

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

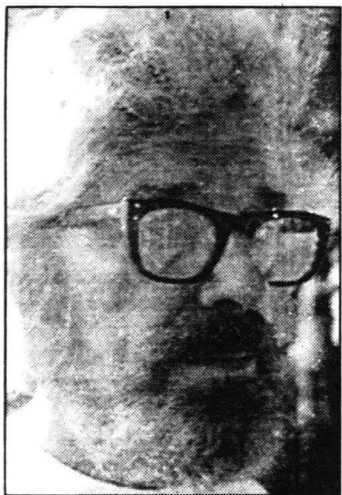
#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

August 1997
Number 337

HERALD, Boston, MA - July 2, 1997 CR: J. Trainor

Faces from space



“Other people have seen and told other artists. I was just one of many originals, part of a larger common source.”

— David C. Baker, whose 1963 sketches, top, are similar to a New York artist's recent drawing, above right

By DANA BISBEE

The thousands of alien enthusiasts invading Roswell, N.M., this week for the 50th anniversary of an alleged flying saucer crash all know what the spacecraft's extraterrestrial passengers looked like.

But few know the alien faces were first drawn by a New Hampshire artist more than 30 years ago.

If you don't believe in UFOs, then David C. Baker, 81, is the creator of the most recognized image in science fiction.

But, if you do believe, then Baker is the first to draw a portrait of an extraterrestrial based on an eyewitness account.

A hairless face with smooth skin, large eyes set far apart and small nose and mouth is now the accepted description of an E.T.; the archetypal alien.

It stares out from the cover of this week's Time magazine, smiled at the end of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and lay dead in a purported film of a Roswell crash victim's autopsy.

Baker's close encounter with an alien face came from his friendship with Betty and Barney Hill, perhaps the most famous victims of alien abduction.

In September 1961, while driving through the White Mountains, the Hills were allegedly intercepted by an alien spacecraft. They were taken aboard, subjected to medical tests and made to forget the experience. Dr. Benjamin Simon, a Boston psychiatrist, later uncovered their

N.H. artist's sketches are far from alien to fans and researchers of E.T.s

memories through hypnosis.

The Hills went on the UFO lecture circuit, meeting Baker during a speech two years after the abduction.

Baker was a believer. His wife, Mary Jane, and Betty Hill were both social workers. The two links became the basis of a friendship that, one night after supper with Simon, brought the artist into contact with Hill's terrifying memories.

"Dr. Simon put Barney into a hypnotic state," Baker said, "and said, 'Just listen to David.'"

"I asked him to describe the people, what they were like looking up at them, what they were like looking down.

"I was just listening to descriptions, then I would draw something. I'd make mistakes on purpose and he'd get so angry, he'd break into a sweat.

"He was very concerned that I wasn't drawing them the way he was telling me, but I was testing him. I didn't want the explanation to be rote. I got him in a position of dealing

with facts as he lived them."

Baker made several charcoal-on-paper sketches at different times.

"I was like a police artist drawing a description from a victim," Baker said.

The Hills used the drawings on their speaking engagements. They were published along with the Hills' story. They have since come into the domain of UFO researchers, science-fiction filmmakers and on the World Wide Web, including <http://discrbe.ca/ufo/sketch.htm>, one of the few places where Baker is credited as the artist.

Barney Hill died in 1969. Five years ago, Baker sold all the sketches to Betty for \$400.

Baker is not interested in credit or copyright. Because he is a UFO believer, he insists the sketches are not original works of art. They are pieces of independent evidence that, added to other testimony, become proof.

"I assumed other people had done it somewhere else," he said. "Other people have seen and told other artists. I was just one of many originals, part of a larger common source."

His aliens look like the corpse in the Roswell alien autopsy film, which recently aired on television.

But, he drew them 20 years after the Roswell crash and 30 years before the film surfaced.

The two facts, he says, confirm each other.

"That's the strength of encounter stories," Baker said. "No matter what part of the world they occur in, no matter that all are recorded in different languages, they are all about the same thing."

Capturing picture-perfect UFOs

For more than 30 years, UFO believers have relied on David C. Baker's drawings to show a dubious world what alien visitors look like. Maybe there would be more believers if we had just one nice, clear photo of them.

CPI Photo and Fox Photo, a national chain of photo stores, wants to help. They're offering tips to help amateur shutterbugs get just the right crisp shot of our visitors.

□ Since UFO sightings are unpredictable, always have a loaded camera ready.

□ Take lots of pictures. Most

UFO pictures are lucky accidents, so, if you don't get that great shot the first time, it may happen a second or two later.

□ Try for eye contact. Aliens are curious — otherwise, why would they be here? If you make soft noises, tap or scratch the camera, they'll probably look for the source of the sound.

□ Use flash cautiously to reduce reflection around spaceships made of shiny substances.

□ For group shots of aliens, pose the tallest in the center for a more pleasing effect.

□ To avoid red eye in aliens, shoot at an angle or have the aliens look slightly away from flash.

□ Keep backgrounds simple. Avoid clutter behind the UFO. A field, hedge, and the sky are good. A single prop like an intergalactic lightsaber or droid can be included.

□ Look for the focal point. UFO spaceships have many eye-catching elements, but don't try to include them all in one shot.

□ Store all film in lead-lined containers marked "Classified Information."



NO WAY



RIGHT WAY

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Alleged UFO Fragment Unveiled



RICHARD PIPES/JOURNAL

Researchers say this 1 1/4-inch wide object is debris from the Roswell crash, and that tests prove it has come from out of this world. The red line running through it is from a light-pointer.

■ *University of California chemist claims tests on a small chunk of purported crash debris prove it is not of earthly origin*

BY LESLIE LINTHICUM
Journal Staff Writer

ROSWELL — A chemist, a movie producer and a hypnotherapist announced Friday they have obtained and tested a piece of debris from the 1947 Roswell crash and determined it is "of extraterrestrial origin."

A 50th anniversary prank? No, the men say. They are serious about finding "the proof" everyone has been looking for.

But after dropping the bombshell they say is the UFO equivalent of finding the Holy Grail, no one involved would answer questions about their evidence, methodology or origin of the alleged piece of debris.

Russell VernonClark, who said he has a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, San Diego, told an auditorium packed with dozens of reporters and photographers and hundreds of UFO believers on the campus of the New Mexico Military Institute that he performed tests on an unidentified fragment and found startling results: The material's atomic makeup was so different from that of any known earthly matter that he concluded it was extraterrestrial.

"The atomic mass so differs from that found in known earthly elements," VernonClark said, "that it is impossible for it to be from Earth."

VernonClark, who identified himself as an environmental health and safety specialist in the school's department of chemistry, said the fragment was 99 percent pure silicon with traces of nickel, silver, germanium and zinc, with ratios of protons and neutrons that differ dramatically from those that naturally occur in those elements on Earth.

After the presentation concluded, VernonClark sped out a side door, leaving a comet's tail of questions. The university's Internet Web site shows a listing for a Russell VernonClark, who is not a professor but is employed in the department of chemistry and biochemistry.

The Roswell Incident has been the victim of hoaxes before. There was the alien autopsy, which was discredited when Hollywood makeup artists recreated it on video. Last year brought Penthouse magazine photos of the alien autopsy, which turned out to be photos of the props used in the Showtime movie "Roswell." And the last piece of purported alien aircraft was revealed last year to be a piece of metal from a Utah jeweler's shop.

Debate about this latest "evidence" was the talk of the town Friday, as Roswell's Fourth of

July population swelled with big-time crowds of visitors and locals happy to eat, shop and breathe aliens during this 50th anniversary celebration.

UFOlogist Michael Lindeman, founder of the online Institute for the Study of Contact with Non-human Intelligence, called the claim "extraordinary, if true."

"The fact is that it is possible to alter isotopic ratios," said Lindeman. "It is possible someone went to an extraordinary length to produce a very elaborate hoax."

Paul Davids, executive producer of the "Roswell" movie and spokesman for the "discovery," was cornered after the presentation by a swell of the some 500 reporters, photographers and producers sent here to cover the 50th anniversary celebration.

The piece, which appears on a videotape to look like a shiny charcoal briquet, was nowhere in sight at the presentation.



VERNONCLARK:
Declined to answer questions concerning debris

"You've seen what we've offered," said Davids. "Please," he said, "accept what you've been offered."

Why didn't they produce the actual chunk of rock?

Security reasons, Davids said. "The evidence is so sensitive, so unique, that it's being treated like the Moon Rock. When you have one sample and one sample only, the risks are just too great. This is as rare as the Shroud of Turin."

Davids would not name the other

research institutions he said performed the tests. "We can't say," said Davids. "This is so controversial that men's reputations have been ruined over their seriously making these conclusions."

Nor would he say who produced the object and how he could know that the object, if indeed unearthly, came from the crashed Roswell ship.

The object was given to Derrell Simms, a certified hypnotherapist, who would not identify the person, but said he or she told him it came from the Roswell crash site.

Dr. Jesse Marcel Jr., whose father was an Air Force lieutenant colonel who brought some of the debris home after the Air Force cleanup of the crash in 1947, said the chunk looked like what he saw when he was a surprised 11-year-old.

Chuck Wade, an engineer from Gallup, listened to the presentation and Marcel's testimony with rapt attention. Wade grew up in Corona, and his father owned the bar that rancher Mac Brazel visited after he found the debris. Wade grew up hearing his father's tales of Brazel's discovery.

After seeing a slide presentation and a videotape of the object that is said to come from Corona, Wade was wide-eyed, if not totally convinced.

"I think it's fascinating," Wade said. "I think it's just fascinating."

Max Littell, one of the founders of the International UFO Museum & Research Center, said Roswell has seen evidence of the crash before. "We have followed many leads and the last one was the jewelry incident," Littell said. "You just have to look at them as you go. We never know if you've got trash or treasure."

TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, VA - July 7, 1997 CR: R. Bonck

'Whatzits' in sky remain a mystery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUSSEX

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, Tereschenko's story about a saucerlike 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.

"It was unbelievable," 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."

Whether one believes in extrater-

restrials 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.

Even today, Sussex County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Mo Williams, who was a 26-year-old Petersburg police officer in 1973, can't explain the saucer-shaped object he witnessed in the sky buzzing along U.S. 460.

"It was a dim glow. ... It went right down 460," Williams said 20 years later, explaining that he was near Fort Lee when he saw the strange circular object inching along about 500 to 600 feet in the air.

He sped up for a closer look. Williams' cruiser would reach speeds of 100 miles per hour before the UFO "made a left turn ... and just blew off."

Williams said the object couldn't have been a weather balloon, airplane or helicopter because of its speed.

"It wasn't like anything I know on Earth at that time or now," Williams said. "It wasn't something that I thought was going to land on Petersburg and suck the blood out of us or anything like that. I'm not saying I believe in little green men. I'm just saying I believe in what I saw."

Only recently has Tereschenko revisited old memories.

Some friends convinced her to rent the movie "Independence Day."

When the alien spaceship hovers atop Washington, before blowing it to bits with its death rays, Tereschenko had a flashback.



Tereschenko

CRESCENT-NEWS, Defiance, OH - July 13, 1997 CR: J. Hamm

A hypothesis spins to life

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Research analysis received from BTL Research Team in Cambridge, Mass., reveals significant data concerning soil and plant samples taken from the site of the Paulding County crop circle which occurred last summer.

While it has not been absolutely determined with 100-percent certainty, researchers believe there is a 95-percent chance the formation was caused by an atmospheric plasma vortices. Although little is understood about the concept it is characterized by down-rushing whirlwinds of partially ionized air that spin to life from the turbulence of weak front systems.

"The Paulding event strongly supports the hypothesis that these atmospheric plasma vortices are the responsible agent in crop formations — and that something new and as yet not fully understood, is occurring," said BTL's Nancy Talbott.

In addition, Talbott and Dr. W.C. Levensgood have gained the following information from statistically significant data:

1. Significant node length (from wheat) alterations ranging in the 18-to-20-percent range.

2. High concentrations of magnetic iron particles occurring within the formation of regions where plant stem node changes were maximum.

3. A detailed sampling of the area surrounding the formation disclosed very low, near normal amounts of magnetic soil particles.

4. Microscopic characteristics of magnetic particles indicate meteoritic origins.

5. Data consistent with the concept of organized plasma vortices which through their associated magnetic fields attract meteoritic dust.

6. No significant difference between the germination of seeds from the formation and controls.

Members of the research team initially took samples from wheat inside and outside the circle and from soil inside and outside the circle shortly after the formation occurred. Other samples were taken to the laboratory by Mrs. Judy Robinette of Paulding, James Buerlein of Ohio State University, John Timmerman and Randy Robinette.

Samplings were provided at various periods throughout the year, including soil samples from the winter months.

Concerning the team's research and conclusions, Talbott said, "Dr. Levensgood did a great deal of work on this formation, obtaining a second set of soil samples during the winter because of the finding of such massively increased concentrations of magnetic material in the first soil samples."

BTL Research Team is part of laboratories specializing in analyzing crop circles worldwide.

Roswell mania a reminder of trusted friend's top-secret tale

Roswell, Roswell, Roswell. We are amid Roswell mania. For those of you who might have missed it, 50 years ago this month personnel at the Roswell Air Force Base in New Mexico were reported to have captured an alien being from a crashed spacecraft. For the past 50 years



THE CURIOUS PSYCHIC

Jacquie Witherrite and Shirlee Teabo

cries of a government cover-up have kept Roswell in the center of the UFO controversy.

We couldn't miss this 50th birthday without repeating our own personal Roswell-type story.

Charlie was a loner, a secretive, quiet, intensely private and trusted friend for more than 23 years. One night on the beach before a warm fire looking out at the night sky he recounted this story:

In the 1950s, he was a member of a special task force made up of representatives of the various armed services, each with a specific talent and a top-secret classification. Their job was to investigate UFO reports. In reality, he said, their job was to deprogram those who said they had seen UFOs or alien beings.

"We used sophisticated, psychological techniques and drugs to convince them what they had experienced had never taken place," he said. "We were to change their perception of events until they supported the 'correct truth.'"

One incident in particular seemed to trouble him. He said he was informed that somewhere near Odgen, Utah, a spacecraft had crashed and had been taken to a small, abandoned military base nearby. His unit was assigned to guard the hangar in which the craft and its contents would be studied, he said.

It was rumored that the craft contained the remains of alien beings who had been killed in the crash, he added.

The base was temporarily reactivated, he said, and, for several months, teams of military experts worked inside the hangar. Then, as suddenly as the camp had been reactivated, he said, it was deactivated again and the contents of the hangar were hauled away in closed containers.

"Was there really an alien life form in the possession of the government?" we asked. And had he seen it?

Our friend never answered our questions directly. All he'd say was that he agreed with the official military reason for all the secrecy - that it was to save our planet from ruin.

The reasoning, he explained, was that proof of another intelligent life form would cause global chaos. The religious, political and economic threads that bound the civilizations of the world together would snap.

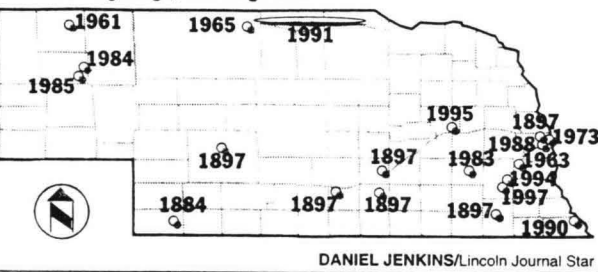
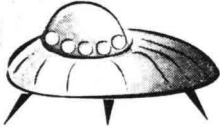
It was imperative that the knowledge be kept secret until the peoples of the world could accept it without panic, he said, adding that the government planned to slowly release data designed to change how people thought about alien life forms.

When we would press him for details, he would refuse to answer and beg us to keep secret what he'd told us as long as he was alive. One night he finally told us why: "There were seven of us," he said of the task force he said he'd served on. "I am the only one that is not either dead or in some way incarcerated."

When Jacquie scoffed at the implication that our government had

UFOs in Nebraska

This is a sampling of sightings of UFOs and related phenomena documented in Nebraska since 1884. For more on these sightings, see Page 5A.



DANIEL JENKINS/Lincoln Journal Star

claimed to have seen the extraterrestrial.

Nearly 50 such occurrences in the state have been documented in newspaper reports since the national debate over UFOs began full-speed with what is commonly thought to be the government's first recovery of a crashed UFO in Roswell, N.M., on July 7, 1947.

While the debate over Roswell continues after 50 years, more and more strange occurrences also continue to go unexplained.

Some have been fairly recent sightings. In May, the mother southwest of Lincoln claimed a large disc-shaped aircraft swept down the road in front of her house. The Columbus man claimed to have seen an unidentified object hovering over his house in September 1995. And in January 1994, two Lincoln police officers reported an object with a tail of fire and colored lights high in the sky around 18th and J streets.

"There's a phenomena taking place," said local UFOlogist Scott Colborn of Lincoln. "And it's taking place in Nebraska."

In fact, Nebraska is often consid-

ered a prime location for extraterrestrial activity. With its large rural regions and vast open space, UFOs, in theory, are supposed to be attracted here.

However, man-made theories and those of a different source do not always coincide, said another local UFOlogist and UNO physics professor John C. Kasher. While Nebraska has had its share of the unknown and unexplainable, nothing about the state seems to make it more or less attractive to aliens.

Encounters of the unknown can happen anywhere.

Kasher has spent the past 10 years studying the phenomena in Omaha, where he estimates that there have been dozens of UFO sightings. He is also state director of the 5,000-member Mutual UFO Network, which is based in Seguin, Texas, and has between 30 to 35 members in Nebraska. Without an official government database for recording reports, he and others like him have become the unofficial agents.

"I get calls every now and then from people in the area," Kasher said. "I hear a lot of bizarre stories."

Colborn, too, has become an unof-

Hundreds have claimed to spot UFOs across state

BY STACEY RANGE
Lincoln Journal Star

There's something strange going on in Nebraska.

Lights in Lincoln. Saucers in Seward. Aliens in Alliance.

A mother was hanging clothes on the line outside her house southwest of Lincoln in early May when a pin dropped to the ground. As she stood, she looked toward the sky. Then, her jaw dropped to the ground.

A Columbus man stepped outside for a cigarette after dinner. In the heat of a mid-September eve-

ning, he thought he was hallucinating.

An astronomy class at the University of Nebraska at Omaha saw something and classmates were sure they could not be wrong. There was certainly no chance that whatever the entire class had seen was not real.

All across the state, people have reported seeing mysterious and dazzling lights, large hovering spacecraft and little gray beings. In the past 50 years, hundreds of Nebraskans from Chadron to Omaha have

and the media influence the mind to see things when actually they are looking at nothing at all or at something identifiable.

"Now, if you go thinking 'I'm going to figure this thing out,' you will and there will probably be a very mundane answer," Nickell said.

Often, he said, the object ends up being a weather balloon or some type of identifiable aircraft.

Both have collected hundreds of stories.

"I've heard a lot, but for every report there are a dozen to perhaps 100 more unreported," Colborn said. "These things happen all the time out there, but many of the stories die on the vine."

Some say that is exactly where they should die. Joe Nickell, senior research fellow for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in Buffalo, N.Y., does not believe that there has ever been a legitimate claim of a UFO sighting. Rather, he believes that several psychological processes make people believe they have seen something that is not really there.

"It's more of a quality of mind than a quantity," Nickell said. "If you go out thinking you'll see something, then you will."

Movies, television, radio, books

and the media influence the mind to see things when actually they are looking at nothing at all or at something identifiable.

"Now, if you go thinking 'I'm going to figure this thing out,' you will and there will probably be a very mundane answer," Nickell said.

Often, he said, the object ends up being a weather balloon or some type of identifiable aircraft.

But two of Nebraska's earliest reports occurred before both inventions. Eight years before the invention of the airplane, an alleged UFO crash occurred 35 miles northwest of Benkelman in Dundy County on June 7, 1884. Three years later but still five years before the Wright brothers, an epidemic of flying object reports filtered through the state. Both of these cases remain unexplained.

"Many people say, 'I don't know what I saw,' and they should put a period there," Nickell said. "Instead, they go on to say, 'So it must have been a UFO.'"

Colborn and Kasher don't disagree.

"There's nothing wrong with saying I don't know what it is," Kasher said. "Sometimes there's not much more you can do."

National debate over UFOs spans 50 years

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

In July of the same year, Air Force officials announced they had discovered debris from a crashed flying disc near Roswell, N.M. The next day, they said they were mistaken - the debris was from a downed weather balloon.

Thus began the national debate over UFOs.

Here is a sampling of sightings in Nebraska gathered from the Journal Star library and the National UFO Reporting Center, some dating to before the 1947 events:

May 5, 1997: A woman living southwest of Lincoln reported a flying saucer swept across her lawn and down the street.

Sept. 14, 1995: A Columbus man stepped outside for a cigarette and spotted an object extending out over the edge of his roof. He reported that it was solid with hazy lights streaking off in the distance.

January 1994: Two Lincoln police officers, Dave Munn and John Clarke, spotted an object high in sky around 18th and J streets with a tail of fire and colored lights flickering at its base. As it passed their line of vision behind the state Capitol, it disintegrated into a spectrum of colors, like a fire-

works display. At the end of their shift they learned four more officers saw it, too. It was then sighted by several others in the Lincoln area on Feb. 12.

February 1991: Residents from Butte to Valentine saw a blaze of light streaking across the Midwest sky. Several reported a saucer-shaped flying object with a yellow tail.

October 1990: Charles Kirkendall, a rancher in Richardson County, reported that three mysterious rings had been burned in his alfalfa field east of Barada.

August 1990: Mysterious lights filled the sky in at least three states including Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. It was later blamed on "space junk" or meteors by the Flight Service Station in Omaha and at Offutt Air Force Base.

January 1988: Reports of two airplanes colliding in Omaha prompted four police officers, who saw a bright solid white light and object in the sky, to follow the object as it moved southwest toward Gretna. The officers followed the object to the edge of the city, but could make no determination of what the object was.

1985: Alliance residents and police officers saw bright lights in the evening sky. The officers tracked the glowing object - which appeared to be the size of a tennis ball, part red and part gold - west and north of Alliance. Residents reported it looked like a falling star at first, then a V-shaped object. Then it dropped out of the sky and was never found nor identified. Alliance Municipal Airport reported having seen the lights, but they did not appear on radar.

1984: An Alliance farmer reported that he and his son were awakened by an extremely bright white light on their farmstead 12 miles northeast of Alliance. They got out of bed and walked outside to find a UFO hovering over the farm and beaming a bright, white light on their driveway for half an hour.

