which changed to red and then back to silver.

The couple, who do not wish to be named, said: "It was very high and travelling very fast. We watch gliders and planes going over all the time but it definitely wasn't anything we have seen before."

That sighting came four weeks after a man in his 70s also spotted a strange orb of light.

This time it was seen at South Woodchester at 11.10pm travelling in a south westerly direction from Minchinhampton and was described as a large white intense light which stayed on a distinct line of flight.

Other sightings which the group are investigating are that of

a woman in Cashes Green who saw an object the size of a small room hovering over buildings.

Another report of an object the size of a bus seen moving slowly over an industrial estate in the early hours of the morning before changing colour and disappearing at incredible speed has also been made.

"Our witnesses are genuine and sincere and we have even received reports of sightings from a local policeman," said Mr Cole.

"We contact all local and national agencies including the Met Office and airports to try to come up with a factual answer for the sightings," he added.

Anyone who can help the group with their investigations can contact 01242 254712 or 582030. All calls will be treated in confidence.

## Sightings off coast tracked by air base

THE MINISTRY of Defence is today investigating a possible UFO sighting off the county coast which was picked up by RAF radar.

Reports of a bright white shining object in the sky were received by Skegness and Boston Police together with the coastguard at about 3am on Saturday.

by Jason Mellor

The mystery object was also reported around The Wash. The MoD and RAF officials are looking into the incident.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, was the nearest base to the incident.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman, said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours. It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon."

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

It was confirmed that the base had not been conducting operations in the area at the time of the sighting.

### Special

Special 'Q' aircraft normally investigate UFO sightings, but there were none available at the time as the nearest one was at RAF Leuchars in Scotland.

The MoD has a special cell which investigates all reported UFO sightings. It will be carrying out extensive checks into what was seen.

A spokesman for Skegness Police said: "We had calls which suggested a large bright object over the coast. In the past, sightings like this have been either a plane or a weather balloon but we have not yet had this confirmed."

LINCOLNSHIRE DAILY ECHO, Lincoln, England - Oct. 7, 1996

# That cigar must be a spaceship

## OAP convinced light was a UFO

by Neil Hallows

Former air gunner Ron Bassett has had some close shaves in his time - but now he has seen something to top the lot.

Mr Bassett saw a bright light in the sky outside his home in the London Road area of Cirencester and he thinks it was a UFO.

His report was one of a number of sightings in the Cirencester and Stroud area on the same night.

Mr Bassett, 82, was putting out his milk bottles at about 10.30pm on Thursday when he saw the shape in the sky.

He said: "It was small at first, like a very bright star. It got larger and I could see it had little flashing lights in front like port holes. After about 10 minutes it moved all of a sudden and hovered over my bungalow."

"I could see it better then. It was about 500ft up. It was cigar-shaped and very bright. It made no sound at all."

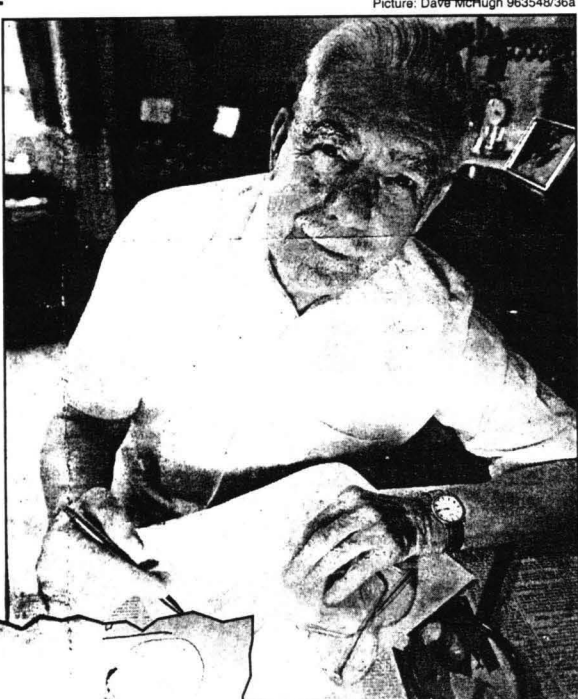
Mr Bassett used to be a training officer for air gunners during the Second World War and has seen a lot of aircraft but not anything like that.

"I've no idea what it was. We get a lot of helicopters over here but it wasn't one of those. I never believed in UFOs before but I'm changing my mind," he said.

Mr Robin Cole runs a 24-hour telephone hotline for UFO sightings called the Circular Forum.

He said: "We also had three reports from the Stroud area. Two were at about the same time as Mr Bassett's sighting and a third was in the early hours of Friday morning. We haven't had the report forms back yet but at least one of the sightings was also of a cigar-shaped object."

Anyone who thinks they have seen a UFO can contact the Circular Forum on 0973 778906.



Ron Bassett at home in Cirencester

Left: the sketch he drew of the object he saw

Picture: Dave McHugh 963548/36a

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Oct. 31, 1996

## Alien goings on in space

A FURTHER sighting of what appears to be a triangular-shaped space ship has been made in Derby.

Mavis Castledine, of Kin Ross Avenue, Chaddesden, has seen the triangular flying object hovering above the city on two occasions.

The 49-year-old housewife contacted the Telegraph after reading our story about similar UFO sightings in Littleover.

She said: "The first time I saw it was about two months ago."

"Then about two weeks ago I saw the same thing - a triangle shape with rows and rows of lights."

"It moved off so quickly - it was amazing."

Omar Fowler, of Sinfen, is a sights coordinator with the Phenomenon Research Association.

He said: "We are currently receiving information showing a large increase in UFO activity."



# Strange lights are seen over suburb UFOs HAVE GOT HOTS FOR CITY



by Dominic Thompson

**ALIEN spaceships could be travelling thousands of light years to take a look at Derby.**

UFO watchers are reporting a rise in sightings of bizarre objects over the city, and the favourite destination of the extra terrestrials seems to be Littleover.

Teenager Steven Potts was left terrified when he saw a big flashing triangle shape in the sky above his back garden.

A similar sighting was made by amateur astronomer Jonathan Franklin.

Steven (15) was on his own at home when he saw the object, 150 foot over his house.

"It was hovering around for nearly 15 minutes, it was a black triangle surrounded by light," he said.

"I was a bit scared so I went indoors and rang my Grandma."

Mr Franklin (36) of Ruskin Way, Littleover, described how he was coming home from a friend's house when he saw a flashing triangular shape above Hillsway.

He said: "It was absolutely silent, I ran to the park and followed it because it was only moving at the speed of a fast jog."

"I was in awe, I shouted out wow. I wished my friend had been there, or someone had looked out the window and seen it too."

"I had an open mind about this sort of thing before I saw this, it was fantastic."

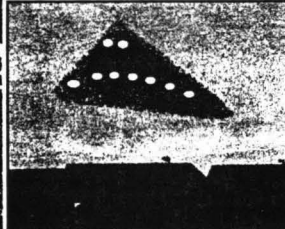
Omar Fowler, of Sinfon, is sights coordinator of Phenomenon Research Association.

He said: "These are significant sightings of a new type of UFO. As far as we know it is alien controlled."

"We believe they are surveying earth and keeping an eye on what we are doing."

"There's been an increase in sightings over the Littleover area. We don't know why Derby is a focus of attention."

Other mysterious objects have also been seen above Markeaton Park and Chaddesden.



● UFO WATCH: Steven Potts (15) and Jonathan Franklin survey the skies and (inset) a computer drawing of what they say they saw.

## UFO chased after me, says spooked motorist

IT was a close encounter of the second kind for a Yeovil man who says he was chased by a UFO through a Dorset village.

Around 8.30pm on Thursday, the man, who does not want to be named, was driving through Ryme Intrinsec approaching the Dorchester road when the road ahead became bathed in light.

