

# UFO

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## As Roswell goes UFO crazy, Belen woman's uncle has own story

By **T.S. LAST**  
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

This weekend thousands of people are traveling to Roswell to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UFO crash — or weather balloon crash, depending on who you believe.

Except for a brief initial statement that the debris found on a ranch near the southeast New Mexico town was indeed remnants of a "flying disc," as they were most commonly referred to in those days, the Air Force has always maintained what was found was actually material from a downed weather balloon. This despite testi-

mony to the contrary from: witnesses to the event, some associated with the 509th squadron stationed at Walker Air Force Base in Roswell.

Last month the Air Force went so far as to release another statement explaining away some witness reports that the bodies of aliens were scattered at the crash site — they were just crash test dummies, it said.

Whether the military's position on the incident is accurate and truthful, or just an attempt to make others look like dummies, it seems certain the military is not budging

### BELEN

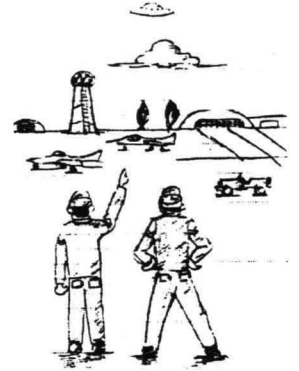
on its stance. People can accept what the military says happened, but others find more truth and credibility when hearing stories from friends and relatives.

Connie Baca of Belen, has heard such stories from her deceased uncle, Louis D. Moya, who was stationed at Walker Air Force Base in the 1950s. She is one who says she is a believer in UFOs based on what her uncle told her and similar stories from friends who also served in the Air Force.

Baca said that although her uncle wasn't in Roswell in 1947, he said he had spoken with ranchers who said they were witnesses to the crash site. Moya said the ranchers

told him that afterwards, they were subjected to "intimidation" from three government officials that the ranchers referred to as the "Air Force Secret Police."

This wasn't just a case of an uncle trying to endear his niece to him with a tall tale that took her on a flight of fantasy, conjuring impressions of little green men in a child's imagination. Moya not only gave the second-hand report from ranchers about the incident at Roswell, but also told of his first-hand encounter in a serious account recorded in an affidavit he gave to his sister, Emma, Baca's mother,



This drawing depicts the scene Louis Moya said he witnessed in 1955 while stationed at the Air Force Base in Roswell.

## UFOs appeared in Belen, too

Looking back at the pages of the *News-Bulletin* from 50 years ago, there are two mentions of the UFO phenomena occurring about the time of the "Roswell Incident."

The July 10, 1947, edition, the first published after the report of the Roswell crash, asks readers "Did you see — Any flying discs in the Belen area? This community is out of step with many other communities. There hasn't been a single report to the *News-Bulletin*. Anyone seeing such is urged to report same immediately to the

newspaper office."

The solicitation apparently paid off. The next edition of the paper on July 17, includes a short article under the headline "Belen 'Flying Disc' Like White Ball."

A Mrs. Charles J. Carroll, identified as the wife of the city jeweler, is quoted as saying she saw one.

"It must have been what they call a flying saucer, but it didn't resemble a saucer," she was quoted as saying. "It was traveling northwest at a high rate of speed. When I

first saw it, the object appeared very large. It looked like it was then about over municipal airport."

Carroll said she called a neighbor to confirm that she wasn't "just seeing things," but by that time the object was gone.

Carroll said she saw the "white ball" in the sky about 1:30 p.m. on the afternoon the *News-Bulletin's* request for reports appeared in the paper.

"I had heard so much of the flying saucers that I went outside for

the purpose of looking for one. A few minutes later, there it was."

**SPOKESMAN REVIEW,**  
Spokane, WA  
Aug. 14, 1997

### Three report seeing weird lights in sky

■ *Chewelah, Wash.*

Several Chewelah-area residents reported seeing mysterious lights traveling across the sky late Tuesday and early Wednesday morning.

The sightings occurred during and after a lightning storm, but witnesses said they are confident the lights they saw were not part of the storm.

Bruce Cockrell, 51, said the lights appeared to be almost directly over his home about 13 miles southeast of town when neighbor Ron Evenson called to get him out of bed for a look. Their descriptions differed, but both said they saw concentric circles that seemed to be spinning while moving across the sky.

At a downtown convenience store, clerk Brenda Marshall reported seeing only a single patch of light. She said she couldn't be sure, but the spot actually might have been composed of many small lights as Cockrell described.

A helicopter might explain the phenomenon, she said. "Anything but UFOs. I don't believe in UFOs."

Chewelah Police Chief Mike Clements said he was outside at the time and saw nothing unusual.

Spokesmen for the Federal Aviation Administration and several military units said they were unaware of any aircraft in the area that might account for the lights.

for the purpose of writing the family history.

"He was in the Air Force stationed at Walker Air Force Base in Roswell in the early 1950's," Baca said. "He used to talk about terrible jet crashes, the UFO sighting in 1947 and especially one incident about a UFO in 1955."

The story of Moya's own close encounter with a UFO is included among several accounts he gave of his experiences as an Air Force fireman. Some incidents he reported include gruesome details of charred bodies, "roasted and cooked like marshmallows," in one instance. But the most intriguing story he told was of an object he saw in the sky eight years after the fabled crash of 1947.

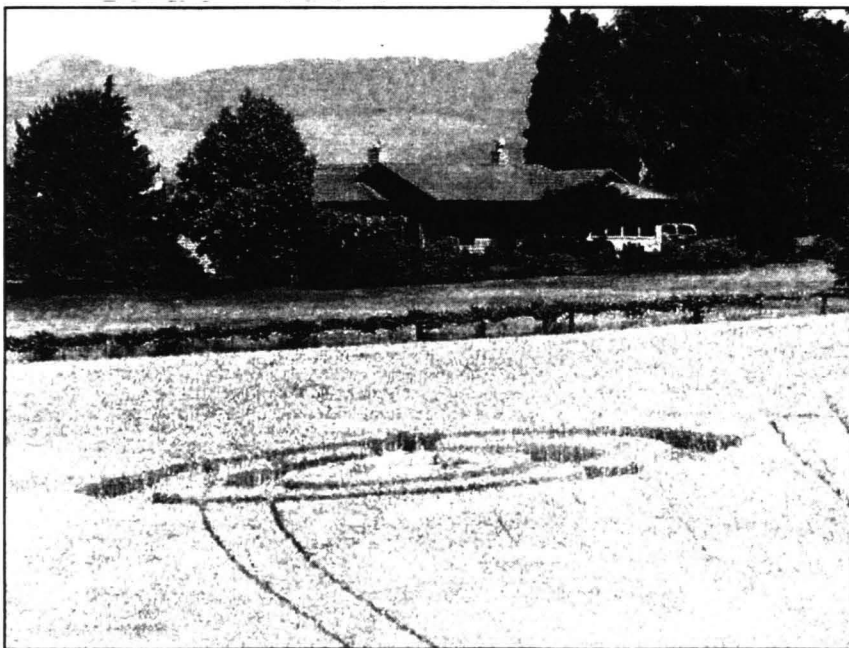
From the affidavit:

"In 1955 while on duty, with other personnel, without warning we noticed an unidentified circular object standing immobile for two hours over Walker Air Force Base, about 100,000 feet high. The on-duty radar controller told me the object was not a balloon. He ordered me to say, if I was asked, that the mysterious object was not a balloon."