1983: A Seward couple and their neighbors spotted a "fiery red thing" 30 feet off the ground. They reported seeing it "hover, for at least 10 minutes before moving eastward. The crazy thing made a loud, angry roar. It kept shooting off sparks of fire and gave off little, if any, heat."

1973: A University of Nebraska at Omaha astronomy class spotted a UFO on Omaha's south side. Two large objects seemed to hover together and follow one another. It was in sight for about 15 minutes and moved northwest. The astronomy professor was confident that they were not weather balloons but was not sure what they were.

1961: Chadron farmer reported a strange flying object streaked across his land and left behind a mysterious substance that defied explanation. The strange, metallic substance came off the UFO in thin fibers and fell to Earth, draping itself like a finely knit shroud over his fields, trees, machinery and power lines.

1965: Two Valentine teens photographed what they believed to be a UFO and spotted three more the following evening. The girl said the object did not move like a star, rather it moved up and down and had other unusual maneuvers. It

dimmed frequently and changed colors, varying from red to green to bluish-white. The colors moved across the object from one side to the other. A second object came from the northeast and was followed by four smaller, dimmer objects.

1963: Nebraska's most highly publicized UFO case, in which Herbert Schirmer, former Ashland police officer, spotted a UFO near the intersection of highways 6 and 63. After reporting his sighting, he was ridiculed, his wife divorced him and he was forced to leave the state.

1957: Jets from the National Guard scrambled over the city to intercept a UFO sighted by the crew of a B-47, according to "The Complete Roadside Guide to Nebraska."

1997: Five years before the invention of the airplane, there was an epidemic of alleged flying objects over Nebraska. Newspapers reported sightings in Hastings, North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, Beatrice and Omaha. Some were reported by individuals and some by groups. Accounts varied as to size and shape.

1884: A UFO crashed 35 miles northwest of Benkelman in Dundy County. Rancher John W. Ellis and a party of herdsmen were riding along when they suddenly heard a terrific rushing, roaring noise overhead. It was never determined exactly what the craft was because it dissolved in a rainstorm. The strange occurrence attracted a stream of investigators and media coverage but never an explanation.

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.



Bob Sallee Backward Glances

Sky searchers unite at flying saucer conventions

City officials in Roswell, N.M., braced for an influx of 50,000 revelers for the 50th anniversary of the legendary report of a UFO crash in the desert — with five alien bodies. But only 20,000 showed up for maybe the world's largest craft show. Alien faces adorned everything from shot glasses to toy saucers.

The hot weather may have contributed to keeping the other 30,000 fun-seekers away, but believers made the trek anyhow. Just like 425 of the faithful did back in the spring to the Ozark UFO Conference at Eureka Springs.

UFOs are as hot a topic as ever, even in Arkansas, a state rich in UFO lore. Adherents attend conferences like those at Eureka Springs and Roswell to make acquaintances, to swap stories about new sightings and to obtain fresh opinions about new technologies. Newly published books on the UFO phenomenon have renewed the public's interest, especially the book by a retired Pentagon officer entrusted with the official files on the Roswell incident. Believe him or not, Col. Philip J. Corso, a retired chief of the Army's Foreign Technology Division, now tells all — in great detail — about the government's alleged cover-up

of the Roswell incident.

Kenneth Arnold, a pilot who was helping search for a downed Air Force plane in June 1947, reported seeing nine flying objects over Mount Ranier. He has been credited with coining the term *flying saucer* — a fitting comparison because most UFO reports involve flying objects that are round, like a saucer. What if Arnold had called the objects he saw flying plates or platters?

COINED IN 1878

Actually, the term flying saucer was coined in 1878 by a Texas farmer named John Martin. According to a story published in the Jan. 25, 1878, edition of the *Dennison Daily News*, Martin was "a gentleman of undoubted veracity." He reported seeing a dark flying object cruising high in the northern sky "at a wonderful speed."

"The peculiar shape, and the velocity with which the object seemed to approach, riveted his attention," the story says. Describing the object when it was directly over him, Martin said it was "about the size of a large saucer." Glancing back, the 19th century was rife with reports of flying saucers, a.k.a. UFOs.

One of the best stories of a close encounter with a UFO was report-

ed on April 21, 1897, by Alexander Hamilton, a Kansas farmer whose spread was near Le Roy in Coffey County. He filed an affidavit at the courthouse about his experience, and attesting to his veracity and the truth of his report were all of the town's leaders: the state oil inspector, the sheriff, the deputy sheriff, the banker, the pharmacist, the lawyer, the justice of the peace, the registrar of deeds and the postmaster. Hamilton, known and respected all over Coffey, Woodson, Allen and Anderson counties, was also a member of the Kansas House of Representatives. He staked his sacred honor upon the truth of his story.

"Last Monday night, about 10:30, we were awakened by a noise among the cattle. I arose, thinking that perhaps my bulldog was performing some of his pranks, but upon going to the door saw to my utter astonishment an airship slowly descending upon my cow lot about 40 rods from the house."

"Calling my tenant, Gid Heslip, and my son, Wall, we seized some axes and ran to the corral. Meanwhile, the ship had been gently descending until it was not more than thirty feet above the ground, and we came within fifty yards of it."

"It consisted of a great cigar-shaped portion, possibly three

hundred feet long, with a carriage underneath. The carriage was made of some transparent substance alternating with a narrow strip of some material. It was brilliantly lighted within and everything was plainly visible — it was occupied by six of the strangest beings I ever saw. They were jabbering together, but we could not understand a word they said."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

"Every part of the vessel which was not transparent was of a dark reddish color. We stood mute with wonder and fright, when some noise attracted their attention and they turned a light directly upon us. Immediately on catching sight of us they turned on some unknown power, and a great turbine wheel, about thirty feet in diameter, which was slowly revolving below the craft, began to buzz and the vessel rose lightly as a bird."

"When about three hundred feet above us, it seemed to pause and hover directly over a two-year-old heifer, which was bawling and jumping, apparently fast in the fence. Going to her, we found a cable about a half-inch in thickness made of some red material, fastened in a slipknot around her neck, one end passing up to the vessel, and the heifer tangled

in the wire fence."

"We tried to get it off but could not, so we cut the wire loose and stood in amazement to see the ship, heifer and all, rise slowly, disappearing in the northwest."

"We went home, but I was so frightened I could not sleep. Rising early Tuesday, I started out by horse, hoping to find some trace of my cow. This I failed to do, but coming back in the evening I found that Link Thomas, about three or four miles west of Le Roy, had found the hide, legs and head in his field that day. He, thinking someone had butchered a stolen beast, had brought the hide to town for identification, but was greatly mystified in not being able to find any tracks in the soft ground."

"After identifying the hide by my brand, I went home. But every time I would drop to sleep I would see the cursed thing, with its big lights and hideous people. I don't know whether they are devils or angels, or what; but we all saw them, and my whole family saw the ship, and I don't want any more to do with them."

Sound familiar?

Bob Sallee's *Backward Glances* appears Tuesdays and Thursdays in *Style*. He has been a reporter, writer and editor for the *Arkansas Democrat* and the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* since 1960.



Bob Sallee Backward Glances

UFO sightings a natural in The Natural State

If you want to see an unidentified flying object, your chances may be better here in Arkansas than anywhere. The record of sightings in the Natural State brims with UFO reports, from north to south, east to west — here a sighting, there a sighting. Scores of them have been recorded by newspapers around the state. But for all anyone knows, more sightings may go unreported than the ones noted by public agencies or newspapers.

Think about it. Suppose you saw a strange object making unusual maneuvers low in a clear sky, and you could clearly see that it was a metal craft and recognize its protruding antennas. Or maybe you saw a pulsating light in the night sky — or near ground level — one that performed aerobatics and changed colors from red to green or blue, then to white, before turning back to red or orange. Would you report what you saw and risk being tagged a kook? Or would you share the story with only family and close friends?

Here's one example of why some folks might not share such an experience:

Twelve years ago, residents across Poinsett County saw a bright orange light low in the sky that hovered and moved in different directions — sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly. About 25 calls were logged by police agencies from folks who had seen it.

Two law enforcement officers in different places also saw the object. One tried to follow the thing as it zipped along just above a gravel road, but his car couldn't keep up. Another lawman also saw the object — James Walker, the police chief at Tyrone. "I noticed it," he said, "but I wasn't going to say anything. You know how that goes."

Chief Walker said he watched



Margaret Sharp (left) checks out brightly colored light in the sky being pointed out by Robbie and Beinda Taaffe in Foreman in 1988.

the object for a half-hour or longer through a telescope he kept in his squad car. He feared being ridiculed or teased like the other two officers were by their peers.

Some people refuse to believe what they've seen if it's something strange or bizarre. In a 1973 interview, Dr. Patrick Caffey, professor of psychology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, explained why:

"Some people may have seen a UFO, but refused to believe their eyes, he said. They try to discredit what they saw, or explain it away. 'People don't like things that don't agree with what they believe. They would try to discredit

the source, forget it, or distort it completely out of shape."

A close encounter of almost the third kind was reported in 1961 by several people on a parking lot at University Hospital. A North Little Rock man was among the witnesses. He said an object that seemed at first to be a brighter-than-usual star in the night sky suddenly came down and hovered about 50 feet above the parking lot. He said the object looked as though it was made of dark gray metal, and he described a circle of lights around the edges, and light emanating from what appeared to be port holes. For several weeks afterward, the FBI ran

a classified ad in the *Arkansas Democrat* seeking witnesses to "the star incident" at the medical center.

Reports of UFOs around the state have been consistent the past 40 years or longer, not just in rural areas but also in Little Rock. Newspaper files are bulging with UFO reports. One night in August 1966, UFOs were reported by scores of residents. The objects were in view for longer than an hour, and were watched downtown by the night shifts of police officers and fire fighters. Similar reports came in from Fort Smith, where as many as 1,500 people watched the objects perform their

maneuvers for longer than three hours.

In Little River County, between Ashdown and Foreman, a number of people watched two UFOs flying low in the sky together the night of Jan. 23, 1968, then speed off in different directions. A woman visiting there said one of the objects chased her car along the highway for several miles.

And at Flippin back in January 1970, a California woman snapped a picture of a small jet plane as it landed at the Marion County airport.

She learned later that she had unknowingly photographed a UFO high in the sky directly above the airport. Officials at Kodak examined the film and confirmed that it contained no flaws. After examining a color print of the picture, the assistant director of Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization wrote the woman and said that their preliminary finding was that, "You have actually photographed an unidentified object in the sky."

And in Ashdown on April 8, 1990, Jim Williamson, publisher of the *Little River News*, photographed two UFOs during a flap of some 200 sightings. He said they zipped around in the sky, made sharp turns, and even rose skyward from the ground. Dozens of witnesses saw the UFOs, he said, adding that some people related their experiences in confidence — including a captain on the Dallas fire department, who feared being ridiculed.

Ridiculed?

Yes, for Williamson said ridicule of the witnesses was intense, but "I know these people, and I know they're not flakes. ..."

Bob Sallee's *Backward Glances* appears Tuesdays and Thursdays in *Style*. He has been a reporter, writer and editor for the *Arkansas Democrat* and the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* since 1960.

Residents relate sightings of UFOs



David Prather

View from the Pew

The Apostle Paul advises us to "Examine all things - and echo that which has, with its appearance a genuine and good purpose." Jesus includes in the events preceding his coming, "Fearful sight and great sign shall be from the sky." Luke 21:11

Nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman said nothing about God but a lot about higher powers at the recent gathering of the Mutual UFO Network of Orange County in the Ritz Restaurant at Fashion Island in Newport Beach.

Friedman, who has appeared on programs such as "Larry King Live" and spoken to more than 600 universities and the U.N., was honored for his lifetime work with UFOs. His principle challenge was to ask his audience to consider the evidence that we have been contacted, in this generation, by intelligent life, not from this earth.

"If it is true, this is the most important event of this millennium," he said. He made many references to a released government document describing a crashed UFO complete with alien bodies.

Jan Harzan of Newport Beach is a Christian and a Presbyterian to boot. Harzan, who describes himself as a client solution executive for IBM Global Services, says extraterrestrial life is out there and we are trying to get to the truth.

He was 11 years old when he and his brother were visited by a landing craft that hovered a mere 15 feet above the ground near them with landing gear and pods extended. Like many MUFON members, Jan's sighting gave him the convincing necessary to join this organization.

Dr. Judith Cameron teaches 9th grade physical science and a 12th grade psychology class and was selected to be a part of the teacher in space program. Near Area 51, Cameron and a woman friend watched a "flying saucer" hovering a football field's length away. Out of the dark, a white van approached them.

When the two occupants exited the van to speak with the women, they noticed the "aliens" had marshmallow colored faces and four digits on their hands. Cameron and her friend left with the van and spacecraft close behind their car.

Suddenly the van transformed itself into a second spacecraft and both followed them "all the way to Kingman." Cameron, like most other members of Orange County MUFON, believes there is proof of a government coverup of alien contacts. And she agrees with Friedman that these ad-

vanced civilizations are going to be studying our biology and the world of mind and spirit.

Dr. Cameron says, "We are not the only kids on the block and it is time we grew up."

Many members speculate that mind-machine interfacing is at work on UFOs converting craft and pilots from material into pure energy.

At last week's meeting at the Costa Mesa Community Center, about 40 people out of an audience of 300 reported personal encounters with UFOs.

MUFON takes a scientific approach to UFO investigation and says telepathic alien-to-human contact such as claimed by the Heaven Gate cult has not been verified as fact.

Like the honored Friedman, a number of MUFON members have association with such U.S. corporations as McDonnell Douglas and are people of considerable scientific and technical expertise.

Friedman says, "Man's future is inextricably linked up with space. We are not the big shots in the neighborhood. I hope my grandson's generation will behave enough for citizenship in cosmic kindergarten. We have demonstrated, by recently kill-

ing 50 million of our own kind, earthlings, that we are a primitive society. Yesterday, 3,000 babies died from starvation and last year we spent 3 trillion dollars on things military. What I fear is that some big shot in the sky will say 'Shut it down, before these guys do it again.'" Friedman believes that before the government lifts the lid on its secret UFO research, people will already know the truth.

To contact the mutual Orange County UFO Network, call Debbie Stock at 520-4836.

David C. Prather is a freelance writer. Your comments are welcome. Leave a message at 564-7089.

DAILY NEWS LEADER, Roanoke, VA - July 26, 1997

Military now says flares may be cause of mysterious Arizona lights

PHOENIX (AP) — Military flares — rather than UFOs — might be behind those mysterious, bright lights that caused such a stir in Arizona four months ago.

Visiting jets from the Maryland Air National Guard were using high-intensity flares over a bombing range near Phoenix the night of March 13, when many people reported seeing lights, military officials said Friday.

The flares would have created quite a light show in southwestern Arizona, where many people reported seeing the lights in a boomerang formation. The lights, captured on videotape, created a media frenzy when the tape aired nationally last month.

Capt. Drew Sullins, a spokesman for the Maryland Air National Guard, said eight of its A-10 ground-attack jets were flying training missions that night over the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range, 60

miles southwest of Phoenix.

The planes were dropping high-intensity flares from 15,000 feet to illuminate the target area, Sullins said. The flares fall slowly by parachute and illuminate a wide area.

Before returning to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson that night, the planes dumped all their remaining flares at high altitude, which would have created what one pilot called "one hell of a light show," Sullins said.

But the flare explanation may not solve the mystery. It doesn't explain sightings that came from northwestern Arizona — up to 200 miles away.

And Frances Emma Barwood, the Phoenix city councilwoman who's been pushing for the Air Force to investigate the lights, said the explanation was just too convenient.

"If that is their explanation then they need to do a re-enactment so people can say that's what they saw or not what they saw," she said.

CR: R. Bonck

ENTERPRISE, Brockton, MA - July 5, 1997

CR: R. Dumas/B. Robbins

They have closed the wrong book on UFOs

By Bert Kinzey
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

THE 50th anniversary of what some believe is the first crash of a UFO on this planet has neither advanced our understanding of life beyond our solar system nor established scientific evidence that the singed soil of Roswell, N.M., was the site in July 1947, of our first intergalactic traffic fatality.

Furthermore, the latest explanation from the U.S. Air Force — that unidentified flying objects were basically parachute-test dummies that finally close the case — only adds to the cynicism regarding decades of official denials.

Sadly, the attention focused on this curious anniversary has diverted any serious effort to review the episodes of UFO encounters reported over the past 50 years, thereby denying us a clearer understanding of the universe we inhabit. Couple this anniversary observance with the use of the Hale-Bopp comet as a fatal UFO attraction by the Heaven's Gate cult, and serious observers of UFO phenomena are intimidated into silence.

While cults and crackpots may drift from one attraction to another, the study of UFO sightings was taken seriously enough by the United States government to create a standing review of reported incidents after Roswell. Entitled "The Blue Book," it was a compilation of numerous sightings reported by credible and incredible eyewitnesses (alike). It never confirmed that a UFO sighting was a traveler through our solar system, but it did provide a pathway to analysis of what we might be looking at. Like many programs, it was dismantled during the early days of the Reagan administration and, without a congressional mentor, it never resurfaced.

Not surprisingly, when a senior military helicopter pilot reported he saw missile contrails around doomed TWA Flight 800, investigators couldn't and still can't deny or accept what he saw. A number of investigators maintain that what the pilot really saw were streaks from remaining jet fuel that had vaporized in the heat of the initial explosion. The inability to substantiate what we are, and are not, seeing in the sky leaves this tragedy an open book as we approach its first anniversary. There are many who remain equally frustrated in getting answers to very personal questions regarding UFOs. I was trained as an aircraft observer by the Army, but I'm left with no explanation some 20 years after spotting visually, and on radar, a UFO that came within tracking range of my command, a Hawk missile battery in Korea. Fellow eyewitnesses were stunned at what they saw, and by its flight characteristics and its inability to be identified by the most sophisticated tracking equipment of its day. Despite having served subsequently as an Army civilian employee instructing anti-aircraft personnel on helicopter and aircraft identification, and having written numerous books on air power and aircraft, I still have no explanation for what was seen in the air over Korea decades ago.

In millennia past, our ancestors looked skyward and, in their ignorance, gave the stars names and personalities. Today, as our civilization becomes indifferent to discovering worlds beyond our planet, we must stand fast against the smirks and cynicism created by Roswell space mannequins and Heaven's Gate cultists so that we can ask serious questions about what is visiting Earth. Reopening "The Blue Book" is a good place to start.

Bert Kinzey is a Georgia-based lecturer and author of numerous books and articles regarding air power and aircraft.

POST, New York, NY - July 5, 1997

UFO watchers in alien-ated state

Page Six

By RICHARD JOHNSON
with Jeanne MacIntosh
and Sean Gannon

JUST in time for the Roswell, New Mexico UFO festivities, a bitter feud has erupted between rival alien-watching camps.

Like an East Coast-West Coast rap war, Michael Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research, is accusing Kent Jeffrey, the Fairfax, Cal., airline pilot who spearheaded a campaign for full government disclosure on UFO information, of being a traitor to the saucer-seeking cause.

Luckman is fuming at Jeffrey for arranging for clinical psychologist Neil Hibler to hypnotize Jesse Marcel Jr. — who claims he saw wreckage from a UFO crash in 1947 that was first retrieved by his father, a Roswell Army Air Force intelligence officer.

"The problem," says Luckman, "is that Hibler's clients are precisely those organizations that would like to bury the notion of the Roswell aliens and spaceship once and for all — the FBI, the National Security Agency and

the Defense Intelligence Agency. This makes Hibler perhaps the least objective person on the face of the earth to regress Marcel and learn what really happened in 1947. It raises serious questions about possible tampering with the number one surviving witness in the Roswell incident."

Jeffrey is the Delta Airlines pilot who gave legitimacy to the UFO-search movement three years ago by penning a petition to President Clinton, eventually signed by 20,000 people, asking the government to declassify any files that may prove or disprove the existence of extraterrestrials. But after exhaustive research, he's now convinced the Roswell crash is a myth and has written a lengthy report debunking it. In the journal of the Mutual UFO Network, the largest UFO organization in the U.S., Jeffrey bluntly writes: "No UFO crashed at Roswell — with or without aliens. It did not happen. Period."

As one science writer put it, "For Jeffrey to disavow Roswell is, well, like Abraham Lincoln disavowing the Gettysburg Address."

Though he cites a host of evidence to support his conclusion, Jeffrey says the final nail in the coffin was the hypnosis, which helped Marcel Jr. remember exactly what he had seen as a child. Defending the hypnotist, Jeffrey told us: "We wanted someone very credible with nothing to do with UFOs. The entire event, at the suggestion of Hibler, was recorded on videotape. And Jesse Marcel's daughter, a licensed hypnotist, was there herself to watch. So much for conspiracy theories." While under, Marcel Jr. only described objects that sounded like material from an experimental radar-reflector balloon.

Meanwhile, the faithful in New York can gather for the 50th anniversary of the alleged crash at a party Wednesday at Hudson Grill, where Richie Havens and others will perform.

SeaTac artist paints alien 'mug shots'

Bothell woman says Chace's art gives 'life' to her alien abductions

By Jason Robinson
STAFF WRITER

SEATAC—Attention alien abductees. If you want a painter's rendition of your kidnapper, David Chace is your man.

Chace, 26, paints portraits of aliens described by people who report being abducted by alien visitors in UFOs.

"In 1991, the TV show 'Sightings' came on, and they showed some alien sketches. That's when I got" interested, Chace said.

Samples of Chace's work are on display at the Seattle Center on Contemporary Art. The display, entitled They Came Here First, features 140 pieces of extraterrestrial-inspired artwork from 40 artists.

It opened last Saturday in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of a sighting near Mt. Rainier of a "flying saucer" by Boise, Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold.

For the people who say they have been inside flying saucers, Chace's

artistic representations are something they will always have as a memento.

"It helps tremendously," said Evelyn McNutt of Bothell, who said she has seen or been abducted by aliens on several occasions. Chace has painted McNutt's descriptions of the aliens she claims to have seen.

Chace's artwork "leaves something tangible for people," McNutt said.

However, memories of aliens are not necessarily desirable, she warns.

"It's extremely frightening," said McNutt.

During one of her reported encounters, McNutt said she was dreaming about some strange being only to wake up with an alien in her room.

The creature, which had a big brown triangular head with cat-like eyes, flew backwards across the bedroom, apparently startled, she said.

Another visitor seemed "very ancient," McNutt said, because its face had numerous wrinkles. She added that it manipulated her dreams before she woke up. It was an event she would like to put behind her.