The man, who is in his late 30s, says: "It looked at first like a car was approaching me from my left or it was going down a driveway."

"It suddenly crossed my mind that it could not be because there are no driveways there, so I slowed down to about 15 mph to be cautious."

"I looked out to my left and there was a diamond shape in the sky emanating white light. I looked at it intently for about three seconds and it was something totally out of the ordinary."

"It was only about 50 or 60ft across

and no more than 80 to 100ft away from me. I could tell that it was moving toward me."

"At that point I just bolted. I went into primeval flight mode and put my foot down. I turned around and it was following me so I started to go a bit faster."

"I was going down the hill and slowed down as I came to the Dorchester road which is normally fairly busy."

"But there were no cars at all, it was dead. It spooked me and I was terrified."

"The light was gone and in my rear view mirror, it looked like a bright star in the sky."

The man describes himself as level-headed and is convinced it was no trick of the light. He said the object looked "elaborate."

"I had a definite shape, there was nothing subtle about it," he said.

### ● WHAT RETIRED COUPLES SAW ON WAY HOME FROM THE DANCE

SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE, Taunton, England - Nov. 8, 1996

## Late-night UFO is a puzzler

TWO retired couples were amazed at what they saw after a village hall dance.

Peter and Mary Wills and Ray and Sylvia Fouracre, all of Taunton, described seeing a UFO with lights the length of a cricket pitch.

Peter said he saw it at 10.50 pm above Ruishon village hall on a Monday night last month. It appeared to be travelling towards Taunton.

"All I could see was what seemed like hundreds of really bright white lights in the sky," he said.

"My wife also saw it along with my two friends who were also in my car."

"Everything was very quiet and in an instant it just seemed to disappear. It was very peculiar."

Ray said: "It was uncanny. We

were all so taken aback by it. The lights were incredibly bright and I could also see green and red lights."

"It was definitely not an aircraft. It was an incredibly long row of lights and because they were so bright we couldn't quite see the shape of the object. There was no sound at all and after a short while it just seemed to disappear."

"We carried on driving, hoping to see it again, but it had gone."

Sue Hembury-Kellow, of the Somerset UFO Research Group, said: "It

sounds like this could be Hercules aircraft which have very bright lights and regularly fly over this area. They often fly in tight formation and I assume with the car engine it could be difficult to hear them, and this type of aircraft does have a lower sound to many others."

Disappearance could be due to cloud but "this could easily not be the case." She would ask the MoD if aircraft were up on October 14.

□ The group can be contacted on (01823) 491068.

ALYSON STOODLEY

## 'UFO sighting by driver'

A WOMAN who saw a triangular shaped flying object over the Menai Straits last week has called on others who might have also seen it to report their sighting.

The woman, who was driving with her husband and son from Bangor towards the Menai Bridge at about 6.25 on Thursday night first noticed two lights, one green, one red and another white light in the sky to her left as she sat in the front passenger seat of the car.

said she could make out a faint triangular shape behind the lights and after reaching the roundabout she headed back towards Bangor to see if the object was still hovering about 100 foot above the road.

Her son stopped the car on a grass verge but there was no object to be seen anywhere.

The next time she spotted the three lights over the Straits was when she arrived in Beaumaris and a few moments later, the object moved off slowly towards the Llandegfan direction.

"There was no wind, it was very quiet and the strange thing is that the object

didn't make even the slightest noise," said the woman who doesn't want to be named.

"This is the first time I have seen this sort of thing and if it was a plane or a helicopter, it would have made a noise."

Dr Colin Ridyard from Beaumaris who investigates sightings of unidentified flying objects said that anyone who had seen the lights should contact him with information so that a clearer picture of what happened could be put together.

Dr Ridyard can be contacted in the strictest confidence on 01248 811580.

# Unidentified light in the sky taped

A SCOTS grandmother is at the centre of a UFO investigation.

Specialist investigators believe Margaret Ross has evidence of a UFO sighting.

Mrs Ross of Falkirk captured startling pictures on her video camera from her bedroom window at daybreak on September 27.

The tape shows a pulsating bright object in a cloudless sky to the south of her home. The snowball-type object is obviously far brighter and bigger than any star in the sky. For 15 minutes, it remains in the same position.

Then, dramatically, its appearance gradually transforms into a half moon shape with four diagonal bars of high intensity brightness.

The mystery object is seen on tape for about 40 minutes before it disappears from the sky.

As experts studied the latest UFO sighting in Central Scotland, Mrs Ross told of her encounter. "I got up at 6 am and looked out of my bedroom window. I saw what looked like a big snowball in the sky. Its outside edges then became pointed."

The pensioner then grabbed her video camera and started filming.

She said, "The object didn't move.

"It just stayed still and seemed to pulsate. But, after about 15 minutes, it blossomed into a half-circle shape with four diagonal stripes."

"It then began rotating and returned to its original shape. It then seemed to speed away eastwards in the direction of Linlithgow."

"I don't know what this was but it definitely was not a star, plane, helicopter or balloon."

Meanwhile, only two miles away from Mrs Ross's home, the phenomenon was being witnessed by her daughter, Alexis, and her family.

Alexis said, "I saw it changing shape. It was awesome. I got my husband, George, and my two children out of bed and they all saw it too."

"I phoned my mum at 7 am and asked her if she had seen anything in the sky. She told me she had it on tape!"

Six months ago, Mrs Ross taped a similar light in the sky.

Her film was scrutinised by Archie Roy, emeritus professor of physics and astronomy at Glasgow University, who said, "Around 92% of sightings can be easily explained, but this is one of the 8% which science cannot recognise."

Margaret said last night, "That event

was nothing compared to this. This one is spectacular."

Now, UFO specialist researchers believe the latest sighting is the most significant yet in the saga of strange happenings in the skies over Scotland.

Top researcher Ron Halliday, of Stirling University, said last night, "It is one of the best footages I have ever seen from anywhere in the world. Such a length of footage is very unusual."

"Film of alleged phenomena is very rare and usually lasts for a few fleeting seconds."

"At the moment, there is no obvious explanation as to what Mrs Ross captured on video. We will now have to examine the tape frame by frame and that will take some time."

Kenny Higgins, chairman of Scottish Research into Unidentified Flying Objects, said, "It's as good a piece of evidence of a UFO in Scotland as I've ever seen."

"It is very rare that you get footage of anything other than a bright light."

Mr Higgins, a recognised authority on the subject, has been researching UFOs for 20 years.

He added, "I have never seen anything resembling the shape in the sky that Mrs Ross has captured."

## CHRONICLE, Bangor, England Sept. 5, 1996

### 'UFO at Valley'

TWO Hawk trainers and two tornadoes were sent up to investigate a UFO which buzzed the control tower at RAF Valley last September, according to eye-witnesses.

Several people living in and around the base have already confirmed that they saw the object passing over the tower several times which caused some distress to one civilian worker. Now UFO investigator for the Global UFO

Investigation Systems, Dr Colin Ridyard has appealed to anyone who saw the object to contact him.

"An abortive attempt to intercept the craft was made using two Hawk trainers," said Dr Ridyard.

"Forty five minutes after the first sighting, two Tornadoes from another base made a similarly abortive attempt to intercept the UFO."

Now, Dr Ridyard would like to speak to anyone who saw the object or anyone at the base who was on duty at the time. He can be contacted in the strictest confidence on 01248 811580.

