

UFO

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TRIBUNE, Albuquerque, NM - June 28, 1997 CR: D. Martinez

Officer blasts dummy story

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRANTS — A retired Air Force officer says he worked with high-tech crash-test dummies in the 1950s, and that there's no way they'd be confused with aliens described in rumors arising from the Roswell Incident.

Retired Lt. Col. Raymond A. Madson said he's not buying the latest Air Force explanation of what occurred in Roswell in July 1947. The Pentagon issued a report this week saying the Air Force believes crash-test dummies used in the 1950s were mistaken for the rumored 1947 aliens and suggesting that UFO buffs just got their dates mixed up.

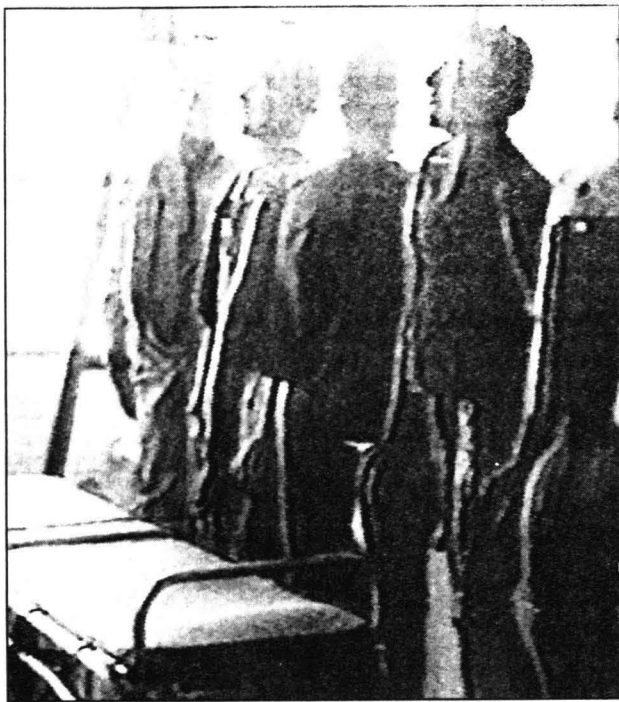
Madson, 66, who now lives near Grants, said he was project officer for Project High Dive at Holloman Air Force Base for four years starting in the 1950s.

He told the Grants newspaper, the Cibola County Beacon, that the Project High Dive dummies were used to test problems pilots might encounter with the ejection mechanisms for bailing out of new generation jet aircraft.

Madson said he sent photographs of Project High Dive dummies to the Pentagon for inclusion in the Air Force document issued this week, "The Roswell Report: Case Closed."

But he said the dummies do not match the descriptions of the very small, almost childlike beings purported to have been seen in 1947 near Roswell.

"They were testing these things (dummies) to try to protect grown men. They would never have used (dummies of) children for such experiments," he said.



Air Force via CNN/The Associated Press

Hanging from hooks and looking like anything but little green men, these dummies are said to be those used by the Air Force in high-altitude parachute drops in the New Mexico desert.

Madson also served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, before coming to Holloman. His wife worked at Wright-Patterson as a secretary in the base medical laboratory, as well, he said.

Both of them heard serious talk about little green men who had been brought onto the base and studied secretly, he said.

"The subject of aliens never came up at Holloman, however, he said.

"I think it was a highly kept secret at that time," he said.

In contrast, there was nothing secret about his dummies, he said.

"The dummies were not covered up or hidden (when transported), and there was no security in the dummy drop phase of the experiments," he said.

"These (dummies) reproduce the weight and function of human bodies. They have rubber skin. The weight and texture of the rubber skin is made to approximate human skin. They have a steel frame inside, where the instruments are. They range in weight from 160 to 190 pounds. They approximate human beings in all aspects — weight, height, body density, suppleness, flexibility, the whole nine yards," he said, adding they average about 6 feet in height.

But he said the museum isn't getting involved in any serious discussion of aliens or UFOs.

"We're doing this all tongue-in-cheek. We're not taking any sides. We're not debunking anybody's theory," he said.

The dummies display comes just in time for the 50th anniversary observation of the Roswell Incident, in which an alien spacecraft is purported to have crashed northwest of Roswell in July 1947.

The dummies were used by the Air Force as early as 1947 at Edwards Air

Force Base, Calif., Moore said. The ones supposedly confused with the Roswell aliens are linked to high-altitude parachute tests that were conducted in the 1950s in south-central New Mexico, years after the Roswell Incident.

Col. John Haynes, in issuing the Roswell report Tuesday at the Pentagon, said the Air Force had no explanation for the time gap. The dummies were designed to take punishment, but he said their days of punishment are over.

"They are very important artifacts, and we have to keep them protected. We're putting them in the Plexiglas enclosure so people can't do things to them.

"Even though they took a lot of punishment," he said, "they are quite fragile now because they're getting old."

Test dummies to be displayed in Alamogordo

By Richard Benke
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crash-test dummies that the Air Force has suggested were mistaken for aliens in Roswell have been hanging around Alamogordo for 10 years and are going on display next week in that city's Space Center Museum.

Two of the museum's four dummies, which were used in balloon, parachute and rocket-sled tests in the 1950s, will be placed in a Plexiglas enclosure on the museum's fourth floor Monday, museum spokesman Jack Moore said Friday in Alamogordo.

Moore conceded the dummies do not resemble the supposed aliens described in previous Roswell accounts.

"No, they're too large. People describe the alien beings as very small and slight in stature," he said.

UFO expert questions government explanation

By JENNIFER LAWSON
The Lima News

Local UFO expert John P. Timmerman was not surprised by the government's latest explanation of the incident that took place 50 years ago in Roswell, N.M.

Timmerman, board member of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said the report, which claims the incident involved military experiments with airborne dummies, is the latest in a series of inadequate explanations. Timmerman designed an exhibit now on display at the UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M.

"I'm sure if I were the government or military involved in this work, I think that I would try to do everything possible to keep from having to release the information," Timmerman said from his Lakeview home.

Years spent working with center founder Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who was a scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force, convinced Timmerman that the government was not acknowledging "that there is something very interesting happening in our time."

"They may be correct. Maybe they did send up some dummies. But on the other hand, that doesn't necessarily deny the reality of a crashed object and live bodies," he said. "They're just trying to counteract all the hype that's been building in Roswell."

Timmerman spent more than a decade traveling with an 80-foot display of UFO related photos, the same exhibit bought by the Roswell museum. During his travels, Timmerman talked to thousands of people who reported encounters or sightings of an extraterrestrial nature.

"My feeling is that the government is not telling us the whole truth. Maybe they do certain things for our own good," he said.

BEING the 50th anniversary of UFO sightings in Roswell, N.M., the hills are alive with the sound of memories.

The USS FDR, Sixth Fleet flagship, 1952, a crew member writes: "We were north and east of England with the NATO fleet in the North Atlantic. About 1:30 a.m., through the stormy rain and lightning, this big blue-white light appeared right off starboard bow. It came down to 100 feet of the water and just hung there as we cruised by it."

"This UFO was easy to see when the lightning flashed. It then rose straight up and left. Four of us saw it. Here's the kicker! Gen. Ike, who'd flown over by chopper with the admiral, had just come out on the signal bridge wearing PJ's and robe, looking for coffee."

"We were sitting making small talk when the bright light came on. We all watched it 10 minutes, then just stood there staring at each other. After a while, Gen. Eisenhower said he better go 'check this out' and left. He also told us to 'forget about it for now.'"

"Next day and ever after, nothing was ever said about it. I don't know what it was or why it was hushed, but I saw it."

NEWS, Lima, OH - June 25, 1997 CR: J. Timmerman

POST, New York, NY - June 18, 1997 CR: J. Trainor

Book leads readers through Roswell

Retired Army intelligence officer co-authors UFO book.

By GENE SMITH
The Capital-Journal

Johnny Appleseed is alive and well and living in southeastern Florida. The 20th-century version is retired Col. Philip J. Corso, a veteran Army intelligence officer who, he says, was personally responsible for introducing alien technology that U.S. firms re-engineered into some of science's most dramatic advances over the past 50 years.

- Among them are:
- Silicon-based microchips and other printed circuitry — basis of the whole computer industry.
- Fiber optics — which make the Internet and its lightning-fast worldwide communications possible.
- Night vision devices — which

allow soldiers, police and well-heeled varmints hunters to see in the dark.

■ Lasers — basis of everything from weapons range finders and missile guidance to corneal microsurgery.

■ Supertenacity fabrics — Kevlar and other flexible, near-impermeable synthetics, used for everything from bullet-proof vests to airplane propellers.

■ "Stealth" composites and aircraft design.

■ Particle-beam weapons — a key element of the Reagan administration's SDI, or "Star Wars," initiative; now said to be in place and in use.

■ An electromagnetic gravity drive that requires no on-board fuel and propels alien UFOs to 7,000 mph.

■ Headband interlinks that enable pilots to control their craft by thought commands alone.

The last two may not be operational, but Corso and writer William J. Birnes claim the principles are thoroughly understood. They broadly hint that both systems are at least under service test today.

Retired now after a second career as an aide to Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., Corso has just emerged as source author and star of a sensational new book called "The Day After Roswell," (341 pp., \$24) just published by the Pocket Books division of Simon & Schuster.

Together, Corso and Birnes weave an amazing story.

It starts with a tale at least familiar to many Americans and long known in excruciating detail to an army of Unidentified Flying Object buffs who may number in the millions.

The tale goes like this: UFOs had been playing with impunity around secret missile- and nuclear weapons-testing sites in the White Sands and Roswell, N.M., vicinity for days, impotently tracked on

radar by the nearby U.S. Army Air Force base just outside Roswell.

But on the night of July 4, 1947, a violent thunderstorm zapped an unlucky delta-shaped UFO with a mighty bolt of lightning. It plunged at a 45-degree angle into an arroyo some 37 miles northwest of Roswell. Split lengthwise, it was otherwise largely intact. The crew members lay in the sand nearby, and one, mortally injured, was propped against the still-warm craft.

A fire truck and crew, the sheriff and a security detail from the air base set out for the scene — the last accompanied by a big truck with a large crane on the back. The military won, barely, and immediately began grabbing everything in sight. One of the crewmen tried to run and was cut down by bullets from half a dozen M1s. The gray-skinned, 4½-foot-long bodies were wrapped in canvas and taken along.

As MPs threw a cordon around the area and ordered the civilians away, other soldiers linked arms and began a careful, inch-by-inch search for debris. All went in the bag along with the little gray humanoids and their strange craft.

Cut to Fort Riley, Kan., where, two days later, Capt. Philip J. Corso — recently back from occupation duty in war-ravaged Europe — was pulling a stint as officer of the day.

That night a sergeant he knew motioned him urgently into a warehouse, where some 30 large crates were stacked. The NCO was shaken, but he insisted Corso look into the crate he had just opened.

Corso scolded the sergeant — but did as he asked. He says he was shocked to find himself gazing at the body of a big-eyed, big-headed gray humanoid in a one-piece jump suit, floating in some kind of preservative inside a thick glass container. The creature lacked thumbs.

Corso says he tried to put the whole thing out of his mind.

But in 1961, he found himself a lieutenant colonel working directly for Lt. Gen. Arthur Trudeau, head of Army research and development — and, suddenly, in charge of two large file cabinets stuffed with artifacts from the Roswell crash, plus accompanying reports of what Army specialists had been able to learn about each.

Corso says by then the United States was locked in its Cold War struggle with the Soviet Union, but humanity also was under assault from UFO-riding aliens, presumably operating from a base on the moon. These, he continues, were interfering with military missile launches and other experiments even while the aliens themselves were conducting strange experiments on people and animals in various localities.

The military, meanwhile, did its best to shoot down the UFOs — and, finally, succeeded occasionally.

The Army knew, too, that the Central Intelligence Agency was riddled with more Soviet moles and holes than any suburban lawn; that what the CIA learned in the morning, the KGB would know before nightfall. Yet somehow they had to get their puzzling alien artifacts into the hands of patriotic U.S. scientists and firms who could and would turn the gray enemy's own science against them.

This book details how Corso says it was done, even in the heat of an undeclared, totally secret war. And the results. Here and there, he pauses along the way to explain or demolish another carefully constructed effort at official misdirection and deceit.

Fantastic? Certainly. Untrue? Perhaps. It sweeps the reader along nevertheless.

Many will emerge wishing for a lot more substantiation, for there is not

even so much as a footnote inside these covers. Efforts to reach Corso were turned aside by the publisher, citing an "exclusive" agreement with a commercial television program until its own interview airs.

But folded into the back of the book are three formerly secret Army documents, two of them authored and signed by Lt. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, then head of Air Materiel Command, dealing with how all personnel were to collect and preserve information about UFOs.

And there is all the other evidence: Shelves of books by others, ranging from collections of sighting reports to claims of kidnaps and insemination by aliens and on to official efforts at debunking.

An indignant spokeswoman for Thurmond says now that the senator was tricked into writing the foreword by Corso Junior, his father's "business manager," through a claim that it was to go into a book called "In the Corridors of Power," relating the ex-colonel's work as a senatorial staff aide.

"The senator," she snorted, "doesn't believe in UFOs."

Then why doesn't he reject Corso's "purloined letter" and "reverse engineering" claims out of hand? Because, she says, "We haven't read it." Pocket Books didn't see fit to send Thurmond a review copy, "and we're certainly not about to go out and buy one."

Draw your own conclusions. But remember that Corso — and, certainly, Thurmond, grew up and went to war in an era where telephones were rare outside urban centers, cars were scarce, air conditioning a near fable, refrigerators a faint wish, television unknown.

Then look around, at the wonders you take for granted. Consider that nearly all appeared after 1947. And ask how likely a coincidence that is.

TRANSCRIPT, Norman, OK - June 20, 1997

Not a bird, or a plane, what is it?

By KAREN DORRELL
Of The Norman Transcript

When Norman resident Lan Lamphere went out storm chasing Memorial Day weekend, he caught more than he bargained for.

Video footage taken of a developing tornado near the Oklahoma-Texas border contains about a second of something white streaking across the field of vision from right to left in an arc.

Analysis indicates it's a solid object, it appears to be flying, and it is definitely unidentified, but Lamphere hesitates to call it a UFO.

"I'm probably the biggest skeptic in the world when it comes to this stuff," he insists. He has no interest in alien spacecraft or little green men or big-eyed gray men. He simply would like to know what this object on his tape is — or more precisely what it is not.

Part owner of Windchaser Films out of Gadsden, Ala., which specializes in filming severe weather outbreaks, Lanphere spent Memorial Day weekend with three meteorologists from the National Severe Storms Laboratory and Mesonet, tracking and filming storms from Blanchard south to Texas. On the afternoon of May 25, they had left Duncan and were taking State Highway 53 east toward the town of Loco when they stopped to watch a tornado forming.

Lamphere said they had been taking time lapse still photos of

the storm and also turned on an AG E21 three-chip digital Panasonic video camera that was set on a tripod and aimed at the storm. The men were talking among themselves at the time the object apparently passed and did not see anything out of the ordinary.

When he got back to Norman, Lamphere gave the tape a hurried viewing on a small TV and didn't notice the object at that time. About two weeks later, after working with a Japanese film crew producing a documentary on storm chasing, he prepared a "highlight film" they had asked to see with the intent of buying some of his copy. He took the film to their hotel room and for the first time saw it on a large, clear screen.

"We were watching it when suddenly this thing shot across the screen. It looked like a baseball and my first thought was 'Whoa! What was that?'" Lamphere recalled. He backed the tape up and watched it again. And again.

"I was surprised... shocked... amazed, you name it," he said.

He took the film to people he knows at NSSL to see if they could identify the object, he said, and "they had no idea what it was." He also had it examined by other storm chasers and two people in the astrophysics department at the University of Oklahoma. They were able to confirm that it was a solid object and may have been traveling anywhere from 9,000 to 20,000 miles per hour, depending on its distance from the camera.

Lamphere also analyzed the tape on his home computer, studying it with a video capture program called IView.

"I downloaded it frame by frame, reversed it, reverted to the negative image looking for lens

flare, reduced and increased and enhanced the contrast...."

The object is clearly visible on the original tape, shooting across the sky in front of dark storm clouds.

"The ceiling was maybe 900 feet," Lamphere said. "We were about 4 or 5 miles from the storm, which was tracking southeast. The object was well-defined and well-lit, but was obscured briefly by skud clouds. It dipped and bobbed in its trajectory before it flew into a storm known to contain hail the size of baseballs and then re-emerged, apparently undamaged."

"What kind of craft could do that?"

Still hunting answers, Lamphere turned to the Internet, describing the tape and asking for input. When that failed, he did what any man with questions would do, he called his mother.

"She knew people associated with MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network) in Alabama," he said, "and they put me in touch with Jean and Richard."

Jean Waller-Seifried and her husband, Richard Seifried, of Norman, are active with the state MUFON. They came over, filled out a report on the incident and viewed the tape.

"It was quite impressive," Seifried said.

"Richard and Jean have been so supportive," Lamphere said. "They've really been a help to me."

Not everyone has been so positive. After he posted a message on the internet, Lamphere had two comments pop up on his e-mail, both with a somewhat threatening tone, and both "self-destructed" after he read them.

Asked about reports that he had

NEWS VIRGINIAN, Waynesboro, VA - July 4, 1997 CR: B. Pittman

Yes, Virginia, there are UFOs

SUSSEX (AP) — Pat Tereschenko struggles to keep an incredible story from gushing out.

Forget alien bodies and flying saucers in Roswell, N.M., for a moment. Scratch the X-Files.

Twenty years ago, Ms. Tereschenko's story about a saucer-like structure with "Christmas tree-like lights" idling above the trees attracted dozens of visitors and hordes of news media to her home.

For about a week in October 1973, the Tereschenkos' home off state

Route 35 became a gathering place for UFO seekers. The farmhouse is situated off a dirt road, flanked by 42 acres of peanuts and shaded by massive oak trees.

"It was unbelievable," Ms. Tereschenko said. "The whole front yard was packed with cars. Police were directing traffic on Route 35. Daddy set up an interview room with the press. It was a zoo."

For a few short weeks in 1973, UFO sightings were almost a daily occurrence here. The Associated Press reported on Oct. 20, 1973:

"Virginians kept on witnessing weird and wondrous whatzits whizzing around the skies, or sometimes simply sitting silently in the air ... as the unidentified flying object craze continued unabated."

Many sightings came with a simple explanation. Some didn't.

Whether one believes in extraterrestrials or not, the sightings remain unexplained. The 20th NORAD Division, which had the capability to detect unscheduled flying objects in 1973, reported that no UFOs had been spotted on its radar system.

been contacted by government and/or private agencies concerning the video, Lamphere would say only "I can't go there."

His checks on the Internet did produce one message on the Sightings web site, a note from "Das Geist01" asking for any information about UFOs in Oklahoma. The note was posted on May 25, the day Lamphere — or rather his camera — encountered the object. He e-mailed a response but has yet to hear back.

He also is awaiting final reports of analyses by his contacts at NSSL and OU.

In the meantime, he is anxious to hear from anyone who saw anything unusual on May 25 and he would still like to hear from "Das Geist." His e-mail address is lan@windchaser.com.

He has all the questions. Now he wants some answers.

CR: R. Seifried

Web Watch

B34



FOR NEWS ABOUT THE NET AND OTHER CYBER STUFF

The truth is way out there

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident, Web Watch ponders the popularity of modern alien-encounter lore.

By ROBERT NELANDER
nelander@pioneerlocal.com

Watching "X-Files" without knowing about Roswell, Area 51 and the Santilli alien autopsy film is like reading Melville's "Moby Dick" without knowing anything about the Bible, sailing or fishing.

Fortunately for X-fans unfamiliar with these bedrock plot elements, the truth is out there on the Web.

Unfortunately, its history already has transformed into legend with the help of hoaxes, contradictions and misinformation.

On Tuesday, July 8, 1947, military personnel at the Roswell air base issued a press release announcing the crash and acquisition of a flying saucer. Hundreds of newspapers pick up the wire story.

The next day during a press conference, the air force announces the debris is actually part of a crashed weather balloon, not a flying saucer.

Unprecedented numbers of UFO sightings are reported by news media in the ensuing months.

Witnesses by the hundreds contradict the weather-balloon story and support theories of a government cover-up.

The Roswell incident blossomed over the decades, with reports surfacing about the capture of some aliens and military installations in the Nevada desert housing alien spacecraft, all hidden from the public eye. Unlike most conspiracy theories -- and setting it apart from all other alien encounter episodes chronicled -- corroboration from scores of sources has kept the controversy burning.

Just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident and the onset of the World Wide Web, pictures of a Roswell alien autopsy proliferated. In 1993, a British producer bought a film of a purported alien autopsy from a retired military cameraman.

If anything, truth becomes ever more evasive with the availability of additional information. Perhaps it was a weather-balloon crash, and hundreds of people decided to milk the opportunity. Perhaps, as the "X-Files" season finale episode seemed to suggest, the Roswell incident was a government hoax with government denial intended to fuel increased scrutiny and detract attention from other activities.

After hours of journalistic scrutiny applied to hundreds of memos, pictures and news group threads, here are the discernible truths:

■ The military cannot distinguish between spacecraft and weather balloons.

■ The Roswell incident is among the most over-reported topics on the Web, with more than 30,000 pages cross-linked and referenced to one another, regurgitating the same documents and over-blown analysis.