In 1995, when the affidavit was taken, Moya was asked to draw a picture of what he saw. Based on Moya's account and the drawing he made, it seems pretty clear how Moya felt about the existence of UFOs and passed it down in the family history for later generations to read.

Meanwhile, the Air Force is sticking with its story — the object hovering over Roswell for two hours in 1955 — it was a weather balloon.

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - July 8, 1997 CR: D. Smith



Associated Press

### Going in circles

Mary Ann Koch of Stayton thinks that this crop circle she found last week in a field east of Salem is the first to be documented in Oregon. Koch said the geometrical formation is 50 to 60 feet across and does not appear to be man-made.

# Alien report debunked by retired Cibola County Army officer

By Trish Choate  
Grants Bureau

CIBOLA COUNTY — Three men clad in military-style clothing thrust arms around each other. Their grins said the photographer was in on the picture's playful prank.

You see, human arms and counterfeit limbs layer upon each other in the photo snapped in the 1950s at Holloman Air Force Base. Two youthful lieutenants flank drop-

dummy Sierra Sam, embracing the counterfeit in an image quickly becoming symbolic of the debunking of the Roswell UFO crash.

One of the men — yes, one of the real ones — retired to Cibola County after a successful Air Force career. Retired Lt. Col. Raymond A. Madson was project officer for legitimate dummy-drop tests during the 1950s.

Madson and his projects figure in a just-released military report contending the 1947 UFO alien

crash is a layering, blurring and interbreeding of top-secret facts and public misconceptions. The result spawned fictions that, well, only a dummy would embrace wholeheartedly.

But Madson sees plenty of holes in author Capt. Ken McAndrews' explanations. In *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*, Eyewitnesses and the flimsiness of the military's explanation as it applies to the projects he was involved with at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and Holloman in New Mexico him have him doubting.

"I don't buy it. I heard about the space aliens in my first tour at Patterson between 1956 and 1960," Madson said. "I didn't pay a lot of attention at that time because the climate at that time was you didn't ask questions."

Believers, some of whom are in Roswell now celebrating the crash's 50th anniversary, say a UFO went down in early July on a ranch near Roswell. Alien bodies spilled out of the strange craft. Then the military stepped in and engineered a cover up while studying the craft and aliens on the quiet. Debunkers like McAndrews say, of course, that's bunk. And McAndrews asserts that those believers, over time, somehow confused the dummies in Madson's tests with aliens. Their memories played tricks on them, turning 200-pound, 6-foot counterfeit men into 4-foot, childlike, aliens.

I just don't think so, Madson says.

The dummy drops began in 1953, and Madson was involved in them from 1956 to 1960. The drops were part of an Air Force project to find a way to get pilots parachuting from high altitudes down safely. The trick was to stabilize the pilot as he was falling in the cold, oxygen-starved atmosphere until he could get low enough to survive the shock

of opening his parachute.

Project officer Madson traveled from Wright Patterson to Holloman in Alamogordo to do the tests. For projects High Dive and Excelsior, he engineered many drops — a high number unsuccessful — with crude dummies, with the more sophisticated Sierra Sams — a \$3,800 dummy — and with then a cheaper but still manlike dummy. They were floated up and gotten into the air by other means for the drops.

"Reading the launch records," he said while flipping through one of two reports he wrote, "we had a lot of damn failures."

Still, drop coordinators usually found the dummies quickly afterward, and the military even offered a \$25 reward for lost dummies and advertised in local media when equipment was lost, Madson said.

That blows another hole in the Air Force explanation.

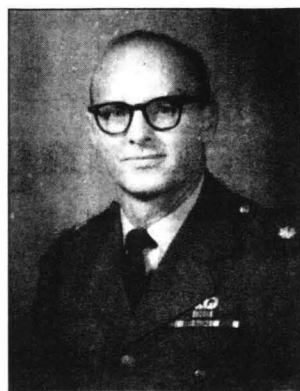
"Our project was not classified," he said. "There was nothing secret about it."

On the other hand another endeavor that Air Force officials say added to the myth — Project Mogul — was classified, Madson said. In that project, balloons were tied together and sent up into the atmosphere to monitor nuclear testing.

Madson said McAndrews interviewed him while he was writing the recent report.

"Never during this time were 'aliens' or 'flying saucers' a part of my project," Madson said in a witness statement included in the report. He goes on to deny that anyone in the government ever threatened him to keep quiet about anything.

Perhaps threats weren't really necessary for him or anyone else.



Raymond Madson

Madson said rumors were persistent at Wright Patterson that there was "a very secure building" where the "little green men" were kept. He didn't ask about the aliens because a person was supposed to mind his own business and not inquire into things not concerning him.

Madson also cites an eyewitness account from a camper near the alleged crash site who told McAndrews about seeing the small alien bodies and watching the military swarm around the wreckage. The man even told the author that he had two large pieces of a mysterious shiny metal that straightened itself back out after it was wadded up. The man's car was later stolen, along with the metal.

But for McAndrews, the UFO hoo-haw is a "compilation of many verifiable events" that are all outside the realm of alien spacecraft.

Maybe the truth is that right now, only a dummy would say he or she knows for sure what happened. Madson certainly hasn't closed the Roswell case in his mind, as McAndrews apparently has.

"I don't necessarily disagree with his conclusions," Madson said. "But I'm not convinced."



Courtesy Photo

First Lieutenant Eugene Schwatz, left, takes a smoke break with Sierra Sam and then Lt. Raymond A. Madson at Holloman Air Force Base at Alamogordo. A Sierra Sam dummy cost about \$4,000 and was used in dummy drops in the 1950s.

## Former Residents Still Find Beauty In Extraterrestrials

By Jane Wyckoff

Extraterrestrials, mysterious spacecraft and a convention of believers in interplanetary travel are nothing new to Howard and Connie Menger, the former High Bridge couple who for 40 years have told stories of their own experiences with other worlds.

Forty years ago Mr. Menger gained notice nationwide with his accounts of meeting alien beings, and he held an East Coast Interplanetary Convention on a farm he owned in Tewksbury Township.

It wasn't on the scale of the crowds of UFOlogists who gathered this summer at Roswell, N.M., on the 50th anniversary of the supposed crash of a space ship manned by creatures with big eyes and big heads.

The Mengers, who live in semi-retirement in Vero Beach, Fla., did not bother to attend that get-together.

"Roswell is a mystery," Mrs. Menger said the other day. And visitors from space don't look like that, according to Mr. Menger's accounts, which picture them as beautiful creatures resembling handsome humans, very likely related to inhabitants of Earth.

Extraterrestrials do not look like the giant insects and other weird creatures of recent Hollywood movies, either, said Mrs. Menger, who is also skeptical of scary tales of forcible abduction by aliens, "That's fantasy," she said.

What happened, or may have happened, at Roswell "happened at the time of the Cold War," and could have involved America's own "experimental crafts," Mrs. Menger said. In any case, the government "could not let people know, for security reasons."

The Mengers do plan to go to Europe in the fall to speak to a federation of people interested in alien contacts and interplanetary travel. The Mengers' 1991 book, "The High Bridge Incident," has been translated into German, and Europeans have told the couple, "Your little community is very well known."

That would be High Bridge, where Mr. Menger grew up, and where, by his account, he met his first space alien when he was 10 years old — an "angelic" and "exquisite" being, who returned to him later when he was an



Connie and Howard Menger

adult, and brought messages of peace, not space war.