Department, Santa Fe province, Argentina

Date of incident: September, 1995

Name of paper and date of clip: RAO

Bulletin #20, July/September 1996

City and country of paper: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Credit: Mrs. Ruth Gerstel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

### CLOSE ENCOUNTER III WITH NOCTURNAL LIGHTS

CASE: "Juan Coronel"

AREA: Santa Fe province

DEPARTMENT: Juan de Garay

LOCATION: Paraje "Los Cerrillos" -

Access road to several ranches - (60

km NE of Santa Fe city,

provincial route No. 1)

DATE: One Sunday, September 1995

TIME: Between 08.30 and 09.00 pm

WITNESS: Juan Coronel (35, married,

with children)

PROFESSION: Ranch hand and expert

in ranch work

OCCUPATION: In charge of cattle and

ranch work

RESIDENCE: A small brick house

located in the ranch where he works

DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION: Direct

LEARNING DEGREE: Elementary school

PERSONAL TRAITS: Skillful (useful)

MORAL AND SOCIAL TRAITS:

Qualified (Excellent)

CIRCUMSTANCES: He was riding home

on his horse on the access road to the

ranch

SOURCE: Direct

INVESTIGATION: Oscar Raúl Mendoza -

Santa Fe

### THE "JUAN CORONEL" CASE

Mr. Juan Coronel is 35 years old, married, with children, expert in ranch work, attended elementary school, is of medium height and robust complexion. He works as a ranch hand, taking care of cattle, horses and sheep in a ranch owned by the Favaro brothers. He lives right there, in a comfortable brick house, with his wife and kids.

The ranch has an area of about 2,000 hectares (about 5,000 acres), and is located some 60 km (37 miles) NE of Santa Fe city, on provincial route #1 (coastal road).

The ranch is located 3 km (1.8 miles) inland on a long dirt road that runs from the entrance gate to the west, called "between fields road" because it is also an access to other nearby ranches.

After its first 2 km (1.2 miles) and for some 500 meters (500 yards) this road crosses a swamp (very flooded due to recent rains) where there is a water drainage.

After crossing the gate to the Favaro ranch there are 3 km more of dirt road to get to the home of Juan Coronel.

We arrived with my friend and assistant, Antonio del Pino, an expert photographer, together with one of the owners, Mr. Francisco Favaro.

Mr. Coronel was at that time busy caring for many young sheep in a nearby corral. When he saw us coming, he approached us and greeted us politely.

Mr. Favaro introduced us, telling him the reason for our visit, and he agreed to talk to us...

### THE STORY

"...That night I was riding along the entrance road, the 'between fields' one, and when I reached the drainage and facing the top of the hill I saw to my left a light emerging from the swamp. It looked like a flashlight. I thought it might have been hunters, because they frequent this place. But this light then climbs a few meters, gets bigger, lights up the whole hill almost like daylight, and then starts to move to the right."

"The light is so bright that I can see some 40 meters (about 100 feet) in front of me a man walking along the road - this one must be hunting - I said to myself, and I moved aside with my horse to let him pass, but intending to ask him about that light that concerned me. To begin a conversation I ask him - Are you hunting?... and not only did he not answer but he stepped aside avoiding me; he did it on the muddy side of the swamp, by the road. I was watching him mounted on my horse, saying to myself - this guy is going to sink in the mud up to his waist. I was surprised when I saw him walk on it and not sinking in at all. I then took a better look at him, but

more from behind. The man was a stocky, somewhat small and had a short neck; he was dressed in light green clothes separated at the waist as if he had a belt. One arm was bent as if he was carrying something; that's why I thought at first that he was a hunter and that he was carrying a shotgun. He had something like a square helmet or square-brimmed hat on his head that looked transparent or glass-like, had something on top as well as some vertical spikes. That was when I got a little scared and galloped to the entrance of the ranch, some 250 meters (800 feet) ahead."

"While I was riding I saw the light hovering over the road, past the entrance I had to cross. And at that time I saw 6 or 7 light blue lights leaving a short luminous trail behind them. They came from the south, above and behind the hill, and went towards the one that was on the road; when they met it was as if 'they merged' but the first light was still there."

"I went on galloping towards the gate, but that light blinded me; it was always in front of me, some 100 meters (300 feet) away, I could never catch up with it. Sometimes I closed my eyes and lowered my head because it hurt my eyes. Suddenly I found myself at a curve, saw a carob tree, and stopped, surprised. I had almost reached the end of the road! I can't figure out how I could have missed the almost 3 km to the entrance."

"Then I turned around and went galloping back. I thought that the light would go on its course. But when I looked back out of the corner of my eye I saw it was following some 70 meters (some 200 feet) behind me. Well - I said to myself - I won't tire the horse. If it wants to catch up with me, let it do so! So we went home at a slow pace. Every once in a while I spied it from the side, and when it reached the place where it had been with the other lights, it disappeared and I didn't see it again."

"When I got to the entrance, the horse went in without any urging. I was worried about my family because the lights that went away with the big one came from there."

"When I got home I asked my wife if everything was OK, and she said yes. Well, only the next day did I tell her what had happened to me."

"I didn't tell anybody else, until after about a month or so I made up my mind and told my bosses."

### THE INVESTIGATIONS:

#### The witness:

The results from the investigations we made regarding the witness's credibility were as follows:

- a) Learning degree: Elementary school (primary studies)
- b) Personal traits: Skillful person (Normal sensory and mental capacity)
- c) Moral and social traits: Qualified (Excellent moral and social background. This was the opinion of a lot of people who know him).
- d) Conclusion: He was sincere in what he said he saw. He's not looking for publicity nor financial gain, nor does he have any hidden agenda.

#### The location:

The investigations we made at the site, like a "reconstruction of events", led us to conclude that the witness was telling the truth as far as distances, details and characteristics of the area where the events took place.

As to the state of the swamp (mainly adjacent to the road) at that time, we talked to people in neighboring ranches. They also agreed with the witness in that at that time there was a lot of mud and some water by the road and on both sides of it, all along the swamp. At the time we were there the swamp was completely flooded by rain, and just about to overflow onto the road.

### ANALYSIS OF THE CASE

We could classify this case in two ways. One would be a N.L.E. (nocturnal light encounter) (obviously strange) because the flashing light was found at a certain time to be in the air at less than 150 meters (almost 500 feet) from the witness.

On the other hand, it would be a CE3/N (nocturnal close encounter 3). Class 3 because at that time the witness saw an alleged UFO occupant, considering his characteristics and behavior, mainly his walking without sinking in the mud. (This feature had already been recorded in many events of the 3rd kind). And "not associated" because his craft was not seen nearby. A feature that also divides the case into these

two classifications is that of the completely contrary direction the entity was walking in with respect to the position of the bright light, and the other circumstances.

### HYPOTHESIS (About the event)

The experiences gathered, as well as the research I have made in almost 30 years of UFO studies in our own and in neighboring countries, employing scientific techniques and disciplines, led me to state the following hypothesis in regard to this case:

It should first be necessary to point out that among the more than 150 different models of strange craft recorded, there are those usually called "Intermediate". Simply because their size is larger than that of the smaller ones and smaller than that of the big ones or "motherships".

These craft could be carriers of small modules or remote-controlled, unmanned sondes because on numerous occasions several luminous objects have been seen coming out of them flying off in different directions at very low altitude. In some cases they were seen entering the water, especially the lagoons. In others, they were seen emerging from them or from fields to join the "intermediate" or carrier ship.

These sondes seem to monitor, observe and/or extract some elements that are of interest to whoever controls them.

In analyzing this case, the behavior as well as the characteristics of the lights seen by the witness are very similar to those shown by the sondes. Regarding the latter, the following hypothesis can be established:

What Mr. Coronel saw would in the first place be one of these: a small light blue light that emerges from the swamp, climbs and intensely illuminates the area, and then moves horizontally towards the road.

This attitude would not be casual but would follow a preventive or cautious action when the presence of the witness is detected going towards and in the vicinity of the alleged entity.

"The extreme security measures taken by UFO occupants regarding their integrity and that of their craft, and the anonymity of their tasks, are well known. Sometimes they use incredible technological devices to accomplish this."

The above leads us to suppose that the maneuver was transmitted and directed by the carrier ship to the sonde which would probably have been working in the place from which it emerged.