■ Roswell proves that 1,000 pieces of contradictory information are never as helpful as one single fact.

Other truths may never be determined, such as how the aliens would feel about Roswell's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration, and about the scheduled alien costume contest for children in particular.

Further reading

The "Official" Roswell, New Mexico, 50th Anniversary homepage, built and maintained by

Internet Resources of Roswell, N.M.:

<http://www.rt66.com/~roswell/index.html>

Joshua "Illinois" Shapiro's Roswell homepage:

<http://www.execpc.com/vjentrpr/roswell.html#/>

Area 51 — Military Facility, Social Phenomenon

and State of Mind:

<http://www.ufomind.com/area51/>

The Roswell Declaration, an online petition seeking full government disclosure:

<http://www.roswell.org/roswell-dec.shtml>

The official Twentieth Century Fox "X Files" site:

<http://www.thex-files.com/>

Comprehensive collection of UFO-related links:

<http://wakko.exo.com/wakko/ufos.html>

Perform your own alien autopsy:

<http://www1.usa1.com/~thanto/autopsy/autopsy.html>

Farmer finds crop circles

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HERTFORD — When Nick Nixon first spied circular patches of flattened wheat on his farm just north of town, he thought wild deer had been playing in the field.

But the perfectly swirled designs etched into the crop touched off speculation in Perquimans County that the circles had been created by visitors of another kind.

"It's weird," said Nixon. "Don't laugh, but it looks like crop circles."

Crop circles are unexplained designs that appear around the world in fields of wheat, corn, barley, grass and even snow.

While the origins of crop circles are as debatable as the existence of UFOs, there is no doubt something unusual is going on in the wheat

field of the 1,000-acre farm.

So far Nixon has ruled out animals and wind storms. They have found no footpaths or vehicle tracks in the brittle wheat linking the flattened areas to the closest road half-a-mile away.

Aerial photos may have disclosed a clue: Along with the circles are what appear to be even bigger initials in English, perhaps a D, a T, an S and an A.

The Nixons don't know what the initials mean, but it could be more than a coincidence that Perquimans County High School graduation ceremonies are Friday, a traditional time for pranks.

Nixon doesn't believe teens drew them. He said they are too complicated and precise for pranksters.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - June 15, 1997
CR: G. Fawcett

Regional Report

North Carolina

Crop circle 'tool' found

HERTFORD — Nick Nixon discovered what appeared to be six circles of flattened wheat circles in his field this week. He later found a 2x4 with cables and wire coat hangers attached to each end, making the perfect tool to create the elaborate design. "I would say it probably took whoever did it all night or three or four days out there," Nixon said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - July 3, 1997

Other days

50 years ago
July 3, 1947

TUPELO — Postmaster T.A. Morris reported that he saw a "flying saucer" at about 6 p.m. Monday, flying toward the northeast. He said the object was silver colored and flying at a high altitude. At Mountain Home, a resident and his wife and daughter reported sighting a similar object Friday.

50 years later ...



The truth is still out there

Photo illustration by Kirk Montgomery

UFO believers are ready to celebrate the anniversary of the famous '47 close encounter

BY RON WOLFE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Things have been up in the air ever since June 24, 1947. On this day 50 years ago, pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing the world's first flying saucers by that name — the description he coined — near Washington State's Mt. Rainier.

"His report kicked off the 20th century's most persistent scientific mystery: UFOs" (unidentified flying objects), according to a report from the Fund for UFO Research Inc. in Washington, D.C.

The anniversary comes just in time for serious sky watchers. They hope it will turn the news back to UFO research — and away from the Heaven's Gate cult. Cult members believed they could

board a UFO by killing themselves, which they did in March.

"It's very difficult to sort out the junk and get to the core of this thing, which we're trying to do," UFO Research chairman Richard Hall says. "This is a serious issue of facts, science, logic and how democracy works. It's not a circus."

But send in the clowns. Earnest study competes with glow-in-the-dark alien candy suckers, UFO crash parties and ever wilder claims of aliens among us.

This fall, Carroll & Graf will publish *Fairies: Real Encounters With Little People*, a book that investigates if fairies and other wee folk might be UFO occupants from another world.

UFOs will be much in the news the



A mysterious bolt of light strikes Travis Walton (D.B. Sweeney) in *Fire in the Sky*, the story of an Arizona logger who claimed to be abducted by a UFO.

rest of this anniversary year. Hall predicts, and "and it's going to be very chaotic. There are going to be crazy voices, sane voices, people with axes to grind, all thrown together."

The truth is up there — up where Arnold said he saw it. Thousands more people soon claimed they had seen flying saucers. And by some accounts, one crashed outside Roswell, N.M., about a week after Arnold's sighting.

In fact, it might have been one of those he saw. Arnold said they were headed south, nine of them skimming over the mountaintops.

UFO believers still recall

Arnold's report and the Roswell crash story as basic evidence. These two stories began a half-century's fascination with UFOs — and with UFO books, movies, TV shows and conferences. About 425 believers and skeptics attended this spring's Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs, the ninth annual.

Conference organizer Lucius Farish expects the flying saucer anniversary will prompt more people to look up, which "might create an increase in sightings. I do think it will create an increased interest in the subject overall."

Arkansas' last big flying saucer flurry was in 1966, when hundreds of sky watchers from Fort Smith to

Little Rock claimed to have seen strange, hovering lights that changed from white to red and green. Nationwide, polls show about half of all Americans believe in UFOs. But UFO mania is more than saucer sightings.

Last summer's smash movie was the alien invasion show *Independence Day*, and this summer's contender is *Men in Black* with more aliens.

Summer's hot reading might be the just-published *The Day After Roswell*, a book that thanks alien technology for lasers and fiber optics. And two spots are world-famous for their UFO secrets: Roswell and Area 51.

Roswell not only welcomes visi-

tors, it beams them aboard with its annual UFO crash celebration scheduled for July 1-6. Area 51 is a military test site in Nevada, where posted warnings say trespassers will be shot. But tourists can venture close with a stop at Rachel, Nev., about five miles from the forbidden zone.

Not everyone in Roswell welcomes UFOs. But UFO euphoria adds about \$5 million a year to the town's economy, says Stan Crosby, spokesman for the Roswell UFO Encounter '97 party. Local businesses make glow-in-the-dark candy suckers, flying saucer cookies and UFO Christmas ornaments "that sell because they're marked

"Made in Roswell," Crosby says.

Bus tours offer sightseers a look at the UFO crash site on a sheep ranch outside of town. They see "flat land and a kind of a cliff," Crosby says. But a local promoter is adding benches for those who are overcome.

"You get some people who cry," having picked up "vibes" from the dying aliens who once sprawled there, Crosby says. "I believe something happened there, but I don't get carried away."

For him, it's business — Roswell's bid for the tourist dollar that otherwise might fly through

(continued on page 5) 4

town en route to Carlsbad Caverns. But Roswell hasn't lost its mystery. Latest fuel is *The Day After Roswell* (Pocket Books), a memoir by retired Army Col. Philip J. Corso with a foreword by Sen. Strom Thurmond. R-S.C. Corso claims he knows an alien ship crashed that day, 50 years ago. He says the military feared a national panic if word got out — an uproar like that over Orson Welles' 1938 radio version of *The War of the Worlds*, but with real space invaders.

"You can see the mentality at work behind the desperate need to keep the story quiet," Corso writes. Instead, he claims, the government secretly began cribbing ideas from the alien wreckage and shipping alien technology to American companies including IBM, Bell Labs and Dow Corning.

Pocket Books is promoting Corso's book as "the truth exposed after 50 years." But Thurmond, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, wobbled like a pie pan on a string once he found out the book claims a big government lie. He told *The New York Times* he doesn't know of any flying saucer cover-up, "and do not believe one existed."

Whatever crashed near Roswell — a then top-secret spy balloon, the Air Force says — awoke the slumbering Old West cow town, population about 50,000 now. A brochure from the Roswell Convention and Visitors Bureau reads: "Some of our most famous visitors came from out of state."

This year's UFO Encounter offers a UFO trade show that promises glow-in-the-dark alien-head candles. Its Crash and Burn UFO Contest will challenge entrants to build their own UFO-like soap-box racers. And those events land on top of the town's regular UFO attractions, the International UFO Museum and Research Center and UFO Enigma museum.

Motels already are booked full for 90 miles around, Crosby says, expecting as many as 50,000 attendees.

But Roswell has increasing competition for the UFO dollar. The government's secret test site — Area 51 — is so well-known for hiding flying saucer wreckage and

alien bodies, the State of Nevada points the lonely way for sightseers curious about it.

Just take the officially-named Extraterrestrial Highway, Nevada 375, to Rachel. It's not on the map, but Rachel is home to the Little Alien restaurant and Close Encounters T-shirt Shop, where newcomer Kay Holmgren tells how it is to live there.

"You probably could walk from one end of town to the other in 15 minutes," she says. But it's no Mayberry.

Residents swap stories of lights in the sky and strange lights on the highway. And Holmgren's 4-year-old son, Harley, tells her he was visited one night by "Bobby and the monster."

Holmgren says she questioned him to find out Bobby is a dark-eyed gray alien, a type familiar from such abduction accounts as Whitley Strieber's in his 1987 best-seller, *Communion*. The monster is a reptilian, another alien creature.

She says she believes him because the same thing happened to her.

"When I was 14 or 15 years old, I woke up in the middle of the night and found a gray alien standing in the middle of my bedroom," she says. "It runs in the family."

Aliens are part of another family, too. Belief in them goes with more general belief in miracles and the supernatural. *CQ Researcher* cites a 1994 poll that shows 72 percent of Americans believe in angels, and 23 percent in astrology. Ghosts, Bigfoot and crystal power all have backers.

But Kenneth Arnold wasn't reporting ghosts or angels. Unless he made up the whole story, his report was something as real as a jet in the sky, only not a jet, not anything he could explain.

"We really need to go back to the basics on this," Hall says.

If Arnold told the truth, then he might have seen real flying saucers.

And if they weren't of this earth, then —

Then, science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke once summed up the possibilities.

"Either we are alone in the universe or we are not," he said. "Both are equally terrifying."

Saucer-sighter stuck to his story

June 24, 1947: Kenneth Arnold was a 32-year-old firefighter's equipment salesman and pilot. He was headed toward Mt. Rainier, Wash., at 9,200 feet when he saw — or claimed he saw — nine "peculiar looking aircraft" that flashed sunlight as they dipped and swooshed in formation at speeds he calculated at nearly 1,700 mph.

Soon, all the familiar elements were in place for this and countless more UFO (unidentified flying object) stories that have been hovering from Arkansas to *The X-Files* ever since:

■ The flying saucer. Arnold coined the expression when he said the objects he saw "flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

"He created 'flying saucer,'" says Richard Hall, chairman of The Fund for UFO Research Inc. in Washington, D.C., who wishes Arnold had said something less catchy, more dignified, like UFO.

"Flying saucer" has made for "a lot of silliness," Hall says. In fact, Arnold described the objects he saw as oval shaped, more like 50-foot-long serving platters. But "flying saucer" stuck.

Before Arnold's expression, people who saw something odd in

the sky had no one thing to call it. In biblical times, Ezekiel saw a wheel way up in the middle of the air. Sky-watchers in the Middle Ages saw egg-shaped things. Mysterious "air ships" buzzed the Midwest in the 1800s: gas bags with wings and propellers. In 1897, a Kansas farmer topped those tales with his sighting of a cigar-shaped whosis that dropped a cable and lassoed one of his cows.

Once "flying saucer" took off, newspaper headlines scrapped "flying disk" and "flying hubcap." Hollywood cinched "flying saucer" with cinematic saucer sightings like *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers* (1956), in which the saucers really looked like saucers.

■ Superior saucer technology. Arnold's saucers were faster than any known plane had flown 50 years ago. As the story made headlines, reporters sought out ex-military pilots, who guessed Arnold might have seen some kind of top-secret experimental aircraft — maybe a Russian sneak flight.

But science fiction readers knew better. Alien visitors already zipped through the pages of pulp magazines like *Amazing Stories*. A year before Arnold's sighting, the magazine had alerted its readers that, "If you don't think space ships

visit the Earth regularly ... you just don't think the way we do."

■ Special effects. Before the saucers caught his attention, Arnold said he saw a brilliant blue-white flash.

Weird lights in the sky were nothing new. World War II pilots reported darting fireballs they called "foo fighters" and laughed off as ineffective German weapons. But German pilots saw them, too.

■ No hard evidence. Arnold backed his story with trustworthy credentials, including that he had been helping look for a lost military transport plane when he saw the UFOs. He had no other proof. But he died maintaining that he'd told the truth, Hall says.

■ And government denial. Arnold tried to tell the FBI, but found their office closed. The Army Air Corps denied any such experimental aircraft as a flying saucer.

Military experts said Arnold might have seen some flat hailstones.

(Sources include *CQ Researcher*, *Watch the Skies: A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth* by Curtis Peebles and *The UFO Phenomenon* from Time-Life Books.)

— Ron Wolfe

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - June 29, 1997 CR: W. Jones

Wright-Patt alien lore 'baseless,' Air Force insists

By Don Baird
Dispatch Staff Reporter

DAYTON — Don't look for the famous Roswell space aliens at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, a base spokesman said.

"There are not now, nor have there ever been, alien bodies or alien aircraft on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base," spokesman Bobbie Mixon said.

The story of alien bodies being hidden here has been around so long the *Dayton Daily News* included it earlier this year in a story on Dayton's best-known urban legends.

The message receives one to two telephone inquiries a month concerning alien bodies, even when extraterrestrials are not making news, Mixon said. Not all the calls come from reporters, he added. Plenty of citizens also are curious about UFO lore.

The calls sometimes come in waves, and Mixon was experiencing one of those waves following Tuesday's release of a new Air Force report that attempts to settle controversy surrounding the so-called Roswell incident.

The controversy began July 2, 1947, when something crashed about 75 miles northwest of Roswell, N.M.

An Air Force report released in 1995 stated the downed craft was not an alien spaceship but a balloon the government was using to spy on Soviet atomic test sites in an operation dubbed Project Mogul.

The crash was shrouded in secrecy because of the link with the nuclear arms race, it said.

The latest Air Force report says "alien bodies" that witnesses

thought they spotted probably were life-size dummies dropped during experiments in the 1950s. In telling and retelling the UFO stories, the test dummies from the 1950s became intermingled with the balloon crash of 1947, the Air Force said.

Wright-Patterson was dragged into the Roswell controversy because the UFO faithful came to believe the crashed spacecraft and the aliens aboard it were shipped to the Ohio base for examination.

The Wright-Patterson part of the story may be based on an FBI message supposedly unearthed by a UFO researcher.

The message referred to "a flying disc ... recovered near Roswell."

"The disc is hexagonal ... and was suspended from a balloon by a cable," the FBI message allegedly said. "The object found resembles a high-altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector. Disc and balloon being transported to Wright Field."

Someone enriched the legend by adding that once the aliens and their ship arrived at Wright-Patterson, they were whisked to a mysterious Hangar 18.

Problem is, there is no Hangar 18 at Wright-Patterson, Mixon said.

There is a Building 18 that in no way resembles an aircraft hangar, he said. One possible explanation for the Hangar 18 legend is the refrigeration equipment used in Building 18, Mixon said. Someone may have jumped to the conclusion it was a deep-freeze for aliens.

The equipment is used to provide the frigid temperatures required to test how well jet engines can be started under arctic conditions, Mixon said.

RECORD-JOURNAL, Meriden, CT - June 23, 1997 CR: J. White

About 200 sighted at UFO conference

By Richard Mason Jr.
Record-Journal staff

NORTH HAVEN — Discussions of UFOs and non-human intelligence progressively revealing their presence in a non-threatening manner to Earth were heard Sunday at the North Haven Holiday Inn.

The discussions were part of a special "UFO Experience" conference organized by Cheshire resident John White and his organization, Omega Communications.

One Meriden resident, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of being labeled a crackpot, said he had a UFO experience under clear skies in the Ridgeland section of Wallingford in December of 1977.

"The object, a domed disk, appeared high in the northern sky at approximately 1 a.m.," he said. The objects were photographed.

The Meridenite has been attending White's conferences since 1995. "This is not the type of thing that is supposed to happen to average people," he said.

Oddly enough, less than a year before his encounter, a newspaper had asked him — as part of a "man on the street" feature — whether he believed in UFOs. Back then he said no.

He said while observing the object, "it engaged in unusual wobbling, darting, looping and drifting motions" and that it "glowed in a brilliant, randomly pulsating white light, with occasional bursts of prismatic color changes throughout its form." The encounter lasted about 35 minutes.

Since then, he said he has had about 25 experiences in the Meriden, Hamden, Cheshire area. In half a dozen of the incidents, he said, he encountered other beings. Most of his encounters were experienced by collaborative witnesses, he said.

The conference commemorated the 50th anniversary of the UFO era. About 200 people from all walks of life attended the conference, White said. Pilot Kenneth Arnold coined the term "flying saucer" on June 24, 1947, when he reported nine unusual flying objects over Mount Ranier, Wash.

The conference was for the hard-core UFO fans and an opportunity for people who want to take an in-depth look into the topic, White said.

White said he had one encounter with a UFO in New York in 1987, an incident that was witnessed by others. "It was not of terrestrial origin," and it constantly changed dimensions, White said. His interest in UFOs began in the late 1940s around the time of the reported UFO landing near Roswell, N.M.

John E. Mack, M.D., professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, served as guest speaker Sunday. Mack is known worldwide for his work with people reporting alien encounter experiences.

He founded PEER, the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, in 1993 as a project of the nonprofit Center Psychology and Social Change in Cambridge, Mass.

"As a psychiatrist you have the job of assessing whether the person's experience is a product of a psychiatric problem," Mack said. People are genuinely upset by these type of experiences, Mack said.

Although Mack hasn't had any UFO experiences of his own, he said he believes what other people have experienced.

On Saturday, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman discussed, among other things, the Roswell, incident in 1947; it has been alleged that the military covered up a UFO crash and the discovery of dead alien bodies.

The 10th annual "UFO Experience" conference is scheduled for Oct. 11 and 12 at the North Haven Holiday Inn. Attendance is by advance registration only. Registration fee is \$145 per ticket until Aug. 30, \$175 thereafter.

For more information, write to John White at Omega Communications, P.O. Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410-5051, or at the on-line address: <http://www.tagsys.com:80/Ads/SpaceBetween/omega.html>

Arizonans say the truth about UFO is out there

On March 13 hundreds of people reported an enormous object, or objects, in the night sky. It's the most confounding UFO report in 50 years. So far there is no explanation, but the government is not investigating. Local and federal agencies disagree over who should pursue the report.

By Richard Price
USA TODAY

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Something happened in the skies over Arizona the night of March 13. No one is sure what it was, but thousands saw it, dozens videotaped it and people all over the state are haunted by it still.

"I'll never be the same," Bill Greiner, 51, a cement truck driver, says. He was hauling a load down a mountain north of Phoenix when he saw two brilliantly lit orbs, shaped like spinning tops. "Before this, if anybody'd told me they saw a UFO, I would've said, 'Yeah, and I believe in the tooth fairy.'"

"Now I've got a whole new view. I may be just a dumb truck driver, but I've seen something that don't belong here."

So what did Greiner and everybody else see? That question has rattled around this state for three months. Officials at Luke Air Force Base in nearby Glendale are bombarded with calls for an investigation, even though the U.S. government is officially out of the UFO business.

The subject surfaces constantly on talk shows. And the army of people demanding answers has grown to the point that a Phoenix city councilwoman has launched an inquiry.

It could have been a hoax. It could have been an illusion. It could have been almost anything. But the events of March 13 may add up to the most contentious and confounding UFO report since the so-called UFO age was launched 50 years ago by the legendary crash of a "spaceship" outside Roswell, N.M.

The sightings come at a time when interest in UFOs borders on a national obsession, saturating the movie industry, television and literature. A poll this month by CNN and Time magazine found that 22% of adult Americans believe intelligent beings from other planets have been in contact with human beings.

A Gallup poll last September found that 72% of Americans think there is life on other planets. And 71% said they think the U.S. government knows more about UFOs than it's telling.

"The fact is that more people are seriously interested in UFOs now than they ever have," Don Ecker, research director and news editor at UFO Magazine, says. "Convincing the government may be an exercise in futility, but it's not hard to find believers on the streets."

Huge, V-shaped object

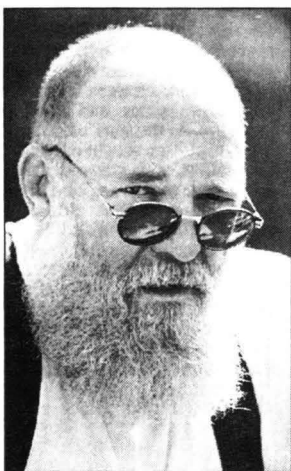
Certainly, that's the case here these days.

"The incident over Arizona was the most dramatic I've seen," says Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash. He brands most UFO reports "hogwash," but not this one. "What we have here," he says with conviction, "is the real thing. They are here."

Arizona authorities routinely refer UFO reports to Davenport's office. The first call that Thursday night came at 8:16 p.m. from a retired police officer in Paulden, 60 miles north of Phoenix. He reported a cluster of five red lights headed south.

Less than two minutes later, a call arrived from Prescott, 15 miles south of Paulden. The second report described one red and four white lights.