Mr. Menger's claims of such experiences gained national attention in 1956, and he appeared on the Steve Allen television show and late-night New York radio. In July, 1958, he staged his two-day interplanetary convention in Tewksbury, drawing several hundred spectators, who saw photos and movies about "flying saucers" and other craft.

Mr. Menger at that time said "saucers" did not describe the spacecraft he had seen. He showed Polaroid snapshots, that he said were taken near Route 31, of a glowing, bell-shaped object.

Mr. Menger wrote a book about his experiences called "From Outer Space to You," and it is still listed with Internet web pages and news groups about space travel and UFOs.

Mr. Menger ran a sign-painting business in Hunterdon and Somerset counties and, now in his 70s, continues that work part-time in Florida.

The Mengers say beings from other planets have far more advanced technology than the methods American science has used to put men on the moon and a tiny rover vehicle on Mars.

They are not surprised that no one has found signs of existing life out there. As Mr. Menger told *The Democrat* on the eve of the Apollo moon mission in 1969, Martian colonists already knew of our plans through radio signals and "cleared away every trace of their civilization."

POST GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, PA - July 6, 1997



BRIAN O'NEILL

## UFO bright in his mind

Jim Romansky was only a couple of hours back from Latrobe Hospital, where he'd had a kidney removed in a winning battle with cancer, when I called him last week.

He answered with a strong voice that belied his recent ordeal. When I brought up the recent Air Force report on the "flying saucer" that crashed in Roswell, N.M., 50 years ago this month, Romansky fairly spat his reaction.

"It's a joke," he said.

The military explained last month that top-secret balloons and plastic research dummies combined with the unreliable human memory to produce the greatest UFO fable of them all, the alien landing in Roswell.

To Romansky, that explanation is nonsense, a cover-up, just another example of a government not willing to come clean about extraterrestrials landing among us.

"One can hit the White House and take out the president and they'd come up with something," Romansky, 51, said.

I'm not a believer in UFOs, but I wasn't there the dreary December evening in 1965 when something dropped out of the sky in a southern Westmoreland County village named Kecksburg. Romansky was.

Only 19 then, he was standing in a relative's yard when he saw a streak in the gray sky. The fire whistle sounded and he took off for the Lloydsville fire hall, where he heard an aircraft was down in Kecksburg. He and a few other firemen headed over to join in a search of the woods.

Romansky's group was the second to come across an acorn-shaped object without wings, doors or windows, but with writing like hieroglyphics.

"I can see that thing sitting in front of me right now," he said. "It's burned in my mind."

The military chased all civilians from the scene that night and, next morning, it hauled away something covered by a tarp. It seemed about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.

Six years ago, Pittsburgh Press reporter David Templeton (now with the Post-Gazette) called the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where the Foreign Technology Division was stationed. Those would be the folks retrieving any space debris, but a spokeswoman told Templeton there was no record of any pickup in Kecksburg. The sky sighting in 1965 was a meteor that was

never found.

That's the official story. But Templeton focused on an intriguing coincidence: Cosmos 96, a malfunctioning Soviet Venus probe, returned to Earth the day of the Kecksburg sighting. That craft was designed to withstand entry into Venus' 900-degree atmosphere and so might have landed here intact.

The U.S. Space Command says Cosmos 96 crashed in Canada 13½ hours before the Kecksburg incident, but suppose that's a cover story? Thirty-two years ago, we were in the middle of the Cold War and the space race. A Soviet probe that landed in our lap could tell us much that we'd want to know, and we wouldn't want the other guys to know that we knew. So if people in Kecksburg thought the thing that fell from the sky was a UFO, all the better.

Romansky isn't buying that. He has been shown pictures of Soviet spacecraft, and none were quite like what he saw in the woods in 1965.

"I still feel that what I was involved with was a real UFO," he said. "Something from out there somewhere."

Until the Air Force publishes a sequel to *The Roswell Report*, questions about The Kecksburg Incident will remain. They'll remain after any new report, too, but at least they will be new questions. Such is the nature of an age filled with information, too little of which anyone trusts.



# Forget Roswell; Arizona's UFO Hotbed

By Thomas Ropp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Phoenix — Skies over Arizona have never come under greater national scrutiny.

The state's latest extraterrestrial hubbub began around 8 p.m. March 13 when a V-shaped craft estimated to be a mile long took a stroll over Interstate 17, with stops above Prescott, Phoenix and Tucson. Thousands of non-intoxicated Arizonans reported the sighting to UFO centers, local newspapers and police departments. Their descriptions were remarkably similar, with many people saying they saw lights on the soundless craft.

While much of the attention this year is on the 50th anniversary of the legendary crash of an alleged spaceship in Roswell, N.M., Arizona has been a hotbed of UFO sightings for just as long.

One of the first "saucer" photos was taken in North Phoenix in the late 1940s. Possibly the first alien abduction was reported in Flagstaff in January, 1946. One of the most famous abductions also went down here and was made into a movie called "A Fire in the Sky," too bad to be seen even on video.

In northeastern Arizona UFO sightings reportedly are so common on warm summer evenings that Navajos regularly break out lawn chairs from their pickups and look skyward. Arizona may have even have had its own Roswell.

As the story goes, on a crisp, clear morning in early October, 1947, 22-year-old Selman Graves and his 16-year-old brother-in-law, Bob Malody, were rabbit hunting and exploring mines in what is now known as the Cave Creek Recreational Area north of Phoenix.

At one point Graves and Malody climbed to the top of the most prominent hill in the area and looked south back at the ranch house of their friend Walt Salyer. They could see Salyer's house, his corral and even his water tank. But when Graves looked west of the property he witnessed a scene that made no sense then and still haunts him five decades later.

"What we saw can best be described as a large aluminum dome-shaped thing sitting upright in the desert," Graves said. "I thought it might be some kind of observatory dome, except why would a dome be down at that elevation?"



AP Photo

Frances Barwood, a Phoenix city councilwoman, has asked for an investigation of UFOs by the city. She hasn't seen alien craft but many of her constituents have seen something in sky.

Graves also remembered seeing five men and two trucks near the dome. One of the trucks was of the military type, capable of carrying personnel or equipment. "But I didn't see any equipment like cranes or anything like that," Graves said. "And the men didn't seem to be doing any work. I could not identify a uniform."

Using Salyer's ranch for size and distance perspective, Graves estimated

the dome was about 36 feet in diameter and maybe a mile away.

Fast forward to 1949. Graves is driving by the location where he believes he had seen the dome two years earlier. This time a man on a bulldozer grabs his attention.

"I couldn't figure out what he was doing," Graves said. "First off, he was rather well-groomed for that kind of work, and he seemed to be digging

ditches helter-skelter."

Graves spoke to the bulldozer man when he took a break. He was caught in a lie when he told Graves he had been working in the area for several years.

"Then he laughed and admitted that he had been ordered to just mess up the ground," Graves said. "He said he did a similar job outside Barstow," where ufologists believe another saucer recovery occurred.

The bulldozer man was working in an area that today is known as the Cave Creek Landfill.

Graves never considered he might have witnessed the crash of an extraterrestrial craft until 1952, after he read "Behind the Flying Saucers," a book by pioneer ufologist Frank Scully. In the book, Scully wrote about the Cave Creek incident and cited an informant who told him that two humanoid bodies about four and a half feet tall were retrieved, one sitting inside the craft and the other halfway out of the hatch.