The carrier ship, which was not seen by the witness, would have been somewhere around there, probably in the direction the entity was going: completely contrary to that of the light. Later on, other sondes that may also have been working in the area joined this one. Based on the fact that up to nine lights or sondes have been seen leaving these intermediate craft in other instances, it is very possible that this one is a somewhat similar situation.

The witness claimed that the lights "joined the light that lighted up the area" but that the latter didn't really change during the event. It would then be possible that they "did not join" but turned their lights off, maybe remaining hidden and waiting, while the bright one in turn, exerted "some influence" upon the witness.

In this regard it must be stated that afterwards the witness acknowledged having been "disoriented" and he couldn't explain how he could have gone 3 km farther from the gate, which was just 250 meters (about 250 yards) in front of him.

Finally, corroborating the above mentioned actions and attitudes of these alleged sondes is the fact that "the light" not only continued on its course but it turned around and stealthily followed the witness all the way back home.

When Mr. Coronel finally reached the gate and took the road home "the light went out, its work done, maybe because he no longer represented a danger or interference to the actions of the strange visitors."

OSCAR RAUL MENDOZA (Santa Fe)

### DRAWINGS:

- 1) Behavior of the lights
- 2) Behavior of the entity
- 3) Features of the entity

Translation: Jane Thomas Guma, Glendale, Arizona, USA

## TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Several cities in Córdoba province, Argentina

Date of incident: June 3, 1996

Name of paper and date of clip: RAO

Bulletin #20, July/September 1996

City and country of paper: Buenos Aires,

Argentina

Credit: Mrs. Ruth Gerstel, Buenos Aires,

Argentina

### REPORT # 0213/96 CORDOBA CASE, "FLUORESCENT TUBE"

At 08.40 pm a mothership appeared in the Córdoba sky, many witnesses describing its shape as that of a Fluorescent Tube.

This craft flew over an extensive area in our province, and it was possible to follow its course from phone calls made to radio station LW1 University Radio, to TV Channel 10, and to my private phone by witnesses in different geographical locations, i.e. Villa del Totoral, Villa Allende, Colonia Caroya, Río Ceballos, Granja de Punes, Barrio 1 de Mayo, Argüello, Villa Belgrano, Cerro Norte, San Vicente, Santa Rosa de Calamuchita.

In the capital city of Córdoba this craft faced North, stopping and accelerating at different altitudes. Witnesses from Villa Allende saw at least two other smaller saucer-shaped craft side by side with this mothership flying around its sides and above it. This served to determine the mothership's position.

It was then possible to see the craft's shape that resembled a "fluorescent tube" with a slight inclination with respect to its longitudinal axis, something that had already been seen in similar cases. One witness from the capital estimated it had a length of 400 meters (1,312 feet).

A lady from Barrio Villa Belgrano reported to LW1 that the ship was climbing and falling, became invisible and when it was again visible, it looked like a "big light". It hovered for a long time. It was at "very low" altitude, and the distance from the witness was "very close". When it moved it did so towards the city's airport. This lady first contacted our local observatory, and they told her they could not give a statement as to what they were seeing (they were seeing it too) and that she should contact a radio station (that's why she called LW1).

A married couple from the Barrio San Vicente who lives on Obispo Castellanos street between Corrientes and Agustín Garzón told me they saw the phenomenon towards the west, at first it was hovering, and its size was twice that of the evening star (Venus-Tr.). The color was silvery and it was flashing. Mrs. Nilda Clelia Gómez de Vargas, 48, claims that the object was very close, like the light on top of an antenna. It then flew westward and a surrounding halo was clearly visible. After a while she saw it reappearing towards Barrio 10. de Mayo, closer because it was three times larger than Venus, still silvery.

We also learned that while the craft was flying over, there was a blackout in the northern part of the province towards the Barrio Cerro Norte. Phone communications were also interrupted with Villa Totoral. This also demonstrates features of the UFO phenomenon.

A TV station from Cruz del Eje took a 30 minute film.

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City and country of incident: Paraje "Los Cerrillos", Juan de Garay





ARGUS, Hillsboro, OR - Nov. 21, 1996

**It's a mutant fur ball.  
It's Elvis' love child.  
No, it's....**

## BIG FOOT



These footprint casts are fakes used in filming a Big Foot movie, and were a gift to Crowe. The "real" ones are in display cases, along with everything from Big Foot kitsch to purported Big Foot droppings.

**Story by Debra McKinney**

**Photos by Michal Thompson**



Ray Crowe of Hillsboro explains how his Foot Society, was born in the basement of his used books business in St. Johns.

**B**ig Foot has had a major impact on Ray Crowe's life. And the two haven't even met.

It all started like this:

One day some friends told him about a group from Washington that was chasing after Big Foot, and he decided to tag along. He was given the basics on what to look for, and had barely gotten started when, there it was, plain as day—a thick, coarse hair more than 8 inches long on the bark of a tree. Crowe is convinced it came from a Big Foot.

Since then, this Hillsboro resident said he's encountered many other signs, including footprints. As director of the Western Big Foot Society, he's recorded "sightings" from all over Washington County, including one on Baseline in Hillsboro and a woman in Gales Creek who supposedly had two of them in her yard.

But that single hair is what made a believer out of him. It's his prize. His baby. He likes it so much he won't let it be officially analyzed for fear he'd

never see it again. And besides, what would scientists have to compare it to? So forget it.

The same friends who got Crowe into this, are also responsible for the birth of the Society. When they decided they didn't want to be part of the Washington group anymore they turned to Crowe.

"They (the other group) were the type who'd go out in camouflage gear and ride up and down the road and pitch their beer bottles out the window. I wasn't that type, either. So (my friends) said, 'Why not get a group going here; we'll fix your basement for ya.' They put up sheetrock and painted it all. Next thing you know, we're a group."

That was five years ago. The Western Big Foot Society now meets monthly in the basement of Ray Crowe's Used Books and Collectibles in St. Johns, with the official meeting hall coated with Big Foot field-trip pictures, newspaper articles, posters and a huge collection of Big Foot kitsch and Big Foot artifacts ranging from plaster

footprint castings to a pile of pre-digested berries labeled "Big Foot poop."

And what's a Big Foot meeting hall without the National Enquirer? "I Had Big Foot's Baby!" "I Was Attacked by a Pansy Big Foot: Damn Thing Was Wearing a Polka Dot Dress!"

No, members don't fall for any of this. They just get a kick out of it.

Now that Big Foot has moved in to Crowe's life big time, he's thinking about phasing out the collectibles part of his business to make more space for Big Foot paraphernalia. The stuff sells.

Anywhere from 20 to 50 people show up at the Society's monthly meetings. They swap stories, argue theories, listen to guest speakers, eat "Yeti Spaghetti," "Big Foot Burgers" and the like. The group attracts all kinds, Crowe says, from Ph.D.s to conspiracy theorists.

"These things come from flying saucers, they say. Or jump in and out of other dimensions.

### ■ VERMONT

#### Mysterious humming in Northeast Kingdom

NEWARK — The group of people who report hearing a mysterious humming sound in the Northeast Kingdom is growing steadily. Newark artist Claire van Vliet, who complained of the noise two weeks ago in a story in the Caledonian-Record newspaper, said she has been contacted by people who have heard humming noises elsewhere in the Northeast Kingdom and in the United States. And the humming noise itself has changed, according to van Vliet. When the story hit the national news, the humming stopped for a few days and then started up again with a slightly higher-pitched frequency. And it is steadier, she said. Van Vliet and other hearers are convinced the sound is of military origin. In fact, U.S. Navy "ELF" (extremely low frequency) stations in the Michigan peninsula and Wisconsin were scrutinized as the possible source in a New Mexico study of another mysterious humming noise. That study concluded the ELF could not be the source. (AP)



Argus photo by Michal Thompson

Big Foot paraphernalia in the window at Ray Crowe's Used Books and Collectibles in St. Johns is a dead giveaway that you have arrived. Crowe lives in Hillsboro.