"Your mind doesn't want to remember, like the way some car accident victims forget some details of their crash," she said.

Check it out

They Came Here First, an exhibit of alien drawings on Seattle Center on Contemporary Art, 65 Cedar St. Through Aug. 16, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday
\$2 admission
Exhibit will be at Bumbershoot Arts Festival on Labor Day weekend.

Despite McNutt's desire to forget, Chace's paintings will ensure that those memories will not die.

McNutt said she has seen at least three different alien species, and Chace has given eternal "life" to all of them in his paintings.

The first of which is the above-mentioned "triangle head."

The second fits many alien stereotypes, with its big dome-shaped head, round eyes and skinny neck.

The last one resembled a praying mantis, with a green insect-like head

shots'

complete with huge black eyes on the side.

Chace, who meets many abductees at MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) meetings, said he believes that these or other aliens may use time travel and other technologies far more advanced than ours.

"My own take on it is that it's some other order of civilization that just operates on a higher level of technological achievement," said Chace, who counts novels by Bud Hopkins as major influences on his interest in aliens and UFOs.

"Perhaps it's time travel or interdimensional," he said. Or maybe they are from "alternative histories."

Despite his theories on the origins of our interplanetary neighbors, if they even exist, Chace said he realizes that most people will not believe him or folks such as McNutt. Not without concrete evidence.

"Unless you have some kind of physical proof, there's no way that the scientific community is going to accept" the idea of visitors from other planets, said Chace.

However, he said that people cannot claim that no extraterrestrial life exists just because there is no solid evidence.

"We don't know what other forms of intelligent life might have evolved out there or what technologies they may have developed or what capabilities they may have," Chace said.

On the possibility of government cover-ups, such as the famous Roswell case, Chace remains undecided.

But he did say that "there's definitely something that's not explained" when a large number of people report seeing something unusual and the government simply dismisses it.

He leaves open the possibility that the aliens are the ones behind the lack of evidence.

"They don't want to provide the proof that's going to convince our scientific institutions or police departments because that would interfere with their operations if the police would start investigating," Chace said.

Chace recognizes there will be skeptics, but he said that society should not brush off UFO reports prematurely, either.

"I think it would be very naive for people to simply dismiss these experiences and say, 'That's impossible.'"

BREEZE, Costa Mesa, CA - July 3, 1997

NO ALIEN CONCEPT

ORGANIZATIONS:

Local investigators believe UFOs have buzzed around right here in Orange County's backyard.

By YOMI S. WRONGE
The Costa Mesa Breeze

They are everyday people. Lawyers, cops, teachers and firefighters. They are your neighbors, friends, possibly even your relatives.

Regular folks leading routine lives.

Yet they have experienced something out of this world:

On Feb. 5, 1995 at 6:30 a.m. a dark, misshapen lump was seen floating through Orange County skies.

On the afternoon of Sept. 6, 1987 a Long Beach man reported seeing a gray metallic box about 10 feet long, 5 feet high moving fast across the horizon. His friend, a United States Marshall, also saw the object, which he described as a flying box car.

It was a clear evening in July 1996 when a Buena Park man saw an object in the sky three times bigger than a star and as bright as the sun. The dome on top emitted light rays that encircled the perimeter of the object, which returned two more times before the witness called Bell Alanis to check it out.

"We try and find out using geometry how big the craft was, how fast it traveled," said Alanis, chief investigator with MUFON Orange County, a local chapter of an international organization known as Mutual UFO Network Inc.

The group meets monthly at

FON Field Investigators Manual, and submit all reports to their headquarters in Sequin, Texas. From there, information is databased at Rutgers University.

Mufon officials are clear to distinguish themselves from cult groups.

"We think extraterrestrials have been around for a long time, or it could be us coming back from the future ... I don't know," Alanis said. "But we don't worship them or want them to save us."

His interest in the subject was sparked at age 11, when he and neighborhood kids saw a large, gold object the shape of a football in the sky.

"We're just trying to figure out this phenomenon and we think the government knows something and we want them to come forward with information," said Alanis, an engineer at Unisys Corp., a computer company in south Orange County.

But some others interested in the field of ufology disagree with the notion of a government cov-

the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center on Park Avenue. Its 100 members are professionals from 45 areas of science, astronomy, medicine, psychiatry and physics.

They discuss the latest in UFO investigation technology and recent Orange County sightings.

Alanis and his investigative team follow leads from witnesses who claim to have seen otherworldly crafts or light shapes.

"We can take specimens from broken branches if a space craft hit a tree," Alanis said.

But that hasn't happened yet. "Most of them were just balloons, or constellations, or big lights from grand openings," he said. "People were mistaken."

When the big one does hit — and Alanis is sure it will — MUFON will be prepared.

Field investigators are trained to be objective, scientific researchers. They follow strict guidelines outlined in the MU-

Roswell revisited

For all you UFO buffs, didn't you just love the recent Air Force explanation of the reputed aliens found at Roswell, New Mexico back in 1947? I have no idea what happened out there but I'm pretty sure that the Air Force, coming out now and saying the little aliens were test dummies used in parachute tests in the early 1950's, and that those who talk about the Roswell incident remember THEM...and not the little aliens they claim to remember several years earlier. Such an explanation is pure silliness on the part of the Air Force. It hurts military credibility. They should have just continued to deny the whole thing. That would have been much better.

Since this is the 50th anniversary of the Roswell thing, I would like to revisit an experience I had (and wrote about) on Aug. 16, 1966. It was one of those things that makes you question all the negative spins government puts on all other UFO sightings since it's hard not to believe what you see yourself.

Without getting into all the details, let me just say that on that date in 1966 I saw a large, oval-shaped orange object to the west of Prophetstown. I had a new pair of binoculars with me and with them I could make out two parallel lines running horizontally through the object...an object I unscientifically calculated to be about one mile from me. It remained motionless for nearly five minutes and then quickly zipped and zagged to the south and below the horizon in a matter of seconds.

Here's the point: Assuming I know something about aerial phenomenon (which I do) and assuming I wasn't drunk or hallucinating (which I wasn't), how do you explain such an object? A balloon? A plane?

Helicopter? Prank? Swamp gas? New military test vehicle? Other than the last possibility, I easily ruled out the others.

Making these general assumptions and assuming good, young eyes, what was it?

The military never responded to my inquiry (official report), never did a follow-up through Project Blue Book, the agency established to handle such things back in the 1950's and 60's.

So, taking that broad leap that I wasn't somehow deficient in my observation...what the heck was that thing?

Having seen it it makes reports like Roswell and other well-documented cases a bit easier to swallow. At least I can't dismiss them out-of-hand like some of my friends do.

I won't say what that object was back in 1966 but I will say it was SOMETHING. It makes you a bit angry when someone who wasn't there tells you you didn't see anything...and it hurts their credibility with me when they take such an approach.

A lot of people claim to have seen something at Roswell in 1947. Should we just assume that all those people were just plain goofy, as the Air Force implies, or should we at least keep an open mind? The latter seems the logical approach. Air Force test dummies several years after the fact just don't cut it whether there were little green men found or not. All it does is make most people wonder why the Air Force would concoct such a tale.

U.F.O. Believers and Debunkers Thrive on the Web

By PATRICK J. LYONS

Mention U.F.O.'s and the Internet in the same sentence and eyes roll.

With some justice, too, since the Internet has proved to be an ideal outlet for crackpotism of every flavor. Conspiracy theorists and true believers have flooded the World Wide Web with rant, screed, pseudoscience, paranoid fantasy, arcane enigmata, fifth-hand rumor and just plain fiction on the subject of unidentified flying objects. The work of more serious people who study reports of supposed alien visitation and the widespread popular belief in unidentified flying objects can easily be lost in all the panting and malarkey.

Ground zero for ufologists, serious and wild-eyed alike, has long been a stretch of scrubland outside Corona, N.M., where a rancher found a bit of puzzling debris in July 1947. Initial reports in the local newspaper in Roswell, the nearest sizable town and the home of an Air Force base, called it a crashed flying saucer, and five decades later people still believe that is what it was.

Roswell, Hangar 18 and Area 51 (top-secret spots in Nevada where bits of the ship and its dead occupants supposedly were taken) have become part of American folklore, notwithstanding 50 years of Air Force insistence that all anyone ever found were parts of a secret high-altitude research balloon.

The vast edifice of flying saucer and alien abduction lore built up over the years is actively trafficked on the Internet, at Web sites like those of Uforia, the National UFO Reporting Center, the Mutual UFO Network or the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell.

Fittingly, then, the latest and most comprehensive debunking of the supposed Roswell incident to come from the Air Force is also available on the Web. "The Roswell Report: Case Closed," published last week, is posted on the Air Force Library site, photos and all, along with its previous attempt at a stake through the monster's heart, the 1994 "Roswell Report."

Naturally, people who believe that the Government covered up a crashed alien ship for 50 years will be inclined to dismiss these reports as just more covering-up. But the Air Force Library is far from the only place to find cold water thrown on overheated imaginings of extraterrestrial desert sightseeing tours

WHERE TO GO

- UFORIA
<http://www.ez1.com/~ufo>
- NATIONAL UFO REPORTING CENTER
<http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/index.html>
- MUTUAL UFO NETWORK
<http://www.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/MUFON>
- INTERNATIONAL UFO MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER, ROSWELL
<http://www.iufomrc.com>
- "THE ROSWELL REPORT: CASE CLOSED" (1997)
<http://www.af.mil/lib/roswell>
- "THE ROSWELL REPORT" (1994)
<http://www.af.mil/lib/roswell.html>
- JAMES RANDI
<http://www.randi.org/>
- COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS OF THE PARANORMAL
<http://www.csicop.org/>
- THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER
<http://www.csicop.org/si>



- BRUCE D. KETTLER'S PAGE
<http://www.psycounsel.com/artbellclub/bdkspace.html>
- "THE ALIEN AUTOPSY FILM" BY PAUL FULLER
<http://www.ufo.se/alien.html>
- PARASCOPE
<http://www.parascope.com/nb/1096/pent.htm>
- CIRCLEMAKERS
<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/3671/index.html>
- PROJECT GALACTIC GUIDE: FAKING UFO'S
<http://aurora.etsiig.uniovi.es:3080/~--pippin/pgg/2r89.html>
- SAUCER SMEAR
<http://www.mcs.com/~kvg/smear.htm>
- THE SLEEPING ET QUIZ
<http://www.caryn.com/caryn-alien-contact.html>
- ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL COVERAGE
<http://www.abqjournal.com/roswell>
- 60 GREATEST CONSPIRACIES
<http://www.webcom.com/~conspire/ufolink.html>

gone very, very wrong.

The leaders in general-purpose skepticism have long been James Randi and the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, or Csicop, which he helped to found. Mr. Randi was once the Amazing Randi, a performing illusionist, but his impatience with the psychic pretensions of fellow performers led him to devote more and more time to exposing those he considers hucksters and charlatans, including purveyors of dubious space-alien stories.

Mr. Randi's Web site mirrors his witheringly sarcastic take on spoonbenders, spirit mediums, mind readers and their too-trusting marks, and includes contributions from the like-minded team of Penn and Teller. The site also gives the ground rules for a prize that Mr. Randi has long offered for compelling proof of anything paranormal — as yet unclaimed, and grown now to more than \$1.1 million.

(Mr. Randi's attitude has been so derisive for so long that he has become a lightning rod for the fury and vitriol of the passionately credulous. A typically incoherent attack on Mr. Randi's prize offer can be found on the Web page of Bruce D. Kettler,

apparently in defense of a clairvoyant named Ed Dames.)

Csicop's site gathers together links to carefully reasoned analysis of all sorts of implausibilities, including the Roswell incident and many other aspects of the U.F.O. phenomenon. The site features highlights from Csicop's magazine, The Skeptical Inquirer, which dissected matters Roswellian in its July-August 1995 issue. An analogous antipodean group, Australian Skeptics, maintains another reality-check site, as do scientists' groups around the world. And the writings of professional U.F.O. skeptics like Philip Klass are widely linked on the Web.

Individual bits of Roswell "evidence" come in for their own custom debunkings on the Web. An article on The Albuquerque Journal's site finds a simple terrestrial explanation for a "mystery metal" fragment that made its way into the Roswell Museum. The much-ballyhooed "alien autopsy film" and its checkered history get the treatment on the Manikin Who Fell to Earth page by James Easton; assertions that that Eastman Kodak "authenticated" the film are disposed of neatly on Paul Fuller's page. A competing set of still

photos of an "alien autopsy" bought by the publisher of Penthouse Magazine, Bob Guccione, are called not just a hoax but a retreaded one on Parascopes site.

There are even how-to sites for U.F.O. hoaxers. Truly Dangerous offers advice on fabricating an alien "corpse" for autopsy purposes, along with links to lots of Roswell-debunking sites. Whipping up a mysterious floating light in the sky is easy once you have seen Roel van der Meulen's directions in the Project Galactic Guide. Creators of Britain's "mysterious" crop circles mess up on the Circlemakers site.

A longtime ufologist, James W. Moseley, offers a peek behind the curtain on his Saucer Smear site, with gossip about his peers that he calls "shockingly close to the truth."

Unfortunately, a well-known, unintentionally hilarious 52-question test to see if you have ever been abducted by aliens appears to have vanished from the Web recently, leaving behind a lot of dead-end links to it. But you can still determine whether you yourself are really an alien by taking the Sleeping ET Quiz. One sure sign: "People say you're naïve."

Wise experts treat 'saucers' seriously

Maybe some day we'll find evidence we need to answer our questions

Happy birthday to you.
Happy birthday to you.
Happy birthday dear flying saucer.
Happy 50th birthday to you.



Norris Ingells

Yup. It was on June 24, 1947 that a pilot named Kenneth Arnold spotted nine shiny bright objects near Mount Rainier in Washington state. He told the local media that they "flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

Thus was the "flying saucer" born. And it marked the beginning of one of the most screwed-up chapters in the history of science and aviation.

I don't know if UFOs are real or not. I know many people — including my own father and several friends — who have seen something in the sky they couldn't explain. That's not important. What is important is to look back and see what happened because several generations of officials didn't use courtesy and common sense.

For years, average citizens who asked the Air Force, the Federal Aviation Administration, astronomers and other scientists about something they

saw got treated like cranks or nuts — or were told they were just plain stupid. A few probably were.

As a reporter who specialized in aviation writing for many years, I can assure you that most callers got the cold shoulder by all but a few officials. And scientists who tried to take it seriously got criticized by their colleagues, Allen Hynek of "swamp gas" fame being a good example.

From the Air Force and FAA, there was a chilly official "we have no knowledge of..." or "the official position is... that they don't exist."

Astronomers, at best, treated believers like a pest; at worst, like an ignorant slob who should know better. Anybody with an ounce of sense, they'd imply, should realize that heat waves rising from the earth in front of a bright Venus near the horizon make it

appear that the planet is moving.

In contrast, if one called, say, a university entomology department about some bugs that were crawling all over their kitchen, the experts would quietly and carefully explain what the intruders were and how to deal with them.

I can't prove this, but I think over the years the public was driven away from serious scientists and into the arms of folks who wanted to make money off the UFO phenomena. And make money they did. Billions! Today UFOs and pseudo-science are a growth industry.

Fortunately, attitudes have changed — at least locally. For example, Dave Batch, director of Abrams Planetarium, has decreed that callers who want to report unconventional sightings should be treated with courtesy and respect. The Air Force, too, treats you courteously and tells you if what you saw might have been one of their satellites — or somebody else's. The FAA is gentle and listens.

But the hangover from those early years has clearly harmed what should have been from the start been a mutually beneficial citizen/scientist relationship leading to a serious examination of a very unusual phenomena.

The victims, unfortunately, were probably our children, who to this day often confuse hard science with show business. (An astronomy prof told me

several MSU students dropped her basic class when they found out it had nothing to do with predicting the future. And a local TV interviewer referred to an Abrams employee as the "staff astrologer.")

Perhaps as we enter the second half-century of the "flying saucer," the science and aviation community should continue to treat UFOs as a serious subject, rather than turning the task over to the money-grubbing entertainment industry. (Don't get me wrong. I love good science fiction. "Close Encounters" is one of my favorite movies.)

But maybe, some day, an average woman or man will find something truly significant — the hard evidence the late Carl Sagan said we needed to answer our questions. After all, folks with back-yard telescopes have discovered comets.

I'm reminded of the coelacanth saga — the lobe-finned fish believed to have crawled out of the water and onto dry land. For years scientists thought it had been extinct for millions of years... right up until the day a fisherman caught one off South Africa.

The fisherman could have just tossed it back — or eaten it. Instead, he just let folks know what he found.

That's called scientific progress.
What do you think? Write to Norris Ingells, 120 E. Lenawee St., Lansing MI 48919. Or call him at 377-1155.

Roswell 50 years later

Case closed?

'They have once again changed their story,' head of state UFO group says of Army announcement

By Michael Reisig
Staff Writer

Edward Mazur has been interested in UFOs for years.

He has been intrigued by the phenomena of unidentified flying objects since he first heard the report of pilot Kenneth Arnold in 1947.

Arnold said he saw a formation of nine strangely-shaped objects while flying over the Cascade mountains of Southwestern Washington State and coined the phrase "flying saucers."

Mazur, an ex-marine and a retired aerospace engineer with a degree in electrical engineering, worked for Martin-Marietta Aerospace Corporation for over 20 years.

He was a part of the Pershing Missile program, was involved in design and analysis of the Sprint Missile and active in the SAM-D missile program that Martin operated in conjunction with Raytheon Corporation.

Today, he is the Arkansas state director of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., (MUFON.)

"Specifically and particularly, MUFON is charged with acquiring detailed information on every report of anomalous objects in our skies, or anything directly or indirectly resembling or related to unidentified flying objects," said Mazur. "We question witnesses and file a detailed report in the MUFON computer, and to correlate and attempt to disseminate this information with other similarly involved groups throughout the world."

"We coordinate with the Center For UFO Studies, and the Fund For UFO research in Washington, D.C.," he added. "All three organizations are international and independent of each other, but work closely together."

Mazur said that members of his organization range from NASA people and physicists, to jet propulsion experts, doctors and lawyers. All are dedicated to an intellectual approach to this puzzling phenomena.

"I worked in a field where there was a great deal of interest in aeronautics and weaponry. We were into



A half century of unidentified flying objects

Fifty years ago, on June 24, 1947, a businessman/pilot named Kenneth Arnold said he saw a formation of nine strangely-shaped objects while flying over the Cascade Mountains of southwestern Washington State. His report kicked off the 20th Century's most persistent scientific mystery: UFOs.

the preliminary design evolutions of our present-day defense systems, so naturally our interest in the concept of extraterrestrial activity was piqued, and cultivated continuously.

"In 1952, Marine Major Donald Kehoe, who founded the National Investigative Committee for Aerial Phenomena, gave a lecture for the aerospace industry and got the attention of many of us," Mazur continued. "When I got to Florida in 1957, the Russians launched their Sputnik and simultaneously there was a considerable flap of UFO reports all over the skies, which again got our attention."

"There was so much interest in UFOs at that time that Patrick's AFB near the cape elected to have a symposium or conference on the subject. It was well attended by people from Martin-Marietta as well as military people."

"Things were done a little more in the open then than they are today. The government is reluctant nowadays to get into that kind of military-civilian interchange."

Mazur said he suspects the government has refused to offer any validity to the concept of UFOs because the disclosure of something of this nature would have a dramatic effect on the social and religious structure of this country.

"I believe most people could handle it," he said "but the respect for the government, which is already at a low ebb, would all but dissolve."

"First off, in the face of recognizing that there is an intelligence far superior to anything we have on earth, the government's power would be diminished and their control base eroded. Something of this nature would make our leaders in Washington not much further advanced than us."

"Secondly, if they have known all along of extraterrestrials and have fed us erroneous information for 50 plus years, it will destroy what little credibility they have left."

"People would likely look up to some new race that could provide us with new ways and advanced technologies, when our government is stumbling along from one crisis to another, incapable of solving any of them."

In regard to contact with advanced extraterrestrial life, Mazur also mentions another hypothesis the government arrived at when they enlisted the help of the Brookings Institute, a high level think tank in 1960.

"Brookings Institute did a study on the results of an encounter with, and earth's recognition of, an extraterrestrial race," he explained. "They determined that it would have a deleterious effect on society. To paraphrase their determination, it was said that no indigenous society was able to survive intact in the presence of a superior race. In our limited history, when a society came into contact with a far advanced culture that society eventually vanished. The best example is the American Indian."

"That is not to say," he added, "that extraterrestrials have any intent on coming here and taking over. In fact, with what little knowledge we have garnered in these few years, the reverse appears to be true."

Mazur thinks that it is possible that there has already been contact, in fact dialogue, between our government and a superior race from the stars.

"In some areas, we have advanced so rapidly that it is not inconceivable that we have had extraterrestrial support," he said. "But there are a lot of hypotheses a person could adopt or formulate, and some may have good support behind them. That

There had been at least two earlier waves of UFO-like sights in other parts of the world. The World War II-era "foo fighters" chased and flew formation with Allied bombers and fighters, mainly at night, in the European and Pacific Theaters, without ever showing signs of hostility. Many of the European sightings were assumed to be of German jet and rocket fighters, until it was learned they never flew at night. In 1946, the Scandinavian countries experienced more than one thousand sightings of "ghost rockets." Some of the most puzzling were believed to be improved World War II German rockets and missiles being tested across the Baltic Sea by the Soviets. It is now known that no such tests took place.

Kenneth Arnold was assisting in the search for a lost military transport plane when he happened to spot a group of nine unfamiliar craft flying in a long line. Intrigued by the objects' lack of tails, Arnold watched them weave in and out of familiar mountain peaks. He then carefully clocked them between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams: 48 miles in 1 minute, 42 seconds, which works out to 1,700 mph, almost three times the World Speed record for airplanes at the time.

His detailed report to military intelligence included a simple sketch of one of the objects, showing it to be an oval, longer than wide, with its rear clipped

off. His description of their highly unusual appearance and performance was the highlight of the first American wave of what were quickly nick-named "flying disc" and "flying saucers."

It was later learned that other sightings of groups of unrecognizable, disc-shaped flying craft had been made earlier on the morning of June 24 in the Pacific Northwest. At least two of these formations were seen in the same area where Arnold was to make his sighting. Other reports quickly followed, including the observation by a United Air Lines crew of two formations of discs over Oregon.