Today, Graves is a quiet, thoughtful man who looks on every day as a "fabulous adventure." He has lived much of his life in Marblehead, Mass., a businessman working for his family's boat building company. Since 1986 he's been back in Arizona.

He has never sought publicity over the Cave Creek incident and has not been secretive either. He said it doesn't bother him if people find his story a little hard to swallow.

Another believer in UFOs is Jim Ossipov, who was a New York City Transit Authority engineer for 25 years before retiring to Tempe in 1991. Now at 69, he's assistant Arizona chapter director of the international UFO organization MUFON (Mutual UFO Network). He is familiar with the Graves case and believes Graves to be sincere.

"From what I've been able to find, Arizona has had 263 legitimate, investigated case sightings since 1946," Ossipov said.

Ossipov and others believe one of the reasons Arizona may be a target for space visitors are the gold and silver concentrations in the state. Many UFO sightings have occurred over areas of high gold and silver concentration such as in Kingman, Oatman and the Superstition Mountains east of Phoenix. Some ufologists believe that extraterrestrials may need these minerals.

## LETTERS

### The 1966 Fort Smith UFOs, seen up close

In 1966, a Missouri-Pacific railroad engineer, brakeman, switchman, conductor and myself, a fireman, on the midnight switch-engine crew, viewed the "famous" Fort Smith UFOs close up.

At the time, I lived one block off Phoenix Avenue, very near the airport. As I pulled to a stop on Phoenix trying to turn left at 11:30 p.m., cars were bumper to bumper as far as the eye could see in either direction.

While driving to work I turned on the radio and dialed in KFSA radio, which had a live remote broadcast emanating from a field at the corner of Phoenix and Greenwood Road overlooking the airport. A very excited announcer was interviewing people on the scene, asking them what they thought the bright objects, performing impossible maneuvers above the airport, were.

Arriving at the switch-engine, I found part of the crew standing on top of the box-cars staring into the star-lit sky listening to KFSA on a portable radio. I climbed on the switch-engine and talked to the engineer, who was standing outside on the walkway. We excitedly discussed the events of the evening when two of the UFOs appeared, hovering above the KFSA radio and TV tower on top of the Southwest American newspaper building.

Not taking my eyes off the two objects hovering over the TV tower. (Note: Floodlights on top of the building illuminating the tower and the KFSA logo were reflecting off the bottom of these UFOs.) I asked the engineer: "What do you judge their size to be?" He said: "About 60 feet across."

Moments later, the UFOs grew very bright and shot off at unbelievable speed in a southwesterly direction. The other UFOs talked about on the radio repeated the process.

TOM ALVERSON  
Barling

DAILY NEWS, New York, NY - July 13, 1997

## Hey, we gotcha UFOs right here in the city

By ANNE E. KORNBLUT

Daily News Staff Writer

One woman spotted a white flying saucer in 1947. Two more saw a flaming orange UFO in 1977.

And in 1989, yet another claimed aliens plucked her from bed.

All three incidents took place in the same town, but instead of a remote desert enclave, it was New York City — where the number of UFOs called in to 911 annually is enough to lend credibility to the movie "Men In Black."

And in the season of Mars landings, alien movies and Roswell reunions, these close encounters remain among the city's most famous.

The most outrageous incident took place on Nov. 30, 1989, when Linda Cortile claimed she was snatched from her Manhattan apartment overlooking the Brooklyn Bridge. Dozens of commuters said they saw a bright light in the sky at the time.

A much earlier encounter was easier to understand.

One night in 1947, hundreds of New Yorkers jammed police and the Brook-

lyn Navy Yard switchboards to report a bright light. Fifty years later, Anne Fay is still transfixed by the incident.

Fay, a Jackson Heights housewife, had gone out for some fresh air when she spotted a "big, bright globe" over a row of single-family homes.

"It glowed with light," said Fay, who lived on 86th St. between 30th and 31st Aves. "It seemed as if it were hovering over the houses across the street."

"There were no little green men dancing or anything — it was circular on the bottom. And I wasn't the least bit afraid. The feeling of peace that came from it was something I will never forget."

Weeks later, experts came up with a theory: The gigantic orb may have been an aluminum balloon used by pilots to determine wind direction. But Fay, 84, who has survived cynics' taunts for decades, still thinks it was extraterrestrial.

"What else could it be?" she asked. A second famous — but more terrifying — incident took place on Staten Island 30 years later, when two student

nurses encountered what appeared to be a bright orange saucer gliding across Hylan Blvd.

Diane Diaz and Toni Corbo were driving home from a diner at 1:20 p.m. on Nov. 19, 1977, when they spotted the bright light "bopping up and down."

"My girlfriend almost drove off the road," Diaz recalled last week. "It was bright yellowy-orange, and it glowed so much we couldn't look directly at it. Terrified is not the word."

The women, then in their 20s, flagged down a patrol car. The two surprised cops followed the glowing light all the way to New Jersey.

Police reports, Air Force investigations and dozens of media interviews were followed by weeks of mocking.

"My family thought I was crazy," Diaz said. "My brothers tortured me."

But they also got hundreds of calls from supportive New Yorkers confirming what Diaz had suspected.

"People understood what we were going through," Diaz said. "They had seen the same thing."

# Sci-fi writer's tales: cult connection or vivid imagination?

By MICHAEL CABBAGE  
Staff Writer

Columnist George Will has made a career of grilling Washington insiders on ABC's *This Week*, but this guest was different:

Lee Shargel, a Lauderdale science-fiction writer, was supposed to have inside knowledge of the Heaven's Gate suicides. He also claimed to have met dolphin-like aliens whose touch left him with a heart-shaped mark.

"I want to know what you believe," Will demanded. "Do you believe, or have you in fact been marked on your chest by one of these dolphin creatures from

the planet Chulos?"

"Well, I have a mark on my chest that looks like a heart," Shargel replied.

"How did you get it?" Shargel said, "It's a very long story," Shargel said, "and I don't think we have enough time to discuss it."

During the past year, Shargel has made lots of claims: That he used to work at NASA. That Marshall Applewhite of the Heaven's Gate cult anointed Shargel as his successor before the group committed mass suicide. That Applewhite gave him a sort of hieroglyphic treasure map showing where \$500,000 was hidden.

Many of the people who could corroborate

Shargel's link with the cult have moved on to the "next level above human." Most of the claims, in fact, appear false. Shargel says his doubters are simply wrong.

"There are a lot of people who would love to slay me," he said. "I don't care what they say."

Only a few months ago, Shargel was a far-out UFO researcher, promoting an obscure science-fiction novel with stories of his encounter with a race of dolphinoid aliens. Since the Heaven's Gate suicides, he has been on *Nightline*, *This Week*, MSNBC, all three network morn-



Photo courtesy of MSNBC

Lee Shargel claims Heaven's Gate leader Applewhite appointed him as his successor.

ing shows — more than a dozen appearances in all to tell his stories.

One of these tales, about space creatures and Comet Hale-Bopp, was what brought him and Applewhite together, Shargel says.

Some cult members believed that a spaceship filled with friendly aliens was following the comet. Coincidentally, Shargel published a novel last year, *Voice in the Mirror*, describing how friendly aliens — dolphin beings from Chulos — traveled behind the comet to zap bad aliens and bring humankind a gift of peace and love.