CR: J. Trainor

I try to make room for everybody."

That's the fun of this group. There's so much to argue about.

"We have fun down here," Crowe said. "That's the bottom line. As a matter of fact, if we ever prove it, it will be sort of a let-down. What do we do then? Join the Flat Earth Society?"

Crowe's group has a huge Web page on the Internet and about 300 members worldwide.

"I have members from all kinds of strange places I can't pronounce," he said. "I even signed a guy from Tasmania the other day. They're picking me up off the Web. They're curious."

Who wouldn't be?

Even if you don't believe one iota in this Big Foot stuff, you'd have to be curious. Why, for instance, have there never been any decent photographs taken of this overgrown fur ball?

Crowe has an answer for that. It's because most people are caught off guard when they encounter a Big Foot. Besides, they don't carry cameras around with them all the time. And even if they did, they don't seem to understand you need to be closer than a quarter mile away to get anything other than a blurry blob on film.

And who'd want to be any closer than that?

Crowe's group meets the last Thursday of each month. For information, call 286-6585.

# WALKABOUTS

PEOPLE, PLACES &amp; EVENTS THAT MADE TACOMA HISTORY

## Sea Serpents Sighted in Puget Sound

By Karla Wakefield Stover, freelance writer

As oceanic exploration becomes more sophisticated and new discoveries abound, Northwesterners are increasingly wondering what's down there that hasn't yet come to light. Are the discoveries nearly at an end? After all, nearly 30 years have passed since the last sea serpent sighting in and around Puget Sound.

"Its speed under water was astounding as it surfaced over a hundred yards away," wrote David Miller, who was fishing Victoria waters with a friend in 1969. "It stayed up while we took after it. . . . but. . . never let us get close again. . . . both of us remarked about its large red eyes and short ears visible at that range."

From their sightings in Northwest waters Puget Sound marine cryptids, (from the Latin word, cryptos or hidden, and the suffix 'id' which denotes zoological families) began exciting European and North American explorers. The Manhouat people of Vancouver Island's west coast spoke of the semi-legendary "hiyitliik," an animal seven or eight feet long which moved quickly on both land and water and which could grow wings at will.

Sea serpents were also common depicted in coastal native pictographs and on their crafts. One of the best known and most solidly authenticated is that of the Skagit River *atlatl*, a spear-thrower carved from yew wood. It is crowned by a raging sea monster with white inlaid eyes.

One early sighting of an unfamiliar sea creature by a non-Native American was reported by prospector, Osmond Fergusson and his partner. In 1897 they saw what they thought was a piece of driftwood moving toward them. When it got close to the men it uncoiled and raised a long neck and snake-like head out of the water. After it submerged Fergusson saw a 25 foot body which tapered to a fish-like tail swim away.

In 1905 fisherman Philip Welch reported a similar sighting. A thick salmon run spoiled the trout fishing for Welch and a friend and the men decided to return home. Suddenly, in front of them, a creature with a six to eight foot neck appeared and disappeared. Writing of the experience in 65 years later, Welch described a neck which tapered from 20 to 10 feet ending in a giraffe-like head, from which two bumps about five inches high protruded. Nostrils were visible but the eyes were hard to detect.

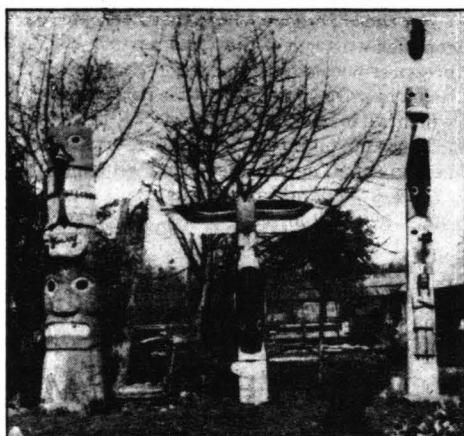
These last two encounters were near Vancouver island.

In 1893, a party of five locals and two East coast visitors had been fishing, with some success, off Point Defiance. But when the wind came up they decided to move to Henderson Island's Black Fish Bay to fish and camp. Shortly after midnight the men heard a terrible noise. The air was suddenly filled with body-stinging electricity and a bright light, all of which came from the direction of the bay. ". . . right before my eyes was a most horrible looking monster," recalled one man. He described it as 150 feet long and 30 feet in circumference with an oval body partially covered with coarse

hair. It had six eyes the size of dinner plates. Blue flames shot from two horn-like structures near the center of the head. Two of the party were hit by the flames and rendered paralyzed for several hours. Birds and insects dropped dead in the electricity-charged air.

"I am going to send a full account to the Smithsonian Institute," said one of the

Photo courtesy of Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room



Tulalip totem poles show aquatic themes.

Easterners, as he returned home. "And I can assure you that I have no desire to fish any more in the waters of this bay."

In 1932 and 1933 more sightings took place in British Columbia waters. In 1934 and 1937 marine cryptids were spotted off the coast near the Columbia River. Sea monster sightings have also been reported in both Crater Lake in Oregon and Crescent Lake in Washington. Evidence of sea serpents in Northwest waters is difficult to verify in spite of the fact that some sightings have multiple witnesses to corroborate the descriptions, and one sighting was made by a trained biologist. Scientists attribute the apparitions to errors in observation, pods of leaping dolphins or belugas, leopard seals, sea lions and giant kelp tangles. In 1962, however, a diver brought up an 102-pound octopus off Purdy, with tentacles that could certainly account for some of those reported long necks and undulating bodies.

In 1969 the University of British Columbia compiled a summary of the history of the sightings and named the phenomenon "Cadborosaurus." No one knows for certain what sort of creature is the "Caddy" or, indeed, if it truly exists. Sightings are rare (owing no doubt to fear of ridicule), and random. Neither location, time of day or climatic conditions seem to make a difference as to when the long, lumpy, hissing, air-breathing and very elusive mammal will appear. It's something to think about when you're walking along Schuster Parkway. •

Karla Wakefield Stover is a freelance writer and a second generation Tacoma native. She is a member of Daughters of the Pioneers, Daughters of the American Revolution and past president of the historical honor society at the University of Washington.

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT  
Jan. 14-15, 1997 CR: Z. Van Eyck

## Zapped by space aliens? Satellite goes AWOL

By Joe Bauman  
Deseret News staff writer

At 3 a.m. Saturday, a technician on duty at Broadcast International, Midvale, must have felt like the film "Independence Day" was pretty close to reality.

In last summer's hit film, alien invaders blast communications satellites out of space, leaving TV screens dark and causing consternation among broadcasters. That's what happened early Saturday, except that nobody believes aliens destroyed Telstar 401, a communications satellite operated by AT&T's Skynet Satellite Services.

But nobody knows what really did happen to the giant satellite, which transmitted television signals for ABC, Fox and PBS, plus many other customers. It also handled telephone calls and relayed computer data.

According to the Associated Press, most customers were switched to other satellites. But not all were, including three big clients of Broadcast International.

"This is the first time this has happened in the business satellite world. . . the complete failure of an entire satellite," Rod Tiede, vice president and general manager of Broadcast International, 7050 S. Union Center, Midvale, said Tuesday.

The company's satellite dish is aimed at Telstar 401, bouncing signals off it 24 hours a day. "We noticed it disappeared off our scopes," he said. TV screens suddenly showed a lot of static, then lost the picture.

"The first thing that occurs is

that you always suspect it's something you've done. Nobody suspects it's satellite failure," he said.

About 15 minutes later, while the technical expert still was trying to figure out what Broadcast International did wrong, AT&T reached out and touched the company, informing officials that the satellite was offline.