One minute after that, Davenport's phones exploded with calls from a succession of cities: Wickenburg, Glendale, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe. Police department phones were jammed. Callers flooded the lines to Luke Air Force Base and media outlets.



"I'll never be the same": Says truck driver Bill Greiner, above, a skeptic before March 13. "It was astonishing, and a little frightening," says Tim Ley, right, with wife Roberta, son Hal, 8, and grandson Damien Turnidge, 13.

but the controllers couldn't help. Although controllers could see the lights, they say nothing showed up on their radar screens.

"Weird, inexplicable," says Bill Grava, a pilot and a controller for 12 years who had tower duty that night at Sky Harbor International Airport here. "I still don't know what to think, and I have no idea what it was. Something military, I guess."

Dana Valentine, 31, was sitting in his yard in Phoenix when the lights headed his way. The laser printer technician ran in and grabbed his father, an aeronautics engineer, and both gaped skyward as the lights passed 500 feet directly above them.

"We could see the outline of a mass behind the lights, but you



Unofficial investigators: Jim Dilettosa and Michael Tanner of Village Labs plotted a map showing the UFO's flight. They also ran a computer analysis of videos shot by amateurs.

The event lasted 106 minutes. Some callers said they saw orbs in the sky. Others saw triangles. By far the most common description — and the one captured on videotapes — was that of a V-shaped object. It had seven lights — three on each prong of the V and a seventh "trailing light" set apart from the others. Occasionally, some of the lights blinked out.

Witnesses generally agree on three things. First, it was enormous. The most conservative estimate describes it as three football fields long. Computer analysis of the tapes puts it at 6,000 feet, or more than a mile. Second, it made no sound.



Third, it moved slowly over Phoenix, cruising at 30 mph. Several times it hovered in place in the sky.

Pilots in the region asked air traffic controllers to identify the lights, couldn't actually see the mass," Valentine says. "It was more like a gray distortion of the night sky, wavy. I don't know exactly what it was, but I know it's not a technology the public has heard of before."

Down the road, Tim Ley had just come home and was climbing out of his car when he saw the lights. He ran in and snatched his wife, Roberta, in time to watch the formation slide silently above them.

"It was astonishing, and a little frightening," Ley, 54, a management consultant, says. "It was so big and so strange. You couldn't actually see the object. All you could see was the outline, as though something was blotting out the stars."

Like most witnesses, Ley found the lights extraordinary. "They weren't bulbs," he says. "They looked like gas. There was a distortion on the surface. Also, the light didn't spill out or shine. I've never seen a light like that."

Hundreds seek explanation

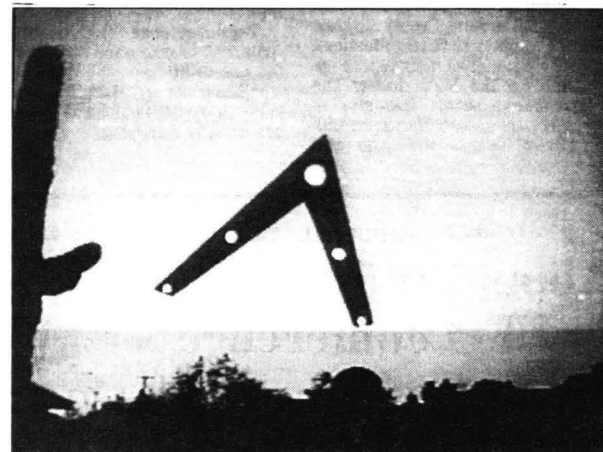
Neither has anybody else, according to Michael Tanner and Jim Dilettosa. They're two of four partners who own Village Labs, a Tempe, Ariz., firm that designs computerized special effects for Hollywood and supercomputers for the federal government. They moonlight as analysts of UFO tapes.

They ran a computer analysis of videos shot by amateur observers, comparing the mysterious lights to every other light on the Phoenix skyline videotaped that night. The lights overhead were dramatically unique, they say — a perfectly uniform light with no variation from one edge to the other and no glow. They have ruled out lasers, flares, holograms and aircraft lights as sources.

"I have no idea what they were," Dilettosa says.

For his part, Tanner has been videotaping witnesses and sorting out the chronology. His present view: There were four objects, including the V formation, all arriving out of the north at about the same time and leaving the same way they came.

But neither man is a scientist by training. They're businessmen who rely on the sophisticated software of others. So while their work goes on, Phoenix Councilwoman Frances Barwood is leading the cry for an official probe.



Composite: A computer-created image was superimposed on a video frame at Village Labs in Tempe, Ariz., to produce this image of the mysterious object.

She took on that role at a council meeting May 6 when she asked City Manager Frank Fairbanks whether anyone was investigating the incident. She was the first official to raise a question publicly, and local media jumped on it. Then the calls started pouring into her home and office from people who had seen it.

"There were 37 the first day," Barwood says. "After that, it climbed into the hundreds. I got calls from doctors, lawyers, celebrities."

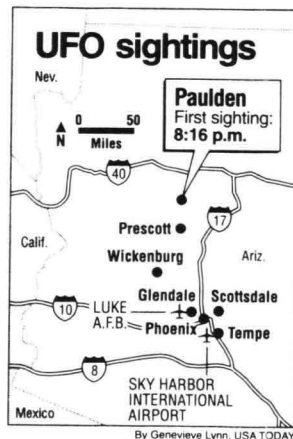
"A Little League coach called to say both teams and their families had seen this. Most wanted their names kept out of it, but they wanted answers. Heck, if I had seen it, I'd want answers, too."

No official investigation

Barwood's path to an official answer, however, has gone the usual route of UFO investigations, which is a road to nowhere.

Phoenix officials say the city can't investigate because "we have no air force," Scott Phelps, spokesman for Mayor Skip Rimsza says. "It's way beyond our resources to chase lights in the sky. We pick up trash. Call the governor."

Gov. Fife Symington's office isn't involved, either. When a caller to his regular weekly radio program asked him about it, Symington said it was the first he'd heard of it. No official action is planned.



UFO fever hit the Carolinas 50 years ago, too

By MARK PRICE
Staff Writer

The luminous flying disc was about the size of a saucer, and came out of the northwest, where it hovered for five seconds, before disappearing to the south.

And it scared the daylighters out of three lounging female tourists, 50 years ago this week.

Another Roswell anniversary tale?

Not quite. This sighting occurred in Charleston on July 5, 1947, three days before reports of a spaceship crash in Roswell, N.M., set off a frenzy of UFO sightings.

The Charleston incident is largely forgotten today, but was the first in a series of sometimes bizarre UFO encounters reported by Carolinians in the early days of July 1947.

Among them were close encounters in Asheville, Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Spartanburg and Darlington, S.C., where 12 winged-shaped objects were spotted by a young lawyer on July 8.

Charlotte topped them all on July 6, with three in one day, including a Mallard Creek man who claimed that a disc barely

"People were always seeing UFOs, but when (a pilot) saw them and it was reported in the paper, it gave them credibility."

GEORGE FAWCETT
MUTUAL UFO NETWORK OF NORTH CAROLINA

missed his head as he refused to wash the dishes after supper.

A Providence Road man said what he saw looked more like three luminous discs "high tailing it" through his yard.

"The flying saucers were apparently sailing around Charlotte in reckless abandon last night," reported a dubious Charlotte Observer. "A man who said he was from Salisbury telephoned to say he had seen the luminous discs flying overhead just as he was entering Charlotte. When asked what they looked like, he replied, 'Just like you described it in the paper.'"

"The most mysterious part about the whole thing was that, with the bootleggers raising their prices to \$4.50 a pint, how in the heck anybody could afford to see

any flying luminous discs."

Why so many sightings just prior to the Roswell incident?

Most likely, people here were reacting to news of a less remembered UFO sighting on June 24, says George Fawcett, of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina. That's when pilot Kenneth Arnold, known as "the father of UFOs," encountered nine objects while flying over Mount Rainier in Washington state. The incident remains unexplained, he says.

"People were always seeing UFOs, but when he saw them and it was reported in the paper, it gave them credibility," says Fawcett of Lincolnton. "You know how it is: if we read it in the paper, it must be true. Suddenly people were saying: 'I saw them, too, but I saw them a month ago.'"

Then again, it could just be that Carolinians are given to reporting alien encounters, something concluded by a 1979 study at the

Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies. It found that North Carolina was fourth and South Carolina

13th among the 50 states in number of UFO reports, with most near dams, transmission towers and substations in the western and Piedmont areas. "Energy picnic tables," Fawcett says.

Not all are easily dismissed. The spate of 1947 sightings included a Charleston reporter who made national news with his first-person account of a "silvery circular object" near the Charleston waterfront on July 5.

Then on July 10 — a day after Roswell hit the news — a group of World War II veterans at Charlotte's Morris Field saw five saucers in formation, flying 7,000 feet up, at about 400 mph.

"What was so strange about them was their color — a deep glowing yellow," Air Corps vet William Aldred told The Observer.

JOURNAL-BULLETIN, Providence, RI - June 21, 1997 CR: J. Trainor

Arizona is abuzz over reports of lights in the sky

WHAT'S THE SECRET?

Phoenix councilwoman Frances Barwood, seen Friday at her north Phoenix home, asked city staff to investigate the March 13 sighting. She also sought a federal probe, in a letter to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., which McCain forwarded to the Air Force. There's been no reply.

AP



■ Hundreds of people across the state report that they spotted the odd flying lights on the same night this spring.

Associated Press

PHOENIX — One night in March, Sue Krzyston heard her husband call from outside: strange lights again in the sky.

They had occasionally seen odd lights before from their hilltop home in north Phoenix, but these were different. "They were very bright, very large — amber or orange-colored," she said. "They almost looked flame-like."

And this night there was another difference: Mike Krzyston had his video camera, and he captured three minutes of what appeared to be lights hovering above the city.

They weren't the only people who saw strange things the night of March 13. People from Tucson in the south to Kingman in northwestern Arizona called authorities and groups that track UFO sightings to

report lights. Many said they were in a boomerang formation.

Radar screens showed nothing, and officials dismissed the reports.

But the issue won't go away.

"You can't ignore that something happened. Something was out there," said Frances Emma Barwood, a Phoenix councilwoman. She didn't see the lights, but enough people have called her that she is convinced something happened, and she wants someone to investigate.

Last week, the Arizona sightings hit the big time. USA Today ran a story on the phenomenon, and other major media outlets followed. The Krzystons' videotape was played on national television.

Gov. Fife Symington even got into the fray, getting headlines during a break in his federal fraud trial on Thursday when he said he had ordered a state investigation of the sightings. He called a news conference later to say it was all a joke, and dressed his chief of staff as an alien for comic effect.

Despite the snickers, Barwood

and others see the attention as vindication and proof that the phenomenon is worthy of investigation.

"Somebody knows what it was," said Charles Painter. He thinks it was Stealth bombers he saw, while driving from Tucson to Phoenix.

While Sue Krzyston saw several lights, Painter said he saw just three, in a triangle formation. They looked much larger than the landing lights on planes headed into Phoenix. He pulled off the road to listen for jet engines, but heard none.

Sue Krzyston is quick to say that she isn't claiming to have seen a spacecraft. But, she said, she and her husband had always attributed previous sightings of odd lights to Luke Air Force Base, west of Phoenix.

"This particular night, they were farther to the east than they'd ever been before," she said.

Whatever the cause, Barwood said, people deserve an answer:

"Why are so many people afraid of saying, 'Hey, let's get to the bottom of what happened?'"

EASTSIDE JOURNAL, Bellevue, WA - June 22, 1997

Believers, skeptics mark UFO craze birthday

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The "flying saucer" age began 50 years ago in the Pacific Northwest, when a traveling salesman who piloted his own plane asked a reporter whether the military was testing secret warplanes.

Bill Bequette was working for the daily newspaper in Pendleton when Kenneth Arnold walked in just before the noon deadline frenzy to claim he had seen nine "unidentified flying objects" speeding past Mount Rainier at better than 1,600 mph — twice the speed of the fastest airplane in 1947.

Bequette sent four paragraphs to The Associated Press, then went to lunch, unaware the sighting he reported on June 24, 1947, would launch the UFO era.

The first thing the newspaper's receptionist asked when Bequette returned from lunch, was: "Where have you been? They've been

Roswell also celebrates anniversary, A10

Arizona residents seek answers to March sighting, A16

calling from everywhere."

"It didn't seem to me to be that big a deal," said Bequette, now 79, who lives in Kennewick, Wash. A longer story, filed that afternoon, was "like throwing a lighted match into a field of cheatgrass," he said.

Since then, thousands of Americans — including former President Jimmy Carter — claimed they saw UFOs. The sightings have spawned military blunders, scientific studies, sensational hoaxes and scores of movies and books.

Although strange craft had been reported as early as 1594 B.C., the sighting by Arnold — successful businessman, skilled flier and strong supporter of President

Dwight Eisenhower — had timing on its side. America was settling into the postwar technological era of televisions, jet planes and talk of space travel.

Within two weeks of Arnold's sighting, people in 28 states, and from as far as Australia and Afghanistan, reported seeing flying saucers. Portland's daily newspapers devoted a news page each day to a roundup of saucer stories. A publisher in Chicago offered a bounty on the crafts. The Oregon National Guard launched a fighter squadron to have a look.

The lead theory of the time was that flying saucers were experimental aircraft flown by the United States or its new archenemy, the Soviet Union.

But a few began to wonder: Is someone out there watching us?

The uproar that Arnold set off in the Pacific Northwest led two weeks later to a flying saucer controversy in New Mexico that would create its own countercul-

ture of UFO believers.

On July 7, 1947, an Army Air Forces colonel announced that officers of Roswell's 509th Bomb Group had captured a flying saucer. Air Forces officials denied the report within hours.

A 1996 Newsweek poll showed that 48 percent of Americans believe the government is hiding proof of UFOs from the public. Gregory D. Bothun, an astronomer at the University of Oregon, worries that Americans are losing the ability to distinguish between scientific fact and fantasy.

After reporting his UFOs in 1947, Kenneth Arnold was besieged. He was dismissed later by skeptics, but thousands sent him fan mail.

Arnold once delivered the keynote address at a UFO convention but in later years was disillusioned with the crackpots he believed had turned serious scientific inquiry into a circus.

Readers' Forum

To the editor:

I really don't want to get in a vendetta with Sabian Warren or any of your other columnists in your paper regarding the reality of UFOs and their occupants. We have 44 cases from 31 N.C. cities to date.

I would be the first to admit that pop culture and paranoia do color a small amount of the reality of the intriguing enigma.

Having pursued this topic for 53 years now, having spent over \$50,000, investigated 1,200 sightings (many in our local area), reviewed the scientific literature, taught accredited college UFO courses, written books and magazine articles on my findings, hit the lecture circuit, conducted quarterly meetings and symposiums, I have finally earned the right to speak.

Currently, I am writing my second book on the subject and am working with others to build a UFO museum to preserve the UFO history for future generations as both a major tourist attraction and research center.

My efforts started as a Boy Scout project in 1944, when I was 15 years old, and has snowballed ever since. This was before the so-called flying saucer age and Roswell became household words.

By reading the Congressional hearings transcripts, the Smithsonian and MIT symposiums, United Nations and House of Lords hearings, Freedom of Information lawsuits and over 900 books and thousands of magazine articles and over 35 years of UFO clipping services on a global basis, I have kept well informed.

During the past five decades as a civilian UFO investigator, I have explained all but 22% of the cases I have investigated. The U.S. Air Force explained all but 25% of the cases they investigated in

22 years, while the University of Colorado Condon Committee scientific studies explained all but 30% of their investigated cases at a cost of \$623,000 of taxpayers' money. Only 1% hoaxes were discovered by each group.

Twenty-two to thirty percent remain unexplained, whether by qualified civilian, military or scientific investigators. This is not acceptable in our so-called modern society with its technological developments.

Both foolish faith and blind doubt will never lead us to the full truth. And by the way, I've never met an informed UFO skeptic.

They don't exist! That's why I am now on the side of the UFO eyewitnesses who experienced these encounters and not those who were not there, who yet try to explain these experiences away, or those who haven't conducted their own investigations of these worldwide experiences.

Conspiracies aside, black budget news media information not likely in a free society and yet Agent Orange, optimistic body counts in Vietnam, the Bay of Pigs fiasco and now dummies dropped in New Mexico seven years later at Roswell. Which brings up to the question, why did the Air Force ask for four small caskets at Roswell (to bury dummies) belatedly? And why can't Roswell surviving servicemen, who had to sign oaths of secrecy, be granted immunity from prosecution 50 years later to testify before open hearings in Congress on the subject?

More questions — but I predict UFOs and the guys who fly them will prove to be a challenge to science, religion and society well after my lifetime expires.

George D. Fawcett
Lincolnton

UFOs exist in minds, hearts

For some, alien visitors are much more than pop culture fairy tales.

By KIM KOZLOWSKI
Staff Writer

Rhondda Francis and Dwight Frizzell swear they have never seen a flying saucer.

"I've had two dreams about UFOs, but that's it," Frizzell said.

Perhaps, then, they have been abducted by a figure with bug eyes and a childlike body?

"No," Francis said. "But I'd love to see a UFO. From what I understand, they're really beautiful."

Like thousands of others, the Kansas City couple trekked this week to Roswell, N.M., which is celebrating the 50th anniversary of an alleged spaceship crash.

But unlike many who went for the hoopla, Francis and Frizzell went for answers to the mythological and theological questions that have spurred thousands to ponder their place in the universe.

They are even posting their musings on an Internet site called Dreamland Diaries (<http://www.dreamlanddiaries.org>).

"It ends up being the ultimate questions," Frizzell said. "What is real and what isn't? Who can you believe?"

Others are asking the same questions, although not necessarily in such a philosophical way. They want the truth about UFO investigations. They want the hype to end.

But to believers and nonbelievers alike, UFOs have become more

than far-out tales.

A burgeoning religion

Francis and Frizzell call themselves open-minded skeptics who are fascinated with the anthropological aspect of UFOs.

Why are people preoccupied with UFOs? What does the intrigue with alien abductions and government conspiracy suggest about society?

"Whatever comes to light 50 years after the Roswell incident — through official governmental sources or leaks from top secret files, through spectacular intervention or rock-stage special effects — is more likely to reveal more about ourselves than any off-world life form," Frizzell wrote on the Dreamland Diaries Web site.

He, Francis and some like-minded friends argue that the UFO renaissance is more profound than a few stories that some call ridiculous. Frizzell, a musician and host of a local radio show, says the fascination with UFOs echoes signs of the times — coming to grips with rapidly progressing technology and preparing for the turn of the century.

"There aren't any simple answers," Francis said. "It seems to be a part of a great ongoing story of who we are and where we are going."

For instance, Francis says the UFO phenomenon boasts all the hallmarks of a burgeoning religion: objects in the sky, apparitions, testimony from believers. There are lessons and an element of fear found in world religions.

But this so-called religion has shuffled the hierarchy of prophets, Francis says. Instead of wise old men, other people — women, children, the poor — are emerging as prophets.

For some, the change isn't important, said Francis, a writer, multimedia artist and lecturer at the Kansas City Art Institute. "They might be more interested in how their stock is doing or how much money is in their 401 (k) plan. For other people, their life doesn't have meaning without it."

What's more, Francis says, before society can inhabit a technologically advanced future, that future must be built mythically.

That's why icons often associated with science fiction are replacing biblical images of lambs, shepherds and people clad in robes and sandals.

"That's what this is all about," Francis said. "It's an unfolding of an age-old myth with brand new characters. We're building a place where we can accept biotechnology and test-tube babies and leaving Earth."

More than pop culture

Although observers have documented UFO sightings for centuries, the phenomenon has mesmerized our culture during the latter half of this century.

It has become one of the greatest mysteries of our time.

UFOs are out there in the media, the movies, television and contemporary literature. Look how critics hail the paranormal television series "The X-Files." Yet another Hollywood movie focusing on extraterrestrial life, "Men in Black," had its premiere this week.

Many believers scoff at UFO pop culture and argue that it mocks an issue that one day will be cataclysmic.

In a recent Gallup poll, 72 percent of those surveyed said life exists on other planets. Seventy-one percent said the government knows more than it is revealing.

Vince White, who has read more than 200 books on the subject, says this should tell skeptics something. That's why his eyes roll when people philosophize on what he believes is a real phenomenon.

White argues that a plethora of hard evidence exists on UFOs but that the government has covered it

The UFO poll

A September 1996 poll conducted by the Gallup News Service surveyed 1,000 adults on their opinions about UFOs. Responses were as follows. (Y=yes, N=no, O=no opinion)

Questions are paraphrased.	Percent of respondents		
	Y	N	O
Are UFOs real?	48	31	21
Have UFOs visited Earth?	45	39	16
Is there life on other planets?	72	19	9
Is the government hiding something?	71	19	10

Source: Gallup News Service

The Star

TheStar.
KANSAS CITY

■ Visit Internet observances of the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident on *The Star's* site at <http://www.kansascity.com>. Click on Local News.

kansascity.com

up.

"Something really big is going on," said White, a computer programmer. "It's the biggest secret since the Manhattan Project."

A ufologist by avocation, White says he is not going anywhere near Roswell this week. Though the anniversary is drawing many serious researchers, such as Roswell investigator and author Stanton Friedman, White said he believes it will be a circus.