"[Applewhite] seemed to think I had been given a wonderful gift," Shargel said, "a gift of prophecy, and that my prophecy was outlined in the book."

Shargel says he wants nothing to do with the cult. But the connection catapulted him into the national spotlight overnight.

The television appearances haven't hurt sales of *Voice in the Mirror*, which is expected to enter its third printing soon. Before Heaven's Gate, the 46-year-old New York native was relegated to hyping his book before alien abductees and other assorted truth-seekers on the UFO convention circuit. His act was a showstopper.

As former NASA scientist Dr. Lee Shargel — NASA says it had never heard of him — he would describe how three Chulosian dolphin beings appeared to him over the California desert, floating down in bubbles of water like Glinda the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. One touched his chest, he would say, leaving a heart-shaped blemish that Shargel allowed audiences to inspect.

UFO researchers wondered aloud why the blemish so closely resembled a birthmark. Other convention-goers occasionally expressed concern about Shargel's secretiveness over his NASA background.

"There's no reason to hide that information," said Lisa Harvey, a Southern Californian who says she communicates with light beings from the fifth dimension. "That would give you credibility."

Shargel says his connection with the cult began in December, when he received the first of four phone calls from Applewhite. Applewhite had heard Shargel on Art Bell's nationally syndicated late-night radio show, a fringe forum on the paranormal.

"[Applewhite] explained to me that he ran a cybermonastery near San Diego," Shargel said. "He called me three times after that, to ask about meeting me in Nevada at a conference there."

In January, at the Sixth Annual International UFO Congress in Laughlin, Nev., Shargel says Applewhite and 38 other cult members filled the front row for his lecture.

"They liked my way of looking at things," Shargel said. "They looked relatively normal to me, except they all had the same haircut."

Bob Brown, the conference's organizer, remembers things differently. He says none of the cult

showed up.

"We had a camera mounted above that also caught part of the audience," Brown said. "The same people in the front row were the ones who were there every day."

On March 15, Shargel says, he was the last person outside Heaven's Gate to see Applewhite alive. Shargel was in Southern California for a book-signing and lecture at Heaven On Earth, a metaphysical bookstore in Encinitas, near the cult's rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe.

According to Shargel, a sickly Applewhite attended, accompanied by a dozen other members. Before leaving, the cult leader gave Shargel a page of Egyptian and Hopi hieroglyphics, a picture of an alien and a tubular chime in a wooden case.

"We never saw any of those people in our store," said Cheryl Phibbs, the bookstore's owner.

After learning of the suicides, Shargel called the television networks and told his story. Hours later, he was on *Nightline*, telling a nationwide audience that Applewhite was dying of liver cancer. News of a possible reason for the suicides spread like wildfire.

Three days later, Applewhite's autopsy revealed no trace of cancer. But Shargel was in greater demand than ever.

During the following weeks, Shargel became a fixture on the airwaves. He spoke with grieving cult members' families. He analyzed Heaven's Gate's inner workings. He described the group's admiration for him and his book.

When another cult member, Wayne Cooke, committed suicide in May, Shargel was called on again to offer insight. Shargel said he had received a letter from Cooke.

Never mind that part of the postmark appeared to have been erased and the return address bore someone else's name. That other name was an alias, Shargel explained.

"*Voice in the Mirror* is the new prophecy," the letter said. "[Applewhite] asked you to pick up the baton and lead the others. Do it now."

During Shargel's most recent national appearance, on MSNBC on May 8, he revealed that after weeks of study, with the help of an Egyptologist, he had decoded the page of hieroglyphics that Applewhite gave him. It was a treasure map for locating a half-million dollars buried in the Arizona desert. The money was to be used to gather former group members and continue Applewhite's work.

There were further revelations. Shargel said the San Diego Police Department had sent him photocopies of three pages from Applewhite's diary. Some entries offered proof of Applewhite's phone calls. But there was a problem.

"He didn't get anything from us, and we're the only investigating agency," said Lt. Jerry Lipscomb of the San Diego County Sheriff's Office. "Nor have we seen the name of Lee Shargel or the name of his book in anything we have."

Shargel also claimed MSNBC used a handwriting analyst to verify that cult member Cooke

wrote the letter that Shargel has.

Officials at the network say that isn't true. Still, they defend their decision to put Shargel on the air. MSNBC spokeswoman Lauren Leff said the network independently confirmed his link to the cult.

## Before Heaven's Gate, Shargel was relegated to hyping his book before assorted truth-seekers on the UFO convention circuit.

"We let the public decide on these things," Leff said. "We were comfortable with our report."

Others are less comfortable. Bookstore owner Cheryl Phibbs said several television shows called her, wanting to confirm Shargel's story about meeting with Applewhite. Phibbs remembers that producers didn't want to hear what she had to say and put Shargel on the air.

Bob Brown, the UFO conference organizer, told the same story.

"I never had much faith in media," Brown said. "Now I have none. Our congress and the UFO groups scrutinize the wild ass speakers we put on more than the so-called mainstream media has Shargel."

Amid all this, Shargel keeps lecturing and plugging his book.

Recently, he was at the Whole Life Expo near Los Angeles, where he competed for attention with spirit channelers, time travelers and people in contact with Pleiadian star beings.

He had predicted 30 or so cult members would meet with him at the conference. None did, at least not while a reporter was there on Saturday for Shargel's lecture and workshop.

"They were here [Friday]," Shargel said. A cult member named Theo and his girlfriend had visited briefly, he claimed.

At his exhibit booth, sales were slow.

Next to Shargel, pitchsters were hawking a yellow pyramid tent used for meditating. Across the way, a man with rasta curls was blowing a five-foot-long wind instrument called a dirigeedoo near a crowd man's face.

As a crowd stood mesmerized by the rasta man and his blissed-out customer, Shargel looked wistfully from his deserted booth.

"That dirigeedoo thing is fascinating," Shargel said. "I could get into that."

"Maybe that will be my next metamorphosis, bringing peace and light to people from the end of a pipe. You never know what I might morph into next."

Special correspondent Jessica Siegel in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

PRESS ENTERPRISE, Riverside, CA - July 21, 1997

## Nonflying disk features UFOs

By Roy Bassave  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Fifty years ago, something came down from the sky outside the small town of Roswell, N.M., leading the U.S. government to issue a press release stating that a "flying disc" had crashed.

That release was almost immediately retracted, the unidentified object labeled a weather balloon, and a veil hastily drawn over the whole affair. For years, the incident at Roswell has captivated people's imaginations — and fueled conspiracy theories.

Interest in UFOs and extraterrestrials continues; witness the popularity of such entertaining fare as "Independence Day" and "The X-Files."

Many Earthlings like myself want to believe something exists out there, but I must admit that, like many people, I am skeptical.

So with a huge grain of salt I looked over a CD-ROM called "Incident at Roswell," released by OmniMedia, a British multimedia publisher.

Once this nonflying disk is load-

ed into your computer, you can access segments of a TV special that aired first in Great Britain and then, in 1995 and 1996, on the Fox network as "Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction." The CD-ROM also contains a 20-minute black-and-white video — portions of which were on the TV special — that purports to show the autopsy of an alien crash victim. (Warning: The autopsy footage is extremely graphic and is not for children.)

The program features a VHS-style control bar, which allows for freeze-frame viewing of the film — if you're so inclined — and direct access of specific clips.