It was like "Mars Attacks" and "Independence Day," he said. "You never know what took these things out."

Not only does nobody know what happened, Tiede has heard rumors that satellite controllers don't know where Telstar 401 is.

Broadcast International used the satellite to beam private television services for RE/MAX Real Estate, based in Denver; Allstate Insurance, whose corporate offices are in Chicago; and the Technology Education Network, New York. All have outlets in Utah.

Their private TV broadcasts include news videos, proprietary information and video clips about the industries. Some clients beam live videos to branch offices on a daily basis.

"They're without service at the present time, until they're relocated on another satellite," Tiede said. His firm uses six other communications satellites, and clients whose programs are bounced off those are not affected.

When will Telstar 401 go back on the air? "The probability of expecting this to go back into service, after it's been gone this long, is pretty low," he said.

At RE/MAX Brokers, 6911 S. State, Midvale, the daily TV broadcasts were a major tool for training and recruiting.

## Tiger sightings on the increase

HERALD SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Feb. 20, 1997 CR: P. Norman

By CHERYL  
CRITCHLEY  
and JACK TAYLOR

A WOMAN says she saw a Tasmanian tiger at the weekend in the latest in a spate of sightings by East Gippsland residents.

The tiger, officially listed as extinct for more than 50 years, has been sighted many times around Loch Sport, near Bairnsdale.

Samantha Humes, 19, said her sighting at Lake Reeve "for a good 30 seconds" was enough to eliminate doubt.

"It was sniffing along up on the road and popped its head up to look at me," she said. "It was about the height of a cattle dog, dark grey with tan and dark brown stripes and a greyhound-like face."

Ms Humes said the animal disappeared behind scrub "in two hops".

Retired crane driver Maurie Griffin says he's seen three tigers six different times at his Loch Sport property.

About twice a week, Mr Griffin, 66, leaves meat out to attract them, and has set up an outdoor light system to photograph one.

He and a growing number of Loch Sport locals are convinced the sighted beasts are the real thing.

"I'm certain," he said. "I've lived in the bush all my life and I've never seen anything like it."

"What I'm trying to do is coax it up to nearly level to my window so I can take a photo of it."

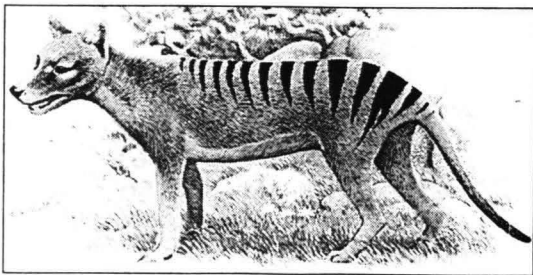
"I just want to prove that what I'm saying is right."

The area around Loch Sport has had about 40 reported sightings since the 1960s.

Twelve have been in the past five months.

Researcher Michael Moss moved from Melbourne to Loch Sport last month, and says he'll stay until a tiger is found.

Loch Sport Lodge manager Bill Sherrin said the town was buzzing with talk of sightings.



Sketchy: the Tasmanian tiger has been listed as extinct for more than 50 years.



# Crestone, Colo.: Where the wild things are

Valley teeming with crystal skulls, weird lights in sky

By Alan Dumas  
The Associated Press

CRESTONE, Colo. — Visiting Crestone is like going to a theme park based on television's "The X-Files."

Located in desolate high desert in the shadow of the Sangre de Cristos on the north end of the San Luis Valley, Crestone's official population in the 1990 census was 39, but that's because most people live in cabins or trailers scattered outside town.

Hundreds of tame deer walk the streets, sleeping on people's front porches and in back yards. Cranial cleansing and herbal colonics are readily available, but gasoline is scarce, sometimes rationed.

There's hardscrabble potato and carrot farming. There are also hot springs, crystal shops, ashrams and sufi dancing.

And at night, some say, the UFOs

come out.

Christopher O'Brien, who has been chronicling weirdness in the San Luis Valley since 1992, late last year published "The Mysterious Valley," a compilation of "astonishing true stories."

A New York marketing designer turned furniture maker, O'Brien moved to Crestone in 1988 to work in peace and quiet. Instead, he found an astonishing concentration of strange activity, a place where such things as cattle mutilations, unexplained lights in the night sky and rocks with magical properties have become commonplace.

"I've seen all kinds of odd lights in the sky at night," says Brian Norton, Rio Grande County undersheriff. "Just about everyone has, but they don't call us about them anymore, not more than once or twice a week any way."

"There isn't anything we can do; we don't patrol UFOs. Personally, I think it's secret military stuff up from the White Sands Base in New Mexico, but there's no way to tell. You stop paying attention after awhile."

This matter-of-fact attitude con-

founds O'Brien.

"Look, I'm a skeptic," he said. "I assume that everything has a mundane explanation, and 99 percent of the time that's the case."

"But in my database, I've collected over 600 unexplained UFO sightings in the valley, some witnessed by 30 or more people. And it's not just a modern phenomenon. This place was considered sacred by the Indians, and the first European explorers reported seeing lights in the sky. This place is what I call high strange."

Here are a few of O'Brien's discoveries.

## Crystal skull

Donna Koch was riding fence on her ranch outside of Crestone in 1994 when she saw the sun reflect off something on the ground.

What she found was a twisted, humanoid skull made of glass. It had a maniacal grin, and intelligent eyes. It looks a lot like the popular conception of those big eyed extraterrestrials, although Koch says to her it looks like an "ant person."

When Koch took the skull to her

home, a spare tire in the bed of a pickup truck in her yard exploded. Then people began to have bizarre accidents around her house, hitting themselves with hammers and brooms.

When O'Brien came over to videotape the skull, his camera broke, and no one has been able to repair it, he says.

Koch brought the skull to Denver a couple years ago to have it looked at by art collectors and by the Denver Museum of Natural History. But no one would hazard a guess on its age and origins. Although she was offered \$20,000 for it by a collector of the paranormal from Washington, she doesn't think she'll sell.

"I just have the feeling that if it was sold, nothing good would come of it," Koch says. "I get the feeling it came to me to protect it. It's very strange."

## Lights in the sky

O'Brien is in one of his favorite UFO watching spots near the huge Baca Ranch, a few miles from Crestone. It's a clear and windy night,

and he can see 100 miles in any direction.

O'Brien works with a pair of Army surplus Starlight binoculars that enhance night vision. They date to the Vietnam War, but it is the best equipment he can afford.

"It allows you to see commercial craft 60 miles away that would be invisible otherwise," he says.

Tonight, he's looking for the anomalous lights that dance over the valley in ways no commercial aircraft could.

And around 8 p.m. they appear.

Hovering over the Great Sand Dunes National Monument a few miles to the southeast are orange and white globes of light. They do zig-zag maneuvers in formation, break apart and then reassemble. Sometimes, they come to a full stop and just sit in the sky.

And although the occasional commercial plane fills the valley with the rumbling sound of its engines, these craft are silent. The only sound is the wind over the desert.

"My guess is what we're seeing is some new kind of helicopter technology being tested," O'Brien says. "Maybe some top secret black budget project. But we'll never know."

## Cow mutilations

David Jaramillo has been the UPS delivery driver in the San Luis Valley for 21 years. He's also a small rancher. Like most residents of the valley, he says he's seen incredible lights in the sky and, once or twice, has seen them land and take off.

Last fall, he took his family up to the cabin he keeps in the Sangres at 10,000 feet. They found a cow nearby that had been killed and mutilated with surgical precision.

"I'd heard about cattle mutilations, but I'd never seen one," Jaramillo says. "The uterus and the colon had been neatly cut out, and something had taken off the ears and sucked the brain out."