Within two weeks of Arnold's sighting, newspapers around the U.S.A. had published well over 1,000 saucer reports, most of them describing high-speed and highly maneuverable, aluminum-colored, round or oval objects seen the broad daylight. Several of the reports came from Army test pilots and aviation specialists at the U.S. Army Air Forces' Muroc Dry Lake flight test center (now known as Edwards AFB), north of Los Angeles.

Military spokesmen, badgered by the press for information, struggled to put the saucers into perspective. They were said to have been the glow from jet exhaust, or spots before the eyes, or hailstones that had become flattened and were skimming across the sky.

doesn't necessarily make them true."

Mazur said he was never very far away from his interest in unidentified flying objects, but for a long time he didn't belong to any particular organization.

"I finally became personally involved with MUFON in 1983, after attending a conference. Later on, I became their state section director for Scott, Montgomery and Polk counties. I eventually became director for the State of Arkansas."

"Many people get interested in UFOs because it's such a sensational subject. Let me say that we passed that point years and years ago. Our focus is far more of an intellectual nature now, such as the overall effect of this concept on the societies and governments of this planet."

"I would venture to say," he continued, "that half of the pre-occupation of this government has direct or indirect ties to this very phenomena."

Mazur claims the Roswell incident is a good example.

"As of Monday, the government said 'case closed on Roswell,' that it never happened, that the bodies eye witnesses saw were dummies dropped by parachute."

"At this point, 50 years later, they have once again changed their story, telling us that they dropped wooden dummies by parachute from balloons. This is a case of really scraping the bottom of the barrel for explanations."

"Joe Six-pack on the street may buy this," Mazur continued, "but anyone who uses logic or intellect is not going to accept this. They have given us numerous explanations for the same incident over the last 50 years. They have no credibility left."

According to Mazur, the first intelligence reports and subsequent newspaper headlines of the Roswell incident were of a crashed "flying saucer or disc," That was quickly changed to a downed weather balloon the next day and a cover-up quickly ensued.

The cover-up story was ac-

cepted until 1978, when a UFO researcher interviewed the man who served as field intelligence officer at the crash site. His descriptions of space-age materials and equipment were inconsistent with anything developed on earth at that time, and interest in the incident was once again piqued.

In 1994, Republican Steven Schiff of New Mexico, at the continued request of his constituents, requested the General Accounting Office to search for Roswell-related documents. The GEO failed to find a single significant Roswell-related document, and in its investigation, learned that all the message traffic for Roswell Army-Air Force Field in 1947 had been destroyed.

"In order to explain this," explained Mazur, "The Air Force said basically, 'we didn't want to tell you this, but we lied to you in 1947. The Roswell incident was really a crash of a top secret balloon project designed to fly over Russia to determine whether or not they were exploding nuclear bombs.'"

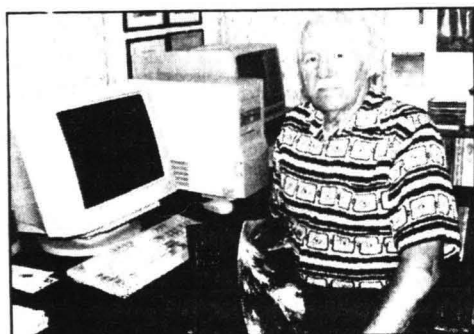
"The prevailing winds in this country are west to east," added Mazur. "Where would you launch a balloon to go over Russia, certainly not in that area. How could that balloon have possibly flown over New Mexico? They didn't schedule nuclear bomb blasts every week in Russia, or even every month. There's no control over a balloon. The whole concept was way too arbitrary. It was ludicrous, another cover-up story."

"Now they tell us that they dropped wooden dummies that just happened to land together. Talk about a loss of credibility."

Mazur, who came to the Ironfork area near Mena in 1975, claims to have documented several sightings in Arkansas, though there have been few in recent years and none were in this vicinity.

"We had a major UFO flap in Foreman in 1989 or '90," he said. "The objects began appearing over a power station and the sur-

(continued on page 9)



Edward Mazur of Mena is shown holding a copy of "The Home Planet." (Star photo/Michael Reisig)

(continued from page 8
- STAR, Mena, AR
- June 26, 1997)

rounding area, and the sightings continued for about four or five months. We made numerous trips there and spoke with several people, documenting their experiences.

"We have also documented a number of sightings in the Flippin/Witt Springs and Mountain Home areas. They had a lot of activity from 1987 to 1991."

A few years ago, he and a publisher friend documented a remarkable sighting experienced by two young women from Harrison, who were followed by a large aerial object early one morning on their way to the War Eagle Arts and Crafts Festival.

"They claimed the object darted in front of them, then behind, almost as if it was playing with them. It shook them up. The upshot of the incident was that when they arrived at War Eagle, a 30 minute drive for them, they were two hours late. They couldn't explain the missing one and one-half hours."

Aside from his interests in extraterrestrial activities, Mazur is a dedicated HAM radio operator and an accordionist of some merit.

"My wife and I love Mena, it's a wonderful town" said Mazur. "We have nothing but the best relationship with all our neighbors. They would give you the shirt off their backs. We can't think of anywhere else we'd rather be."

Mazur and his wife Elaine continue to monitor local and national reports from their Ironsfork home.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 3, 1997

Military lied about UFOs, CIA admits

Cold War secrecy prompted cover-up stories about spy planes

BY WILLIAM J. BROAD
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

In the darkest days of the Cold War, the military lied to the American public about the true nature of many unidentified flying objects in an effort to hide its growing fleet of spy planes, a CIA study says.

The deceptions were made in the 1950s and '60s amid a wave of UFO sightings that alarmed the public and parts of official Washington.

The CIA study says the Air Force knew that most reports by citizens and aviation experts were based on fleeting glimpses of U-2 and SR-71 spy planes, which fly extremely high.

Those planes were developed in the 1950s and '60s to photograph enemy targets. From secret bases, mainly in California and Nevada, the aircraft repeatedly flew across the country and eventually overseas to bases in countries that included Britain, West Germany and Taiwan.

While commercial airliners in the 1950s flew at altitudes of up to 30,000 feet, the U-2 soared to more than 60,000 feet and the SR-71 to more than 80,000 feet, or 15 miles, nearly the edge of space.

The planes carried powerful cameras to spy on foreign military installations and sensitive electronic gear to capture radio and radar transmissions. The spy craft

were developed by the intelligence agency and often flown by the Air Force.

Rather than acknowledging the existence of the top-secret flights or saying nothing about them publicly, the Air Force decided to put out false cover stories, the CIA study says. For instance, unusual observations that were actually spy flights were attributed to atmospheric phenomena like ice crystals and temperature inversions.

"Over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights" over the United States, the CIA study says. "This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project."

The study, "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90," was written by Gerald K. Haines and appears in *Studies in Intelligence*, a secret CIA journal. Five years ago, the agency began releasing unclassified versions of the journal yearly. The 1997 edition, with the study on unidentified objects, is at

<http://www.odci.gov/csi/studies/97unclass/>
on the World Wide Web.

Haines is a historian at the National Reconnaissance Office, the intelligence agency that builds and runs the nation's spy satellites.

The admission of federal deception on the issue appears to be a first, experts said in interviews.

"It's very significant," said Richard Hall, chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, a group in Washington. "Certainly they've lied about not having any interest in the subject. But I don't know of any other deception like this."

John E. Pike, head of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists, also based in Washington, said the admission raised questions about other federal cover-ups involving UFOs.

"The flying-saucer community is definitely onto something" in charging that the military is hiding something, Pike said.

There are two schools of thought on the nature of such a cover-up. One, from Pike and other aerospace experts, holds that many sightings over the decades involved secret federal projects featuring advanced aircraft and reconnaissance missions. The new admission strengthens that view.

The other school holds that the government has come into possession of extraterrestrial craft and beings and is hiding them from the

public, partly to avoid causing panic. That view was celebrated last month on the 50th anniversary of an incident in Roswell, N.M., in which conspiracy theorists say a saucer crashed and was seized by the government.

The deceptions about the spy flights were issued in some of the tensest days of the Cold War. The Soviet Union exploded its first hydrogen bomb in 1955, the year that the U-2 flew for the first time.

In 1960, a U-2 was shot down over the Soviet Union, leading to the cancellation of an East-West peace conference. In 1962, a U-2 spotted a buildup of Soviet nuclear arms in Cuba, precipitating the diplomatic crisis regarded by some experts as the closest the superpowers came to nuclear war.

To make the spy planes harder to see and less likely to prompt UFO reports, they were eventually painted black. The CIA study said U-2s initially had silver bodies "and reflected the rays from the sun, especially at sunrise and sunset."

The report added that "they often appeared as fiery objects to observers below."

But the SR-71, which first flew in 1964, was apparently painted black from the start. Its nickname was the Blackbird.

We are always glad to receive articles from your local papers. Although we obtain clippings from a national bureau, they are not always as thorough as we would like. While we cannot pay for clippings, we will give you full contributor credit for any items used in the issues.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 9, 1997

Aliens and UFOs

'Very bright silver, disc-shaped'

I was born and raised near Mountain Home. Jobs were scarce, so I joined the Army. Late in 1944, I was discharged. I stayed out of the service for a year and then enlisted in U.S. Air Force.

Later, in Anchorage, I worked as a civilian on aircraft and helicopters. I liked flying so I became a private pilot. In 1957, my wife and I returned to Arkansas, where I got my commercial flying license. I flew charter flights over most of the U.S. time and again, 7,000-plus hours.

On several occasions at night I saw lights that did not look, act or fly like the aircraft I knew. I had a passenger with me when we saw a large, orange-colored ball coming at us, and then it veered off to the right.

Now for the one that there is no doubt about in my mind. I was in Flippin on leave. On June 7, 1981, en route to Mountain Home, I turned east on Arkansas 178 and while going through a series of turns about three-fourths mile from Arkansas 126, there in front of me about 500 yards away was a UFO.

It was about 9 a.m., clear, visibility unlimited. It was a very bright silver or aluminum color, disc-shaped and on edge when I first saw it. I went around another turn and it stayed in front of me. I stopped and got out of the car. It was over a cow pasture one-fourth to a half-mile away, 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the ground. It was not moving then, but was so bright it may have been internally lighted.

A pickup was coming from the east, so I held up my left hand while pointing at the UFO with my right hand. The instant the pickup stopped, the UFO disappeared. I apologized to the driver. He had not gone 50 feet before the UFO reappeared. Then it started at a slow pace to go south toward Whiteville.

I don't know where this craft came from, but it was for sure from other parts. I'm telling the truth. I'm sorry I can't say the same for our government.

LAWRENCE WILLETT
Mountain Home

A government cover-up

I have never seen a UFO, but I do think there is a U.S. government cover-up on this subject as too many commercial airline pilots and other knowledgeable persons have seen them.

The 1947 Roswell cover-up involved too many people who witnessed this UFO crash. Some are still alive who were told

by government agents and the Air Force to keep their mouth shut tight about what they saw.

For 10 years the U.S. government denied that U-2s were flying over and spying on Russia. But on May 1, 1960, Francis Gary Powers was shot down. Even then for a day or so, the government said it never happened. President Eisenhower had egg all over his face.

If that was not bad enough, the Air Force and government said there was no F-111A Stealth Fighter, even after two of them crashed in the western desert during their training phase. They lied again when they disclaimed the B-2 Stealth Bomber.

Even now the Air Force and the government say there is nothing happening at Groom Lake, Nev. It is a secret Air Force base, very, very well guarded, and no civilians can get within miles of it. The Aurora spy plane is rumored to be based there.

The U.S. government also said there was no SR-71 Black Bird that flew better than 2,000 mph at over 90,000 feet. So why should they not tell more lies to the American people? There seems to be no law that says they can't. Right?

BOB HUGHART
Cherokee Village

An alien was at the door

Yes, I believe in aliens. You know, it's funny how everyone is asking, "Is there life out there?" or "Are there aliens out there?" All you have to do is look in your Bible. God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness. The words "us" and "our" tell me that there is someone other than man on earth, so what's the problem?

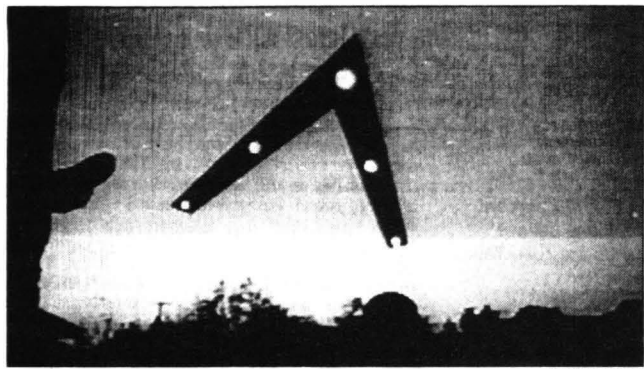
When I was little I saw what I would call an alien. One night I heard a knock at the front door where I and my mother were living at the time.

My grandfather was in the house with me, and my mother went to get some water.

When I heard the knock I went to the door thinking that it was my mother, but there was a tall, gray, manlike creature standing there. I looked at him and he looked at me. He was about 7-foot-2, 200 pounds, gray color, no hair. He didn't say anything to me and I didn't say anything to him.

EDWARD DOBBINS SR.
Little Rock

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - June 20, 1997



UFO? Not really. It's a computer-created image of mysterious sighting over Arizona.

UFO sightings probable, yet hard to explain

I read with interest the article Wednesday "Arizonans say the truth about UFO is out there" (News).

Having reported to the original Project Blue Book, the Air Force's UFO investigative service which it shut down in 1969, and as director of the New Project Blue Book, I fully appreciate the interest and concern of the residents of Arizona who say they witnessed objects.

The Air Force never has said flying saucers or UFOs do not exist, only that the objects do not represent a threat to the United States. I wondered how the Air Force could say the objects were not a threat if the Air Force did not know what they were. Also, the Air Force always reported that the objects did not represent an unknown technology. The irony is that the Air Force never could explain some of the sighting reports. Now it just passes them off as if nothing was observed by good and clear-thinking citizens.

I do not doubt that the people in Arizona, and throughout the world, observed something they could not explain. Most reported sightings are by persons of integrity and accuracy. Most Air Force officers are not on a "need to know" basis and would not know what was sighted.

Bill Pitts
Fort Smith, Ark.

Is there life out there?

Your story on the UFO blew my mind. It is the sort of evidence about the existence of alien life that millions around the world have been waiting to

see. I commend USA TODAY for publishing it.

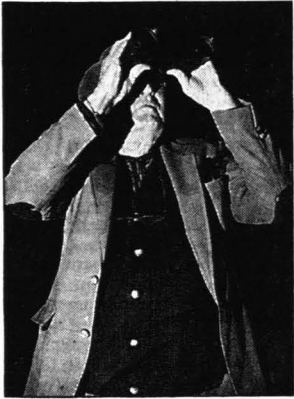
Why the military continues to feel humanity would not be able to accept the truth mystifies me. People are not going to become hysterical in the streets at the revelation. It might just do the opposite. Worldwide acknowledgment of alien existence could at last make this planet realize its truly small place in the universe and bring all the people of the world together.

Imagine an Earth without divisiveness and war, where the common goal is the betterment of society at large. Knowing that aliens exist and have been visiting us could fortify global cooperation. This is the very premise of the latest *Star Trek* film, *First Contact*, in which the idea is that only after humanity has its first contact with an alien race does it unite.

In the worst-case scenario, should any potential future alien encounters be hostile, global knowledge of this now would strengthen the resolve for our defense all the more, as it did during World War II.

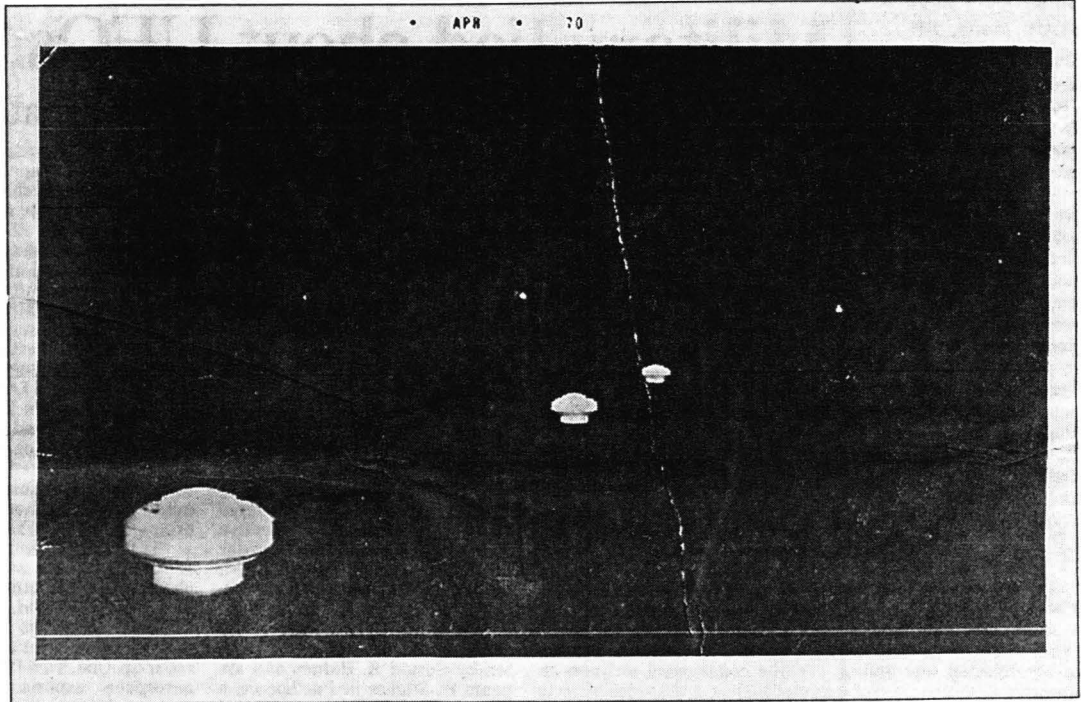
I am not part of a lunatic fringe. I am a college graduate with an intelligent, thoughtful mind and a good career in public relations. I saw a UFO myself when I was younger and believe it is about time that our government 'fess up before all the lies and obfuscation about alien existence create a lunacy and dangerous paranoia far worse than revealing the truth.

Patrick J. Gillease
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



Kurt Hegre — The Fresno Bee

Saucer sightings? Above, Roy Yates once scanned the skies for signs of UFOs as part of his job as section director for the Mutual UFO Network. But poor health has forced him to cut back on his UFO activities in recent years. At right, spinning disks can be seen in this photo that was given to UFO buff Joe Thor. It reportedly was taken in April of 1970 from an airplane near Fresno.



Special to The Bee

UFOs Valley

IN THE

As the 50th anniversary of the UFO era approaches, sightings continue, and explanations still don't satisfy believers.

BY JAMES S. HOWARD THE FRESNO BEE

Nearly every night, Manuel Amparano searches the skies for a UFO, hoping to find proof that he's not insane.

The former Fresno County sheriff's deputy has been trying since 1978 to gather evidence that the flying object he saw really does exist.

With the 50th anniversary of the modern UFO age approaching June 24, media attention on the subject is increasing. And Amparano finds himself thinking more and more about what he witnessed.

It was May 13, 1978. Amparano was working as a police officer for the city of Kerman, patrolling the streets in the early morning hours. A few minutes before 3:30 a.m., he saw what appeared to be a grass fire about half a mile away. As he drove toward the red glow, he noticed it was higher up, not on the ground but coming from the tops of the trees. When he arrived at the intersection of Del Norte and California avenues, he saw "a circular-type thing, about 100 feet from the ground." The object was football-shaped, larger than his patrol car and glowing bright yellow in the center and reddish around the edges.

"I just stayed in my car and looked at it for a few minutes," Amparano says. "It just hovered there above the trees and I started to adjust my spotlight to shine on it. But just when I got ready to turn the spotlight on, it flashed blue-white, then went up and over and flew away to the southeast."

Amparano did not intend to tell anyone what he saw. Despite a long history of UFO sightings by people in the Valley, Amparano knew that those who claim to see spaceships, UFOs or flying saucers are dismissed and ridiculed.

"I knew they'd think I was crazy," he says. "As far as I was concerned, it never happened."

He did, however, return to the police station and call the weather bureau, the Air National Guard and the Fresno Airport. There was no weather balloon, test aircraft or anything spotted on radar in the Kerman area at that hour.

As he was talking on the phone, two of his fellow officers, A.J. Buinyton and Bob Muller, came into the station and asked him what happened to his face. It was then that Amparano noticed that his face, arms and upper torso were red and inflamed — as if he'd been sunburned.

The officers and a local minister had been with Amparano earlier that night and had not seen any sign of burns or abnormal behavior.

Amparano told Buinyton and Muller what he'd seen. The three officers drove to the field to look for scorching or other evidence. They found nothing.

The next day, when Amparano woke, his skin still felt hot and burning. Tiny white blisters had appeared on his arms and neck. He went to Community Hospital in Fresno. Medical records confirm that he suffered some sort of burn. He was treated and released.

According to newspaper and magazine accounts of the incident, at least two other people, Phil Mahler, an independent Fresno Bee newspaper deliverer and Ken Westbrook, a farm worker, went on record as having seen the large glowing object Amparano encountered. The same night, the North Central fire district received a call for a grass fire

Are THEY out THERE?

According to a recent Gallup poll, **48 percent** of Americans believe that UFOs are real. The poll, taken in September, 1996, found the following results:

Q. In your opinion, are UFOs something real, or just people's imagination?

Real 48%
Imagination 31%
No opinion 21%

Q. Have you ever seen anything you thought was a UFO?

Yes 12%
No 87%
No opinion 1%

Q. In your opinion, does the U.S. government know more about UFOs than it is telling us?

Yes 71%
No 19%
No opinion 10%

just north of Kerman. When the firefighters arrived, however, there was no fire.

When word of Amparano's sighting leaked out from the hospital where he was treated, media from all over the world began calling.

Definitely no career-enhancer

Amparano eventually went public and described what he saw. The attention settled down, but over the years he was constantly asked to tell his UFO story. He's convinced the incident damaged his career.

"There's no question I was passed over for a promotion because of it," he says. "As an officer, I can go out, see somebody shoot someone. Write a report. And send them to prison. But something like this happens and, all of the sudden, I'm a nut."

In 1982, Amparano was hired as a deputy for the Fresno County Sheriff's department.

"They asked me about it before they hired me," he says. "I just told them what I saw. They seemed to understand."

Amparano has compiled letters from officers around the country who have experienced sightings.