He blames the media for perpetuating a cover-up by "playing it safe" instead of tearing into evidence the government is concealing. One day, White says, the press will put its premier investigative reporters on the story.

"All hell is going to break loose someday," said White, who lives in the Brookside area. "It's going to be very embarrassing to the press. Very, very embarrassing. People are going to wonder why the press let the government conceal something like this for so long. It will make Watergate and Iran-contra look like a tea party."

Dreams and paintings

Gail Aggen says she can't afford to go to Roswell, but she would like to. UFOs have fascinated her since she was a girl. No *Little House on the Prairie* or *Nancy Drew* books for her. Science fiction and aliens captivated her interest.

When she was in the sixth grade, Aggen, now 51, woke from a dream in which she stood barefoot in the driveway of her Marinette, Wis., home with her mother. She looked at a pink sky and thought that something was coming back, but she wasn't ready for it.

"If I was ever abducted," she said, "that was it."

A few years later, Aggen began a painting of aliens beaming her and her mother up and out of the house, one of her 140 works that feature alien or space themes. Several are displayed at the 1331 Union Gallery in the West Bottoms.

Until recently, Aggen and her husband linked the local UFO community by holding regional meetings of the Missouri chapter of the Mutual UFO Network at their south Hyde Park home.

Over the years, she has met people who say they have seen UFOs or met alien abductors. Yet Aggen says it means more to her than that.

"When you live in the stars with gorgeous spaceships and clouds of dust lit up," Aggen says, "you become more than a cog in the wheel."

UFO experts find growth in credibility of sightings

SPACE: Meeting draws 50 — both believers and the curious.

BY CATHY LOGG
THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Sky watchers gathered Saturday in Bellingham to talk about mysterious happenings in the air, unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, contacts with space creatures and abductions by alien beings.

The First Annual Fourth Corner International UFO Conference, presented by the Bellingham UFO Group in Alie J Arts' downtown assembly space, drew about 50 people.

Some attended out of a conviction that UFOs exist. Others came out of curiosity.

"The UFO phenomenon is not a great hoax," said Matthew Thuney, who founded the Bellingham UFO Group. "Something is definitely happening."

Those gathered talked about a June 1947 article in The Bell-



Thuney

ingham Herald in which Boise, Idaho, businessman Kenneth Arnold claimed he saw nine mysterious objects — shiny, metallic, disklike crafts — whiz over Western Washington at an estimated 1,200 mph. Arnold's claim then about the DC-10-sized spaceships created a stir that government and military officials pooch-pooched.

But on Saturday, the group listened to tape recordings of commercial pilots. Federal Aviation Administration officials and people standing or driving on roads in numerous states talking about strange objects they saw whiz across the sky over seven states east of the Mississippi.

Arnold's sighting 50 years ago June 26 ushered in an era of UFO reporting. Thuney



Davenport

He introduced Peter Davenport, head of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

Davenport said government officials are beginning to awaken to the UFO phenomenon and recognizing the center's data.

Davenport detailed a variety of sightings from 1995 and 1996. They included one by a DC-10 pilot on Easter Sunday last year and another that was one of the few times, he said, UFOs showed up on American radar.

Teresa King of Blaine said she doesn't attend the Bellingham UFO Group's meetings but does go to some UFO conventions.

"How vast our universe is!" she said. "How can there not be something else?"

When flying saucers were Valley's cup of tea

By TOM MOONEY
Times Leader Staff Writer

Joseph Kuhar knew the skies. As an aircraft communicator at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport in the late 1940s, it was his job to take weather observations and then pass on the information to pilots in the area.

But even Kuhar was puzzled by something he glimpsed in the east-southeast sky early on the evening of Oct. 22, 1947.

"I saw what I thought was a light that was moving slowly, very slowly," he said. "It was really high."

In those days before the airport had radar, a tower or ground control, the good sense and sharp eyes of the communicators were all that pilots had to help them as they landed. Kuhar and his colleagues, operating out of a small building, had to know

**50 years ago,
people in the Wyoming
Valley joined the national mania
for seeing strange lights and
discs in the skies.**

what was going on thousands of feet above them. They knew planes and errant weather balloons when they spotted them. This object didn't have the shape of a plane.

"Because of the way the winds were blowing, the object couldn't have been a balloon," said Kuhar. "It was going against the wind."

Kuhar wasn't the only person in the area to glimpse the mysterious, slow-moving visitor.

Crowds gathered in the streets of many Valley communities as neighbors excitedly pointed skyward and asked one another what it could be.

Some called the newspapers, or the police.

Word spread. Some people began saying it might be a UFO, a flying saucer, like those that had been seen out on the West Coast.

The object was visible as far south as Allentown. There, a pilot took his plane up in an attempt to figure out what it was. But he reported the object was so high that he could not get within 7,000 feet of it.

The Wilkes-Barre Record quoted an astronomer at Lehigh University, in Bethlehem, as saying he focused in on it with his telescope but could determine only that it was not a weather balloon.

Early reports became folklore

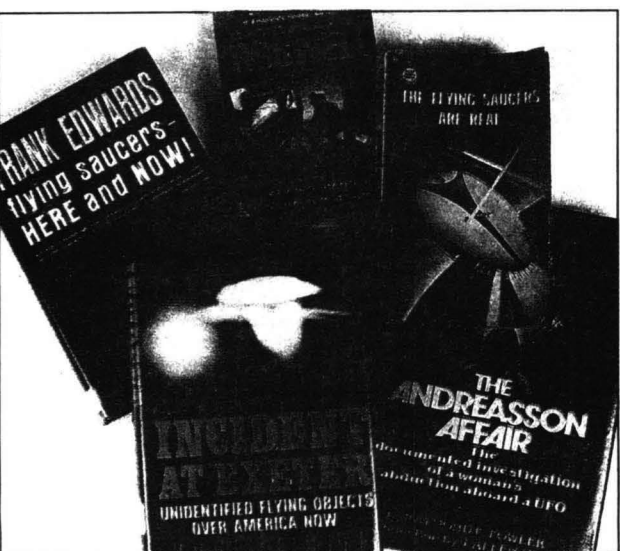
The seriousness with which a skimpy "sighting" was taken was a sign of the times.

Nineteen forty-seven was the year

of the UFO in America, the year in which the term "flying saucer" was coined and from which all later sightings were dated.

Just a few months before Wyoming Valley's episode, out on the West Coast, the craze began. On June 24, 1947, Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold reported that he was flying his small plane over Washington when he spotted several objects flying in the vicinity of Mt. Rainier. Once he told the press that they looked like saucers skipping over water, the term "flying saucer" was born.

Over the next few months many more sightings were reported all over America, including some in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Barely two weeks after Arnold saw his saucers, a Pike County physician was quoted in the Wilkes-Barre papers as having seen lights flashing through the sky as he was driving through Susquehanna County. Several Scranton residents reported strange discs sailing across the sky as well.



Books like these helped feed the public's appetite for information and stories about flying saucers from the 1940s through the 1970s.

The bandwagon was rolling. "Sightings" increased. Books appeared. Movies — "The Thing," "The Day the Earth Stood Still" — came next. Charges of a cover-up high in the American government were made, and entered American folklore.

But scientists as well as federal officials consistently denied that any evidence of actual appearances by alien spacecrafts had ever turned up. Distinguished authorities such as Harvard University astronomer Donald Menzel wrote articles and books that dissected UFO claims mercilessly.

But so numerous were accounts of sightings that the Air Force finally set up a UFO investigation office called Project Blue Book. It lasted into the 1960s before issuing a final report saying that authorities could find no evidence that UFOs represented spacecraft from beyond Earth.

Mystery lights, discs filled Valley's skies

Wyoming Valley people continued to see strange things in the sky from the 1950s onward, and Times Leader files contain accounts of dozens of sightings. The sizes and shapes of the objects were varied, and sometimes the sightings were accompanied by reports of other phenomena.

A woman on St. Mary's Road, in Hanover Township, reported in January 1953, that a ball of flame appeared over the high school early one morning, fading away to a pinpoint. Two local couples visiting a farm at Tunkhannock in September 1952 said they wit-

nessed a bright silver disc hovering in the sky for about two hours.

Sightings continued through the 1960s. In January 1968, a Larksville police officer and two borough workers told of spotting a pair of gray discs hovering above the mountains and suddenly speeding off, but not before frightening a dog into running away. In April 1968, the Harveys Lake area lost power for about 15 minutes one evening, and some residents said the outage was preceded by a sudden bright light in the sky.

In January 1969, one teenage amateur photographer presented The Times Leader with a snapshot of what he called a strange craft he spotted from his Kingston home in the early hours of the morning. He said he noticed vibrations and went outside to find the source, noticing the shining, disc-like object in the sky. The paper's printing of the photo shows a glow against a dark background, but no detail.

Probably the largest UFO audience was for a mysterious white light that seemed to be following a bus carrying Dallas High School musicians home from a festival on the evening of June 25, 1967. Teenagers and the adults who accompanied them said the light appeared about 10 miles outside Benton, shadowing the bus for more than an hour during the trip to Dallas.

Along the way, the driver stopped the bus several times, according to newspaper accounts, only to find the light stopping as

well. An adviser with the students described a "halo" around the light. No stars were visible, all agreed.

Interest in UFOs seems on downgrade

Few accounts of UFO sightings can be found in local newspaper files since the early 1970s. UFO experts say that is par for the course, since sightings typically rise and fall in waves over the decades.

UFOs today are largely an entertainment phenomenon. Many books of the 1980s and 1990s, often hyped on TV talk shows, describe supposed abductions of ordinary people, who only under hypnosis recalled being made the subjects of medical tests by alien beings. Movies like "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "ET" and "Independence Day" still draw huge audiences and make a great deal of money.

But there are few, if any, instances these days of people frantically calling newspapers, TV stations or police departments to report strange lights in the sky or mysterious interference with their televisions.

Joseph Kuhar, the former aircraft communicator, is 73 now and retired, living in Swyersville. Kuhar says he is not a believer in UFOs, despite his glimpse of something he could not explain in the early-evening sky in 1947.

"I don't think, frankly, that we ever had any such beings trying to land here," he said.

MERCURY-NEWS, San Jose, CA - May 5, 1997

Search yields no intelligent life

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

STEVEN GREER says space aliens have visited Earth, that Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy knew this — but that government agencies have kept us in the dark.

Greer, who practices medicine in North Carolina, also runs a group devoted to investigating E.T. contacts, collecting accounts of the cover-up and trying to persuade Congress to hold hearings.

On a recent visit to Atlanta, Greer agreed to an interview.

I told him that his talk of UFOs, cover-ups and hopes for a higher consciousness reminded me of the Heaven's Gate suicides. He called them "lunatics" and "a total irrelevancy to what we're doing."

Born in 1955, Greer saw his first UFO — "a silent metallic disc" — when he was 8. Kennedy was president. "We (now) know that Jack Kennedy had seen the debris and bodies from outer space."

He spoke of pilots who'd reported UFOs. I told him most scientists aren't persuaded, he countered that some are.

But it was Greer who refused to disclose the names of various government officials he said had attended his recent

closed-door seminar in Washington.

And did the CIA director he supposedly briefed believe in UFOs?

"The guy knew," Greer said, "but he had no access to programs, and he was being lied to."

That afternoon I phoned Allan Goodman, executive dean of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Goodman worked at the CIA in the '70s.

After returning to academic life, Goodman agitated for a sensible international agreement by which radioastronomers would publicize and share their knowledge if they ever got a signal from outer space. Goodman's protocol, signed by every radio observatory in the world, is now on display at the Smithsonian.

"We're not alone," Goodman told me at one point; there probably is intelligent life out there. But — though he said he took no interest in the subject at the CIA — he does not think the government is harboring some tremendous secret.

"We have a government that leaks like a sieve," he said. "It's unimaginable."

Colin Campbell is a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Media should get all the facts on Arizona UFO sightings

The newspapers are not printing all the facts concerning the UFO event(s) over Phoenix in March (TNT, 6-22). Maybe they haven't been informed of the whole truth.

UFOs were sighted on the evening of March 13 and 14. How do I know? I encountered one 35 to 40 miles due west of Phoenix on I-10 at approximately 8 p.m. March 14. I observed it for 20 to 25 minutes.

I want to know who designed a craft that dwarfs the B-2 Stealth bomber and moves across the night sky as silently as a gliding swallow.

I want to know why Luke Air Force Base disavowed any knowledge of the two jets I saw observing the craft. Did the jets come from the Barry Goldwater Jet Training Center? Has anyone asked them for information?

Why did Luke Air Force Base lie about being deluged with reports about the UFO? At the height of the UFO sighting on March 13, base operators acknowledged a bombardment of calls. A few hours later they denied everything.

Gov. Fife Symington ordered a state investigation. He made a promise to those of us who saw the craft that he would find out where it came from, be it ours or someone else's. What happened in the governor's office that would change the promise of an investigation into a joke and the governor's chief of staff into a glittery, pink-and-silver space alien costume?

Is there any news organization out there willing to spend the time and money to seek the truth? Finding out where these UFOs came from is the story of the century, even if it carries a made-in-USA label.

Inaccurate facts help perpetuate a mystery, creating confusion that allows disputatious controversy.

How about it, reporters: Can't one of you find out the truth?

CARROLL ARMSTRONG
Tacoma

UFO over Blowing Rock

By JENNIFER BENT
Watauga Democrat

An odd sight appeared in the sky over Blowing Rock Sunday that caused at least one resident there to wonder if a unidentified flying object was passing by.

Elizabeth Free called the Watauga Democrat to ask if anyone else had reported seeing the luminous silver disc that flew through the sky at about 11 a.m. and headed toward Lenoir.

When asked about what she had observed, Free said the unidentified flying object appeared to be "just cruising" toward Lenoir, and added that she hadn't been the only one to witness it.

A friend of hers and her husband who were driving from Lenoir to Blowing Rock also watched the UFO passing back and forth in the sky, in view of U.S. 321.

The friend, a manager of a retail business in Lenoir, told Free that she and her husband watched the object throughout the entire drive up



ELIZABETH FREE

the mountain.

Oddly enough, the object wasn't alone in the sky. Three jets that Free said appeared to be military aircraft flew with the object, one behind and two below as if they were escorting

it. The silver, disc-shaped craft, which was a little larger than the jets, flew at the same speed as the planes.

The description of the UFO's flight pattern differs greatly from

most sighting reports that tell of a sudden, dramatic appearance, usually late at night or in the early morning and usually only seen by one person, followed by a rocket-like burst of speed that causes the object to "shoot away."

"We wondered if we were all playing on the same sheet of music or if we were hallucinating," said Free, a real estate broker and investor who has lived in Blowing Rock for 20 years.

She was sitting in her living room of her home on Rocky Knob Road, looking out her sliding glass doors over the Pisgah National Forest when she looked up and saw the object.

"I usually don't pay attention to what I see, but I do when other people see the same thing," she said, adding that three other people, including two customers of the store her friend manages, also watched the silver disc as it passed over Lenoir.

"I can't imagine that a commercial or private plane would follow something like that; the military could have been testing something or it could have been a UFO. People see different things. The husband of my friend isn't a particularly open-minded person; he considers himself a logical, practical person, and he called her to tell her to look at it. The fact that he saw it kind of blows the theory that only 'intuitive' people see them," Free said.

A deputy at the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office said that no reports of a UFO had been made, and suggested that what Free and her friends had seen might have been the Hale-Bopp comet.

Free, who had been reluctant at first to describe the UFO and then to "go on record," disagreed.

"No, that wasn't the comet. It looked like it was glowing, but it was a metallic disc," she said with certainty.

News staff at the Lenoir News Topic said that no sightings had been reported, and a call to Watauga County Sheriff Red Lyons went unanswered.

Jerry Burns, editor of the Blowing Rock newspaper, said that he had received only one phone call from another Blowing Rock resident who had seen the UFO. Burns said he told the man it was probably the comet.

Free was relieved to hear that she hadn't been the only Watauga County resident to see the UFO, but remained pragmatic about her experience.

"Galileo thought the Earth revolved around the sun, and people disagreed with him," she said.

"We've all decided that we're going to start carrying our cameras with us, though."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 14, 1997

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON monthly meeting was set back a week to May 18 because of Mother's Day. Our guest speaker this month will be Caryl Dennis from Clearwater, Florida. Caryl is an experimenter and a researcher of UFO-related phenomena. She has researched the science of colors and the "missing twin" syndrome. She has recently published her latest findings in a new book entitled "The Millennium Children: Tales of the Shift." In this work she poses the question: "Are there connections among UFO phenomena, the vanishing twin syndrome and the current influx of children with extraordinary intuitive, intellectual and physical abilities?" These are the Millennium Children. Caryl's book details the stories of some of these children and their families and includes many unusual and interesting cases. Children are being born with extreme strength, such as the boy who upon being run over by a car, promptly lifted it off himself and then entertained the hospital staff by throwing office desks around the room. Many other children are being born with memories of past lives not on this planet or with memories of being in other relationships with their current family members such as the child who asked his mother if she remembered "when he and Grandad were twins."

Caryl will share her personal story of contact and her own counterpart, as well as giving an insight into her other areas of research. The meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze. Admission is \$5 for members of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON and \$7 for non-members. Further information can be obtained by calling the hotline number that appears below.

Here are two more reports of sightings from the Fairhope area. Jesse Hogan, a resident of Orange Street in Fairhope, Alabama was walking his dog on April 5, 1997 between 2 and 2:30 p.m. when he saw a strange object flying over Mobile Bay near the Orange

Street pier. Mr. Hogan stated that the vehicle resembled a truck tire on its side, was approximately 60 feet in diameter, and had ten square windows along the side and was completely smooth. He took his dog back into the house and when he came back out the vehicle was gone.

The second report comes from an attendee of the 5th Annual Project Awareness UFO Conference recently held in Gulf Breeze. Mac Morris returned home to Lillian, Alabama on the night of Sunday, March 23, 1997 at the end of the conference. She and her sister were called out of her home by their two sons and a friend who was observing a silent "green" light in the sky, which was immobile, but seemed to turn almost sideways as they watched. When the mothers got outside, they saw an orange disc, the size of the full moon in the sky. They were looking westward toward Soldier's Creek.

Two nights later, on March 25, they went out to see Hale-Bopp, but their view of the comet was obscured by trees so they decided to drive over the Perdido Key Bridge to look from the Florida side of the Bay. They observed what appeared to be a similar orange disc of comparable size to that which they had seen two nights ago, which was a little higher in the northwestern sky than the comet. It is unfortunate that this report has no details as to duration of these sightings, or the time that they occurred, or how the objects left or disappeared.

No more reports have been received from the investigators over in Alabama and I hope that, as is so often the case, an information "blackout" has not been imposed by whatever other interested parties have become involved in this investigation. It is of the utmost importance to the research of the UFO phenomena that researchers and research groups remain open and share and spread their information concerning sightings and encounters. Secrecy among researchers and research groups and the failure to share information unfortunately has a long precedent and has done

more damage to the progression of UFO research than anything else, including Government cover-ups. The least we can do is get the information regarding these events out there. I hope to receive more information soon and share it with those who are interested via this column.

No activity at Shoreline Park this week. Skywatching last Saturday evening was a pure joy. The temperature was just right, the mosquitoes not in evidence and the sky . . . the sky was so clear we could even see a nebula in the south and Hale-Bopp is still visible for a short while. A family with two young boys came along soon after dark. One of the boys, a tow-headed lad of about 7, walked up and asked what we were looking at. At that time we were looking at Hale-Bopp so I asked him if he had seen the Comet. He responded, "Yeah, but not with binoculars." It took awhile to get things adjusted and get him to find the Comet in the sky using the glasses, but it was worth it for both of us. His response was a resounding, "Wow!!!" and the look on his face was reward enough for me. We talked awhile about the comet and the stars, he viewed Mars and a couple of other stars with great enthusiasm and then he said, "Well, that was great, we thought you guys were aliens or something!" His father stayed awhile after Mom went on with the boys, to talk about UFOs and discuss sightings he had some years ago. It was a great evening. Unfortunately, even though it would have been a perfect night for a sighting, there is nothing to report. Construction at Shoreline Park on the new boardwalk continues apace and at least, once they are through, we will be able to decide whether we can still sky-watch there or where else to go. The end of the fishing pier seems to be a good option, although it does have disadvantages.

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

DEMOCRAT-HERALD, Albany, OR - June 4, 1997

Strange lights sighted across the mid-valley

BY MARILYN MONTGOMERY
Albany Democrat-Herald

Twenty-six people in Linn County, most of them in Albany, reported 14 sightings of strange lights in the sky in the last week of March and first three days of April.

Greg Long of Philomath, who has collected their stories, concluded that most of the lights appeared to be UFOs, though none of those who saw the lights used that term.

Long said he has investigated UFOs for 22 years and is an associate with Chicago's Center for UFO Studies. After the Democrat-Herald reported two people seeing strange lights April 1 in Albany, Long wrote a letter to the editor, asking readers to notify him of any other sightings.

"I was surprised I got as many as I did," he said.

The accounts were independent of each other. They were geographically dispersed (one was on Diamond Hill Drive near Harrisburg), but the features reported were generally consistent, Long said.

A lot of the witnesses said they expected to read accounts of the lights in the newspaper after they'd seen them, but few did, he said.