Nearby, Jaramillo says he found circles pressed into the ground, each 4 feet in diameter, about 15 feet apart, forming a triangle. He guesses it's where some sort of aircraft landed.

"It's impossible to get here by road without cutting through my gates," he says. "And besides, this place is in the middle of nowhere. It's impossible to find."

Happily, Jaramillo had a video camera with him, and he took detailed pictures of the scene, which aired on a television show about the paranormal called "Strange Universe."

Cattle mutilations are old news most places, usually ascribed to natural causes such as predators. But they happen with alarming regularity in the San Luis Valley, and Norton, the undersheriff, says there's no way to explain them rationally.

EASTERN EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - June 15, 1996 CR: T. Good

# 'Puma' spotted again

Horse rider sees 'big and powerful cat' in countryside

THERE was fresh speculation about the possibility of a puma roaming the Norfolk countryside today after a teenager spotted a wild animal just outside Norwich.

Ellen Green, 17, of Church Lane, Claxton, saw what looked like "a huge brown puma" as she was out riding her horse.

Jule Green, Ellen's mother, said the early-morning sighting of the cat-like beast had unnerved her daughter.

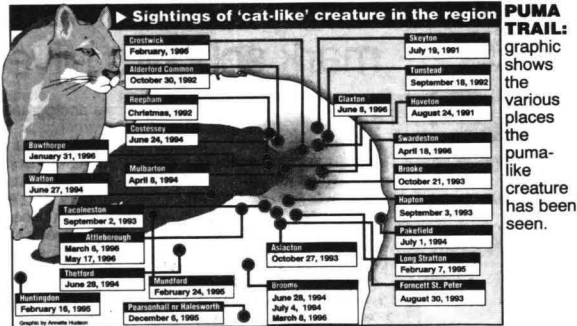
She said: "The horse stopped and started trembling because he sensed something was there. Then it bounded past and Ellen got a very good

view of it. She said it looked like a very big powerful cat with erect ears."

The Greens are fascinated by the sighting last Saturday, especially after reports of the cat have been recorded in the Evening News.

Experts do not rule out the possibility of a wild cat in Norfolk, pointing to inexplicable animal sightings in the county.

John Goldsmith, of the Castle Museum natural history department, said he has seen animal tracks which he could not explain on two occasions. Many sightings could be explained by the presence of Chinese water deer which has large canine



teeth, woolly ears and no antlers, he said.

He said: "Most of the time sightings can be explained but anything is possible."

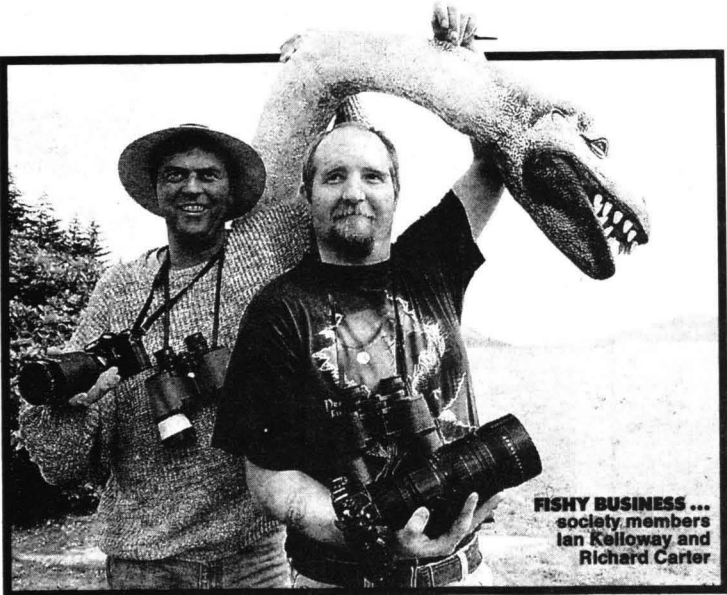
"I have certainly seen inexplicable

things south of Norwich.

"It is quite possible for wild animals to be out there."

Mr Goldsmith added that he hoped the animal could one day be captured so it could be identified.

DAILY RECORD, [City Unknown], Scotland - July 22, 1996



**The o-fish-al**  
**Nessie hunt**

NESSIE hunters are giving a whole new meaning to fish-net stockings.

The new Loch Ness Society plan to hook the monster by plai-ce-ling tights

full of fish offal and oils in shallow water.

They hope the scent will lure Nessie to the surface so they can capture her for posterity - on film, of course.

THE CHRONICLE, Centralia, WA - Dec. 27, 1996

# Sky-born blobs a mystery

**GOOP:** Experts, TV shows can't agree whether it's jellyfish residue or some other bizarre phenomenon

By Ron Hoss  
The Chronicle

OAKVILLE — A mysterious substance that fell on her property in 1994 catapulted Oakville's Dottie Hearn into international attention this year.

"After a rain shower I stepped out onto my back porch and there was this white clear gelatin like substance all over everything," said the owner of a small farm just west of town on Highway 12. "It was in chunks about the size of grains of rice."

Hearn, and her daughter Sunny Barclift, scooped up some of the substance and put it into Hearn's freezer.

Thinking it was something that had fallen from an aircraft, they called the FAA. They got a vague answer about

military aircraft doing bombing practice out at sea and causing jellyfish residue to fall out of the sky. Other inquiries left them dubious.

Things sort of settled down and remained quiet until a representative of the TV program "Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe" called to ask about seeing a sample and a home video that Hearn and her daughter had shot of the strange goop.

The producer had some of the material tested at a lab in Redmond but no answer came from that review.

In the meantime, Mysterious Universe sent a camera crew to Oakville. They taped a segment with Hearn for the show.

Their show aired in May. Hearn was a part of a larger program on strange phenomena.

Since then, several local TV stations have had Hearn on programs. Still no one knows what it was that came down from the sky onto Hearn's property.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C.,  
Canada - March 27, 1997

#### Gory cat kill shakes teen

KAMLOOPS — A teenager is offering a \$500 reward for information about who mutilated her cat Moonshine.

The body of the Siamese cross was found along a riverbank, said city bylaw services sub-foreman Bruce MacIver. The cat had been sliced in half and some organs removed.

MacIver said news of Moonshine's gruesome death has prompted a few calls to his office, including another report of a cat being killed and cut up.

No solid clues have come in yet, but if they do they will be passed on to RCMP for consideration of cruelty-to-animals charges, he said.

Last summer, a string of mutilated cat corpses were found.

CR: G. Conway

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - Sept. 24, 1996 CR: B. Robbins

## Mystery of Block Ness Monster

By JANET KERLIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

### 14-foot serpentine skeleton found by fisherman disappears

NEW SHOREHAM, R.I. — Some say it's a sturgeon. Some are calling the creature a shark. But others have nicknamed it the Block Ness Monster.

A mysterious 14-foot serpentine skeleton, found in a fisherman's net, has taken on a life of its own on Block Island, 14 miles off the Rhode Island coast.

First, people questioned what the skeleton was.

Now they wonder where it has gone.

"Bones that walk?" asked tourist Roseann Giorgio from Long Island, N.Y.

No, not really. The sea creature's skeleton has vanished at the hands of humans, and the

community on Block Island hasn't been the same since.

"It's been stolen. Now what?" asked Gale Buckius of Warwick, R.I., who said she has been following the fish tale with interest.

No one professes to know what happened to the denizen of the deep or why it was taken.

Its "kidnappers" have said they were worried that the creature would be shipped off the island and never returned. Others call that a fish story and say the kidnapping was staged to create an attraction for the island.

As long as there is a mystery, people seem willing to plunk down \$18 for the Block Ness Mon-

ster T-shirts that have made their way onto the shelves of island stores, next to the sunscreen and saltwater taffy. The back of the shirt shows a snakelike creature wrapped around the island.