"If you're an officer in rural areas for any length of time, you're going to see some weird things," he said.

Amparano's experience is a classic sighting, says Don Berliner, a director of the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C. He's been active in UFO research for more than 40 years and says sightings by police officers are to be expected.

"If there weren't a lot of good sightings from cops, you'd wonder why, because those people are out there, especially in rural areas," Berliner says. "But they do see them."

Amparano's description of what he saw and did "is very familiar," says Berliner, who has read thousands of UFO encounter reports.

"His behavior, his reactions, seem to be perfectly reasonable," Berliner says. "His progression of thought seems to be familiar and reasonable. The burns on his upper body are not common, but certainly people, particularly cops, have been close enough to feel heat."

For his part, Amparano has never said that he saw a UFO or flying saucer.

"To this day, I can't tell you what it was I saw," he said. "I just know it was something that wasn't supposed to be there — unidentified."

But since then, Amparano has become something of a UFO buff — one of the many Valley residents who scan the skies or troll the Internet for signs of an alien presence.

Roy Yates is one of the original UFO activists in the area. He is the Fresno section director for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, a nationwide group that collects reports of UFO sightings. It's a strictly volunteer job that used to mean going out to interview witnesses and driving up to the Sierra foothills on UFO expeditions.

"It's a scientific exploration of an unexplained phenomenon," Yates says. "It could very well be that there are extraterrestrial civilizations way in advance of us. But we have to be careful of wishful thinking."

Yates' interest in UFOs began when he was 17, with what experts consider the beginning of modern UFO history — the summer of 1947.

On June 24, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, a U.S. Forest Service pilot, reported seeing nine bright, saucer-like objects over the Cascade mountains in Washington.

On July 5, 1947, hundreds of people in at least

(continued on page 11)

31 states reported seeing "flying saucers" in the night sky. The Fresno Bee of July 6, 1947, printed an Associated Press wire story about the nationwide sightings and reported the story of three Fresno residents who were driving on Dakota Avenue near First Street at 5:30 p.m. when they saw a "shimmering something-or-other floating in the sky." Four other Fresno residents reported seeing "strange disks flying through the air shortly before noon."

On July 8, 1947, The Bee published a wire story out of Roswell, N.M., that a crashed alien spacecraft had been found. The follow-up story the next day contained an Air Force explanation that the "flying saucer" was actually just a lost weather balloon, but the story of a crashed spaceship being stored in a secret military facility became part of UFO legend. New Mexico is also home to Area 51, the military test facility known as a site of frequent UFO activity.

Throughout the '40s and '50s, flying disks, saucers and spaceships were reported in Fresno, the Valley and the rest of the country.

These days, 'strange lights'

"In the '40s and '50s, it was spacecraft, actual equipment," says Berliner. "These days, it's mostly strange lights that are reported."

One explanation for at least some of the UFO reports is military test aircraft.

Yates notes that the nearness of Area 51, Edwards Air Force Base and other military facilities undoubtedly leads to military craft being identified as UFOs in the Valley.

"If you don't know how to identify aircraft and you see something whirling in the sky and making noise, you're going to say it's strange," said Yates. "With a lot of UFOs, it's usually secret weapons or misunderstood phenomenon."

That's particularly likely for people who already believe in the phenomenon.

"When people get interested, they start noting things. Part of that is suggestibility," says Yates.

Working with MUFON meant separating the weather balloons, cloud formations and military aircraft from the genuinely unexplained. Yates, Berliner and other experts in the field say 95 to 97 percent of UFO reports can be explained. But what, they ask, is the explanation for the hundreds of other experiences?

Poor health has forced Yates to cut back on his UFO activity. Now, he is limited to reading the MUFON newsletter and doing an occasional press interview.

These days, the most outspoken true believer in the Fresno area is Joe Thor. Thor, a gregarious man in his 40s who runs a print shop and computer consulting business, is familiar to many Bee readers for his steady stream of letters to the editor about UFO sightings and government cover-ups.

"I'm not afraid to tell the truth," Thor says. "Even if it sounds ridiculous, even if people think I'm crazy."

During a trip to Area 51, Thor says he was

sitting in a rural area overlooking the military base when a passenger van drove by. Inside was what Thor believes was an alien.

"What it reminded me of was a half-human/half-alien," he says. "It had big eyes and chalky skin."

He also reports seeing lights flying in formation and in patterns that would be impossible for conventional aircraft.

Thor's interest in the subject began when he started wandering through the various UFO sites on the Internet.

Internet is 'unfiltered'

"Everything is there," Thor says. "It's unfiltered. It's uncensored. There are all sorts of things on the Internet that people are seeing and telling about that the mainstream press would never print."

Alien autopsy photos, flying saucer pictures, abduction reports and testimonials about UFO sightings are everywhere on the Internet and the World Wide Web.

There are Web sites by organizations such as MUFON, the National UFO Reporting Center, the Alberta UFO Research Association and the Center for UFO studies. Individuals all over the world have set up sites inviting people to look at pictures, read and share UFO or alien experiences.

"There are people all over the place telling about their sightings," says Glenn Scheper, a software developer in the Simi Valley region. "I found a guy who had a sighting right in the middle of a site on gold mining. And then you have my experience in the middle of my site as an employee of a software company."

In early 1982, Scheper was driving north of Interstate 5, toward San Jose. As he drove through the western edge of Fresno County, he saw a luminous object about 50 meters across, shaped like a cylinder next to an oval donut-shaped form.

He never talks about his sighting, yet when his employer offered him a free web site on the Internet, he chose to include the "Omegaform Luminous Sighting" as part of his web page.

"It's not something I bring up," Scheper says. "But I put it on the site. It's sort of anonymous."

Scheper is at a loss to explain why he won't talk about his sighting, yet he posted it in a web site available to millions of people all over the world. The desire for confirmation and the "ego gratification" of receiving e-mail from people responding to his experience and sharing their own may be part of it, he says.

The unfiltered mass of information on the Internet isn't without its risks, however. The Internet is filled with numerous fakes and disbelievers. Thor, as an example, has been criticized for his too-ready belief in strange phenomena.

After the recent mass suicide of the Heaven's Gate UFO cult, there were Internet postings by people asking if Thor had joined them, and others expressing hope that he had.

The Heaven's Gate incident shed light on the Internet and UFO believers. Suddenly, the mainstream press discovered people like Art Bell, host of

a syndicated radio talk show that dwells on UFOs, crop circles and Chupacabra, the goat-sucking monster reported in California, Mexico and the Southwestern United States.

A UFO clearinghouse

"We sort of serve as a clearinghouse for that sort of information," Bell says. "I think the success of the show has to do with the fact that instead of just serving up the normal pabulum — will Newt Gingrich pay his fine — we do other subjects. UFOs just happen to be one of them."

Bell, who broadcasts his show out of his home in Pahrump, Nev., was widely criticized for passing on a story about an alien spaceship traveling behind comet Hale-Bopp. It was that spaceship the Heaven's Gate cult members in San Diego were reportedly planning to join by committing suicide.

"In the first few days after the cult suicide, we took a lot of heat because we had aired business about there being a companion to Hale-Bopp," Bell says.

"We aired the story, but we also debunked it more than two months before the suicide. We handled the whole Hale-Bopp thing very responsibly."

Why the fascination with UFOs? Bell cites surveys that show the majority of Americans believe in UFOs and that a large percentage have had sightings themselves.

"First of all, this is real," he says. "For all the chuckling, people are seeing things. And when you've seen it with your own eyes, it changes you. It changes you forever."

The people who call into Bell's show or log onto his web site rarely meet face-to-face. There are occasional meetings or conferences around the country, but for the most part, people such as Amparano are alone in their beliefs. Even his wife is unable to fully share his experience.

"I know he saw something," Barbara Amparano says. "I just don't know what it was."

The former police officer is now on medical disability because of a shoulder injury. One corner of his house is stacked with paperwork — boxes filled with medical bills and insurance forms next to his folders on UFOs.

Those folders contain the names of witnesses, many of whom are dead or moved away. He has the business cards of the reporters he has talked to, copies of the articles they wrote about his sighting and clippings about other similar sightings around the country.

He also has his video camera, which he takes out to film the strange things he sees in the sky — lights moving in formation or zig-zagging through the sky.

"One of these days, there will be proof," Amparano says. "People will see."

"Then, I'm just going to sit back, light a cigar, and smile."

HERALD-LEADER, Lexington, KY - July 19, 1997 CR: J. Slone

Kentucky alien abduction case a 'classic'



DON EDWARDS

HERALD-LEADER COLUMNIST

Men in Black and *Contact* explain UFOs and aliens Hollywood-style at the box office.

The Air Force tried to explain a Roswell, N.M., incident with revelations of secret spy balloons and test dummies.

But more than 20 years after it happened, nobody has explained Kentucky's UFO-alien abduction case.

"Everyone who investigated the Kentucky case agreed on one thing," said Leo Sprinkle during an interview last week. "It was not a hoax."

Sprinkle, a retired professor and

former director of testing at the University of Wyoming, added:

"I still think about that case. In terms of number of witnesses and their credibility, it's one of the best in the UFO literature."

J. Allen Hynek, the Northwestern University astronomer and UFO researcher who coined the phrase, "close encounter of the third kind," called the Kentucky case "a classic, an absolute classic."

The case is a five-page entry called "Kentucky Abduction Incident" in a book published in 1996, *High Strangeness: UFOs*

from 1960 through 1979; *The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume 3*.

Sprinkle is the psychologist who uncovered the case by hypnotizing three women from Casey County named Louise Smith, Mona Stafford and Elaine Thomas.

On the night of Jan. 9, 1976, the three were driving in Smith's car on Highway 78 between Stanford and Hustonville when they saw a giant UFO glide over the car.

The next thing they knew, it was 90 minutes later. They couldn't account for the time loss.

Besides amnesia, they had



1977 FILE PHOTO

Louisa Smith, left, Elaine Thomas and Mona Stafford said they were abducted by aliens while driving near Stanford on Jan. 9, 1977.

swollen eyes, headaches, red welts on the back of their necks and terrifying feelings of anxiety.

The hands on Smith's wristwatch were spinning crazily and the paint had bubbled on the hood of her car.

Later, under hypnosis in separate sessions, they told an eerie story of being taken aboard the giant spacecraft and examined by four-foot-tall aliens, including having their eyeballs pulled out from their heads.

It sounded like three teen-agers' idea

of a practical joke — but two of the women were grandmothers and Smith was the home demonstration agent for the Casey County Extension Service of the University of Kentucky.

All three took polygraph tests administered by an examiner from the Lexington police department. All three passed.

The story was first published in the *National Enquirer*, which had paid for the hypnosis and the lie detector tests.

Then it was everywhere else, including an appearance by Smith and Sprinkle on NBC's "Tom Snyder Show."

And then it was slowly forgotten.

Thomas died in 1978. Smith and Stafford moved out of state and dropped from sight of the news media.

Two decades later, Sprinkle, who has investigated hundreds of such cases, said there is still no real explanation of incidents such as the Kentucky abduction, "but there are lots of different theories — psychological, social and extraterrestrial."

"What's your opinion?" we asked him.

"I personally think that these experiences occur both physically and psychi-

cally at the same time," he said.

"That's why they're so difficult to understand. They're two things at once."

"It's similar to the difficulty scientists had studying light until they realized that light is both a wave and is made up of particles."

He added: "Also, I think there's a spiritual dimension to such experiences."

He's writing a book about his ideas. "The title of it," he said, "is *Soul Samples*."

Herald-Leader news researchers Linda Minch and Linda Smith-Niemi contributed to this column.

Alien encounters topic of local UFO society meeting

BY PETE ZAMPLAS

Times-News Staff Writer

Gray skinned with pear-shaped big heads and huge eyes, space creatures are not only flocking on movie screens these days.

Some local people say they have had real-life encounters with aliens while many others say they are intrigued that other forms of life may exist.

A Charlotte woman said Wednesday aliens abducted her in her youth. Rita Peregrino, 50, spoke Wednesday night to 35 people at a Blue Ridge U.F.O. Research Society meeting in Hendersonville.

The locally based, independent society investigates stories of unidentified flying objects or beings and tries to weed out obvious frauds from sincere beliefs, founder and secretary Harold Eadie said.

"There are a lot of kooks who want to sound off and be known and who don't have much thought behind what they're doing," Eadie said. "We try to be very careful with our research."

The 38 club members are intrigued by extraterrestrial mysteries and are publicity shy, he said.

"They're afraid of being made fun of."

He suggests keeping an open mind about UFOs and not jumping to conclusions either way.

"Sometimes there's truth hidden in something that seems far out," he said. "If it makes sense, I'll buy it temporarily, until it's proven wrong. You shouldn't close your mind because you can't comprehend it."



CHRIS CLEVINGER/TIMES-NEWS

Rita Peregrino talks about her experiences as a person who says she has been contacted by aliens during a meeting of the Blue Ridge UFO Research Society.

move. I floated up to the craft and to another craft."

Peregrino, who grew up liking science fiction movies like *Invaders from Mars*, said she remembered nothing at the time. She said she was told she was gone hours, was drowsy as if drugged and had a bloodless hole in her foot where she believes aliens extracted and studied her tissue.

Creatures varied, looking like the small big-headed gray creatures, blond people, fish-humans, reptiles and a preying mantis, she said. She said some flew or levitated and exchanged energy rather than eating.

Some aliens showed her their grand experiment, a young human-alien hybrid, she said.

One Research Society member, Alandra Schuurman, 61, of Hendersonville, said she believes she carried an alien baby about 30 years ago.

She said she had pregnancy

symptoms in 1965, then bleeding she thought was from a miscarriage.

But she said she had no tissue nor other fetal evidence and did not get any medical procedures — not from humans, anyway.

Schuurman, a retired nurse, said within two years surgeons found a pea-sized object up her sinus she thinks aliens implanted and also a C-section cut she did not have done.

She said she has no memories of alien encounters and has not been hypnotized about them.

She said she and her boyfriend heard a stampede of feet one night in their Arnold, Calif., home five years ago, and she found blood on her sheets near her head but none on her.

She hypnotized her boyfriend who indicated the aliens tested her blood for genetic experiments, she said.

Eadie, 88, a retired businessman,

does not discount theories that aliens are cross-breeding with humans to develop a superior race and are lifting fetuses from wombs.

And alleged contactees may have seen aliens pass through walls by using an extra space dimension, he said.

But Eadie also welcomes logical explanations of strange phenomenon.

For instance, Venus has been mistaken for a spacecraft because the planet often looks saucer-shaped, he said.

Many UFO enthusiasts believe the military is patterning experimental crafts after fallen spacecrafts, perhaps testing them at the top-secret Area 51 in Nevada.

Whatever their origins, recent experimental crafts may have been mistaken for UFOs, UFO doubters contend.

The secret Stealth bomber is spacecraft-shaped while newer jets can hover like spaceships.

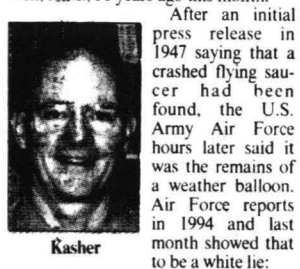
SUNDAY WORLD-HERALD, Omaha, NE - July 13, 1997



Michael Kelly

Case Closed? Not for Some

He is UNO's "Professor UFO." And, yes, in spite of repeated Air Force denials, University of Nebraska at Omaha physics professor John "Jack" Kasher said he strongly suspects that extraterrestrials crashed near Roswell, N.M., 50 years ago this month.



Kasher

After an initial press release in 1947 saying that a crashed flying saucer had been found, the U.S. Army Air Force hours later said it was the remains of a weather balloon. Air Force reports in 1994 and last month showed that to be a white lie.

It wasn't a weather balloon, but balloon-borne nuclear-missile detectors of top-secret "Project Mogul."

The 1994 report didn't address witness accounts of bodies found in the wreckage. The 1997 report said they were test dummies.

Kasher doesn't mind the white lie about weather balloons during the early days of the Cold War. But the explanation for the bodies leads him to believe the Air Force thinks people interested in Roswell are all dummies.

"The suggestion that alien bodies associated with the July 1947 Roswell crash were actually test dummies and parachute experiments conducted from 1954 to 1958," Kasher said, "borders on the preposterous."

Asked June 24 about the discrepancy in the explanation of dummies used in the 1950s and a crash in 1947, Air Force spokesman Col. John Haynes said details from witnesses "tend to be compressed" in retelling.

True believers are unfazed by the 1997 report. "Case Closed." For Jack Kasher and like-minded UFOlogists, the case remains wide open.

Red Herring

Not every UFO researcher buys the theory that aliens crashed in a storm near Roswell. Kent Jeffrey, a Delta Air Lines pilot and UFO buff, calls Ros-

well a red herring that diverts research from real UFO phenomena.

Kasher, 59, who began researching the paranormal in the 1970s and unidentified flying objects in 1987, is president of the 20-state central region of a research group called the Mutual UFO Network.

UNO has honored him as a distinguished professor and with an "excellence in teaching" award. He also teaches astronomy, and he speaks about UFOs to civic groups.

The Fox Network, which produces "X-Files" and other shows geared to the popularity of science fiction, recently interviewed him for five hours for a July 28 UFO program.

Kasher said many reports of UFO sightings can be explained. Two recent videotapes that he analyzed turned out to show Jupiter and Venus.

He said he brings a scientist's skepticism to his research.

Of one thing, he has no doubt: "There is unquestionably a government cover-up of UFOs. That's not an opinion. Judges have ruled that releasing information would be detrimental to the national interest. The question isn't whether there is a cover-up, but what is being covered up."

Support Group

Though he can't answer that question, and can't prove with what he calls "metaphysical certitude" that aliens crashed near Roswell, Kasher believes aliens have visited Earth.

About 60 people who believe they were abducted, he said, meet monthly in an Omaha support group.

Kasher said an Omaha woman who reported that she and her husband saw a hovering craft over a remote section of Interstate highway couldn't account

for an hour and a half that night. She met with Kasher and a hypnotist in the professor's office.

Under hypnosis, Kasher said, she said she and her husband were taken into the craft, where they saw alien beings and were released unharmed.

The hypnotist, Kasher said, didn't lead her or suggest things. The professor said he tends to believe that she was, in fact, abducted.

Kasher takes good-natured kidding from colleagues. His audiences listen attentively.

Like other UFOlogists, he said the mass suicide of the Heaven's Gate cult, whose members hoped to hop aboard a UFO trailing a comet, was appalling.

Kasher said he has seen one UFO — from his home one night, a V-shaped object with 10 circular lights. After 15 seconds, it silently flew away.

When he called Offutt Air Force Base and asked whether anything unusual had been seen, Kasher said, he was told: "We don't track that stuff. But there's a guy at UNO you can call."

REPORTER, Martinsville, IN - June 23, 1997

Unidentified object flies over Waverly

Morgan County Sheriff's Department received a report yesterday evening about a black object flying over State Road 37 near Waverly.

According to the sheriff's log, Johnson County Sheriff's Department called around 8:45 p.m. to report cars pulling off along State Road 37 and people getting out to watch it.

Morgan County Sheriff's deputies

went to the scene but were unable to locate the UFO.

One state trooper reported seeing a black kite earlier in the day, but the Putnamville State Police Post didn't know if the two reports were related.

There was no further information this morning from Johnson County Sheriff's Department.

DAILY, Macomb, MI - July 6, 1997 CR: C. Grusinski

Unexplained

Chester Grusinski was an 18-year-old Navy seaman, just graduated from Detroit's Pershing High School, when he saw something in the sky that changed his life forever.

Though he can't prove it, the Clinton Township auto shop worker believes the glowing sphere-shaped object he spotted from the deck of the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt was indeed an alien spacecraft.

"It was close enough you could see roll windows on it," Grusinski said. "You could see through the windows, and there were figures. The impression I got was that they were not human beings."

"(The object) took off quick and I could feel the heat on my skin."

Grusinski has since devoted much of his time to uncovering the truth about that night, nearly 40 years ago, when a bright orange

object appeared in the sky and the flagship's engine inexplicably lost power.

His search for a fellow witness to the fall 1958 sighting has so far proved fruitless.

Grusinski, however, did learn that the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the scene of other "suspicious" sightings over the years. Three photographs of a disk-shaped object, taken off the decks of the FDR in 1952, appear in Jacques Vallee's "Anatomy of a Phenomenon."

The fact it was the first naval flagship authorized to carry nuclear weaponry might have something to do with it, Grusinski theorizes.

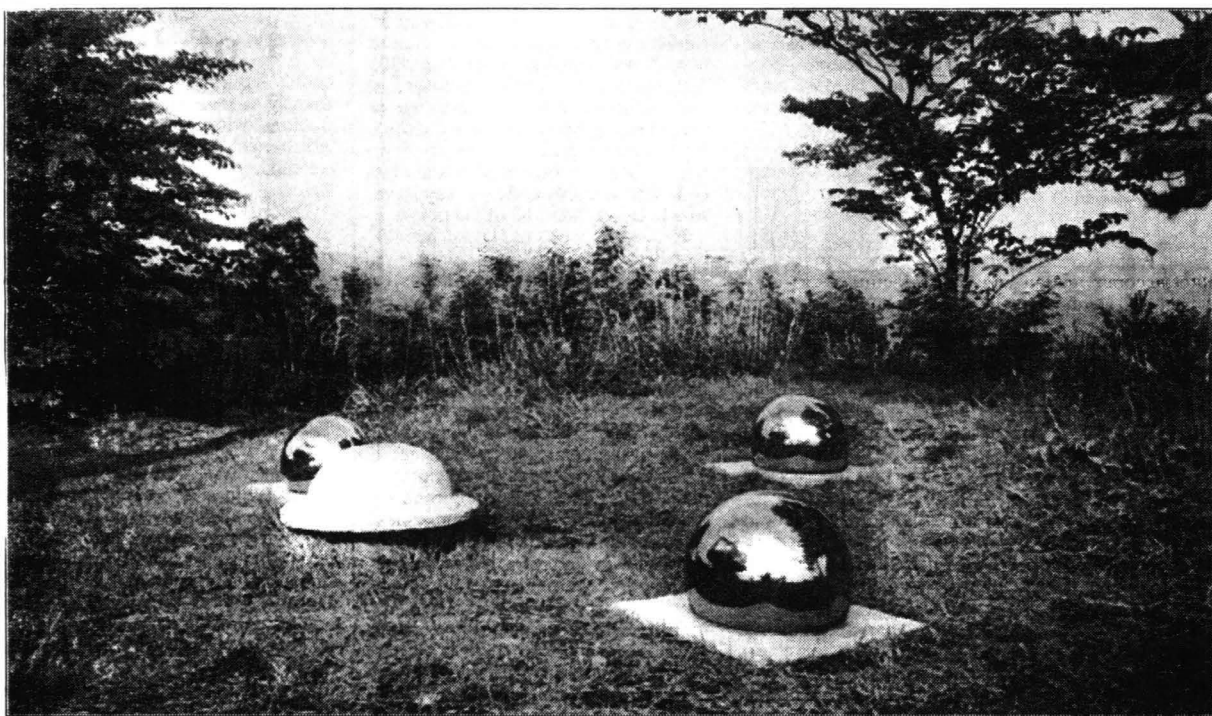
Meanwhile, he continues to comb libraries, newspapers and club rosters for witnesses and new information on the incident. Leopard Productions has even commissioned him to write a screenplay on his experience.