In addition, the CD-ROM offers links to Roswell-related Web sites; film that's said to show part of the wreckage, strange metal that could be crushed by hand but was not marked or broken; partially blacked-out documents released under the Freedom of Information Act, and discussion of more documents that are said to be missing; and alternative scenarios about what might have happened at Roswell on Independence Day 1947 — still one of the most sensational mysteries of our time.

Details: OmniMedia; \$19.95, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Macintosh.

OLYMPIAN, Olympia, WA - Aug. 9, 1997

## Man gets strange bright light on video

■ Not just a star? The pulsating light was below Orion's Belt on the left side.

By Linda Tarr  
The Olympian

A bright stellar light drew Shelton-area resident Eric Rehwaldt's eye early Thursday morning, then led him to police the following day.

Rehwaldt didn't have a spiritual experience, but he says he definitely saw something weird enough to record with his Sharp Viewcam.

Nick Patterson, chief of detectives for the Mason County Sheriff's Department, said police aren't officially investigating the strange light, but he does agree that what Rehwaldt taped is strange.

He also said he asked someone at McChord Air Force Base informally to look into the matter.

"The tape appears to be authentic, but I don't know what it was. I would hate to speculate," Patterson said.

Rehwaldt said he was standing outside his home on

Gosser Road, northeast of Shelton in the Oakland Bay area, at about 12:45 a.m. Thursday. He saw something that looked like an extremely bright star below Orion's Belt on the left side. It was aligned with the belt.

He continued to watch the light, which he said pulsed and moved. It would stay in the same area, but moved "with no rhyme or reason" in all directions, he said.

After about 20 minutes, Rehwaldt ran into the house to grab his video camera.

As he watched through the lens, the light would come at him rapidly, then move away. It also continued to move in other directions, he said.

"The weird thing was the closer it got, the less intense the light got, and when it moved away it got brighter," Rehwaldt said.

He also noticed the light was flat on the top and bottom and rounded on the sides.

"I'd love for them to say this was an airplane for McChord, but I really don't think that's the case," Rehwaldt said.

Patterson agreed. "This lasted too long to be a plane," he said.

"It sounds a little strange," said Bob Bown, president of the Southwest Washington Astronomical Society. "But not having seen it, I can't really offer an explanation."

A duty officer who normally takes such reports at McChord could not be reached for comment late Friday.



# Crop circle mystery lives with Paulding residents

"...the sphere, which measured 93 feet in diameter, was under investigation by agencies from across the country."

Home  
spun

By Jim Ingham  
Staff Writer



PAULDING — As waving fields of golden wheat ripen for harvest in the northwest Ohio countryside, several Paulding County families are reminded of an event that took place last summer which still leaves some questions in their minds.

It was late in the day on July 4, 1996, when Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere, of Oakwood, were flying over fields farmed by the Arend brothers when they spotted what appeared to be a crop circle in the wheat field. Within days, the sphere, which measured 93 feet in diameter, was under investigation by agencies from across the country.

Thousands of curious people visited the Arend farm to see the spectacle and form their own opinions about what caused the phenomenon.

"I still wonder what it was and why it happened to us," says Darcy Arend, who developed a science fair project as a result of the event. "I look back at it now and I think, 'Wow, why did this happen to us?'"

And while no one has been able to solve the puzzle with 100-percent certainty, reports returned earlier this spring from BTL Research Team, laboratories that have specialized in analyzing crop circles worldwide from Cambridge, Mass., do suggest a possible

cause of the circle.

A research team headed by Dr. W.C. Levensgood and Nancy Talbott initially drew wheat and soil

samples from the circle and surrounding area last summer. Subsequent samples were taken for the next several months.

In the final analysis, Talbott suggests the presence of a complex, turbulent, intensely energetic atmospheric energy system to be the cause of the Paulding County circle.

"It certainly wasn't people stomping about in the fields with plants and boards," Talbott says.

Other significant formations occurred near Elida, Columbia City, Ind., and Butte, Neb. Late in the fall, a farmer harvesting a corn field in Grant County, Ind., discovered a circle believed to have been formed in August.

For her science project, Darcy Arend, planted wheat taken from plants inside the circle and wheat taken from plants outside the circle. To her surprise, the wheat grew better from samples taken outside the circle.

"The hypothesis was that the wheat



Darcy Arend

## residents

from the circle would grow better. It was wrong," explains Arend. "Wheat from the crop circle did not grow better. In fact, it did not grow as fast."

Arend's cousin, Nicholas, performed a similar project with soybeans. He also sent soil samples to a laboratory for professional analysis. To his surprise, soil taken from inside the circle was richer, but the soybeans grew better in the soil taken from outside the circle.

"I look back at all of this now and I'm just in awe," says Nicholas. "You always hear about things like that happening to somebody else. I still can't believe that it happened to us."

One family member, Jackie Arend, who underwent major surgery at Shriners' Hospital in Chicago used the public's interest in the phenomenon for the good of others. She had T-shirts designed and sold them, donating all profits, which were more than \$4,000, to hospital research.

"In some ways I'm glad these things happened so that we could help the hospital," says Jackie. "It gave us a chance to give back to the hospital for all that they did for us."

"It was an exciting walk in fame," adds Jackie Arend. "Sometimes now it seems kind of creepy. It was a lot of fun. This summer seems kind of boring."

One thing community members will never forget is the graciousness and hospitality shown by the Arend family during the days they were converged on by national media and more than 8,000 individuals who walked on their property to view the circle.

Rev. Cleo Schmenk, of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulding, believes the spirit exhibited by family members should be the real remembrance when recalling the days of the crop circle.

"I was personally edified by the way they handled all of this," says Rev. Schmenk. "It could have been really troublesome, but they made it a rather pleasant and enjoyable experience for all of us."

"They didn't take advantage of it or profit from it. They accepted donations for a very good cause," Schmenk adds.

"They always viewed it in a very objective manner. The hospitality they showed is something we should all remember and appreciate."



Jackie Arend

## Unsolved case still mystery

Incident in past sounds like episode out of the "X Files"

By KEITH RYDBERG

CLARINDA -- With the 50th anniversary of the landing of what some perceive was an alien spacecraft in Roswell, N.M., much speculation has been given on the existence of aliens. However, many longtime Page County residents may also remember a similar incident more than 30 years ago that remains unsolved to this day.

In 1965, Ronald Johnson of rural Clarinda had an experience that would seem worthy of "The X-Files" science fiction TV show.

Johnson said in the middle of April of that year, a strange craft landed in a fenced area that was 25 square feet long, something Johnson said could not have been accomplished with conventional aircraft.

According to Johnson, the craft was approximately 40 feet long with a 10-foot vertical rod on each side of the craft with blue lights on them. He said the craft had a brilliant red light "that turned the whole house red" and a bottom that was spinning very fast. After noticing the light, he observed the craft, which, he said, took off at a vertical angle a short time later.

"I didn't see it at first, but when it landed, the whole house vibrated and it sounded like someone was firing a shotgun," Johnson said. "It didn't look homemade. I don't know of any aircraft then or now that looks like that. I think it had to be a UFO."

Vernon Lundgren, former neighbor of Johnson's, said Johnson called him the next day to get his opinion on what the craft was. He said he observed tracks at the landing site which he de-

scribed as egg-shaped. In his opinion, he said there were other tracks which seemed to resemble staircases.

Lundgren said one of the theories was that the craft was constructed by pranksters who wished to play an elaborate practical joke. He said the main evidence for this was spiral-shaped etchings in an electric pole, which led many to believe the craft ran on electrical power from the line.