Block Ness fever began to take root in June when two fishermen aboard the Mad Monk cast their nets for monkfish but pulled up the cartilage instead. They displayed the peculiar catch on the stone breakwater near the docks for the Point Judith ferry.

The spine stretched longer than two men and was attached to a narrow head with vacant eye sockets and weird whiskers. Lying in the sun, it was enough to draw a stream of curiosity seekers to the Old Harbor for two days.

"Probably more people walked down there in two days than in the whole century, just about," said Chris Littlefield, one of the island's 800 year-round residents.

Disembarking from the ferry one of those days was New York state park biologist Lee Scott. "What the heck is this?" Scott recalled saying. "I went back to my car and got the camera."

He took the skeleton to his summer home on the island and put it in his freezer to preserve it. He planned to ship it to the mainland for examination at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Narragansett.

Gary Hall, the fisherman who pulled it up, was to stop by Scott's home to pick up the creature and put it on the ferry, Scott said.

Like others on the island, Scott does not lock his doors. He went fishing for the day, and when he came back, the skeleton was gone.

"Finally, the next day [Hall] called and said, 'It's on the boat, right?'" Scott said.

A short time later, Scott got a phone call from the "kidnappers." They said they live on the island and were concerned that if the skeleton left, it would never return.

Aboard the Mad Monk, Hall declined to talk about the mystery,

while the other fisherman, J.T. Pinney, spoke only of how the creature's appearance — and disappearance — has affected islanders.

"Some people take it far too seriously, with contempt, even," said Pinney, who made up the T-shirts that are being sold at three shops. He also tacked up posters seeking information on the skeleton's whereabouts.

Pinney won't discuss profits. He will say that the sea monster is generating lots of buzz. "It's got Republicans talking to Democrats," Pinney said. "That's what's happening. Some people who rely on the normal gossip are talking about this."

Some fishermen say it's a sturgeon, others say it looks like a ray.

Lisa Natanson, a shark specialist with the fisheries service, said based on photos she saw, the skeleton probably is a basking shark, a docile plankton-eater that can grow to 40 feet long.

Harold "Wes" Pratt, also a fisheries biologist, agreed, but said he understands why some people believe it's more mysterious. "It does look otherworldly. It does look like something from the deep past," he said.

Scott believes the creature could be a type of shark never before discovered. He said the creature's snout measured 12 inches. The average snout of a basking shark is 6 inches.

Natanson said the whiskers protruding from both sides of the nose actually fit underneath the snout, propping it up and making it shorter, like the basking shark's.

Scott said the kidnappers have told him they plan to give the skeleton to the Block Island Historical Society, perhaps in October — after the tourist season ends.

For now, Pinney plans to keep selling T-shirts and islanders plan to keep talking.

As for the fisherman who gave life to the legend, on a hot summer afternoon he planned to head for the beach.

"I'm going to jump in the water," Pinney said. "Hope I don't meet any monsters."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - March 13, 1997 CR: G. Conway

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — Canadian researchers say they have solved the mystery of the "singing" sands.

Over the past century or so, there have been reports from around the world of sands that emit sounds as they move through the air — whether naturally tumbling down a dune or mechanically being shifted.

These sands are said to be "booming" or "squeaking" or "singing."

Researchers at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont., reported yesterday in the British journal *Nature* they have a novel explanation for this phenomenon.

They have found what appears to be clusters of water in an amorphous silica layer in the sand grain's surface. The gel-like layer may allow some grains to stick together, they said. Clusters of particles of a specific size could then act as a resonator as the sand moves, producing the sing-song sounds.

NEWS, Taos, NM - Oct. 3, 1996



Rick Romancito

Local Attorney John Paternoster is interviewed by the TV crew from "Sightings."

## 'Sightings' sighted in Taos

By Phaedra Greenwood  
The Taos News

The crew from the television show "Sightings" — about UFOs and other unexplained phenomenon — showed up Thursday (Sept. 26) in Taos to interview attorney John Paternoster about his interest in cattle mutilations in Northern New Mexico.

Paternoster stated that he would like to seek state or federal funding to develop a team of forensics experts who would come in to investigate unexplained cattle deaths.

The "Sightings" crew also interviewed Carlos Trujillo, owner of a cow found mutilated in Peñasco two weeks ago. Local investigator Michael Abbey went along for the ride and ended up on camera when he did a follow-up interview with Trujillo. "I told Trujillo, 'I don't want to scare you, but they often hit the same herd twice.' I asked him to contact me if he loses any more cows."

According to Abbey, Trujillo felt it was the responsibility of the livestock board to investigate unexplained cattle deaths. Abbey said when Trujillo led the TV crew to the dead animal, they found it dragged out of the trees and flipped over. "There were no noticeable tracks," Abbey said. Trujillo was mystified. "Any predator big enough to do that would have taken a bite out of it," he said.

"Sightings" also interviewed executive director

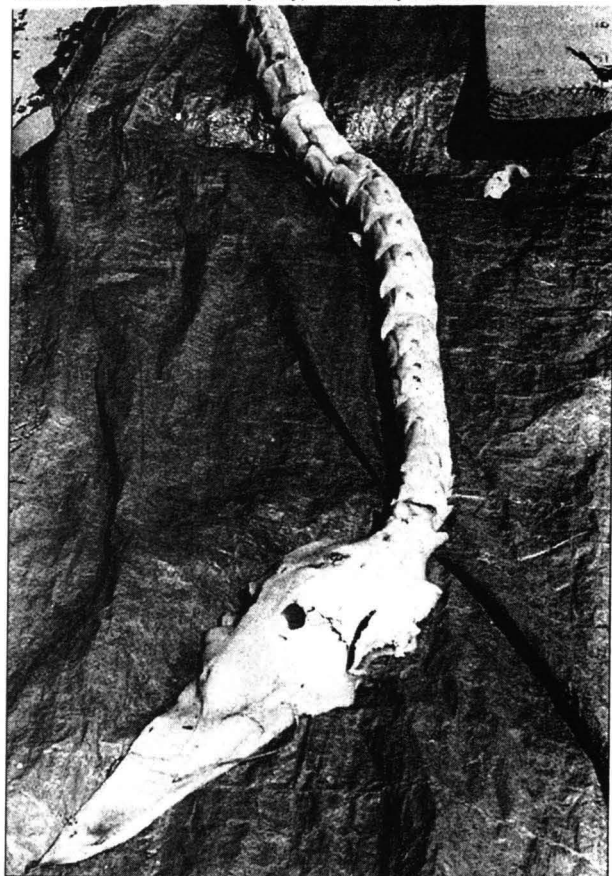
and spokesman for the New Mexico State Livestock Board, John Wortman, to get its side of the story. According to Deputy Director Kevin McClellan, the livestock board has investigated about 25 cases of unexplained cattle deaths since 1994. Do they still think predators did it?

"We're open to anything," McClellan said. He added that the board would be happy to receive any information from private investigator Gail Staehlin. "Anything she has, you bet! She's a good resource."

Staehlin was interviewed by "Sightings" in Albuquerque and the crew says they took four of her tapes to include in the show, which will air sometime in October on the "Sci Fi" Channel on cable.

Staehlin said she wouldn't mind sharing her findings with the livestock board "if they'd cooperate. My main peeve with them is that they're not helping the ranchers. I think they're involved in some way. I think it's a cover-up situation," she said. "I truly believe we need a forensic testing team. Paternoster — thank God for this man. I'm tickled to death to have him come aboard to help the ranchers. The ranchers are losing expensive breeding stock, which they can't afford to insure."

Staehlin felt that segment producer Phil Davis of "Sightings" had done a professional job of focusing on the cattle mutilations and a possible cover-up. "Now we'll see how the show comes out," she said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The skeletal remains of an unidentified sea creature, nicknamed the Block Ness Monster, lie on a stone breakwater off Block Island, R.I. The photo was taken in June.