"I just want the truth to be known," he said.



FOREIGN NEWS

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



Flying saucer-shaped models placed on top of the Senganmoni mountains in northern Japan.

Japan's magic mountain a hit with UFO buffs

By Birgit Reichert
Iino, Japan

It's not easy to get to Iino, a small, picturesque town ringed by mountains in northern Japan.

There's no rail service, for one thing. The only way is by bus, a tortuous hour-long journey over narrow, winding country roads from Fukushima, the nearest city.

It would appear that Iino is difficult only for humans to reach. Aliens have no problem, according to the locals.

For years now, extraterrestrial spacecraft have been whizzing past the town of 7,000 on their way to the nearby mountain of Senganmoni, residents say.

The mountain's reputation as a magnet for UFOs dates back to 1972 when a group of hikers claimed they saw a helmet-shaped silver object hovering just above its summit.

When they scrambled to the top, the unidentified flying object vanished just as quickly as it had appeared. It made no sound whatsoever, all eight members of the hikers' group said later.

The apparition, which lasted all of 20 seconds, completely changed the life of the sleepy town, some 300 kilometers north of

Tokyo.

"Since that day, the residents of Iino and its surrounding villages have reported sighting 180 UFOs and have taken photographs of some of them," says Tsugio Kinoshita, one of the hikers who spotted the original UFO 25 years ago.

After that encounter Kinoshita, who is now 50, gave up his job in an engineering factory to devote his life to the study of extraterrestrial.

His research showed that Senganmoni possessed an unusually powerful magnetic field — a possible explanation for the lure it has for UFOs.

"There are several points on the mountain where a magnetic compass does not function. The magnetic forces that emanate from Senganmoni could act as a signal for UFOs," says Kinoshita.

The space sleuth is head of the UFO Information Center, a small, octagonal-shaped museum located halfway up the 500-meter high mountain.

The center attracts people from all over Japan. Kinoshita listens to the visitors' tales of encounters with "mysterious objects in the sky," and notes the date, place and type of each sighting.

Over the past two years, a total of

120,000 visitors have made their way to the museum, which was financed entirely from funds made available by the town council.

A mecca for people interested in outer space, the center is a meeting point where visitors can stroll through rooms named after space objects and chat about the existence of UFOs and other phenomena.

A path called the UFO Trail leads to the summit where Kinoshita has erected a platform to make contact with alien powers. On it are three silver-colored objects shaped like flying saucers that are supposed to reflect light from Earth into outer space.

There are also telescopes manned by volunteers who peer into the sky for signs of unusual objects.

It is possible to verify Kinoshita's claims of an extraordinary magnetic field around the magic mountain by peering at the summit and then at a compass. Instead of pointing north, the compass indicator will show 40 degrees west.

"There is no denying that forces in the mountain have some form of link to extraterrestrial," says Takeshi Saito, mayor of Iino.

But Saito says that he himself has not yet had the good fortune to come into contact with an UFO. (DPA)

Explaining those UFOs

Trevor Dolby, Publishing Director of Orion Media has scooped up two books which look like going some way to explaining the UFO myth. *Robot Warriors: The Top Secret History of Remote Controlled Airborne Battlefield Weapons*, written with the co-operation of Pentagon top brass — Admiral Barton Strong and General Ken Israel Daro, who provide a Foreword and Introduction respectively — is the first book to chart comprehensively the history of 21st century weapons. For the first time, the Pentagon has granted access to files and photos in exchange for a right of

veto on anything deemed too sensitive for inclusion. Dolby commissioned the book, buying World rights via Anthony Sheil at Sheil Land Associates, which started life as a film by Hugh McDaid of Zenith Productions for the US Discovery channel. During the course of his research, McDaid, who is co-writing the book with David Oliver, editor of *Air Forces Monthly*, uncovered a piece of 1964 Pentagon film with the only known reference to Area 51, the top-secret area the size of Switzerland which never appears on maps of Nevada. There and in other top-secret sites, Dreamland and Skunk Works, in the same State, the US military tests out its most futuristic weapons, including the so-called robot warriors that are pre-programmed and fly without need of ground control — Dark Star and Predator for example. The Stealth bomber, with which we have become familiar only in recent years, was tested there as long ago as 1972. The site has been implicated in many UFO sightings and it now seems that the Pentagon was happier that gullible members of the American public believe in the existence of visiting craft from outer space than that they knew the truth of the US weapons programme. The book (and film) includes pictures from Vietnam and the Gulf War, where a troop of Iraqi soldiers can be seen surrendering to unmanned aircraft. Both book and film will be released in September and Dolby has sold US rights to Barnes & Noble. Translation rights will be sold nearer to publication, as McDaid is amassing new material every day.

From Gail Blackall of Random House US, Dolby has bought a similar title by Philip Patton. *The Secret History of Area 51* was bought for a substantial five-figure sum in an auction that left Random House UK disappointed. That too will be published in September.

Man in police alert over UFO

By Russ Newton

A LOCAL man was so convinced he saw a UFO flying over Doncaster in the early hours he alerted police.

But it was no flying saucer hovering over the Bessacarr family's home...more of a flying pudding basin.

"It was absolutely enormous and the best way of describing it was like a giant upside down pudding basin."

"It had really bright lights which stayed on all the time and must have been gigantic," said the man who spotted it.

He does not wish to be identified because he fears his children might

suffer playground teasing when they return to school on Monday, but insists he is no crank.

"I have always been sceptical about UFOs but not after seeing that."

He says the craft was completely silent and after hovering over the Cantley Lane area for a short time flew off at incredible speed towards Hatfield Woodhouse.

Ecstatic

"Within a very short time it was just a speck somewhere over Scunthorpe I should think."

The sighting was just after 12.20am on Friday as the householder was preparing to go to bed after watching a video on TV. He glanced through the kitchen window and saw the mystery object, and immediately shouted to his

wife, who also witnessed the sight.

"I had not been drinking and I know about low-flying aircraft because I've been to the Fittingly air show in the past. What I saw was definitely a UFO."

"I was ecstatic after seeing it because I knew it wasn't an aircraft. It was four or five times brighter than the Hale-Bopp Comet."

"I hesitated a few minutes before ringing the police because I thought they might take me for a crank but I think I convinced them it was a genuine sighting. I am hoping some other people in Doncaster might have seen it because it was such a clear night."

Doncaster police have confirmed their force helicopter was not operating over Bessacarr at the relevant time and they have no reason to doubt the man's belief that he saw a UFO.

CORNISHMAN, Penzance, England - May 1, 1997

Woman set to share experience of alien abduction

A WOMAN who says she was abducted by aliens and operated on by them, is visiting Penzance next month to share her paranormal experiences with a local audience.

Elaine Darlington, 41, of Newquay, will be attending the first of a series of meetings in Penzance to be organised by the Truro-based Cornwall UFO Research Group.

Elaine, who will describe night-time visits by 3ft aliens - the second visitation was also seen by her husband - says she was left with scarring in the area of her ribs after an abduction.

She believes that this, and other operations carried out by aliens are performed for investigative purposes, and is convinced that drawings she has done

of the creatures - reproduced almost exactly by another abductee in the United States - is evidence enough of the existence of an alien life-form.

Her own experiences created within her a thirst for knowledge which she says continues to this day.

The Cornwall UFO Research Group, which has been actively investigating UFO sightings and other strange phenomena across the county, is already actively investigating sightings and holding skywatches in the Penzance area.

And now, by popular demand, the group will be holding regular meetings - for a trial period in Penzance.

Elaine will be addressing the first meeting which will take place at 7p.m. on May 7 at Mounts Bay School.

Books

Are we being visited by aliens?



■ Artist's impression of the commonly reported type of alien known as a Grey

IT WAS dark and overcast when former policeman Philip Spencer set out from home on December 1, 1987. Philip was planning to cross Ilkley Moor for East Morton, the West Yorkshire village where his father-in-law lived. Almost as an afterthought he had brought along a pocket camera to take snapshots of the moor at dawn.

The camera would provide crucial evidence of the incredible events that transpired that morning - and convince Philip he wasn't going insane.

He takes up the story: "Rather than follow the established path, I took the shorter route, up the face of a steep hillside. As the ground started to level out there was a humming which I assumed was from an aircraft hidden in the sky."

Then, something caught Philip's eye. Something so strange that the hairs on the back of his neck prickled with fear.

"About 20 feet away I saw what I can only describe as a small green creature, moving quickly. When it was about 40 to 50 feet away it turned and waved at me. I quickly brought up the camera and took a photograph."

Philip scrambled after the strange creature which disappeared behind a rock outcrop. What he saw when he raced round the corner stopped him in his tracks - a large object like two silver saucers, with the entity disappearing inside.

As he stared open mouthed the

Are the Yorkshire moors haunted by little green men planning to kidnap unsuspecting earthlings? UFO researchers and at least one ex-policeman believe they are. NIGEL BURTON reports

humming increased and the UFO shot straight up into the clouds.

If this apparent close encounter wasn't unsettling enough, Philip made another disturbing discovery. As he walked down off the moors into Ilkley, he realised the sun was shining and the church clock showed 10am. The dazed witness could not account for nearly two hours.

When Philip was regressed by a hypnotist he recounted a fantastic tale of being abducted by aliens, examined, shown pictures of environmental disaster then sent back to earth with a message for mankind.

While he was researching a new book, investigator Peter Hough uncovered further evidence of aliens in Ilkley. As far back as 1815 a resident experienced something disturbingly similar less than 450 yards from Philip Spencer's encounter.

Looking into a natural spring, the surprised yokel saw 'a lot of little creatures dressed in green, none more

than 18 inches tall, making a chatter. They seemed to be taking a bath. Soon, however, they bounded over the walls like squirrels."

Peter Hough's new book, *The Truth About Alien Abductions*, suggests they have been going on for centuries, but not, perhaps, by creatures from outer space.

Hough, and co-author Moyshe Kalman, an American-born psychotherapist, have interviewed hundreds of witnesses who claim to have been abducted.

They point out how so many of the descriptions tally, but not always from country to country. Americans and Brits tend to be kidnapped by so-called "greys" weedy little dwarves with grey skin. Europeans describe tall humanoids wearing ski-suits and sporting long blond hair.

If all these sightings, and many others in another new book, *The Field*

Guide To Extraterrestrials, are to be believed, earth is obviously the tourist centre of the galaxy.

And can we believe them, no matter how outwardly credible the witness may be? Perhaps UFOs should be left to ufologists and abductees to psychiatrists.

As Hough and Kalman point out the problem with these aliens is that they aren't alien enough. Looks-wise they could have stepped straight off the set of any of a hundred flaky sci-fi movies. They do exactly what unsophisticated scriptwriters would expect: examine and experiment on human subjects. In the early 1960s and 1970s abductees often described aliens taking soil samples, at the same time as astronauts were doing so on the moon. Today, such events are rare.

Hough isn't convinced all abductees are crackpots. Even more fantastically he also suggests the many reports of bogus social workers, of which there have been so many in the North-East, may also be part of the phenomenon.

Obviously, the title of his book is misleading. No one will really know the truth about alien abductions until a flying saucer lands on the White House lawn.

● *The Truth About Alien Abductions* by Peter Hough and Moyshe Kalman (Blandford, £9.99); *The Field Guide To Extraterrestrials* by Patrick Huyghe (New English Library, £5.99)

Barry sighting of UFO

A BARRY woman has had a close encounter with an object some believe to be an alien spacecraft.

Patricia McLeish saw a circle of lights flickering over a field near her home on Thursday, April 10.

Friends and family laughed off her sighting but yesterday she linked it to our report on claims of an alien craft being seen off the east coasts of Scotland and Iceland.

UFO investigator Bob Stewart, from Cupar, has called for an inter-governmental inquiry after the alleged sightings. He claims that NATO aircraft were scrambled to intercept an 180-foot object glowing in the sky.

Yesterday Mrs McLeish said the object looked like a sports stadium in the sky.

"It was 11.15 at night and I was closing the window when I saw the lights over a field between our house and the sea.

"There was a huge circle of flickering lights and smaller circles of lights within.

"Next morning I told my husband who had been on night shift and he said it must have been the comet Hale-Bopp."

Mrs McLeish said she has seen unusual lights and rockets from Barry Buddon army camp but is sure this was not from the camp.

Mr Stewart further claims that UFO activity over Iceland has delayed planes from landing at Keflavik airport.

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England - April 30, 1997

Acknowledged reality of UFOs

Madam - Further to the article in *Five Valleys View* by Rumour Monger headed "False Alarm" in the *Stroud News and Journal* of April 2, regarding recent UFO activity over Rodborough Common and his delight of informing the Ministry of Defence, I would like to point out the following to your readers:

The Ministry of Defence office that he contacted was that of the secretariat (air staff) 2al. This is the official focal point of all UFO reports and related correspondence. The head of department is Kerry Philpott.

Unfortunately the MOD constantly repeats that UFOs are of no defence significance, and whilst they are happy to receive reports, your readers will be lucky to receive any form of investigation.

Last year secretariat (air staff) 2al received over 600 accounts, with little or no follow up being carried out.

Nick Pope, the former head of this department has publicly acknowledged the reality of UFOs, and believes that they are indeed a threat to our controlled air space.

Circular Forum, the Gloucestershire UFO group, has over 100 government documents showing that the subject is taken very seriously, unlike Rumour Monger who thinks it is all rather fun, and who unfortunately has probably alienated (excuse the pun) those who have had a sighting or close encounter. Some people do find their experience to be very frightening.

Therefore may I suggest that if your readers have had or do, in the future, see something which they can not rationally explain, then to phone our 24-hour mobile hotline on (0973) 778906. Unlike the Ministry of Defence, this number is constantly manned and combined with a number of investigators around the county, who will be more than happy to look at the events.

Has Rumour Monger not wondered as to why, during defence cuts such as the cancellation of orders for new helicopters, boats and closing of different regiments, that the Ministry continues to staff an office with the responsibility of UFO reports and has done so for more than 30 years.

I would like to propose that he educates himself more on the subject, both seriously and objectively before passing ridicule, and also recommend that he stops watching *The X-Files*.

Robin Cole
Head of Investigators
Circular Forum
Sheldon, Battledown Approach, Cheltenham

It came from outer space?

Woman claims UFO sighting

A SCI-FI author is looking for witnesses after a UFO was reported to have been spotted hovering over Peterswood in Harlow.

Writer David B. Adams was contacted by a Harlow resident who claimed she was awoken two weeks ago by a bright light shining through her window.

When she looked out, she came face to face with what she described as an oval whitish/grey object with a domed top. She then claims to have seen a smaller object fall away from the main oval towards the ground.

Mr Adams, who researches sightings of UFOs by pilots and flight crew members, said that the woman wanted to remain anonymous to avoid being labelled

BY LEIGH TARRON

a crank.

But he added: "The manner in which I received the report leaves me in no doubt that it is genuine. Both people in the family are level-headed and sensible, which is why I am eager to pursue my enquiries."

The sighting happened at about 3am on Tuesday, April 8, after the resident had gone to bed. After being awoken by a bright light, she looked out and saw what she thought was an intensely bright moving star.

But when she looked through her binoculars, she saw that the light was coming from an "oval/whitish grey object which appeared to have a domed top." The object was surrounded by a sparking light.

To make sure she was not seeing things, the resident

woke another member of her family, and they both watched it move through the sky.

Mr Adams said: "At one point a smaller object fell away from the main oval and appeared to travel towards the ground."

The family continued to watch the main object until about 5.10am when it moved out of sight into the distance.

Mr Adams is now anxious to trace any other people who may have had a similar experience on the same night, or in recent years.

He said: "The woman's experience caused her some concern, and she has made it abundantly clear that they wish they had never had the experience."

"They are familiar with the sight of planes and police helicopters, and describe the sight as 'like nothing they have ever seen before'."

He added: "They are now eager to learn of any other sighting of this object on that particular night."

Any witnesses should ring Mr Adams on 01704 560899 or write to him at 55 Richmond Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 4SB.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - March 26, 1997

QUESTION: What is the greatest number of people to have supposedly seen a UFO at the same time?

FURTHER to earlier answers, my family and I saw a UFO over Birmingham in December 1978.

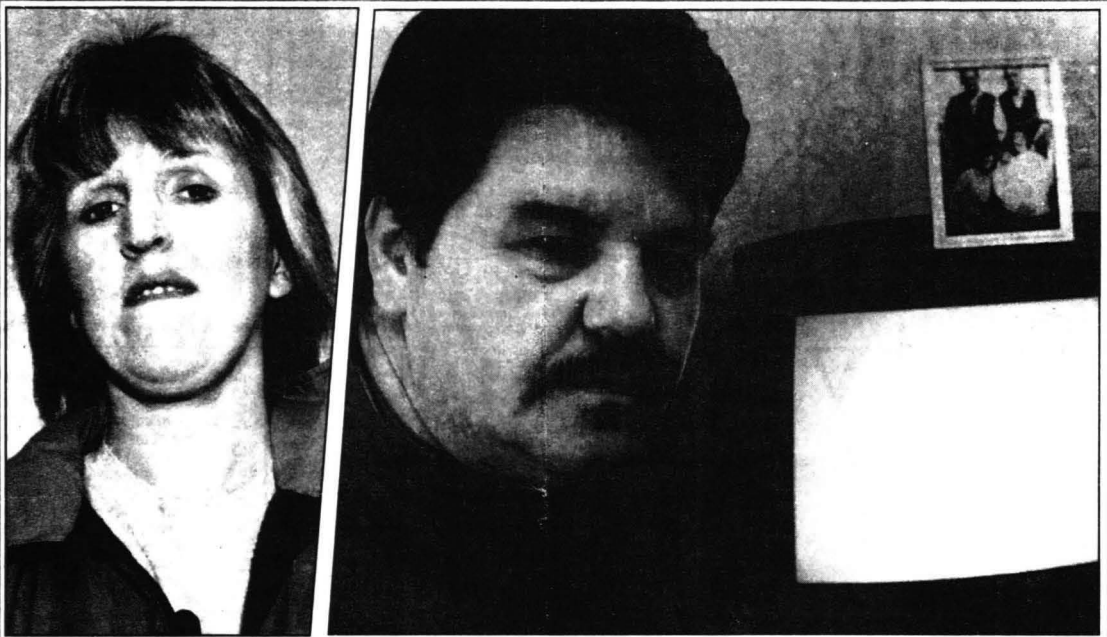
Setting off to pick up my wife from work at 9pm, I saw a star move emphatically and start to descend. My children came out to see it and I saw two parallel sets of seven, evenly spaced, large orange lights approaching slowly, like huge wartime searchlights with a double rim around each light.

It came over our back garden very slowly and had three smaller red lights behind it arranged in a triangle, like a huge tailplane. Though I couldn't see anything between the lights it seemed to be a complete craft, no more than a few hundred feet up. It suddenly moved up in a graceful curve at a tremendous speed. My son said he saw the solid triangular body of the craft and I have read of two airline pilots describing a similar UFO.

When we picked up my wife from work she and her friend were very excited and said: 'Did you see the Russian satellite coming down?' It had gone over Perry Barr, three miles from our home, like a huge white star, 20 minutes before what we had seen.

William Taylor,
Great Barr, Birmingham.

UFO terror No2 strikes family in playground



WHAT A FRIGHT: Elaine Wallace saw a UFO in daylight, while husband Peter filmed mysterious lights over their home. Pictures: JEREMY STOCKTON

MUMMY THERE'S A FIREBALL IN THE SKY

By CRAIG MACDONALD

A YOUNG mum has described how she watched terrified as a UFO like a fireball hovered in the sky.

Elaine Wallace, 35, claims she spotted the flaming orange ball over a Bonnyrigg school.

And police confirmed they have had a second report which fits her description of the incident, at Hopefield Primary School playground at 10am on Tuesday.

Elaine, of Chester Grove, Bonnyrigg, was with her three-year-old daughter Kimberly when she saw the UFO.

She said: "We were petrified. We were walking through the playground and the wee one said: 'Mummy, mummy, what's that in the sky?'"

"I looked and there was this big bright orange ball of flame and there was a trail of smoke coming from it."

"Then it just stopped in its tracks and hovered and we were that frightened we ran into the school to tell them what was going on."

"It was away by the time we came out again and there was no trace - the sky was clear."

Petrified

"It was really strange and the wee one was petrified. It was coming towards us and we thought it was going to hit the school."

A Bonnyrigg police spokesman said they were investigating the reports and working on the theory it was a comet.

But Edinburgh Royal Observatory information officer Simon Dye said Elaine's description did not sound like a comet.

He said: "If it just stopped, it won't be a meteor. But they have a habit of exploding or fizzling out and that might be what she observed."

Tony Dodd, director of investigations with UFO magazine Quest International, said there had been



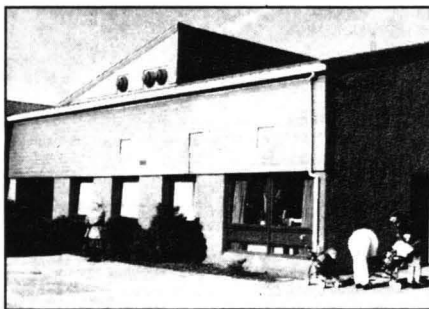
FLASHBACK: We report aliens chase scare in Fife

a spate of similar sightings across the globe.

"We've been getting reports from Australia and ships at sea with exactly the same description and nobody knows what they are."

"They just don't fit the profile of anything we know."

"They are not uncommon, but what they are is another thing."



CLEAR SKY: But the fireball hung over Hopefield Primary

Similar fireballs have been spotted in Lincoln, Skegness and Somerset.

The Army, RAF and Edinburgh Airport said the phenomenon had nothing to do with them.