Long promised he could keep the names of the witnesses confidential, but has compiled a written summary of their experiences. Among the most dramatic: About 2:30 a.m. March 25, five members of an Albany family saw a glowing white object with sparks falling from it and nine tentacles hanging from it, first near Old Salem Road and later near Chicago Street Northeast.

At 8:10 p.m. March 25, a woman on Grand Prairie Road, Albany, saw three brilliant red lights in a triangular shape descending from the sky in the west and disappearing behind some trees. The next

night, the woman said, her bedroom was illuminated briefly by a bright light "as if from something passing over the house," Long wrote.

In some cases, they could have been meteors, Long said, but most had the following characteristics:

- A single light in the night sky, usually seen in mid- to late evening.
- Lights were red, amber, orange or orange-red; most were orange. Some turned from red or orange to white.
- They were roundish or perfectly round in shape.
- They hovered, moved, stopped and moved on.
- They dropped or ejected embers or burning material.
- They changed size or light intensity, dimming or expanding.
- They vanished by "going out," Some descended vertically toward the ground.

"These lights are not stars or planets or aircraft lights," Long wrote in his report. "Witnesses were emphatic that what they saw was not a known phenomenon."

Long said the lights could have been "hoax balloons," usually made of a plastic bag rigged with candles or flares in a frame which catch fire or explode after they are launched.

With the number of sightings this spring, Long said, a hoaxer would have had to launch 12 different balloons over a five-day period.

However, several of the lights were said to go out and come back on, while some moved at the speed of a plane, and others "shimmered" or "shimmied" — all of which would rule out the balloon theory.

Long continues to collect data about suspected UFOs. He can be reached at (541) 929-3557, by writing P.O. Box 819, Philomath, Ore. 97370, or through e-mail at greglong@proaxis.com



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

I was very frightened . . . I saw flashing blue and red lights

UFOria in county at 'alien' sighting

By Steve Bird

A spooky X-Files-style investigation was underway in Shropshire today when a woman claimed aliens abducted her for up to two hours after snatching her from her home.

Officials from the British UFO Research Association are probing claims by the 35-year-old woman that aliens visited her home near Ellesmere before abducting her. Meanwhile up to three other separate sightings of strange lights in the sky in Shropshire have been reported

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Wellington, England - Feb. 7, 1997

Star-gazers in UFO encounter

A family who stood outside to look for a comet got more than they bargained for.

They saw a blazing shape with 15 lights flying towards Cheltenham. It seemed to change shape as it travelled from Uckington, over Arle and towards Lansdown. It was one of two UFO sightings in Cheltenham on March 19.

The father, who asked not to be named, said: "It was extremely low, no more than 100ft high. All we heard was a low engine or humming noise."

The family were standing outside their home in Lansdown, Cheltenham, looking for the Comet Hale Bopp.

Robin Cole, head of investigations for the Circular Forum, a Cheltenham-based UFO society, said: "Having spoken with the family at some length and looking at the course and angle of the object and the local landmarks, I can't see that there's any other logical explanation."

"At this height and size other people must have seen it and we would ask them to speak to us in confidence."

Mr Cole said he received another report of a pulsating light moving low among trees on Cleve Hill the same evening.

To contact Mr Cole, ring 577629 or 0973 778906.



The mum's drawing of the alien she says she encountered

to the investigators.

The mother of two, who does not want to be named, said she spotted bright lights outside her bedroom window and then saw the face of an alien.

The mum says the close encounter happened during the early hours of December 15 last year, minutes after she put her young daughter back to bed after she had woken up at 4am.

"I was very frightened," she said. "I saw flashing blue and red lights going on and off outside the window. I tried to wake my husband but I could not move or speak."

"I could see the alien so clearly. It had huge slanting eyes, a large head and it was wearing a silvery white helmet."

"It was not hostile and, it sounds really corny, but it was full of love."

"The next instant everything had gone and I could just see its face above me. I feel as though I was taken somewhere."

She added that the experience left her feeling revitalised for about a week.

Director of investigations for BUFORA Mrs Gloria Dixon confirmed that investigations had started into the reports.

She said the woman would be interviewed by a trained investigator and she would be put in contact with a witness support group.

Meanwhile Tamsin Moseley, 26, of Tern View, Market Drayton, was travelling back from her parents-in-law on the same night when she says she spotted an unusual craft above Shawbury. Another man from Shawbury has reported a cluster of lights moving at high speed above Telford during the early hours of December 4 last year and there was another sighting that day above the M54 in Telford.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - June 13, 1997 CR: J. O'Brien/COUD-I

Jet 'buzzed by UFO'

By ANDREW LOUDON

THE pilots had just emerged from heavy cloud when it flashed towards them.

The streak of red, white and blue seemed to be on a collision course. But within two seconds it had vanished.

Was it a military aircraft? Or perhaps a Red Arrow which had strayed from its path?

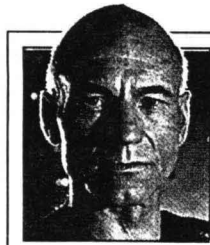
Both the captain and first officer of the Aer Lingus BAe 146 passenger jet saw it as they flew at 9,000ft over Stevenage, Hertfordshire, on the descent into Stansted Airport on a flight from Dublin last June.

But despite exhaustive investigations, no-one has been able to

Mystery of airliner's near-miss in clear skies

establish what it was. The 146 had flown down a 'canyon' of huge, towering clouds and was just emerging into clear weather when the object came hurtling towards them, passing down their right-hand side 100ft below and less than 300 yards away.

Both men described it as red



STAR TREK diehards are hooked like drug addicts, says a psychologist. The most passionate five to ten per cent 'meet the psychological criteria of addiction, showing withdrawal symptoms such as agitation and frustration if they miss an episode and developing higher tolerance levels so they need increasing doses', said Dr Sandy Wolfson who made a four-year study of Trekkies. 'One woman couldn't relax on holiday because she was worried she had not set the video properly,' said Dr Wolfson.

with blue and white stripes. They thought it might have been a Hawk jet and noticed engine intakes on the fuselage.

The captain radioed air traffic control and asked: 'Did we have a Red Arrow pass quite close there?' Nothing could be seen on radar. Investigators

established that none of the Red Arrows had flown that day and all other RAF and BAe Hawks could be accounted for.

The livery suggested it might have been a Folland Gnat, the aircraft formerly flown by the Red Arrows, but none were found to have been airborne.

Operators of ex-military jets including MiGs and even old Sabres were checked and eliminated.

An air proximity or 'near miss' report was filed and a lengthy investigation by the Joint Airprox Working Group made up of civil and military flight professionals has concluded that what the pilots saw was 'an unknown object'.

'There is no doubt that both BAe 146 pilots clearly saw something and agreed in some detail in their descriptions.'

'Regrettably it has not been possible to trace any aircraft that were in the area at the time.'

An Aer Lingus spokesman said: 'We really have no explanation and the incident is likely forever to remain a mystery.'

SUNDAY LIFE, Belfast, Ireland - Feb. 16, 1997

Twilight zone 'keeping me off the air'

By JOHN CASSIDY

in Monaghan.

And last night he claimed the station is based in the same area where three weeks ago he and his dog Lobo were snatched by creatures from outer space.

He said the generator had been tested successfully throughout

the week, and also a few minutes before the first show was to due to go out.

"At 6pm when we switched on, we found a problem with the generator. The engineer checked it, we tried again and again to get on air, but we still had the problem."

"Then at 7.40pm,

there was this huge surge of energy through the generator, and the next thing it blew up."

"We tried again yesterday morning with a second generator, and still we could not get on air."

"We are onto our third generator. We have had to turn the

power down and we are broadcasting on mono instead of stereo."

"My engineer, who has 25 years experience working in the BBC, is completely baffled by what has happened."

"I am not saying, aliens are doing this, but all I can put it down to is the paranormal activity in Monaghan."

"I was abducted here twice before by aliens, and I believe there is some sort of paranormal field operating around this area," added Laurence John.

He claimed earlier this month that he and his dog were taken onto a craft by four aliens who were able to speak to him in English.

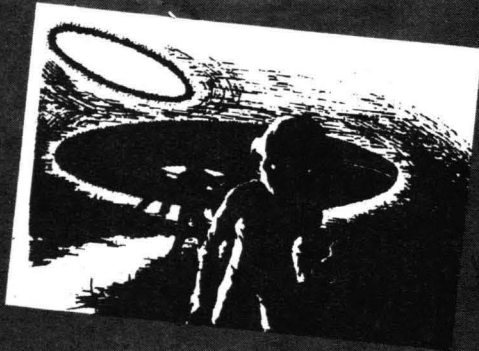
THE zany DJ who claimed he was abducted by aliens believes "something out there" is trying to zap his new radio station.

A huge power surge on Friday night blew up the generator Laurence John was using to launch his new radio station, Energy 106 FM,



Laurence John: abducted by aliens

Tales of the unexplained



WHILE the X-Files captures a worldwide audience, the real-life version of Gillian Anderson has as her centre or operations a semi in a quiet Newcastle suburb.

FBI agent Dana Scully may be well known, but it is Gloria Dixon who deals with all the inexplicable happens that occur in this country and beyond.

And as Gloria says: "What is really happening is far stranger than anything the X-Files could ever come up with."

Gloria Dixon is the director of investigations for BUFORA - the British UFO Research Association - which is often called in by people who claim to have witnessed an alien craft or had a close encounter experience.

Since television screened the X-Files, and with programmes like Dark Skies, there has been a massive interest in possible alien life and, not surprisingly, a huge increase in the number of calls to BUFORA.

"In the last year the number of reports to BUFORA has tripled," said Gloria. "That doesn't mean that there's a great upsurge in UFOs however. It just means that more people are more aware because of the high profile in the media."

Around 95 per cent of so-called sightings have perfectly logical explanations and are more of a terrestrial than outer space nature.

Hartlepool people who believed they witnessed something unusual before Christmas were most likely to have seen laser lights and many other sightings can be put down to secret military testings.

Gloria is not some crank, in fact she's more cynical than most and will always look for a logical reason to inquiries.

"Aircraft that have been seen under unusual circumstances could sometimes be put down to Stealth bombers," she said.

"British Aerospace has also spent around £100m on a secret prototype for a UAV - unmanned aerial vehicle."

Favoured

The shape of the objects described by those who spot them fits with this theory as now most people say they have seen triangular UFOs as opposed to the cigar or saucer shape of the past - a design favoured by many military aircraft.

But that doesn't alter the fact that there are cases that have come to light for which there seems to be no reasonable explanation.

BUFORA has recently been carrying out some research for Israeli UFO investigators, after a supposed alien creature was discovered on a farm.

Closer to home, there are a number of fascinating cases on Gloria's book which simply defy explanation.

Her personal belief is that the unexplainable encounters are more a result of "inner space than outer space", convinced of the parallel universe theory rather than alien beings.

She cites the "time discrepancy" factor, where people who have undergone some kind of unexplained experience



● **GLORIA DIXON:** "In the last year the number of reports to BUFORA has tripled."

"What is happening is far stranger than anything the X-Files could ever come up with"

By **BERNICE SALTZER**

find they have lost hours of their life, without knowing what happened during that time lapse.

Gloria believes that one explanation is that there are parallel worlds and that somehow people occasionally cross over into these.

"People who have a close encounter experience are often those who have had some other kind of paranormal experience in their lives," she said.

The Carlisle area seems particularly rich in encounters.

Hovering

Gloria tells of a taxi driver driving near Brampton on New Years Eve, who saw a green light hovering near a farm on a quiet country road.

Later that same night he was travelling along the same road, this time with a car full of passengers, where they all saw a silver suited figure holding what

looked like a white sheet in front of him, standing by the gate.

Far stranger was an incident which occurred in West Yorkshire three years ago, when a husband and wife, their niece and her boyfriend were having a barbecue.

Fragmented

All four of them claimed to have seen a UFO and found that they had lost 70 minutes during the course of the evening which they couldn't account for.

"They all had fragmented memories," said Gloria. "They all saw a UFO and remember lights."

"The husband claims he could see his wife in two places at once while the wife vaguely remembered every time she put a glass down, it disappeared."

"And the following day she couldn't find any glasses in the house."

The experience was a very harrowing one for the four of them, and they all had a period of ill-health following their alleged

encounter.

Gloria's amazing cases include that of a man she calls Steve Robins, who lives on Teesside.

He was on nightshift in 1981 when he noticed a large object about 100 ft long hovering by receiving towers in the distance.

After checking with Teesside Airport to see if they knew what it was, Steve got on his bike and started to pedal towards it but as he got closer it disappeared.

Shortly after that every electrical appliance in Steve's house refused to work and at one point the television blew up - baffling electrical engineers.

Paralysed

"One night he was lying in bed and he realised that he was totally paralysed," said Gloria.

"And he remembers seeing all these robed figures in his bedroom."

Steve claims that they talked to him through thought transference and they told him not to be scared.

Steve now has seemingly amazing powers of intuition and also predicted events such as Lockerbie and Chernobyl.

It's easy to dismiss these stories - and the scores of other cases which come to BUFORA's attention - as nonsense, but there are so many events which simply defy logical explanation that some other answer has to be found.

It is here that BUFORA comes into its own, with its team of trained volunteer investigators who look into incidents.

● Anyone wanting to find out more about becoming a volunteer or who has an incident to report can contact the organisation at BUFORA, London: 020 7601 2000



THERE'S loads to tell you this week UFO fans starting with yet another sighting of our 'black triangle' friend.

This latest sighting comes in from an UpHolland man and his three children who ALL saw the craft.

In his own words our man (Brian) writes: "I would like to tell you of a sighting I and my three children had on February 7 at 6.30pm."

"I was travelling from Ashurst/Skelmersdale to UpHolland where my mother lives. We were just turning onto a straight road when to my right, I saw a very bright light. I knew what was coming because I have seen it before in October 96."

It was the triangle...I speeded up to get on to the straight part of the road. It was about 200 yards in front going across the road towards Wigan then turned towards Chequers Lane.

"It turned again and I stopped the car. We all got out and watched in amazement as it passed over our heads."

"It was definitely a triangle shape with a light in each corner, very bright."

"Not a sound came from it and the size of it was huge. I told my friends but they all think I'm crackers but me and my children know what we saw."

THE next meeting of WasPsi is on Monday, February 24 at The Orwell. Start time is 8pm.

David Cayton will give an illustrated talk on the subject of crop circles. Admission is £2.

A PUBLISHING company down in London are inviting budding young writers to send them short stories on the subject of aliens, alien abductions, unexplained phenomena, ghosts, poltergeists and wraiths.

Points to note: No single story should exceed 1500 words, entrants must be over 16, there is no entry fee, royalties will be paid, those not included in the anthology may receive a short critique of their work and how it might be improved, entries of special merit will be considered for publication, SAE for return of material is essential.

Send your short stories to: Hamilton & Co Publishers, 115 Stamford Road, London, E6 1LF, telephone 0181 548 1814.

Our girls seduced by aliens says Eric

By **ANDY RUSSELL**

MALE nurse Eric Morris has quit his job to help women who say they were seduced by aliens.

The UFO fan is Britain's first alien abduction counsellor.

Eric, 43, says many of his patients claim they had sex with randy extra-terrestrials.

One woman even told him she had an alien baby after being wooed on a flying saucer. "I



Eric... UFO counsellor

totally believe her," he said. "She had scars on her body that can't be accounted for."

"I believe there is a cross-breeding programme going on."

Eric, a former Royal Navy petty officer, gets 20 letters a week from abduction "victims."

He went on: "Lots of women feel impelled to have sex with these beings and feel ashamed. I help them deal with it."

The married dad from Winsford, Cheshire, has also dealt with a woman who says a blue reptile-like alien taught her a language called Sencar.

He insisted: "I am not a nutter."

Plane chased UFO over Sauchie

UFOs have been spotted flying over Sauchie - and one woman is certain they are not aeroplanes.

Margaret Dewar, of Marchside Court, is adamant that she saw something that wasn't a plane flying slowly through the air.

She described her sighting as cigar-shaped, small, moving slowly and leaving a trail of smoke or steam behind it.

Margaret told the Advertiser, "I've seen it on a number of occasions. Last Tuesday I was lying down on my couch and it just caught my eye."

"It came out of the clouds and at first I thought it was a meteorite. It definitely wasn't a plane. A plane actually followed after the object."

Edinburgh Airport, which has sparked previous UFO sightings by 'stacking' flights

- which are then seen circling over the Ochils - if delays occur, denied that any aeroplanes had been in the area that afternoon.

Hotbed

Ron Halliday, chairman of the Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said, "Alloa is a hotbed for UFO sightings. In the last year we have had a couple hundreds of sightings."

"It sounds like a typical sighting, which we will investigate. Some of them are down to aeroplanes, but we can't tell what a good proportion of them are."

Embarrassed Margaret said she felt she had to speak out about the sighting despite being concerned that it might leave her open to ridicule.

She added, "People may think I am silly, but I know what I saw."

Dr Hendry's UFO Casebook: VIPs' comments on sightings

THERE was a time, not very long ago, that the Great Powers were acutely suspicious of each other's ability to wage war with little or no loss to themselves.

Spies and counter-spies, the FBI, KGB, MI6, CIA, all worked to help their country keep abreast of worldwide warlike scientific developments and of defence against them.

We recall the U-boats, Stuka bombers, the Spitfire, radar, 1000 bomber raids, the buzz bombs and V1 rockets and finally the atom bomb, the "final deterrent" to war.

But the 'Cold War' spawned star wars and horrible weapons in space, interference of the stratosphere and "killer satellites" with gamma-ray weapons.

Secrecy was all important in the development of these measures and countermeasures which kept each country on its toes. But were "flying saucers" the product of scientists in Russia, or America or even Britain? Nobody seemed to know.

The following comments by eminent scientists and politicians confirm that the problems of UFOs and aliens were worldwide.

In April 1952, Dr Walter Riedel, noted German rocket expert, said in Life Magazine: "I'm convinced that saucers have an out-of-this-world basis."

On August 6, 1952, Winston Churchill ordered Lord Cherwell, the Secretary of State for Air, to look into the matter of unidentified flying objects and report back directly to him "at your convenience."

On August 9, 1952, the Air Ministry, Whitehall replied: "All UFO sightings are either astronomical phenomena, mistaken sightings of balloons, birds, optical illusions or hoaxes, and the Americans have reached a similar conclusion."

In 1953, President Harry Truman told reporters: "I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on earth."

In 1954, Britain's Air Chief Marshall, Lord Dowding, said: "Flying saucers are real, and they are inter-planetary. The existence of these machines is evident and I have accepted them absolutely."

On October 24, 1954, the American Weekly

quoted Professor Herman Oberth, the great German space pioneer: "It is my thesis that flying saucers are real and that they are space ships from another solar system. We cannot take credit for our record advancement in certain scientific fields alone; we have been helped."

When asked who helped, he said, "The people of other worlds."

In 1954, the famous psycho-analyst, Dr Carl Gustav Jung said: "The discs show signs of intelligent guidance, by quasi-human pilots. The authorities in possession of important information should not hesitate to enlighten the public as completely as possible."

On October 8, 1955, the New York Times quoted general Douglas MacArthur 'The Nations of the world will have to unite - for the next war will be an interplanetary war. The nations of the Earth must someday make a common front against attack from other planets.'

In 1966, according to the Weekly World News newspaper, Canada, April 30, Jack F. Kennedy was shot to prevent him revealing the truth about UFOs.

In 1976, President Jimmy Carter, during his election campaign, said he and other witnesses saw a UFO at Leary, Georgia, in 1969 prior to giving a talk at the local Lions club.

He told reporters: "It was the darndest thing I've ever seen, it was big, it was very bright, it changed colours and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for 10 minutes but none of us could figure out what it was."

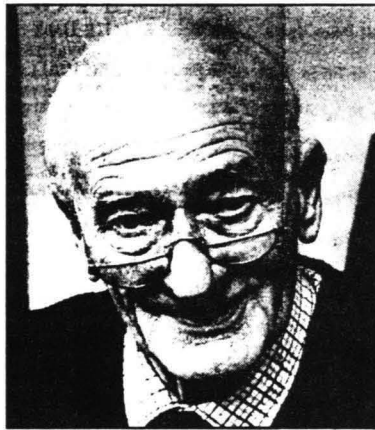
"One thing's for sure; I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky. If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and scientists." (All the security agencies made sure his pledge remained unfulfilled).

In 1967, U. Thant, former Secretary-General of the UN, confided to friends that he considered UFOs to be the most important problem facing the UN, besides the Vietnam War.

In 1981, Dr Felix Yurevich Zigel, DSc, Assistant Professor of Cosmology at the Moscow Aviation Institute, in charge of cosmonaut training (in the Italian weekly magazine 'Gente' in 1981) said: "We have seen these UFOs over the USSR; craft of every possible shape: small, big, flattened, spherical. They are

able to remain stationary in the atmosphere or to shoot along at 100,000 kilometres per hour.

"They move without producing the slightest sound, by creating around themselves a pneumatic vacuum that protects them from the hazard of burning up in our atmosphere. Their craft also have the mysterious capacity to vanish and reappear at will. They are also able to affect our power resources, halting our electricity-generating plants, our radio stations and our engines, without however leaving any permanent damage."



"So refined a technology can only be the fruit of an intelligence that is indeed far superior to man."

December 5, 1985, International Herald Tribune and Daily Telegraph: At the summit meeting with Gorbachev, Ronald Reagan said: "How much easier your task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from another species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local difference that we have between our countries, and we would find out once and for all that we really

are all human beings on this earth together."