"Maybe they needed to charge their batteries," Lundgren joked.

Dick Hunt, magistrate judge for Fremont County, served as deputy sheriff for Page County at the time of the incident. He said he was also called to investigate the incident the day after it happened and found signs that something round had landed in the fenced area with circular tracks made by whatever it was.

"It almost looked like it had been mowed; the grass was burnt close to the ground," Hunt said. "There were also these whip-like extensions burned in the ground from where the ship apparently landed. At the time, it caused quite a bit of publicity."

The incident apparently generated publicity on a nationwide level as well.

Johnson said a few days afterward, he was approached by a man who said he was from Washington, D.C., who asked him to describe the incident. According to Johnson, the man asked very detailed questions for several hours but seemed reluctant to identify himself or any affiliation with a government agency.

Perhaps the strangest aspect of all is Johnson's claim that creatures did exit the spacecraft and examine the ground for a short while before taking off. He said he could see the creatures through the window and on the ground. Johnson said the closest thing the creatures resembled was a cow with the same type of body and walking on all fours.

Although it should be noted no one saw the creatures except Johnson, evidence of strange footprints imbedded in the ground were noticed by Lundgren and Johnson the next day. Lundgren said whatever left the prints appeared to have three toes, two in front and one in back.

Hunt said the case was never officially solved because of lack of evidence. He added the only thing he could determine was that something round did land on Johnson's farm.

"It was one of the first cases I handled and one of the strangest," Hunt said.

## LETTERS

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 12, 1997

## Why would alien spacecraft want to visit?

Re your question about UFOs: Most people have seen one, since the literal meaning of UFO is Unidentified Flying Object. The term has, of course, become synonymous with "flying saucers."

Is there such a thing as alien spacecraft visiting here? Probably. Why not? Our own spacecraft visit alien worlds.

To say we can't be visited would be naive. A civilization with the technological ability to visit us would have to be advanced. Our own history shows that in 10 years' time we went from putting a man in space to putting one on the moon.

If we are being visited, it is most probably out of curiosity and not to make contact. What could they possibly gain by contact? If they are more advanced, there isn't much to gain from us on a technological scale.

Maybe they are just waiting for us to catch up to them.

Whatever happened at Roswell was important enough for people to be threatened with their lives. Would any kind of balloon

be that important? And if so, why is it just an obscure footnote today? How many other events have occurred to warrant such treatments?

Is there a government cover-up of the whole issue? Probably, but not to the extent people seem to believe. Most likely there are only a select few who have known from the beginning what is going on.

In light of Watergate, Iran-Contra and every other scandal of the week, is there any wonder people don't believe the government on this or anything else?

It would be dangerously naive not to believe in at least the possibility that someone else exists out there and could be flying our skies. Too many photos and too much tape exists of something up there. I'd much rather believe that they are out there and be proved wrong than believe there's nobody and find out there is.

J. CARTER WATTS  
Pine Bluff

# **ROSWELL, SCHMOZWELL. WHILE THE NEW MEXICO TOWN CELEBRATES (AND THE FEDS DEBUNK) ITS CLAIM TO FAME, WE PAUSE TO OBSERVE ORANGE COUNTY'S OWN UFO AFFAIR —THE MYSTERIOUS POLAROID OF MR. REX HEFLIN.**



In a photograph from 1965, Rex Heflin examines a Polaroid he shot of an unidentified flying object in Orange County. Above, a copy of one of his Polaroids.

Photo and copy by CLAY MILLER

**T**he Mutual UFO Network guy in Texas — the one who knows everything — seemed a little put off when asked if there was much exciting going on in Southern California, you know, UFO-wise.

You guys, he harrumphed, were the center of the UFO universe in 1965. He could have added: What does it take to satisfy you people?

Really? The center of the UFO universe?

Just ask Rex. If you can find him. He took pictures, the disembodied voice said. He has proof. He's famous.

Here is Rex Heflin's story, in his words, set down for posterity a few weeks after he saw ... well, you be the judge.

**Sept. 18, 1965, Santa Ana, Cal.  
Statement by Rex E. Heflin**

I was heading north on Myford Road at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 3, 1965, and was attempting to make radio contact with the Orange County Road Maintenance Superintendent (Mr. Art Ashcraft) regarding tree limbs growing as to obstruct the view of the crossing sign at the rail crossing nearby. About three words were received by our base station on East Fruit Street near Fruit and Grand Avenue in Santa Ana (as told to me later by the Traffic Engineering from Orange County, Mr. Kimmel). I proceeded to try contacting the superinten-

dent of maintenance, however, this attempt also was unsuccessful. The radio went completely dead, no carrier signal (159,000 megacycles) or audio of any kind could be heard. At this time, I became aware of the UFO, however, I thought it was a conventional aircraft.

The UFO moved from my left to in front of me and momentarily hovered there. At this, I grabbed the camera (semiautomatic Model 101 Polaroid) from the seat of the truck and took the first photograph through the windshield of the truck.

The object then moved slowly off to the northeast. I then snapped the second picture through the right-door window (window closed). This is when I saw a rotating beam of light emitting from the center of the UFO on the bottom side. (Light characteristics explained in Figure 2.)

The UFO positioned itself to another angle of view, and I snapped the third picture through the same side window as in picture 2. (Angle of view means it traveled further northeast and showed the upper portion of the craft.)

As the UFO traveled, it maintained a relatively level altitude (150 feet) in relation to the flat terrain, however, the UFO acted similar to a gyroscope when losing its stability. The UFO continued moving away slowly gaining altitude, tipped its top toward me slightly. It seemed to gain stability, then it increased its velocity and altitude more rapidly leaving a deposit

of smoke-like vapor.

The smoke-like vapor was blue-black in color and circular in shape as though it had emitted from the outer ring of the UFO. This doughnut shaped vapor ring disappeared in a northern direction toward Saddleback Mountain (this is known on the maps as Santiago Peak and Modjeska Peak).

At this time, I contacted the Santa Ana Base Radio Station and asked them if they could now copy my transmission. They replied the copy was clear.

The preceding statement is true to the best of my knowledge and dictated to Edward J. Evers in my own words as it happened.

Signed, Rex E. Heflin

■ ■ ■

He wasn't scared. The encounter took maybe 15 seconds. He wasn't even curious. The whole thing was just interesting and — after a couple of interrogations, a random Man in Black buying him drinks, a CIA-linked burglar and the mysterious appearance of a package in a mailbox — rather amusing to Heflin.

If Heflin is famous — and that is somewhat debatable — he says he never meant to be. Wouldn't have liked being famous.

Heflin lives in Northern California, far from the place and the circumstance that made him a household word, provided your household is conversant in UFO lore of 30 years

ago. He's 70, recovering from a mild stroke, says he's old and tired, says it was a long time ago.

But, yeah, it happened just like he said. He didn't know what he had seen and didn't care. He thought it was most probably something from the Marine Air Station a half-mile away. Still, Heflin figured then as he figures now: "If you meant to keep something secret, don't fly out in front of me with a camera."

They — the government mostly — accused him of lying. But he had Polaroids. Tough to modify a Polaroid. "That irritated the hierarchy. I didn't mind. I enjoy it to this day."

But they came after him anyway. "But I came up from old stock. Nothing jarred me too much. They said I was lying. What did they know? They didn't see it."