Last May Elaine's husband Peter, 43, spotted and filmed similar strange lights in the sky above their home.

Strange

Peter saw the strange light from his back garden when it first appeared last May.

The object, which appeared just after 10pm every night for two weeks, mainly just hovered and pulsed but occasionally made erratic movements.

He said: "I have no idea what it was. I just looked out one night and saw it."

Last Friday the Evening News reported two women's claims they had been chased by aliens in Falkland, Fife.

ADVERTISER, Poole, England - March 6, 1997

Music plus minds make crop rings

by David Haith

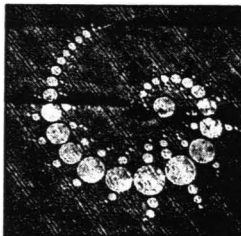
CROP circle researcher Andy Thomas has revealed to The Advertiser how he and eight people created a formation in wheat... by sound and thought power!

The complex pattern in a field at Selbridge, near East Grinstead, was shaped exactly how the experimenters predicted according to their meditations and musical notes.

It was the climax of seven years of research into the phenomenon which author Andy, 31, will explain to a Bournemouth public meeting on Monday evening.

Despite massive publicity about hoaxing, Andy - who runs a crop circle magazine - believes that fake formations make up a minority of the 300 patterns in the crops each year.

He said: "The sheer size and complexity of the latest formations, the fact that they're all over the world, plus American research



Stonehenge rings pictured by Steve Alexander, phone 01705 352867.

showing cellular change in the plants inside circles, indicates a genuine phenomenon.

"It may be something to do with ancient sites and electromagnetism but it does suggest an intelligence is involved."

Last year there was a 915 ft long formation at Stonehenge with evidence that it appeared in 15 minutes.

Andy, author of Fields of Mystery, has another book out in May

called Quest for Contact which involves his research with the circles, psychics and UFOs.

He claims: "Working with these eight people over three years, we experienced much phenomena including balls of light flying over the crops."

He added: "Exploring an idea that the formations were connected with sound, we created certain tones on a synthesizer. It sounded more like a fax machine than the music on the Close Encounters movie!"

"We had worked out what these notes would represent in geometric form and then visualised energy. A crop formation appeared 10 miles away which was exactly the shape one of the team had drawn."

"It suggests there is some link between the human mind and the crop circles."

Andy's talk and slide show is at the Positive Living Group, St Ambrose Church Hall, 72 West Cliff Road, Westbourne on Monday, 7.30 pm, admission £3.50.

METRO NEWS, Manchester, England - Feb. 21, 1997

Truth is out there

A UFO investigator is appealing for witnesses who saw a strange object hovering over Stockport on Valentine's Day.

David Cayton, of Quest International, said a colleague received a call from a man in a phone-box near the Roman Lakes in Marple.

David said: "The man had been cycling in the area and saw a triangular object

hovering in the sky. It was a tarnished gun metal colour and was rotating. He said he watched it for over a minute before he got frightened and ran to the phone-box. We're interested to know if anyone else saw anything unusual."

If anyone did see anything between 7pm and 8pm on Friday night, contact David on 483 4956 or 0831 594331.

REPORTER, Wigan, England - Feb. 6, 1997



WELCOME my friends to the 'real' UFO Update. Sorry about that drivel last week written by my square-jawed colleague Neil 'Buzz' Billingham. He has to get his kicks somehow.

Now, back to business and more on the black triangle - which, if you read last week's column, was explained away as the new stealth aircraft and part of project HALO.

That's one theory and probably not a million miles away from the truth - but as yet there is no proof so the numerous sightings that come in are still filed under the category UFO.

One such sighting came in this week from a young Wigan woman who was on her way to see her boyfriend in Ormskirk.

To make it easier to follow, we refer to the young woman as Jane. Her tale goes like this:

Jane made her way from the Shevington area of Wigan via Gathurst, the time was about 7.45pm. On passing under the motorway bridge near Orrell she was startled by a very bright light shining down from above her.

Jane stopped the car to investigate, she looked up and described the object she saw as a huge triangle, with a spotlight of some type shining down on the road about 100ft in front of her position.

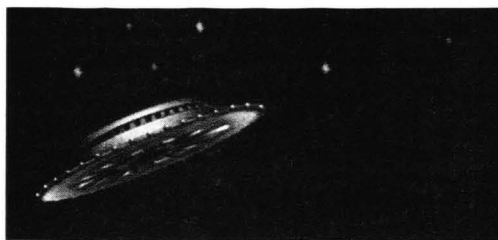
The triangle made no noise and the whole event lasted no more than 60 seconds. It then moved off - without a sound - in the direction of Up Holland. Jane estimated it to be travelling at no more than 10mph.

Excited by what she had seen she got back into her car and attempted to follow the object but by the time she reached Orrell traffic lights it was out of sight and she didn't manage to see it again.

Jane said that she wasn't frightened at all as she would have expected herself to be but found the experience to be "awe inspiring."

She was also surprised that to her knowledge no other vehicles had stopped to observe the phenomenon but she was sure some had passed by. She can offer no rational explanation as to what she witnessed.

Mystery ball of light and the lost forty minutes



AGENTS Mulder and Scully would have needed to buy a new cabinet for their unexplained X-Files if they had been in the Forest of Dean in recent weeks.

There have been strange reports about people's cars being hijacked by aliens on deserted roads and unexplained bright lights streaking across empty night skies.

But while people may whisper to close friends about weird happenings, it is not often anyone is willing to talk about it publicly.

But one man, Brian Johns, a down-to-earth retired policeman from Blakeney, is willing to report what he saw, regardless of public opinion.

On the night of February 19, at about 6.45 in the evening, Mr Johns, aged 64, was standing outside his back door when he saw a blinding white light, just above the tree tops, travelling towards him at an incredible speed.

He thought it might be a low-flying jet, but then he realised it was making no noise at all.

The ball of light approached his house in Millend, Blakeney, then veered away and disappeared westwards.

Yesterday, Mr Johns did not offer any explanation for what he saw, nor claim it was an alien spaceship populated by little green men from another galaxy.

He just said: "It was larger than any light I have seen before. It was too big to be a shooting star, and I know what police helicopters and aeroplanes' lights look like, and it was none of those."

"I am not saying I saw a UFO but I am guilty of having an open mind and can say I have seen a light in the sky which I cannot explain."

"Let me tell you, had it landed and little green men got out you would not have seen me for dust."

Mr Johns' report could well have a rational explanation but another man, who has not been identified, has reported a very disturbing experience.

Driving along the M50 motorway one night he claims he saw a gleaming white craft flying towards his car, and when it got close, he said, a voice told him to pull over.

The next thing he remembers is driving along 40 minutes later with no recollection of



By Adam Powell

what happened in the lost time.

This happened in February 1995, and about five months ago the man began having flashbacks to fill in the missing 40 minutes.

In one flashback he remembers lying in a large white room, being observed by alien creatures.

Now the man is seeking professional advice to explain what happened to him on that

night, and to explain some subsequent strange events, for example, one day painting his entire house white for no apparent reason.

Whether UFOs exist or not there have been some very strange occurrences in the Forest of Dean which Robin Cole, of UFO group The Circular Forum, cannot explain.

He said: "What Mr Johns saw may have been a meteorite, it may have been something else. A lot of sightings do have a rational explanation but we are seeing an increase in reports of unexplained aerial phenomena all across the world."



Brian Johns: Alarmed

WALTHAMSTOW GUARDIAN, London, England - April 17, 1997

UFO sightings on the increase

FIFTY years ago American pilot Kenneth Arnold told a local newspaper he had spotted a 'chain of nine peculiar looking craft' flying over a mountain range in Washington state.

To commemorate a half-century of sightings of unidentified flying objects, thousands of ufologists will be celebrating at conventions across the country.

Here in Waltham Forest, UFO enthusiasts say reports of sightings of bizarre lights and objects in the sky are increasing at an alarming rate and they believe - like the TV show *The X-Files* - 'the truth is out there'.

And UFO investigator Tony Gulbourne from

BY KARYN MICHAEL

Walthamstow is so convinced that the borough is a prime area of interest for curious aliens that he has set up a new group called ELUFON - the East London Unidentified Flying Object Network.

Mr Gulbourne says he decided to form the group after he received calls from people claiming to have seen UFOs in Waltham Forest skies.

He said: "There have been many sightings in Walthamstow. The most recent came from a woman who said she noticed a strange object while she was driving along Blackhorse Road."

"She claimed to have seen a cigar-shaped object with bright flashing lights which had begun to move very slowly towards the railway station."

"The woman got out of her car to see it, but when she got closer the object moved very quickly in the direction of Walthamstow market and she lost sight of it."

Roy Lake, from London UFO Studies, is a lecturer in UFOs and believes that although the first flying saucer was reported 50 years ago, aliens have been visiting Waltham Forest for hundreds of years.

And what is it about Waltham Forest that little green men are so keen to have a look at?

According to Mr Lake it is Chingford Reservoir.

He said: "UFOs are often seen over reservoirs because it seems that they are interested in areas where there is a lot of water."

"This may account for the large number of sightings over Chingford. We think that they may also be interested in new constructions



HOPING for another sighting... Walthamstow UFO investigator Tony Gulbourne. (C95/753/22)

and buildings.

"Another reason could be the ley-lines across the borough - the aliens could be following the routes of ancient monuments."

During the past week, three King's Head Hill residents have spotted further intriguing objects in the night-time sky.

Two of the UFOs are described as multi coloured and "snake and slip all over the place like fireflies," said

Mr Lake.

The third is umbrella-shaped with a green top and underside and a row of yellow-white lights across the middle.

"All three witnesses are normal, intelligent people - one is a professional woman and another a very highly educated younger woman," said Mr Lake.

To contact Mr Lake telephone 270 9919.

Airport opens its X-Files as plane vanishes

BY MAGNUS GARDHAM

YEADON, we have a problem. Leeds-Bradford Airport is at the centre of an investigation into strange activity in the skies over Yorkshire that would not look out of place in *The X-Files*.

The plot involves a mysterious plane seen on the tarmac, low flying over the Dales and a vanishing aircraft - followed up by discreet police inquiries at a Leeds high school.

All this comes three weeks after emergency services scoured the Peak District following sightings of a UFO over Sheffield.

The trail, taken up by respected investigators from *UFO Magazine*, based in Otley, starts at John Smeaton High School, Cross Gates, Leeds. Police arrived

unannounced to quiz teachers and pupils about a plane, or something, that was reported to have vanished as it flew low over countryside towards Swillington. Officers let slip that Leeds-



"Him? He's the head boy"

Bradford Airport had "lost" a plane. But no crash site was found despite their search. Could it have been the mysterious, windowless Islander cargo plane seen standing on the tarmac at Yeadon - the same plane seen skimming the Dales at an altitude of just 200ft from vantage points at Settle? And is it connected with earlier strange sightings over north Sheffield - sightings of something that looked like a hang-glider, had the navigation lights of a light aircraft but may have broken the sound barrier?

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said: "It is a mystery. It is a strange thing for police to go into a Leeds school to ask pupils and teachers questions like this."

West Yorkshire police played the incident down as a "false call with good intent". A spokesman for Leeds-Bradford Airport said the alarm may have been caused by a private plane which took off from Sherburn-in-Elmet on the same day. "It was rumoured to be going to Leeds but we did not have it on any flight plans. It was flying to Gamston, near Retford," he said.

Irish pilots in UFO mystery

TWO pilots on an Irish jet saw a red, white and blue UFO - 9,000ft above Hertfordshire.

The Aer Lingus crew said the mystery craft missed their BAe 146 jet by only 200 yards.

Air traffic controllers said no other craft showed on their radar.

Investigators said the Dublin to Stansted flight was the only plane in the area at the time.

They said the sighting "was an unknown object - NOT an aeroplane."

An Aer Lingus source said: "It's a mystery."



Group starts for 'unexplained'

DORRIS — Rye Emerson, who operates a Sasquatch museum in Dorris, has founded a non-profit organization called "International Research Center of the Unexplained."

Emerson says that reports of unexplained phenomena are increasing every year "and there is no central computer-

ized data base to collect and process the details of the sightings as they become available."

Emerson cites as examples the 40 sightings of "Bigfoot" in Ohio's Wayne National Forest so far this year. "Six brilliantly lighted flying objects were recently seen in Arizona by thousands of people," he

added.

Moreover, Emerson claims that residents of Bly and Beatty have seen a hairy, 3-foot-tall creature called a "Go-gon-ah," and that "Chupacabras" have drained the blood from more than 2,000 animals in Puerto Rico and have been sighted in Mexico, Texas, and Florida.

The new research center will be supported in part by the upcoming publication of a

monthly newsletter, Emerson said. The premiere issue of *Unexplained Intelligence Reports* is slated for August.

Emerson is seeking a donation of a "high-speed computer in good working order" that will be used for a data base of unexplained phenomena.

"When it becomes available, the contents of this data base will be available to the public without charge," Emerson said.

For more information, contact Emerson at (916) 397-2259.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - June 16, 1997 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

The Unexplained World Art Bell

Radio host
makes waves
with talks on
paranormal



Art Bell sits in his studio in Pahrump, Nev. The late-night radio host's programs bring in 10 million to 15 million listeners.

Story and photo by Jeff Daniel / St. Louis Post-Dispatch

PAHRUMP, Nev. — The time was late March, the Heaven's Gate suicide story still burned red-hot, and the media types now had a new, sensational angle. Radio talk-show host Art Bell, they learned, had devoted several of his overnight programs to the theoretical possibility that some sort of spacecraft rode the tailwind of the Hale-Bopp comet.

These were shows, reporters noted with whetted appetites, that aired before Marshall Applewhite and the gang shed their earthly cocoons and took that final fated ride. The press had a field day — "The Man Who Spread The Myth" was the headline over Time magazine's expose on Bell.

"The Heaven's Gate 39 had been awaiting the cue to begin their final act," Time noted, "and last fall it finally came, not in a heavenly vision, but on 'Coast to Coast AM with Art Bell.'"

Bell, inundated with phone calls and mis-sives, denied any ethical or moral wrongdoing, repeatedly making the point that it was a guest — never the host himself — who provided the spaceship theory.

Still, the spaceship/comet scenario didn't seem too out of place on Bell's show, a virtual clearinghouse for opinions on the bizarre and the unexplained.

A deft mixture of entertainment, news and unbridled conjecture, Bell's programs bring in big numbers — 10 million to 15 million

Art Bell's "Coast to Coast" call-in show is aired in Anchorage on KENI 550-AM at 10:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturdays, and 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Sundays. His "Dreamland" program airs on KENI from 6 to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Bell worked in Anchorage as an announcer at KENI during the 1970s. In April of 1975 he achieved brief national attention by organizing Operation Babylift, which brought 63 orphan infants out of Saigon as North Vietnamese troops were moving in. (continued on page 18)

listeners tuned in to 366 stations — numbers that rival former late-night ruler Larry King.

So who is this Art Bell, this phenom of nocturnal radio whose name recognition suddenly has rocketed far beyond the usual orbit of insomniacs, night owls and graveyard-shift workers?

And more importantly, what goes on during the wee hours of "Coast to Coast AM," Bell's five-hour weeknight show, and "Dreamland," his Sunday evening program, where the paranormal is the norm, where Bigfoot is big, and where UFOs often are identified?

It's Sunday night in Pahrump, a dusty little town of 7,000 residents 60 miles west of Las Vegas that serves as home for Bell and his combination ranch house/broadcast center.

Pahrump sits comfortably in the center of a desert version of the Bermuda Triangle. To the east is Vegas — the land of lost souls and lost quarters. To the west, California's Death Valley — sort of like Vegas, but without the neon and the blue hair.

And to the north — Area 51, which is also known as Dreamland, the site of a super-secret military installation, which is also known as the place where said military just might be experimenting with flying saucers. As the story goes, this is the place where the aliens that crashed 50 years ago in Roswell, N.M., might have been taken and still might remain.

And so on and so forth. On this Sunday night in Pahrump, Bell prepares for another edition of his show, "Dreamland." His 38-year-old wife, Ramona, serves as Bell's complete staff — bringing him faxes, making fresh coffee, reminding Art of little tasks.

In the broadcast booth — essentially a small, spare bedroom — the 51-year-old Bell flies solo. The show, as well as his regular "Coast to Coast AM" program, reaches the airwaves by way of this one-man engineer/producer/information director/star.

Dressed comfortably in black sweats and running shoes, Bell takes long, extended drags on his cigarette as he looks over material for the night's broadcast, which, coincidentally, features Brad Steiger — a prolific writer on paranormal subjects and the author of a late-'70s book on Marshall Applewhite and his followers.

Bell cues up a sound cart. The room, packed with every conceivable type of new and vintage radio gear, grows silent. Then, as the new-age music swirls in the background and the prerecorded announcer introduces the show, Bell begins a conversation with his guests and audience that flows seamlessly.

The host seems sincerely interested in tonight's topics, as do his callers. Animal

The host seems sincerely interested in tonight's topics, as do his callers. Animal totems. Mysteriously deformed amphibians.

totems. Severe climatic changes. Crop circles. Mysteriously deformed amphibians.

Bell sips his ever-present coffee through a straw and leans back in his chair. For Bell, and for millions of listeners across the country, it's just another normal night in "Dreamland."

"You wanna know what makes Art so popular?" asks Chancellor Broadcasting president Alan Corbeth. It's lunchtime at the Saddle West Restaurant and Casino in Pahrump, and Corbeth and kindred soul Bell are discussing their enormous ratings success over the home-style fare.

"Art understands the people that are tuning in through the ether out there," explains Corbeth, who like Bell has spent his life fiddling with radio equipment and working in the business. "He knows the nuts and bolts of the industry, and he has an appreciation that can't be taught. You're either born with it, or you're not — and Art definitely was born with it."

And it's not as if Bell, a native Texan, is an overnight success. Licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as a technician at age 13, he's worked in commercial radio for more than 30 years, handling practically every niche and format from news announcer to rock 'n' roll disc jockey to engineer to talk-show host. He's worked in freezing Anchorage and in torrid Tijuana. But a gig at KDWN in Las Vegas in the early '80s led to the end of Bell's wandering and the beginning of his success.

Using KDWN's 50,000 watts, Bell built a following over a 13-state area in the Southwest, impressing listeners with his knowledge of politics and world events, as well as his ability to stay on the air for the overnight period.

Corbeth, a former National Public Radio staffer in Washington, was impressed. An alliance formed and, by way of Chancellor Broadcasting, Bell moved into syndication. His markets and ratings climbed steadily.

In early 1994, Bell added "Dreamland" as a regular Sunday night feature program. The paranormal and unexplainable subjects it featured proved to be entertaining and, ultimately, more interesting than the political talk that dominated "Coast to Coast AM."

During the past year, the line between Bell's two shows has increasingly blurred. The weeknight programs leaned away from talks of unbalanced budgets and the latest Clinton scandal to discussions on entities such as the

Chupacabra — a demonic winged predator that reportedly was sucking the blood from livestock in the Southwest and in Mexico.

"When it was a standard political talk show like everyone else's, it was successful," Bell says. "But the political climate changed — became more mundane — and I began to get bored."

"And I figured that if I'm getting bored, then my audience must be getting bored as well." So Bell livened things up, subsequently tapping into a booming national interest in the mystical, the conspiratorial and the unknown.

"I believe in very little — with UFOs, the paranormal or even politics," Bell confides over the din of clanging quarters and rolling slots at the Saddle West.

"I believe in what I can prove and what I can get my hands on," he says. "But then again, I'm not automatically a disbeliever. I just see myself as an interviewer, an inquisitor."

And therein lies the secret to Bell's success. Judge nothing — let the ideas flow and the public can decide what to believe or disbelieve.

"That's the entertainment value," Bell adds. "Instead of shredding someone on the air — which has been a traditional talk-radio manner of handling things — I prefer to help my guests and callers tell their stories."

"And that's whether it's leading toward a total lack of credibility on their part or just the opposite. Simply put, I try to help get the story out. I'll leave the rest to Mike Wallace."

During the Heaven's Gate controversy, Bell's free-flow system of ideas came under fire. Yet if he had it all to do over again, Bell insists he

would have done nothing differently.

"There's no question we discussed the possible existence of a companion to Hale-Bopp," Bell says. "But before I went on the air, I had an Emory University professor (Courtney Brown) saying it was so. I had a physics graduate student prepared to discuss the photographs."

And when Bell figured out that the claims were fraudulent, "We exposed it first on our program." Bell still expresses bitterness toward the press reaction, which he describes as "two days of breaking news claiming 'Art Bell Killed 39 People.' And that's the way they wanted it."

But as the details began to emerge, he continues, the focus of the story began to shift "as they realized they couldn't blame me for something that had been planned for a couple of decades."

To Paul Kurtz, the Heaven's Gate episode reflects the inherent problem of Bell's program — a forum he labels as "dangerously irresponsible."

"The public is just inundated with waves of paranormal nonsense, and Art Bell plays this stuff up," says Kurtz, a professor emeritus at State University of New York at Buffalo. As chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, Kurtz finds himself in constant disagreement with Bell and guests.

Sensationalism sells, Kurtz argues, and any article about "a two-headed monster or that Bigfoot is an alien" is bound to become a big seller.

Kurtz' observation — right or wrong — raises another interesting question: Why the increased "explosion" in the paranormal interest that figures in Bell's accelerating success? Ask Bell, and he points again to the public's disillusionment with Washington.

"I was doing this long before anyone else," he says proudly. "So I was in place when the country decided it

was fed up with nonrelevant political arguments and began to turn to these topics."

Whitley Strieber, author of "Communion" (an account of Strieber's recollection of his alien abductions), appears regularly on Bell's show. Bell, he believes, covers many of the issues that the public has always wanted to explore, but which the conventional media ignores.

"People know things are out there," Strieber says. "They are curious, and they turn to Art for coverage on these issues." Strieber considers himself a "disbeliever" who would still be a garden-variety skeptic if he hadn't had the "face-to-face encounters that I can't explain."

"Art's big strength is his willingness to admit there's an unknown out there," Strieber continues. "The downside is that he's forced to talk about some things that may not be true."

For Stanton Friedman, the so-called "explosion" has been taking place for more than 30 years. As the original investigator of the Roswell crash, Friedman has lectured on UFOs in all 50 states, and in dozens of countries.

"Art has recognized the audience for the far-out and the bizarre," explains Friedman, whose physics classmates at the University of Chicago included the late Carl Sagan. "But he's had on enough respectable people like me to attract an audience."

Bell and Corbeth exit the Saddle West, filled from a nice meal and ready to resume negotiations on a deal that will earn Bell a new seven-year contract.