In 1987, Mikhail Gorbachev, at the Grand Kremlin Palace, Moscow, said on February 16: "At our meeting in Geneva, the US President said that if the Earth faced an invasion by extraterrestrials, the United States and the Soviet Union would join forces to repel such an invasion. I shall not dispute the hypothesis though I think it's early yet to worry about such an invasion."

A book, 'A Deadly Concealment' by Derek Sheffield, published in 1996, contends that the Ministry of Defence has held back information on the sightings.

He says: "I have been obstructed by officialdom from start to finish."

A draft report, entitled 'The creation of a European observation station for the sighting of UFO's' for the European Parliament, has been prepared by a Spanish official Gabriel Sanchez.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton said: "There is no shadow of doubt that something happened at Woodbridge. It is a very convincing story."

But Sir Teddy Taylor says: "If there is a proven need to search for flying saucers, the European Parliament would be the worst possible outfit to find them." (Sunday Telegraph September 3, 1995).

On July 24, 1996, several questions in Parliament by Mr Redmond about various "sightings" of UFOs received written answers by Nicholas Soames standing in for Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

There were: "No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomenon reported, but the events were not judged to be of defence significance" (Hansard 1996 pages 423-4). This despite the Ministry of Defence's acceptance that their fastest aircraft had been casually overtaken by UFOs, that UFOs had overflown military bases, that UFOs had provoked RAF fighters to scramble and also to diverge from their legitimate missions.

Dr. Hendry's UFO Casebook has already been published in paperback and their families, published in 1996, is available in paper from the Country's leading bookshops, Corgi, and the Fine Herald office, priced £3.99.

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - Feb. 20, 1997

Hunt for the moorland 'flying saucer'

A PARANORMAL investigator is appealing for Scarborough people to help him find a "flying saucer" which "crashed" on to the moors 40 years ago - despite later claims that it was man-made.

UFO investigator Stephen Balon, from Lancashire, who says that he has photographic evidence of the object, is now hoping to trace it.

The 18in copper saucer was believed to have landed on Silpho Moor in December 1957.

The Evening News at the time reported how Fred Taylor and Frank Dickenson, both of Scarborough, had been travelling back from Harwood Dale when they noticed a red glowing object in the sky.

The men drove to Scarborough to kit themselves out with boots and torches, but, when they returned to the moor another man had found the saucer.

The real story then becomes a mixture of fact and fallacy, but, after a series of secret meetings, the craft was believed to have ended up at the Scabey home of the late solicitor Anthony Parker.

At the time UFO researchers

Scarborough has had a flying saucer
A REAL COPPER-BOTTOMED ONE

In the house at Scabey of a man whose name de guerre for the purposes of this exercise is Anthony Aveland, there reposes a "flying saucer" which was recovered a fortnight ago from Silpho Moor and which lay, bound the centre of much mystery ever since.

The "saucer" is an object rather like a flattened sphere, about 18in in diameter, and 18in in height. It is made of a material which is not known, but which is said to be of a copper-like nature.

were fascinated by the "discovery", but one Scarborough man who claimed to have witnessed events on the night later said that he believed the saucer was man-made.

Mr Balon said: "I think it may have been mislaid after Mr Parker died, but I am sure it is still somewhere in Scarborough."

Mr Balon, 44, a member of the Direct Investigation Group of Aerial Phenomena, is researching anti-gravity and free energy. He claims to have pictures of the saucer after it was cut open by investigators.

He said: "Inside was a booklet with 17 pages of hieroglyphics written by a spaceman called Ulo and underneath the

BIG NEWS ...
The report of the saucer's landing in the Evening News on Monday 9 December 1957

saucer was more writing in hieroglyphics which I think tells how the craft came to Earth."

Mr Balon is hoping to write a book on the mystery of the UFO, and he says that he is expecting to receive a few hoax calls in his search to find the saucer.

He said: "I know that this is the sort of subject which will attract a few nutters and cranks, but somebody somewhere must know where it is and I would appeal for them to contact me."

Anyone who may know the whereabouts of the saucer can write to Mr Balon at 10 Woodlands Avenue, Pinnington, Leigh, Lancs, WN7 3HL or e-mail him at matrix @ zetnet.co.uk.

Sunday morning The UFO investigator



FIVE WOMEN WERE returning home from Southport after a bingo game and, at two o'clock on Sunday morning, they saw a lit-up thing that one of them later described to me as being like a lattice structure with blue and yellow stripes, as big as haystack. As they passed it, this thing took off and came towards them: they almost wanted a change of

underwear. It followed them for a couple of miles, then they thought they'd lost it, but it came back again and followed them all the way to Shevington, before zooming up into the sky. I can tell you, the woman I interviewed was frightened.

I haven't had a sighting of my own since 1968, so you can imagine my irritation after so many years when I heard that there were more sightings, not 200 yards from my bloody house. It was 6.30am and a housewife saw two silver discs floating 30ft above a green patch of land. She described them to me herself. And I discovered they were witnessed by five neighbours in Tintern Avenue. One woman was stirred awake by the glare outside. This thing was giving off red streaks of light.

The discs were silvery, said the housewife in Mather Avenue. One disc was on top of the other, but just a bit to one side. She described them as having a window. But the other people in Tintern Avenue apparently saw several windows, giving off reddish sparks. I always ask for precise information for my files - I ask witnesses what they saw, and then I get them to draw it. This woman was confused, I tell you.

My interest in astronomy began at nine years old, when I saw a close-up photograph of the moon in an encyclopedia at my auntie's. Then in 1947, I read about the Kenneth Arnold sighting, which set off the UFO thing.

When you go to interview a lot of witnesses, it turns out they're mistaking natural phenomena. For example, one woman described lights moving across the sky, but actually what she'd seen were the stars; she didn't know the earth revolved. But then I had my own sighting, a mothership in a clear blue sky in broad daylight in 1965. I was so enthralled, I didn't even call to my wife. My second experience was far more incredible. We were driving home after playing bridge in south Manchester in 1968 and saw this piercing white light hovering 20ft above the Manchester to Bury electric line. It didn't move for a while, then it suddenly swerved off and went over the house tops and we lost sight. We used Victoria Lane on the right to cut back and sure enough there it was waiting for us. It travelled on top of us for a while, then, my God, took off like a bat out of hell. It was only about the size of a football.

But these two new ones, early morning just down the road, I'd estimate were 12ft in diameter. The eyewitness described them as 'about the size of a small dining room'. She'll be trying to put it to the back of her mind now, but it'll always be there.

Arthur Tomlinson is secretary of the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. Interview by John Hind

Dr Hendry's UFO Casebook: Recent Scottish sightings

Sightings of UFOs from the ground are numerous, but here are a few recent examples from Scotland where - from November 1992 until December 1993 - there were 200 reports alone from Bonnybridge, Falkirk.

In 1993, the Ministry of Defence received 258 sighting reports at its London UFO unit. The MoD has a public relations function: "we give people who claim to have seen UFOs a polite reply and we usually provide these individuals with the names and addresses of clubs they can join." In the UK in January 1994, they received reports of 70 sightings.

That year, amateur artist Ian MacPherson, from Rosyth, was out sketching a scene near a dam when he heard a noise and, turning round, saw a disc. He noted that the top part was extended, but when it moved away, he noticed the extended part had collapsed into the top of the craft.

He was so shocked that he almost forgot he had a camera with him, but managed to capture the disc on film before it left the area. He subsequently made a painting based on the film and his memory of the object. I have a copy of the painting in front me as I write - the disc looks like an inverted light-grey metal plate and there are apparently five or six lights on the underside rim. The dam was near Dunfermline (the case was quoted in the Sunday Express of January 1, 1995).

In 1994 there was a strange incident at Glenochil Jail, near Alloa. About midnight for about five minutes, a brightly lit object about two feet in diameter - like a polo mint - was seen in the security cameras, moving back and forward purposefully over the security fence.

Two prison officers went outside but were unable to see anything, although those inside

the prison could see the object on the monitors hovering above them, reacting to their movements. Ron Halliday, of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said there had been a great many UFO sightings in the area over the years and it often happened that cameras could pick up strange, unexplained phenomena undetected by the human eye.

In April 1996, Mr Raymond Meyer (41), from Guardbridge, a civilian maintenance engineer for the Leuchars runway, was on night duty in his office. The runway lights were turned off for pilot night flying instruction using special goggles, and a number of Harrier planes were expected from Germany.

It was a fine but cloudy night. At 10pm he saw, through a break in the clouds to the north, an enormous bow-shaped sausage-like structure the size of a football stadium. It was stationary and surrounded by a greenish fluorescence.

"I thought it was just the moon behind the clouds at first although it was lower in the sky, and there was no reflected light that night," he recalled later.

While watching the structure for 15 or 20 minutes, he saw a piece of the sausage "break away from the main body, arched down in the sky and then joined back on to it. I couldn't believe my eyes."

Mr Meyer returned to the office where he described what he had seen to his colleague: "few days later it was reported in the papers that other people had seen a similar object over Balmoral Castle that same night, and sketches were drawn."

A couple flying from Inverness to London saw this UFO and told their story in the News of the World, and other local people saw it.

A spokesperson for RAF Leuchars could not confirm details of the incidents, although two jets had been scrambled to Balmoral where the

object had been sighted, but saw nothing of it (St Andrews Citizen 13.12.96).

Mr Meyer also talked about his encounter in "Speaking Out" at 10am last Boxing Day on BBC Radio Scotland.

On September 27 last year, Mrs Margaret Ross, of Falkirk, took a video recording on a camcorder from her bedroom window at 6am -

half-moon shape with four diagonal bars of high intensity brightness.

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

Her daughter, Alexis, and her family - two miles away - also saw the phenomenon. At 7 o'clock she phoned Mrs Ross who told her she had it on tape.

Six months ago, Mrs Ross filmed a similar light in the sky. Archie Roy, emeritus professor of physics and astronomy at Glasgow University, said: "This is one of eight per cent of sightings which science cannot recognise."

Ron Halliday, of Stirling University, added: "We will examine the tape frame by frame and this will take some time," while Kenny Higgins - who has researched UFOs for 20 years, said: "The tape is the best evidence of a UFO that I've ever seen."

On October 16, 1996, at 6.40 pm, Barry McDonald and his girlfriend, Jane Adamson, in a car travelling from their home in Hallglen, Falkirk, saw an orange-coloured saucer-shaped object low down in the sky above Camelon, just a few miles from Bonnybridge.

In a video lasting a minute, it turned white against a bright blue sky and then vanished.

Ron Halliday said of the tape: "It's by far the best bit of daylight film of a UFO I have seen."

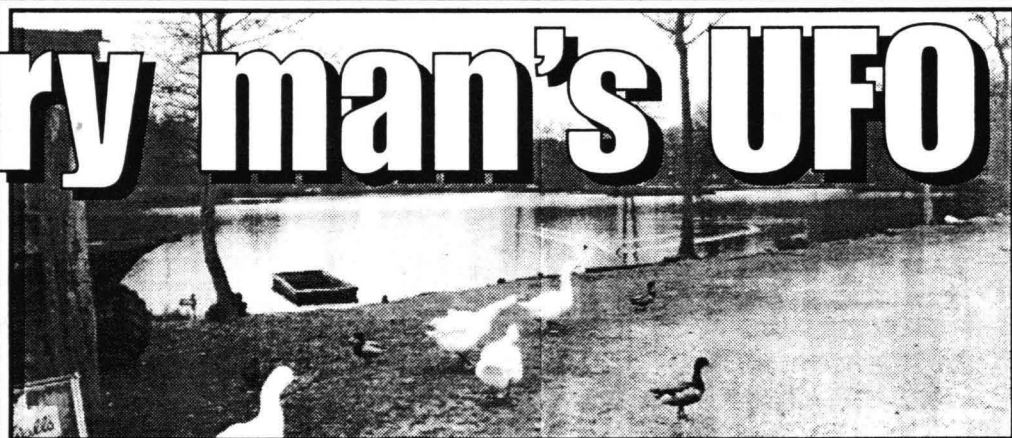


Dr David Hendry, a retired Cupar GP, has already written a book, 'Cupar Doctors - and their families,' published in 1992. It is available in Cupar from the Courtyard Bookshop, Menzies Bookshop, Cupar, and the Fife Herald office, priced £3.99.

daybreak - lasting 40 minutes. It showed a pulsating, bright object in a cloudless sky to the south. The snowball-like object was obviously far brighter and bigger than any star and for 15 minutes, remained in the same position. Then its appearance gradually transformed into a

Mystery man's UFO

X-FILES tale of a scary night at Roman Lakes



STRANGE SIGHTING by a mystery man over Roman Lakes at Marple Bridge

by Richard Partington

ALERT Mulder and Scully - aliens are watching over the residents of Marple Bridge!

For one young man a bike ride along the banks of Roman Lakes led to a close encounter of the scary kind.

The cyclist informed UFO specialists Quest International that he had watched a triangular, gun-metal-coloured craft hover ominously above the lake.

David Cayton, the local representative for Quest, said the caller sounded genuinely disturbed by the incident.

"My associate, Bill Etoch, took the call on Friday evening, Valentine's Day, at around 7 or 8 o'clock. He said a young man, probably in his mid-twenties, rang from a phone box and recounted the sighting

Rotated

"Apparently he'd seen a large craft which hovered above the lake and rotated at intervals. The man was intrigued and went closer for a better look - but understandably he became jittery and left the scene quickly.

"With experience you can usually tell who the hoaxers are and this guy sounded really frightened. If this was a fake, then the chap is a very good actor."

Mr Cayton believes the story could well be true, as a spate of odd sightings have been recorded in the area over the last couple of years.

"We've had a number of reports with similar triangular-shaped objects seen along the Lower Strines Road and over New Mills" he said.

"I would really like to speak to the man myself, or anybody who has seen something similar in the area."

● If you can help Quest International call David Cayton on 483 4956.

EVENING POST, Wigan, England - Jan. 15, 1997

Steve to show his strange shots at special conference

Experts to examine Wigan UFO mystery

UFO enthusiast Steve Balon is set to reveal exclusive footage of more strange happenings over Wigan sky at a major conference this month.

Examine

Steve, of Leigh, is taking his video evidence to Southport's annual UFO conference to allow the experts to examine his own X-File.

The founder of Leigh's Di-

By BECKY SHERDLEY

rect Investigations Aerial Phenomena claims he has filmed a triangular craft flying over Pemberton during the day and at night.

And, with over 20 years' experience in UFO research, Steve reckons his latest discovery is the "real thing".

He said: "It is quite amazing. It has never been shown before and I am sure will be one of the highlights of the conference. This is just one of many sightings to have been

made of this object flying over Wigan. Our investigations will continue."

Slides will also be shown of a similar object, published in the Evening Post last month, flying over Winter Hill, near Wigan.

Scores of people have bought tickets for the conference this year, which attracts more than 100 UFO hunters.

Organiser Steve Meads, of Lancaster, has invited researchers, authors, writers and photographers to speak during the event to be held on January 26.

Steve, who claims to have seen over 35 UFOs, said: "The main attraction this year will be Steve's footage as well as evidence experts have on BAE at Warton, near Blackpool, which we believe is developing a secret aircraft modelled on an alien craft it recovered."

Testing

"We also have reports on the latest developments on crop formations, areas used for testing craft in America, like area 51, and photographic evidence of an ancient city on Mars."

He said: "We want as many people as possible to come along. We can guarantee it will be a really eventful day. Tickets are still available but they are going fast."

Among the guests at the conference will be renowned UFO researcher Anthony James, who will present his evidence on areas used for testing alien craft in America.

He will cover area 51 in the Nevada desert, the Gulf Breeze and Groom Lake.

The caring counsellor who now specialises in abductions – by aliens

By Jane Wilkinson
Daily Post Staff

EVERY day, Eric Morris receives a handful of letters that read like stories from the X-Files.

Alien landings, glowing space craft and unearthly encounters are among the most common recollections from people across the country.

But as co-founder of Britain's only alien abduction counselling service, Eric 'prefers to treat the tales as science fact not science fiction.

"I receive dozens of calls and letters from people who have inexplicable missing hours or say they have been abducted by aliens," said the 43-year-old who runs the British UFO Studies centre from his home in Winsford.

"There was a lady in Chester who had experienced various abductions. She claimed she was impregnated by alien sperm and had offspring. I totally believe her. She had scarring on her body that can't be accounted for."

Such was the demand for help that, last year, Eric gave up his job as a qualified nurse to set up the Cheshire-based Abduction Research Counselling Centre.

Bizarre

He shies away from hypnosis, which he claims can be dangerous, but instead uses relaxation techniques to regress people back.

The results have been bizarre. One 64-year-old woman from Essex believes she was abducted by a blue reptile-like alien, who taught her a stange language, called Sensar. Eric has taken tapes of the vowel-like sounds to various colleges but no-one can understand them.

Another teenager encoun-

tered a UFO while cycling home. He called his mother two hours later, shaking and pale and unable to say what had happened. The boy now has a lump on his knee, which Eric believes has been implanted.

But while Eric claims one out of four memories are genuine, some do prove to be false. Stress, migraine

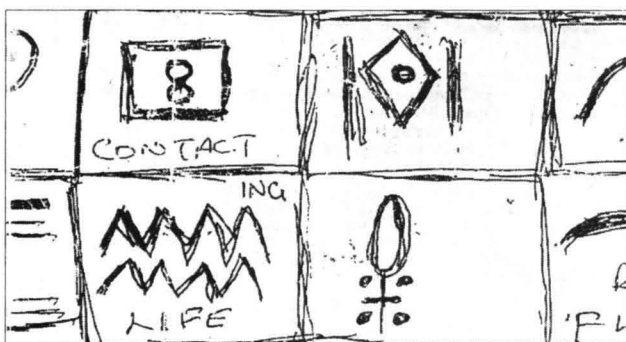
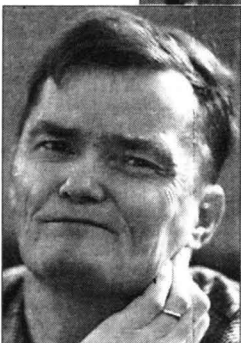
and epilepsy can be reasons behind odd recollections – and there have also been several hoaxes.

Eric, who served 15 years in the Royal Navy and has counselled Falklands veterans, said: "To people who think I'm a nutcase, I would say 'Fine, but come along to one of our meetings, and hear what's being said.'"



□ DOWN TO EARTH: UFO expert Eric Morris with his feet firmly on the ground

Pictures: CLIFF BRETT



□ ALIEN language or doodles? – the strange hieroglyphics drawn by someone who claimed to be abducted by aliens

'Dozens of people call, claiming to have lost hours'

EVENING NEWS, Cambridge, England
May 14, 1997 CR: J. Trainor

Strange sight in night sky

■ SAFFRON WALDEN: Two men who claim they saw a UFO are appealing to anyone who may have seen something similar to contact them.

The father and son say the object was hovering in the sky when they looked out of the window of their Radwinter Road home at about 10.30pm on Saturday.

They said the bright red circular UFO appeared to be heading in the direction of Shepherds Way.

"At first I thought it was a firework it was such a bright light," said the son, "but it didn't fall like a firework. It appeared to be powered and it floated gradually out of view."

"It was very curious and I

got my father, who is quite a sceptic."

The father said: "It really was strange. The first impression I got was that it was an aircraft with its lights on but it did not scream down, it just floated lower and lower behind Shepherds Way."

"I've no idea what it could have been. It was round and there was no tail I'm still a sceptic but I would be interested to know if anyone else saw it."

If you saw the same object on Saturday night, or have a down-to-earth explanation for it, telephone the News on (01799) 522218.

A spokesman for Saffron Walden police said: "We have had no reports of any sightings of a UFO. I think I'd remember that one."

UFO sighting just a hunter 'lamping'?

A PARANORMAL group believes it has solved the mystery of a motorist's close encounter.

But its findings are not down to UFOs, merely hunters using spotlights to track their prey.

The phenomenon first came to light three months ago when a driver claimed a ray from an airborne object shone on his face, leaving a scorch mark.

He had parked his car near Bagnall Woods, near Leek, and wound his window down to get a closer look at the strange red glow when the episode occurred.

After his experience there were

By Kathie McInnes

further reports of inexplicable balls of light shooting across the sky in the area.

Teams of investigators visited the remote spot and astronomers declared they were baffled by the descriptions.

But now a man out walking his dog in Bagnall has shed new light on the bizarre incident after also reporting being struck by a ray.

David Pointon, director of Staffs Paranormal Investigations, said the walker came across a fluorescent tube-like structure rising up to a point like a church spire. It van-

ished, only to reappear apparently scanning local fields, and then a beam of light shot at him and caught his face.

David has put the encounter down to "lamping," a practice synonymous with rabbit and fox hunting.

The hunters carry powerful halogen spotlights fitted with red or blue filters to disguise the white glare.

When an animal is caught in the light's beam it "locks on" and its eyes light up, reflecting the colour of the filter.

SPI believes the spire-like structure spotted by the walker was probably the light catching a clump of trees.

Canadian UFOlogist behind Roswell scare

The self-styled "flying saucer physicist" is a resident of Fredericton.

CHRIS MORRIS
Canadian Press

FREDERICTON — Stanton Friedman would love to be able to say: "I've never met an alien I didn't like." The truth of it is he has never met an alien, or even seen one. But he'd be among the first to admit that the possibility of visitors from other worlds has helped provide him with a life he likes very much.