The desert sky hangs low and heavy — perhaps this will be one of those rare rainy days that have been known to pop up in Pahrump. Bell seems unfazed by the gloom. He's a happy man. He's doing what he likes. He's a success.

"But I don't try to think about the reasons for success," he says in the restaurant's crowded parking lot. "The show just happens."

[Paper & City Unknown], NC - July 19, 1997 CR: R. Bonck

Bigfoot: Baloney or lonely?

NEESES, S.C. (AP) — It's sleepy summertime in South Carolina. The livin' is easy, the cotton is high and, as seems to happen every few years, there has been another apparent sighting of the weird.

It was nine years ago in Lee County that reports of the Lizard Man, purported to be a 7-foot-tall green creature with three fingers, red eyes and snakelike scales, enlivened a hot summer.

Now residents of this Orangeburg County community are abuzz about reports 14-year-old Jackie Hutto saw an 8-foot hairy man, believed to be a "bigfoot," tugging on a dog pen.

Some don't believe it. Then there's Art Dent, who owns Dog City Paint and Body Shop and already has put up an 8-foot sign reading "Bigfoot Welcome Center" with an airbrushed rendition of the legendary creature.

Hutto is sticking to his story. His older brother, David, backs him up. Other residents are upset the media ran the story.

"I think it's a bunch of baloney," Darlene Riley said. "I have about 10 kids in this house

He had to try and heat those dogs because if he went in a restaurant he would get thrown out."

Art Dent
Runs 'Bigfoot Welcome Center'

who are scared to go out and play."

If a hairy creature is rummaging through town, nobody bothered to tell the local authorities.

"We never got a call about that. That was handled through the press," said Robert Keith, a county sheriff's department spokesman.

The only call the department received was from someone who had read news accounts and wondered if the creature was in custody, he said.

Dent said he planned to take out his hunting dogs to find the hairy man.

"We don't want to hurt him, we want to feed him," Dent said. "He

had to try and eat those dogs because if he went in a restaurant he would get thrown out."

The Lizard Man brought international attention to Bishopville after a man said the creature chased his car at speeds of 40 mph along a rural road.

There were several other purported sightings and law officers found three-toed tracks in the dirt. The local bumper sticker, T-shirt and cap makers also made some money that summer.

Back in 1977, Harold Berry of Saluda County and Leonard Grosmoske of Fort Mill found large, barefoot footprints on their properties within a week of each other. Again people flocked to see the tracks but Berry said he believed it was a hoax.

The Lizard Man eventually passed out of the news. But last summer The (Columbia) State, while skeptical he existed, said people should let him be.

"Consider the positive," the newspaper editorial said. "The red-eyed reptile has transformed the dullness of a steamy summer into a raconteur's delight."

Poll shows most believe in government conspiracies

By Thomas Hargrove
and Guido H. Stempel III
Scripps Howard News Service

Americans increasingly suspect the worst about their government. They think Uncle Sam may be a mass murderer, or a drug dealer, or a presidential assassin.

Cynicism and disillusionment are so widespread that Americans matter-of-factly say that government authorities are guilty of grisly atrocities.

For example, a shocking 51 percent of the public believes it is either "very likely" or "somewhat likely" that federal officials were "directly responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy" in 1963, according to a nationwide poll of 1,009 people conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University.

More than one-third of those surveyed suspect the U.S. Navy, either by accident or on purpose, shot down TWA Flight 800 near New York City last year. An even higher percentage suspect FBI agents deliberately set the fires that killed 81 Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, four years ago.

A majority also believe it is possible that the Central Intelligence Agency intentionally permitted Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to inner city black children.

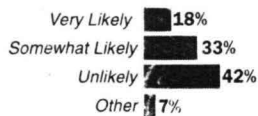
"This is not good," concluded Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating after seeing the poll results. "When we believe that our free institutions can commonly be corrupted to dark and evil purposes, it is a statement of a feeling of helplessness by the American people. We are in for some turbulent years as a nation."

"Maybe people are watching too many Oliver Stone movies. What we see on the movie screens these days demonizes government agencies and public officials. Free institutions cannot survive this kind of cynicism," said Keating.

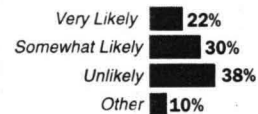
The governor, a retired FBI agent, blames conspiracy paranoia for Timothy McVeigh's 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City at the cost of 168

Measuring skepticism

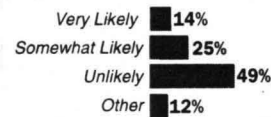
Officials in the federal government were directly responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy.



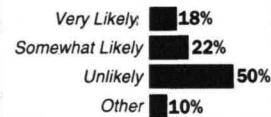
The CIA has deliberately allowed Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to black kids living in inner-city neighborhoods.



The U.S. Navy, either by accident or on purpose, shot down TWA Flight 800 near New York City last year and is covering up what it did.

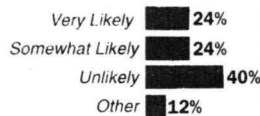


The FBI deliberately set the fires that destroyed the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993.

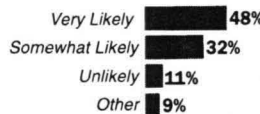


Margin of error 4%. Poll of 1,009 adults.

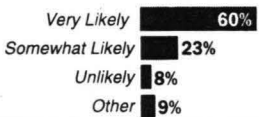
The U.S. Air Force is withholding proof of the existence of intelligent life from other planets.



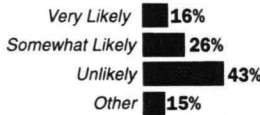
Our military leaders are withholding what they know about nerve gas or germ warfare attacks on American troops during the Persian Gulf War.



Our military leaders withheld information about the dangers of the chemical called "Agent Orange" during the Vietnam War.



President Roosevelt knew in advance that the Japanese were going to bomb Pearl Harbor, but he did not warn our troops because he wanted to get the United States involved in World War II.



Scripps Howard News Service

lives. McVeigh, according to testimony from friends and relatives, was profoundly upset by the deaths in Waco.

But best-selling conspiracy book author Jim Marrs — who assisted in the Hollywood production of Stone's "JFK" movie — said government itself is to blame.

"It all started with the Kennedy assassination. None of the experts I know swallow the theory that (the late Lee Harvey) Oswald did it all alone. Then we have the legacies of Vietnam, and the Watergate and

Iran-Contra scandals," Marrs said. "All of these things have had an eroding effect and now we are reaping the whirlwind."

Conspiracy theories have become a commercially successful industry. Marrs' book "Crossfire: The plot that killed Kennedy" was on the New York Times best seller list for 10 weeks. Seven of Hollywood's 10 highest grossing films last year included distinctly anti-government themes.

But the Texas-based author,

whose newest book "Alien Agenda" examines the possibility of government suppression of information about UFOs, said there are solid reasons to discount the Warren Commission's investigation into the Kennedy assassination. "Let me put it this way: I believe there is a God, but I know there was a cover-up," Marrs said.

Curtis Gans, executive director for the Washington-based Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, agreed the erosion of confidence in government began with Kennedy's death. Gans was in Dallas at the time, covering for United Press International what should have been a routine presidential visit.

"I spent my Thanksgiving in 1963 with Oswald's mother. And I spent enough time looking at the Warren Commission report to know that it didn't wash," Gans said. "But I never believed the government was involved in the assassination."

He said relentless anti-government messages by news organizations, special interest groups and the politicians themselves have discouraged Americans that they are prepared to believe theories that once would have been discounted immediately.

"Paranoia is killing this country," Gans said. "It is essentially reducing cohesion in our society and is creating fear in the minds of our citizenry."

Forty-one percent in the poll said they believe it "very likely" that federal authorities are responsible for at least one of the most dire theories — Kennedy's murder, the crack cocaine epidemic, the crash of TWA Flight 800 or the fatal fires at Waco. Thirty-eight percent said they believe at least one of these theories is "somewhat likely" while only 21 percent labeled all four as "unlikely."

"The government has a slick way of sidestepping the issues. I just don't think there is a lot of honesty there," concluded Dee Anna Curry, 50, a housewife from Belton, Texas. "Take the CIA. They have done a lot of things that are illegal. I wouldn't put it past the CIA to use drugs."

"People don't have confidence in government anymore and I don't see a quick fix for this," said Neal Coneley, an X-ray technician from Clearfield, Ky. "The government still needs to address the JFK assassination. They seem to avoid

questions like this instead of addressing them. There seems to have been a cover-up."

The poll found that people of every race, age, education level, economic status and political orientation believe in government conspiracy theories. Most likely to believe, however, are young people, poor people, and blacks.

Less than a third of adults of retirement age said they place much credence in the theories.

"Elderly Americans have a broader sense of history and are less susceptible to the hype of television," Gans concluded. "They have a more measured view of government and politics over the long haul, having been witness to good government. After all, this all really started in 1964."

The poll found even stronger belief for conspiracy theories that authorities have conceded have some basis in truth. Forty-eight percent believe it is "very likely" that U.S. military leaders "are withholding what they know about nerve gas or germ warfare attacks on American troops during the Persian Gulf War."

Spokesmen for both the CIA and the Pentagon have apologized that front-line troops were not informed that Iraqi forces were keeping chemical weapons in a depot that U.S. forces captured and destroyed.

Sixty percent said they think it is very likely that the military also has "withheld information about the dangers of the chemical called 'Agent Orange' during the Vietnam War." Although the military never apologized for the ways it used the defoliant, the Veterans Administration will treat former soldiers and sailors who complain of health problems because of exposure to the chemical.

The study was sponsored by Scripps Howard News Service and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. The telephone survey was conducted June 15-29 among 1,009 adults in all 50 states and the District of Columbia whose households were selected at random by computer.

This survey has a 4 percent margin of error at the 95 percent confidence interval. That means 95 times out of 100, a survey of this type will be within 4 percentage points of the results achieved if every American household had been interviewed.

He's large and hairy, but do you believe the big guy exists?

Desperately seeking Sasquatch

By Ann Sullivan
Contributing writer

ABANDON ALL SKEPTICISM, YE WHO enter here. Starting Friday, the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium hosts a three-day International Sasquatch Symposium. Yes, the hairy one has been sighted in B.C., and not just in Kokanee beer commercials.

Stephen Harvey, organizer of the symposium, became interested in Sasquatch several years ago, when he sensed it near a waterfall at Harrison Lake.

"I had my own small experience where I smelled the creature," Harvey said. "I have no other explanation for it."

The experience inspired him to organize the first Sasquatch Forum five years ago in Harrison Hot Springs. The forum, which dealt with only the "conventional" side of Sasquatch (tangible evidence like footprints, hair and fecal matter), proved successful, but this year Harvey changed the formula.

The new symposium will feature two sides of the Sasquatch debate—the

conventional and the paranormal. Speakers will discuss everything from the appearance of the beast to its connection with UFOs and possible ability to communicate telepathically.

Bringing the two sides together was a struggle, Harvey said. "I almost lost the conventional people when they heard the others were coming, but I assured them the forum would go on as normal."

The "others" include people like Graham Conway, a UFO expert for 50 years who has also run into enough Sasquatch evidence to convince him of the beast's existence.

In 1971, while hiking with his teenage son in the Squamish Valley, Conway came across about 200 footprints in the sand.

"I take a size 11 bush boot and I could put the whole boot easily into one footprint," Conway said. "At that point, I had no desire to find the other animals."

Conway discovered prints again the following year in a nearby location. He has also found what he suspects were tell-tale footprints in the Bowron Lakes area in 1978.

Conway knows most people would dismiss his claims, but he said, "Anyone can be skeptical. They didn't see what I saw under the same conditions."

Paul LeBlond, an oceanographer who recently retired from UBC, has spent years collecting evidence like Conway's. But LeBlond's specialty is not Sasquatch or Bigfoot, but mysterious sea creatures. His book *Cadborosaurus* examines the existence of a creature that has been sighted in B.C. waters from the mouth of the Fraser River to Cadboro Bay near Victoria.

Does LeBlond believe in Cadborosaurus? "I'm a natural scientist and I believe my eyes and the eyes of others," he said. Asked if he believes in Sasquatch, LeBlond replied, "I don't believe anything in this business. I just take the evidence. Belief is too strong a word."

Harvey, too, leaves it to the individual to sift through truth and myth in Sasquatch lore. "I just say, 'Come to your own conclusions, make up your own mind. Here's the evidence. Believe it or don't.'"

For information on the Sasquatch Symposium, call 321-0410.

Man claims he saw Bigfoot

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Until two weeks ago, Mike McDonald didn't believe in Bigfoot.

That was, he says, before he saw one of the legendary creatures while hunting near Spuzzum, a tiny community two hours east of Vancouver.

"I don't even know where to start," McDonald, 33, nervously told the crowd gathered Sunday at the fifth annual International Sasquatch Symposium.

McDonald was hunting brown bear and believing he had found one, set the sights of his gun on it.

The creature had its back to McDonald, so he watched through the gun sight for the bear to turn around and give him a good shot.

"Six or 10 seconds later it stood up, and it was definitely not a bear," he said. "My heart started pounding. I was so scared."

He waited until the creature left, then ran to his truck for his camera. When he returned, the creature was nowhere to be found.

Until Sunday, only his girlfriend has heard the story.

"I thought, who do I contact?" he recalled. "Do I call the police? No, they're going to call me a nut. I would have thought that before, too."

Sasquatch enthusiasts discussed everything from a link between the giant ape-like creatures and UFOs to their telepathic abilities at the weekend convention.

SEARCH FOR WILD CATS

Flying saucers and prowling big cats—they both exist in south Shropshire and its border areas, says a local author.

Guy N. Smith of The Wain House, Black Hill, Clunton, has received claims from people all over South Shropshire and Powys that they have seen UFOs.

There have, he says, been sightings here—and beyond—of inexplicable objects in the sky, and back on terra firma, reports of big cats in

lonely areas. Guy has a deep fascination for the mysterious and the paranormal.

But he is also keen to learn more about the wild and exotic creatures reported to be at large in this area. And he carefully catalogues reports of inexplicable flying objects as area co-ordinator for the Birmingham UFO Society.

Guy, who lives with his wife Jean on their smallholding, can claim an inexplicable sighting in the night sky.

"I saw a white light with an orange base and estimated it was

going at 500 mph," he said. "It dawned on me there was no sound at all—it was so fast and so silent."

Though there was no cloud cover, the UFO suddenly vanished from view.

Guy checked with the Birmingham society, and discovered the same object had been logged 10 minutes later over Castle Bromwich 60 miles away.

"Checks were made but there was nothing in the area at that time to explain the object."

Guy collates reports of sightings from over a wide area, and these are

sent to Birmingham. Sometimes they can be explained.

"There was one sighting which turned out to be Richard Branson's balloon," he said.

Others proved more mysterious. Just before Christmas a strong white light was spotted over Beggars Bush at Kinnerton.

"A shape appeared of two drums together—like a double-barrelled shotgun—and it was going towards Water-break-its-neck."

Just a few days earlier there was a collision at Presteigne between two vehicles. One driver

said his attention had been diverted by the appearance overhead of a UFO.

The most dramatic sighting given to Guy was near Telford.

"I have no reason at all to doubt what this man told me," he said. "His wife was with him, and she saw it too."

The object was "massive", described as being as big as a battleship and moving very slowly.

"It had rounded corners like a skateboard, was three or four thousand feet high, and silent," said Guy.

"The front end broke off, and a shape like a saucer with no lights accelerated away."

"The big ship went away much faster in an easterly direction."

Guy finds the sighting forms come in to him in spates: "There might be one or two or three, then a long, quiet spell."

"I only take what information is given me—I don't make judgement, though I have my own private theories."

Guy doesn't have plans for writing a novel around these sightings.

"It would have to be non-fiction and I would need something very conclusive that I was involved in. It would have to be something I have seen or experienced myself."

Widespread

In the meantime, Guy has a serious interest in big cats. Sightings of these animals are widespread, and he carefully studies all the reports.

"One was seen walking down the Presteigne road in Knighton before Christmas, and big footprints were found at Norton."

"A couple of years ago there was a report of a panther-like animal seen at night in Ludlow's Sheet Road area."

"I have no doubt there are many living in this country," he said. "I'd love to hear from anyone who has information."

Reports of sightings of either UFOs, or big cats can be given to Guy on 01588-640551.

DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - July 24, 1997 CR: R. Reid

Skunk Ape reported in Everglades

OCHOPEE (AP) — The splash next to the lily pads in the swamp might be a Florida softshell turtle sliding off a log into the water. The rustling in the bushes could be an alligator, bear or snake — or something else.

That's what a half-dozen tourists, swamp tour operators and the Ochopee fire chief said last week as they reported sightings of a large, furry, black creature.

Tales of a skunk ape, also known as swamp ape and Bigfoot, have circulated around the Big Cypress National Preserve for generations. Decades ago, the community staged an annual skunk ape festival.

"I don't know if it's somebody playing a game or what," said Vince Doerr, fire chief in the Everglades hamlet. He said he saw something large and hairy run-

ning across Burns Road on two legs Monday.

Dow Roland, a tour guide for Everglades Day Safari, said he was on Turner River Road Friday when some boys in his tour group shouted that they saw Bigfoot.

"I believe that there's something out there," said David Shealy, owner of the Florida Panther Gift Shop and Big Cypress Trail Lakes Campground.

Shealy, 33, believes the mosquitoes, which are especially bad this year, are flushing the skunk ape out of the swamp.

Shealy isn't ashamed to talk about or believe in the skunk ape.

"There's no mystery left in the world anymore," he said. "We've become so smart as a civilization that we tend to discount things not based on facts. People like mysteries."



NASA PHOTO VIA REUTERS
A composite photo taken in ultraviolet light shows a comet trail over the Atlantic Ocean.

other than hydrogen and oxygen — the constituents of water — in these incoming objects, which apparently break apart and form clouds of water vapor 25 to 50 miles across while still hundreds of miles above Earth's surface. Each cloud contains 20 to 40 tons of water, Frank said.

The comets were first detected in pictures taken by a camera on a satellite called Dynamics Explorer in the early 1980s. This camera took pictures of the Earth by ultraviolet light, and Frank, who was the scientist in charge of the camera, was initially annoyed to find all the pictures flecked with black dots. He assumed these must be defects or electronic glitches, and spent years trying to determine their cause so the problem could be corrected.

But after years of effort by Frank and his student John Sig-

warth, no glitches could be found, and they realized they must be seeing a real phenomenon — something that was dimming the output of ultraviolet light at specific points. Clouds of incoming water vapor — known to absorb ultraviolet light — were the only reasonable explanation, they argued in a 1986 article in Geophysical Research Letters.

The new instruments Frank designed for NASA's Polar satellite launched last year not only show the dark spots in much greater detail — showing their shapes and how they change and dissipate over time — but they have also caught some of these incoming comets in the act. The pictures clearly show clouds of water vapor actually streaking toward Earth's atmosphere.

"It's just astonishing, extraordinary," said Maran. And, he added, it's an impressive accomplishment

by Frank: "You almost never have a scientist who, on very limited evidence, makes a grand new theory — and turns out to have been right."

The finding will require scientists to rethink the origins of water on Earth and other planets.

Since the same population of comets is likely to be found throughout the solar system, it could mean that Mars, whose surface is carved with channels that show water flowed there long ago, may have far more water hidden beneath its surface than astronomers thought. That could be good news for those hoping to find signs of life on the red planet.

"I think this shows there's a new class of celestial objects right in our own bailiwick that we didn't even know about," said Maran. "It's amazing we were not even aware of this, and to the extent we were aware of it, we denied it."

Earth's water may derive from comets

By David L. Chandler
GLOBE STAFF

Thousands of comets as big as houses fall into the Earth's atmosphere every day, new satellite evidence shows, lending support to a theory that the unseen comets could have been the source of all the water on the planet.

The idea of bombardment by celestial snowballs — comets are made mostly of ice crystals — was first proposed in 1986 by physicist Louis Frank of the University of Iowa, and almost universally rejected.

Frank's theory was based on sketchy data from a satellite, which contradicted the accepted view that all of Earth's water had been here since the planet cooled — about 3.8 billion years ago. If Frank was right, "we would have to burn half the contents of the libraries in the physical sciences," said one scoffer.

But new satellite pictures, obtained by a camera Frank designed to resolve the controversy, are so clear that even the most vocal skeptics now agree the finding is real.

Thomas Donahue, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Michigan who has been among the harshest critics of Frank's theory, is now convinced. "There's no doubt, really no doubt," he said yesterday. "These things are there, coming in at an extraordinary rate — a humongous rate — and they're mostly water."

Frank presented his findings yesterday at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Baltimore.

The finding came as a complete surprise to scientists, Donahue said in a telephone interview from Switzerland, where he is attending a scientific conference.

It was "nothing we ever expected to hear about, and the establishment rejected the idea," said Donahue, an authority on Earth's atmosphere. "Now, the evidence is strong."

'These things are there, coming in at an extraordinary rate.'

THOMAS DONAHUE
Atmospheric scientist at the University of Michigan

said, appear to be "clean snowballs," made of almost pure ice.

Spectroscopic studies, Maran said, show no signs of any elements

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - March 1, 1997 CR: J. Fry/COUD-I

Bigfoot group meets tonight, seeking Sasquatch

By Jodi Nirode
Dispatch Staff Reporter

In the backwoods of southern Ohio, among the hills and quiet towns lurks conclusive evidence of the legendary Sasquatch, say organizers of a Bigfoot conference.

Each year, members of the Tri-State Bigfoot Study convene in Newcomerstown in Tuscarawas County to mull over footprints and blurry photographs and share their experiences in the hunt for the elusive primate.

At 6 tonight, the group will hold its annual conference at Newcomerstown's Union Hall. And as tradition calls, the conference is followed by a hike in the woods Sunday in hopes of a definitive photograph or footprint, said Chairman Don Keating.

"This is totally serious," Keating said.

The conference is open to the public. Since 1860, there have been more than 225 Ohio sightings, mostly in Coshoccon, Guernsey and Tuscarawas counties, Keating said.

Last year, believers were eagerly awaiting DNA analysis of tufts of hair from the Pacific Northwest.

Ohio State University researchers said it was impossible to determine whether the hairs were from a primate because of the sample's poor quality, said Paul Fuerst, an associate professor of molecular genetics at OSU.

This year's conference guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Meldrum, an assistant professor in anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University in Pocatello, who has studied more than 80 casts of footprints of questionable origin obtained in the Pacific Northwest and Canada.