Friedman, a self-styled "flying-saucer physicist," is an internationally known UFOlogist and the man behind the phenomenon called the Roswell incident.

He was the first civilian investigator of what many believe was a mid-air collision between two alien spacecrafts over New Mexico in the summer of 1947.

Since debris was found near Roswell, that small New Mexico city has become the focal point of both the incident and the debate over whether Earth is being visited by extraterrestrials.

Friedman, 62, a longtime resident of Fredericton, is flying to New Mexico this week for the 50th anniversary of the Roswell affair.

The week-long celebration has prompted intense media interest, including a *Time* magazine cover story, and is expected to draw tens of thousands of UFO enthusiasts from around the world.

Friedman is keynote speaker and that's only fitting since he single-handedly elevated Roswell from an obscure weather-balloon crash to a "cosmic Watergate" involving a high-level coverup of alien ships and beings.

"It has mushroomed incredibly," said Friedman, just returned from the latest in a series of overseas lecture tours.

"I'll be in Roswell Wednesday and I have to meet with documentary producers.

"All the hotel rooms have been booked for months. There will be bicycle races, planetarium shows, costume events, plays, and everyone will go to the UFO museum. The interest is truly amazing."

Friedman has written and co-written three books on Roswell and Operation Majestic-12, which he believes is a secret group set up by former U.S. president Harry Truman to conceal and study alien debris.

Friedman is convinced the remains of small alien beings and the wreckage of two spacecrafts are hidden somewhere in the United States — a theory popular in Hollywood where it has been applied in the television show *The X-Files* and in the movie *Independence Day*.

"The reason you'd keep the wreckage and the bodies is the smart people who would be involved, the MJ-12 group, know that analytical techniques improve with time," explains Friedman.

"DNA testing, sophisticated metal analysis, laser technology — it's all available now and you have to be able



STANTON FRIEDMAN: flying to New Mexico for anniversary celebration.

to go back to the well every so often." UFO debunkers suggest there's something sinister about the fact that Friedman lives in Fredericton, the sleepy capital of New Brunswick where the term alien is generally reserved for visitors from places like Toronto.

Born and raised in the U.S., Friedman is a nuclear physicist with an impressive background in the aerospace industry. He's now a Canadian citizen.

Was he chased out of the United States by the CIA or sinister MJ-12 operatives?

No, says Friedman, whose wife Marilyn is a New Brunswick native.

"I'm a booster of Fredericton," he says. "When I go back to California, they say 'Oh, I don't know how you could live back there. Don't you miss California?' And I say, 'Yeah, I miss the earthquakes and the driveby shootings and the traffic and the smog. But I'm learning to live without them.'"

Time magazine called Friedman an "itinerant nuclear physicist" and he says that's an apt description.

He figures he's worked on more cancelled government-sponsored advanced research and development programs than anybody.

Friedman is a true believer, based on his research and his conversations with people who claim they have seen and experienced extraterrestrial visits.

He has no time for U.S. Air Force explanations about Roswell, including the latest statement that alien bodies were actually dummies used in parachute tests.

"They talk about these dummies, and they showed film at their press conference," scoffs Friedman.

"But it turns out none of them were dropped before 1954. I mean, have they figured out time travel? They've been lying all these years, so why shouldn't they continue lying."

FORESTER, Gloucestershire, England - Feb. 28, 1997

Driver 'abducted' by aliens' claim

UFO investigators have been interviewing a Gloucestershire man who claims he was abducted by aliens as he was driving down the motorway.

The man, whose identity is being protected, reported his case to the Cheltenham-based Circular Forum group.

He says he was driving on the M50 near Newent when he saw an 80ft. tall bright white object hovering overhead. He pulled over, but next remembers driving in the middle lane around 40 minutes later.

Later he began having flashbacks and recalls the objects having a "fast strobe" effect, which could have hypnotised him. He remembers lying inside a large white room and being observed by strange beings.

Robin Cole, head of investigations for Circular Forum, has contacted several experts from other UFO groups for advice on the case. He said it was sensitive and complex and no conclusions had been reached.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Jan. 24, 1997

QUESTION: What is the greatest number of people to have supposedly seen a UFO at the same time?

FURTHER to Jenny Randles' answer about the 'spectacular UFO event' witnessed by thousands of people in December 1978, this object was later identified as a Soviet booster rocket re-entering the atmosphere.

Timothy Good's *Alien Update* includes a chapter by Dr Richard Haines and Bernard Guenette giving an account of a huge object seen hovering over Montreal for about 2½ hours on the evening of November 7, 1990.

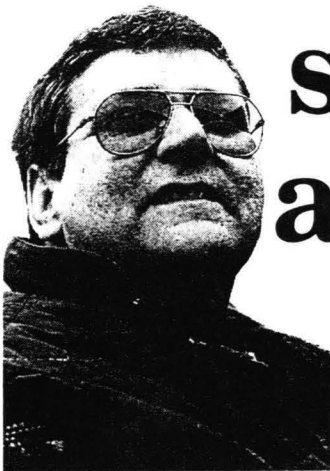
It was described as circular with at least six small, round lights around its perimeter and was witnessed by between 40 and 75 people, including journalists and police officers. Photographs were taken but the object remains unidentified.

James Anderson, Penarth, South Glamorgan.

LUTON ON SUNDAY, Bedfordshire, England - Feb. 16, 1997

Cover up: Radar 'tracked' object

'I saw a flying saucer at airport...'



There was a black ball of smoke with grey all around it and suddenly it raised itself about 300 feet into the air. There seemed to be a disc shape in the smoke. It changed to a bowler hat shape and totally disappeared

— UFO watcher Peter Boughen

UFO enthusiast Peter Boughen claims there is a big cover up over flying saucers above the skies of Bedfordshire.

The 40-year-old from Cutlers Green is keen to launch a local group which will help him expose the conspiracy.

"I think people are afraid of being passed off as some sort of joke. But it is only the people that have seen these things that know it is not a joke."

Peter claims to have made several sightings — the most important of which happened in a

field at the back of Luton Airport.

"There was a black ball of smoke with grey all around it and suddenly it raised itself about 300 feet into the air. There seemed to be a disc shape in the smoke and it hovered around the airport."

"After about 10 minutes it changed into a bowler hat shape before it totally disappeared."

Confidential

He said he contacted airport control only to be told nothing had shown on radar, but later got hold of confidential information that it had been tracked by radar for at least a week.

A more recent sighting of his, he says, was a silver streak of light

over Stopsley about three weeks ago.

"I particularly want to know if anyone else saw this bowler hat shape about two years ago because there were other people in the field. I wish I had taken a photograph."

"These things are real and they do exist. I have had quite a few sightings going back to about 1966."

When he was just nine Peter witnessed a cigar-shaped craft with portholes hovering over Stopsley's Tin Town.

"Someone else reported seeing a disc-shaped object at Ashcroft Playing Fields round about the same time," he said.

FOLKESTONE HERALD, Kent, England - March 20, 1997

Spaceships, aliens and the Home Sec

UFO'S spotted over Shepway could have been looking for Home Secretary, Michael Howard, experts have warned.

By Sarah Hall

Following reports of mystery aircraft sightings in New Romney and Burmarsh in last week's *Herald*, Chris Rolfe, coordinator of UFOMEK, has highlighted the closeness of the sightings to the Shepway MP's home near the old Lympne Castle ruins.

And he fears that the position of the sightings is more than just coincidence.

Mr Rolfe cautioned: "It would seem the UFO was totally disinterested in Sophie, the girl who reported it and watched it for quite a long time."

"This certainly makes it seem like it had a purpose and has left me wondering if it's purpose had something to do with Mr Howard."

However Mr Rolfe was amazed to learn that Mr Howard's party agent knew all about the UFO.

He said: "I phoned Mr Howard's party agent in Folkestone and asked whether Mr Howard had seen anything strange I was immediately asked if I meant the UFO."

"The story in last

week's *Herald* only said Donkey Street as the sight of the spotting."

"Donkey Street is a very long road and the report did not state which end the UFO was seen at - so it seems very odd that those close to Mr Howard already knew that it was near his house."

And now Mr Rolfe and UFOMEK would like to see some questions answered.

"I would like to know whether anyone spotted any strange men poking about around the area afterwards or whether Mr Howard's security system was activated in any way."

"The whole story is creating a lot of interest all over England and when

you think of the implications it is quite easy to see why."

"I would love to know what the Government think of a strange aircraft being spotted near to the home of one of its senior cabinet ministers."

Sophie Wadleigh, of Shepherds Walk, Hythe, who saw the large object in the sky while driving home in the early hours of Saturday, March 8 said: "The UFO I saw was a large triangular shaped craft with bright lights running all round its edge - it was above the field which lays directly opposite the turn off to Donkey Street in Burmarsh."

"When you have seen something like that you have to ask yourself why was it there - and maybe the Home secretary was the reason."

When the *Herald* contacted Mr Howard's office he was unavailable for comment.

WESTERN MAIL, Cardiff, Wales - March 22, 1997

Call for UFO investigation

IS THERE something strange happening over Anglesey?

Strange unidentified objects have been seen flying over head to such a degree that the islanders have now written to Parliament asking MPs to set up a commission to examine the strange and

unexplained phenomenon.

Earlier this week the petition from the islanders of Ynys Môn, who are used to regular flights overhead from the training jets at RAF Valley, was published in the House of Commons daily Order Paper.



Monster territory: the Mzintlava River winds through rugged countryside, sometimes rocky and lined with sticky mud banks



There it is: a group of teachers point to the spot where the dreaded monster is said to lurk, waiting for its next victim

Our own Nessie ... only meaner

Intrepid Wanderer's back – with some scary tales

DAVID BIGGS
THE WANDERER ON THE TRAIL OF THE RIVER MONSTER

One of the differences between the famous monster of Loch Ness and the monster of the Mzintlava River in the former Transkei is that the people of Lubaleko village are genuinely terrified of their "snake".

It's not a figure of gently affectionate fun like Nessie.

It kills people in a most horrible way. Everybody in the area knows somebody who was killed by the monster. They have no doubts about the cause of these deaths.

The reasons for this terror are not hard to find. Travel to Lubaleko, if you dare, speak to the people of the village and you'll end up half believing in the thing yourself.

It's not easy to get there. The road is so deeply rutted that astonished pigs pop out of the pot-holes at the approach of the very occasional vehicle.

Like so many rural villages in what used to be the Transkei, Lubaleko is scattered over several square kilometres of undulating hillside country. The houses, some made of brick and others of mud, are far apart and linked only by winding footpaths. There is no electricity or piped water.

The children fetch water from the river after school, carrying the heavy buckets home, balanced on their heads. The river is the lifeblood of the village. Goats and chickens wander among the houses and pigs root about in the vegetable patches.

It all seems very peaceful.

In the evening, the thick mist rolls up the river, filling the valley and muffling the sounds of village life. Shapes

loom out of the fog and a rock or gnarled tree trunk easily becomes an awesome beast.

Oh yes, many people have seen the monster for themselves. When the rains in Lesotho swell the river it flows fast between the stepping stones, sometimes covering them completely.

A false step can have anybody plunging into the swift water where the monster lies waiting.

"I have seen some of the bodies of the so-called monster's victims," Captain G Mkuzo of the Mount Ayliff Police told me. "They had all been in the water for some time and, as is often the case, river crabs had eaten away the soft parts of the faces and throats. In one case, the crabs were still clinging to the body when it was brought in. As far as we are concerned, these were cases of drowning, plain and simple."

But to the people of the village, the mutilation just proves the monster's existence. "It eats their faces off and sucks out the people's brains," said an elderly Mr Matshunga, walking the lonely track with his dogs. "It is a big snake and I have seen what it does."

A group of women returning from a meeting at the village school assured me the monster was real.

"We are not just ignorant, superstitious people," they told me. "We are teachers. Educated. And we know that the monster is there. That is why we do not cross the river any more."

"We walk all the way to the bridge. We need a new bridge where the monster is, because it is no longer safe to cross there."

One of the group said she had seen the monster but, later, when I questioned her about it, she admitted she hadn't actually seen it herself, but



Revenge: Mthokozisi Sigcobeka says his father was eaten by the monster. When he's older, he plans to get a gun and hunt it

knew somebody who had seen it with her own eyes.

"It has the head and neck of a snake and it shines at night with a green light," she informed me.

The monster was accorded official status when a group of villagers attending a Freedom Day rally at Mount Ayliff lodged a complaint about it to the MEC for Agriculture and Land, Ezra Sigwela, who mentioned the matter in the legislative assembly in Bisho.

One cannot disregard the obvious-



Fearless: veteran villager Mr Mtshungu crosses the river with his dogs for protection. He believes the monster is a giant snake

ly real fears of one's constituents.

Following this, an official police warning was issued by detective inspector M N Ngame, advising people to stay clear of the area "as they may fall easy prey to the monster." Having been accorded official status, it is unlikely the monster of Mount Ayliff will disappear for many years.

But unlike the Loch Ness Monster, it's not likely to become a major tourist attraction. It takes real dedication and a sturdy vehicle to reach the village where this monster lurks.

DAILY TIDINGS, Ashland, OR - April 25, 1997

Museum turns to Bigfoot for a boost

By Damon Fouts
Ashland Daily Tidings

The Pacific Northwest Museum of Natural History's top administrator hopes a famous mythical giant will help spread the word that the museum is still alive, despite its financial troubles.

"Sasquatch: Fact or Fiction" will hit the museum June 1 and run through the end of the year. Despite the display's scientific and physical evidence and stories of sightings, the museum's chief executive officer, Phil Lamb, cautioned that whether Bigfoot exists will probably remain a mystery.

"I don't think there's any real way to answer that question at this point," he warned.

Exhibit items will include Sasquatch's supposed foot and handprints and droppings, as well as still and moving pictures of Bigfoot. That includes the famous "Patterson Tape," shot in the 1960s, that shows a blurry beast crossing a creek

bed.

Lamb said the museum also will display what the Western Bigfoot Society claims could be a lock of Sasquatch's hair. The museum intends to have some of the hair analyzed if it can. The entire display will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, Lamb said.

"We hope the exhibit will do two things," said Lamb. "We hope it will serve to attract people to the museum, and help us sell and renew our memberships."

Lamb said it's too early in the season to tell whether the museum's financial woes have significantly affected visitor numbers. He noted that recent exhibits have brought in visitors en masse. "Wolf Weekend" in March attracted 1,300 people, when the average is about 200 per weekend day.

On the other hand, annual memberships are down, and Lamb suspects that the museum's bond-debt problems is one reason. The museum

defaulted on its \$3.17 million in bond obligations at the beginning of the year. Lamb hopes that two bills designed to help various museums around the state will help the Ashland facility pay its bond debt. Senate Bill 900 and House Bill 3441 both would provide some funds the museum could apply toward the debt.

A third bill, Senate Bill 177, would help schools utilize museums statewide for educational purposes. The schools would pay to use the museums' facilities. All three bills are in the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Meanwhile, discussions are ongoing between the museum and the Bank of New York, the trustee overseeing the bondholders' interests. Lamb said he couldn't reveal the subject of those discussions. Trustee representatives did not return the Tidings' calls.

"We are continuing to negotiate with the trustee," Lamb said. "They'd like to resolve this as quickly as possible. We'd like to as well."

A quest to unveil 'reality'

It should be in every journalist's always nature to be deeply curious about how and why things are the way they are in their lives.

Perhaps that is why that at 50, and having pretty much seen most of what humans are capable and incapable of saying and doing, I have turned my energy toward examining the greatest mystery of all — the nature of reality itself.

I feel for some reason inexorably drawn to collect and attach scattered segments of research and theory that together form a breathtaking, divine picture. Today, I feel I have happened across yet another significant piece, which I'll describe in a moment.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said people only see what they are prepared to see. Iris Murdoch in an interview with the *London Times* said "we live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality."

Both are true statements when it comes to human nature.

But it is the mechanisms of our spirituality inside these ever-dying, fragile bodies that most intrigues me. And that is why I am continually drawn to the nature and significance of energy in life.

Several weeks ago, I referred to a book by Dr. Gregory Little of Memphis called "Grand Illusions." The theory proposed in Dr. Little's ninth book is that everything is comprised of various forms of energy awash in a boundless electromagnetic sea which cannot be destroyed.

That means, Little wrote, that we are constantly surrounded and influenced by waves and vibrations of electromagnetic energy we cannot detect. For example, he said, we cannot sense radio waves as they flow through everything -- and even our eye's rods and cones are "tuned" so they do not detect anything outside the narrow range from red to blue-violet.

Omnipresent energy

To be able to detect all the energy constantly bathing us would blind us, he writes.

Dr. Little's book expands an earlier theory of the late M.D. Carl Jung who said humans are electromagnetic beings, each with their own unique frequencies or energy vibrations.

And the kicker in their theory is that an unknown quantity of the undetectable energy constantly enveloping us actually expresses intelligence.

The intelligent energy can make its presence known in our tiny, five percent "Visible Light" spectrum of the universal electromagnetic pie, by altering its frequencies to become seen, or heard, or both in various chosen forms, both scientists believe. Hence the miracles at Fatima, Lourdes, apparitions of the Virgin Mary seen by thousands, mysterious "foo fighter" lights seen by thousands of pilots and all other unexplained paranormal phenomenon.

In its unseen form, they said, intelligent energy influences our daily existence in ways we cannot imagine: Through what we might see as meaningful coincidence, our intuitive sense, psychic connections, ESP, premonitions and prophecy.

If their concept has merit, Christians might label what they call intelligent energy as guardian angels — a spiritual, often loving force situated between this physical realm and our common Creator, facilitating God's will.

These unlocalized energy forms would be responsive to prayer, which is itself a force in the unseen realm, as clearly evidenced by research described in Dr. Larry Dossey's book "Restoring the Soul."

In fact, scripture is replete with references to light and force and spiritual acts that violate the known laws of Newtonian physics, despite what some die-hard physicists might argue.

Making sense of the unexplained

I was most interested in Little's book because it did offer, for the first time I had heard anyway, a seemingly reasonable explanation for the many unexplained paranormal events and actions that millions of humans have experienced during their lifetimes.

If, indeed, some energy forms vibrating at frequencies beyond human's natural detection, can alter their varying frequencies to become detected in our realm, and even to guide us in many ways, it might also more concretely explain the many miracles depicted in the Bible.

This would include the ongoing scholarly research into the hidden Hebrew Codes discovered in the Old Testament chapters from Revelations through Isaiah. Those are detailed carefully described in Grant R. Jeffrey's book "Signature of God."

Little's theory also linked the incredibly rapid and forming energy at the cosmic level with what humans might perceive as a Heaven end of the electromagnetic energy field, and lower, slow moving, longer wave frequencies on the Hell end of that continuum. Our narrow visible light realm falls in the middle.



MIKE
MASTERSON

Individual frequencies would matter

If true, these theories would mean it matters a great deal in the spiritual sense, exactly where our individual energy frequencies are vibrating, especially where that energy flows when it departs these temporary bodies.

Now I have learned of Dr. Valerie Hunt, a professor of kinesiology at UCLA and published author, whose research has added a truly remarkable piece to this puzzle.

Hunt spent 20 years developing an experimental method for actually measuring the widely varying energy vibrational levels in individual human bodies, based to a large degree on their spirituality.

In his book "The Holographic Universe," author Michael Talbot explains how Hunt used an electromyograph which detects electrical activity in the muscles to also measure the presence of the energy field surrounds a human body.

"Hunt discovered the electrodes in the electromyograph could pick up a field of energy radiating from the body, much subtler and smaller in amplitude than the traditional body electricities but with frequencies that averaged between 100 and 1,600 cycles per second (cps).

"The results were so exciting I simply was unable to sleep that night," says Hunt. "The scientific model I had subscribed to throughout my life just couldn't explain these findings."

Focus determined vibrational levels

One of Hunt's most startling findings is that certain talents and abilities and one's focus in life seem to relate to specific frequency levels in a person's energy field," the book says.

For instance, when the main focus of a person's consciousness is on the material world, their frequencies tend to be in the lower range, not far removed from the 250 cps of the body's (normal) sheer biological frequencies," Talbot's book reads.

"In addition, people who are psychic or who have healing abilities also have frequencies of roughly 400 to 800 cps in their energy fields. Those who can go into a trance (the late Edgar Cayce would be an example) and apparently channel other information sources through them operate in a narrow band between 800 and 900 cps, the tests showed."

Those with frequencies measuring above 900 cps Hunt labeled "mystical" personalities. They possess the wisdom to know what to do with the information they receive. These people also are aware of the cosmic interrelatedness of all things and are in touch with every level of human experience.

They are anchored in ordinary reality, but often have both psychic and trance abilities," Hunt explains.

The frequencies emitted by these particular humans extend far "beyond the bands" associated with psychic and trance capabilities alone, Hunt's research showed.

Hunt reportedly has encountered men and women with frequencies vibrating as high as 200,000 cps from their energy fields, the book also says.

"This is intriguing, for mystical traditions have often referred to highly spiritual individuals as possessing higher 'vibration' than normal range people. If Hunt's findings are correct, they seem to add credence to this assertion," Talbot explains in his book.

Searching for the truth

Is the blend of what Drs. Jung, Little, Hunt and Dossey along with researchers Talbot and Jeffrey others in their books absolutely true in regard to these apparent mystical connection between spirit and the energy behind all life force?

I don't know.

I do know that everything that exists in this physical world created by humans first had to exist as undetectable thoughts before it could become a reality. And that means everything we create appears closely related to the same unseen domain from whence energy inexplicably brings the cells of a human to life during their third week of dividing.

In my quest thus far, I am inclined to see strong merit and a high degree of common sense in these possibilities. I don't believe any of these well-educated authors is being deceptive about their findings, or what they believe is true.

And I doubt they have ever collaborated in their work. I have undertaken the meshing of their related findings and theories as my task.

For example, "The Holographic Universe" published by Harper Perennial, pursues the work of two of the world's most eminent thinkers in quantum mechanics: David Bohm, a former protege of Einstein's and among the world's most respected quantum physicists, and Stanford

neurophysiologist Karl Pribram, an international expert on the physiology of the brain. Working as strangers on separate continents each man independently developed seemingly "coincidental" theories that the universe, itself, may well be a giant hologram, a kind of image, constructed, at least in part, by the human mind. Of course, all this also would involve the transfer of energy, and receiving and emitting frequency vibrations or waves at various levels, the key points which have so aroused my curiosity and now I hope the interest of our readers as well.

— Mike Masterson is the editor of the Times. —

Sasquatch makes big impression

Giant footprint found in North Idaho hills

By Craig Welch
Staff writer

Gene Woodruff is carrying the suggestion of a legend around in a tote bag.

The Kelso Lake, Idaho, sawmill builder claims he found a footprint of the elusive sasquatch last week while bear hunting in the hills of the Idaho Panhandle.

"We walked into a clearcut and my 13-year-old boy stopped and said, 'Dad, is this a Bigfoot track?'" Woodruff said Monday. "When your boy says that, you got to go back and take a look."

Woodruff did and returned three days later with plaster of Paris and a video camera. He hauls the resulting cast around to authorities and Bigfoot specialists.

But even experts in the not-so-expert field of sasquatch surveillance appear less than excited by Woodruff's claims.

"It's just adding one more footprint," said WSU anthropologist Grover Krantz, the nation's most accredited scientist to have studied the man-ape. "You need a body — or a substantial piece of one."

Woodruff's find, it seems, comes at a time when Bigfoot research — once the province of eccentrics, practical jokers and Washington State University — is struggling to take on the air of science.

"There is a shift going on," said Jeff Glickman, acting director of the former Bigfoot Research Project in Hood River, Ore., renamed the North American Science Institute.

"Scientists are becoming more careful in the way they state things, becoming less dogmatic," he said. "Because of this increased care, it's become possible for them to examine things that traditionally were considered fringe science."

Consider:

■ Seven of the speakers at last weekend's annual Bigfoot conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, (titled the Sasquatch Symposium) hold Ph.D.s — a first, Glickman said.

(continued on page 19)



Gene Woodruff displays a plaster cast of what he believes is a Bigfoot footprint.

Jesse Trusley/The Spokesman Review

■ Jett Meldrum, a primate morphologist at Idaho State University in Pocatello, recently joined Krantz as a serious student of the beast.

"I guess you could say I'm still kind of at the head-scratching stage," Meldrum said, although he admitted leaning toward believing in the beast.

■ Hoping to find Bigfoot, Ohio State University scientists tried unsuccessfully 18 months ago to put strands of unidentified primate hair through DNA testing. Their results: inconclusive.

Glickman has spent the last four years conducting computerized image analysis of the "Patterson film," 16mm home movie footage shot by a Yakima man in 1967 — a sort of Zapruder film for Bigfoot buffs.

Dismissed by most as a man in a monkey suit, the film shows a blurry, hairy creature ripping through the woods in Northern California.

Glickman is not yet willing to reveal his findings but hopes to publish them in a respected journal.

His research paper is under review by his peers — "as much as you can have peer review in something like this."

Meldrum attributes the new scientific approach in part to a change in science culture.

"A lot more of today's scientists grew up with these stories and aren't so quick to dismiss them," he said.

Like Glickman, he believes scientists have learned a lot in recent years about how little they really know.

Anthropologists recently found a fossilized ape in China that raises questions about primate evolution. Other scientists recently discovered a new species of antelope in Laos.

"There are still corners of the globe that have not fully been plumbed," Meldrum said.

For Woodruff, one of those corners is in the Panhandle National Forests, north of Priest River, Idaho.

That's where he and his son were tracking bears last Tuesday, heads down, scanning for paw prints.

When his son shouted, Woodruff

turned back.

Sure enough, Woodruff said, there it was — a 14-inch-by-7-inch depression in the mud on a slope a few feet above a logging road. It was shaped like a giant human foot with only three toes.

Woodruff had heard all the stories, one from an uncle 30 years ago who had told of footprints in the snow near Mount Rainier. Woodruff was convinced immediately that the footprint was real.

"All I could do was sit there in awe," said Woodruff. "It was something. It was shocking."

He returned with a friend, who videotaped him making the plaster mold, which he hopes to share with Krantz or other scientists.

Beyond that, Woodruff said, he's not sure what he'll do — unless a millionaire offers to send him on a hunting expedition.

"I ain't got to satisfy nobody else but me," he said.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - June 12, 1997

Believers, skeptics probe the

LEGEND of BIGFOOT

By MURRAY WHYTE
The Seattle Times

VANCOUVER, B.C. — John Bindernagel, Ph.D., has just completed his opening presentation for the fifth annual International Sasquatch Symposium, a gathering of believers and skeptics devoted to the Northwest's most famous mystery beast.

Everything has gone smoothly. His slides of native carvings depicting the Dzunoqua, a wild woman of the woods who, legend has it, would steal children from native villages, show clear human traits.

Bindernagel has explained at length the striking similarities between the carvings and primates like chimpanzees: the rounded mouth, the prominent lips, the receding brow, all of them leading him to his hypothesis that a great ape, commonly known as Bigfoot, lurks in the dense forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Bindernagel has examined scores of reports of its behavioral and eating habits and has compiled sightings, descriptions, footprints, photographs, videotapes and tufts of hair. He has observed mounds of excrement that he says could not have been produced by any known beast.

Bindernagel, a wildlife biologist with more than 30 years of field experience, believes.

But now, the question period.

The first comes from a slight man with an aggressively receding hairline and thick glasses. He invites Bindernagel to accompany him into the woods, and, using native techniques, to contact the Sasquatch telepathically.

Bindernagel shrugs. Half-stifled laughter escapes from the audience of 50 people, some experts, some witnesses, but mostly curious onlookers.

Next question: "I wonder if the reason we have such a hard time finding a Sasquatch is because of its shape-

changing abilities?"

More giggles. Bindernagel looks like a deer caught in the high beams along a dark and untraveled side road. "Well, maybe ..." he says, cocking his head to the side, looking for another question.

Later, as the screen goes dark, the lights come on, and the opening presentation of the Sasquatch Symposium comes to a close, Bindernagel reflects.

"I try to remain open, but I'm an old-time biologist. I think mythology can be very strong metaphorically, but I don't

think we have to take it quite so literally. We can take a conservative approach that this really is just an ape."

But it's not easy taking a pragmatic approach to so heavily mythologized a creature as the Sasquatch.

The general public regards it with the same be-

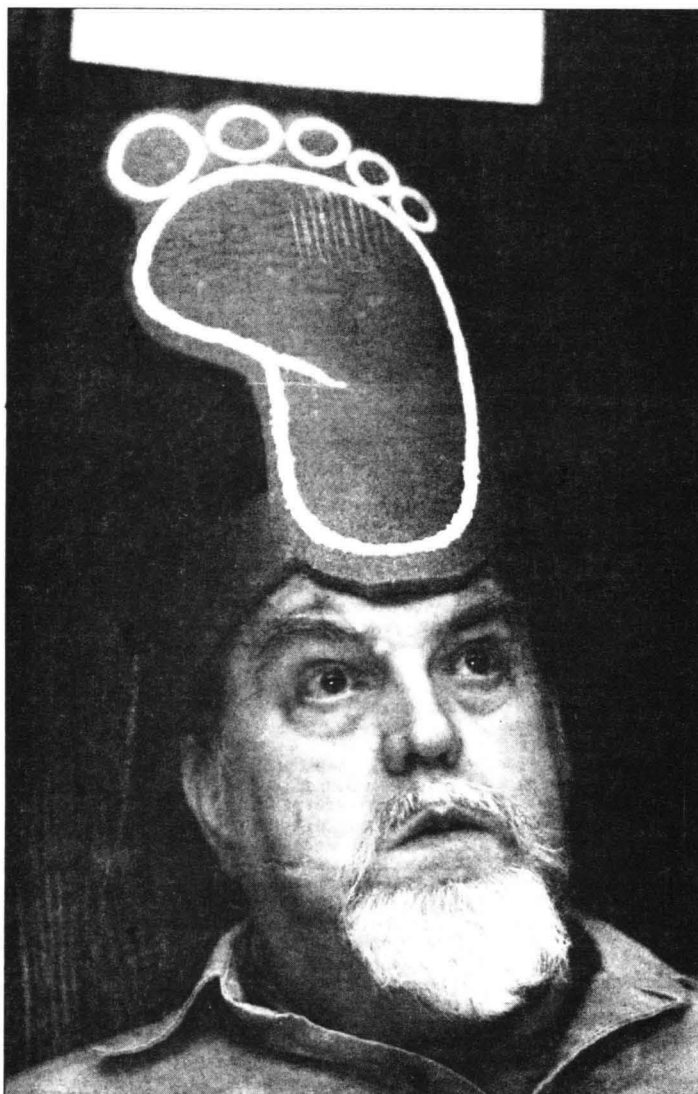
mused skepticism as the Loch Ness Monster and UFOs. And legends of ape-like creatures that walk through the wild are common worldwide.

Stories from Guatemala, China, Burma and Zaire mirror each other, but more consistent than any of the myths is one simple fact: No iron-clad proof of the creature's existence has ever been produced.

Add in the reality that there is no evidence of any primate — except for man, of course — having lived in North America, and the road to credibility becomes a very steep uphill slope indeed.

But then, a researcher would point to the sightings, dozens of which continue to roll in each year. Countless tales of fleeting glances at enormous, hairy figures disappearing into thick brush permeate Sasquatch lore.

Heavily blurred photographs are common, as are hoaxes, and even the famous film, taken by Roger Patterson on Oct. 20, 1967, is subject to scrutiny, despite countless experts unable to explain away the nearly two minutes of clear footage of an upright, ape-like creature striding through a clearing.



ALAN BERNER/The Seattle Times

A big foot: Nils Zettergren of Vancouver, Wash., volunteered to sell tickets at the fifth annual International Sasquatch Symposium this week in Vancouver, B.C. Zettergren, who wore a life-size foot on his head, says he believes in the "possibility" of Sasquatch.

Just ask Todd Neiss, who was at the symposium. Neiss, of Sandy, Ore., knows what he saw. In 1993, he was on a demolition exercise with the military near Seaside. On the way back to a safe area, Neiss, a passenger in a military jeep, happened to glance over at one of their recent blast sites.

"The first thing that popped into my head was, 'My God, there are people down there,'" Neiss says. "I barely got that thought out of my head when I realized, 'Those aren't people.'" What Neiss saw was three human-like, hair-covered figures milling about in the aftermath of one of the explosions. "At first, your mind tries to rationalize it as anything but what it is," Neiss says. "A bear, a deer, anything, but what I had to

accept was that I had seen what has come to be known commonly as Bigfoot."

Neiss says he was afraid to come forward with his story for fear of being branded a madman. But as other soldiers came forward and admitted to having seen the same thing that day, he gradually came to accept it.

"There's an enormous ridicule factor," he says. "The question I was posing to myself was this: 'Are you willing to have people question your very sanity just for the risk of telling what you saw?' But then I realized that I couldn't lie to myself. I saw what I saw. I shouldn't be ashamed of that. If people are so shallow that they'll write me off because of it, then so be it."

Utah man says he's seen Bigfoot 9 times since '68

Researcher says Beehive State is known as hotbed for sightings of Sasquatch.

By Lynn Arave
Deseret News staff writer

ORANGEVILLE, Carbon County — You've heard of animal magnetism? How about Bigfoot magnetism?

Ron Mower, a 40-year-old construction worker, seems to attract Bigfoot. He claims to have seen the legendary apelike creature nine times in Utah between 1968 and 1990.

"At times, I think I've been singled out," said Mower, who will speak this weekend at the International Sasquatch Symposium in Vancouver, B.C.

"Maybe I'm blessed to be able to have this happen. . . . People think you're crazy, but there's been a lot of activity."

Mower's closest encounter with one of the creatures, he said, was some 30 feet away and witnessed by his entire family of six on a remote highway. The encounter occurred on a winter evening in 1990

when the Mowers suddenly stopped their truck at the top of Fairview Canyon, north of Orangeville, to avoid hitting something in the middle of the road.

That "something" turned out to be a Bigfoot. The creature stood there — 30 to 40 feet away — for five minutes, clearly in the vehicle's headlights, Mower said.

Mower is not alone. Thousands of people across North America and other parts of the world have reported seeing tall, hairy bipeds roaming about the hinterland this century. In numerous cultures, stories have been handed down through the ages about a mysterious being known variously as Bigfoot or Sasquatch in North America, and as Yeti or the Abominable Snowman in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Bigfoot tracks were reported in the western United States as long ago as 1810 by David Thompson, a surveyor and trader who spotted giant footprints near the Columbia River Gorge. But nearly 150 years passed before the legend became prominent in American culture.

Layton said the number of sightings Mower has reported is incredible, but feels Mower is more than just lucky. Layton believes Mower has been singled out by the creatures for some unknown reason. He also says he suspects the creatures may be telepathic.

Much of the discussion scheduled for the fifth annual International Sasquatch Symposium will explore the creature's possible connection with UFOs, other dimensions and telepathic communication.

John Cotton, vice president of the Canadian Society of Questers, believes Bigfoot is from another reality — another dimension or parallel universe.

"They don't die here. They don't belong here," he said. "The Sasquatch come here because they are the teachers of the shamans. Wherever you find shamans or native people you will find Sasquatch. My title for them is 'hairy angels.' They are purveyors of knowledge."

Mower, Layton, Lapsertis and Cotton will speak at the three-day conference, which began Friday and will end Sunday at Vancouver's Pacific Space Centre. Mower will recount his nine Bigfoot experiences in detail.

All of Mower's sightings, he says, have taken place in two basic areas — the High Uintas (south of Kings Peak) and the Manti-LaSal Mountains (about 25 miles from his Orangeville home).

Layton hopes to venture with Mower and professional photographer Larry Jones into those areas later this year. Layton admits they may see or find nothing but hopes Mower's presence will coax Bigfoot out of hiding.

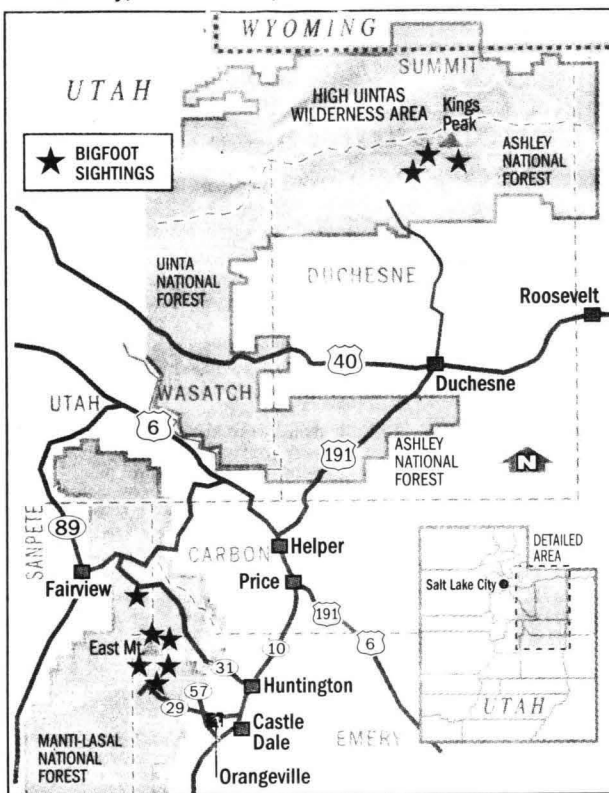
"Other folks down here have seen things too, but they don't want to talk about it," Mower said.

He said a former game warden in the Orangeville area saw plenty of Bigfoot evidence during his long career but didn't talk about it much for fear of ridicule.

Mower is calm, conservative and factual when he talks about his Bigfoot experiences. He recently recounted his adventures to a dozen people gathered at a "Bigfoot party" in Liberty, Weber County.

While all nine experiences have been startling for him, some were more frightening than others. He believes some Sasquatches radiate evil. Others just appear curious.

Mower said his companions have been more frightened by Bigfoot. Some of his relatives have trembled during their joint sightings. His dog cowers and hides, while his horses stand there and shake, he said.



KRISTIAN JACOBSEN, DESERET NEWS

Despite the fear associated with the sightings, Mower said the experiences always make him want to seek after the creature. It's a mixture of fright and curiosity. "I'm not afraid to go into the woods," he said.

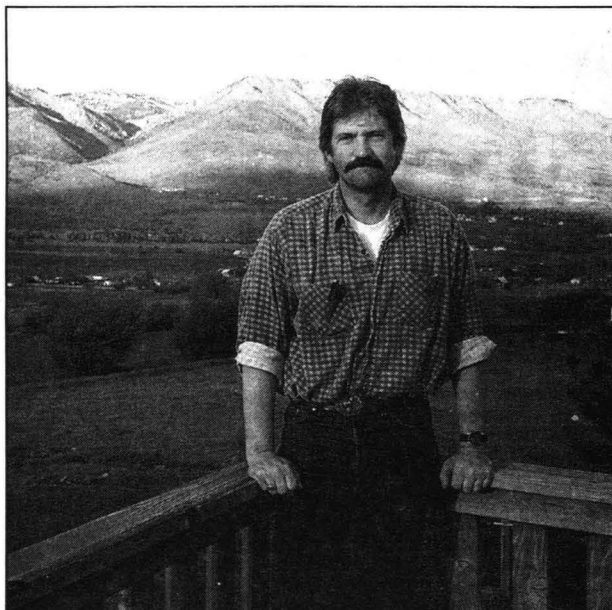
Mower hasn't seen a Sasquatch for seven years now. He attributes the lapse to various circumstances. His wife, Diane, died in January, and Mower spent less time in the mountains during her long battle with cancer.

Mower, however, believes the creature has been nearby on several occasions and at least once came close to his home. In those instances, Mower's dog behaved the same way he did when the two encountered Bigfoot in the mountains.

Mower lives in an Orangeville neighborhood near the foothills of the Manti-LaSal Mountains. Has Bigfoot followed him home? Mower thinks so, but isn't sure how.

What's Mower's best advice for getting your own glimpse of Bigfoot? He recommends being very observant and listening to your feelings in the woods.

"I believe some people may see Bigfoot and not recognize him," Mower said. "They shrug it off." Deseret News staff writer Zack Van Eyck contributed to this story.



KRISTIAN JACOBSEN, DESERET NEWS

Ron Mower will speak at a symposium on Bigfoot this weekend.

If you see a Bigfoot with red eyes, Mower advises, it's best to stay away. Those are the ones he believes may have less-than-peaceful intentions.

Mower has been armed with a rifle during most of his Bigfoot experiences, but he said he's never considered using it. The creatures haven't directly threatened him, he says.

Mower is an avid hunter and fisherman, hobbies that have contributed to his many encounters. Still, he says, he doesn't find Bigfoot. They seem to find him when he's least expecting it.

"They choose the time for when you can see them," he said. "I've never really hunted for one."

Cotton, who believes in reincarnation, said Mower may have been a shaman in a previous lifetime and has retained that connection with Bigfoot.

Mower is not sure but suspects there may be some kind of barrier that prevents the creatures from being seen. "It's a veil. When it opens, you'll see. Out of the blue he'll be there and just as quickly he'll be gone."

He said he's watched Bigfoot cover steep ground gracefully, like big game animals, and usually the creature vanishes into the cover of the forest.

Lapsertis, however, said Bigfoot can literally disappear into thin air. He said he has documented no less than 69 eyewitness accounts of Bigfoot's vanishing act.

"You'd think after 40 years with all these people (searching) and hunters trying to shoot Sasquatch that they would have found it by now," Lapsertis said. "The established science says that's because it doesn't exist. But there is an interdimensional aspect to Bigfoot, and it's not something that's hokey. It's the answer."

As luck would have it, Mower has never had a camera with him during his nine Bigfoot sightings, although he now carries one with him more often.

"Maybe with a camera I'd never see him," he offered.

Mower describes Bigfoot as very tall, 7-foot-plus and more slender than most artists' conceptions. They're black in color, sometimes with a hint of red. They have a very humanlike face, although it is thick with hair, Mower said.

Most of the creatures Mower has seen have looked back at him with what he calls a "What-do-you-want?" stare. And while they've watched his every move, Mower said they otherwise don't seem all that concerned with his presence.

"You parallel each other," Mower explained. "When I'm with them I want to learn more, not run or hide. . . . For that bit of time, you're content with what you've got."

He said he's hunted bear, cougar and other big game, but there's nothing like a Bigfoot — nor the overwhelming body odor that accompanies them.