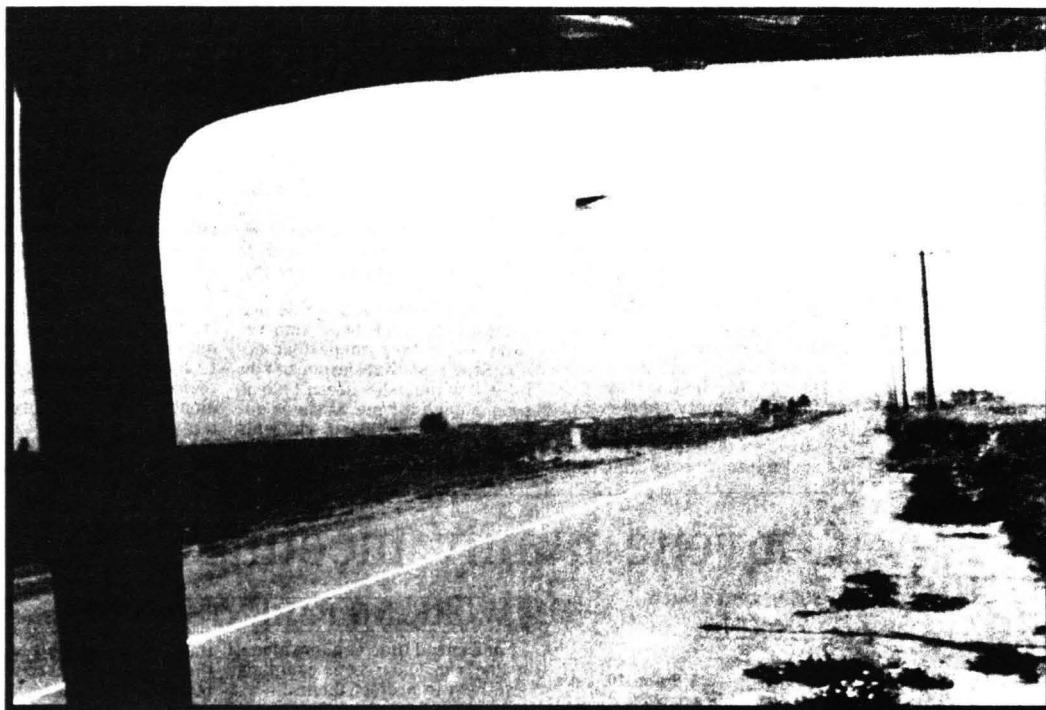
As best as Heflin remembers, here's what happened after noon on Aug. 3. Heflin went back to his office. He told his co-workers what he saw; he handed around the photos. They figured it was an experimental military craft.

He forgot the pictures. Except he told his sister a few weeks later. She took them to the people at the Santa Ana Register on Sept. 17. They — being journalists — got excited.

Heflin explained to Register reporter Frank Hall that the craft "moved from west to east then accelerated about the same speed as a jet

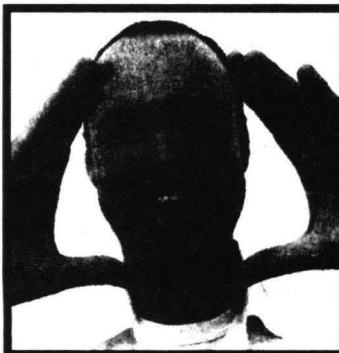
(continued on page 7)





COPY PHOTO, ABOVE, AND PORTRAIT OF REX HEFLIN, BELOW, BY CLAY MILLER

**UFO SIGHTING?** This Polaroid photo taken from Rex Heflin's truck shows the craft, which traveled from west to east.



**'NOTHING JARRED  
ME TOO MUCH.  
THEY SAID I WAS  
LYING. WHAT DID  
THEY KNOW? THEY  
DIDN'T SEE IT.'**

— Rex Heflin

toward Saddleback. The only sound heard was the helicopters at the Santa Ana Marine Corps Air Facility."

He added that a beam of white light rotated underneath the saucer. And he said he would take a lie-detector test if people didn't believe him.

The newspaper folks were the first, Heflin says, to call it a possible UFO.

Then all hell broke loose. John Gray and Ed Evers of NICAP — that's National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon — tracked Heflin down. Eventually Heflin met with the rest of the committee. The committee searched Heflin's background. NICAP was a civilian UFO research group headed by a former Navy physicist. Later, it looked to some folks like it was a CIA front.

Anyway, the group found Heflin to be squeaky clean.

Somebody at El Toro borrowed the photos, analyzed them and concluded the craft was of "unknown origin."

Then Air Force Maj. Hector Quintanilla, the man in charge of Project Blue Book, came to see Heflin. Quintanilla, who wore horn-rimmed glasses and an aggravating air, didn't impress Heflin. On Oct. 26, Quintanilla declared the photos a hoax.

According to the Register at the time: "However, the official report of the staff stopped short of Quintanilla's statement. The report generally discredited the photos by saying that photo analysts estimated that the object shown was only approximately 1 to 3 feet in diameter and 15 feet above the ground as compared to Heflin's estimate that what he photographed was 'about 30 feet in diameter and 8 feet thick and approximately 150 feet off the ground.'"

Heflin sat politely during interrogations but must have frustrated those guys because, he says, he had already told them what he knew: His radio went dead, he saw the craft, he took four pictures. He didn't see people waving from windows on the craft or anything like that.

The Air Force gave the pictures back. NORAD folks came. They were the North American Aerospace Defense Command, the government agency responsible for protecting us from enemy missile or air attack.

Trouble is, says former NICAP member Ann Druffel, they probably weren't really NORAD. They took the pictures and nobody saw them again

until 1993 when Heflin got a call from someone who told him to look in his mailbox. There were the faded Polaroids he hadn't seen for 25 years.

The Register had copied the Polaroids and filed the negatives. Heflin believes they were stolen from the Register offices on Bush, because the negatives were missing when folks looked for them in later years, he says. (Inexplicably, we found them last week, neatly filed where they were supposed to be.)

After the NORAD (or whomever) visit, the Condon Committee, a U.S. Air Force commissioned study of UFOs headed by Dr. Edward Condon of the University of Colorado, got involved. Committee member James Hartman visited the site with Heflin. Hartman hung a lens cap from some fishing line, attempting to duplicate the pictures. That angered Heflin.

"It's the kind of thing he was subjected to for years," Druffel says.

The Condon report came out in 1968 and said maybe Heflin's sighting was a hoax. But they couldn't prove it.

The government had a job to do, Heflin says. So they took to following him. "The Men in Black," he laughs. If they followed too close, "I'd pull into a watering hole. They'd have to buy me a couple of double martinis."

His only regret is that he didn't have color film; the shots would be worth 10 times as much now. If this had been a setup, he says, he would have been better prepared.

Druffel, now a Pasadena researcher of UFO phenomenon, has the photos. Robert Wood, a former aerospace engineer who met Heflin in 1968 when the Condon committee was interviewing him, says Druffel is having the photos analyzed with new two-dimensional, digitally enhancing equipment at California State University, Northridge. (We had some difficulty finding anybody at CSUN who knew what all this was about.) Wood says the photo scan will pick up traces of the smoke trail that Heflin mentioned in 1965 and any air disturbance in the craft's wake.

Druffel is tight-lipped; she wants to publish the work in a scholarly jour-

Heflin sat politely during interrogations but must have frustrated those guys because, he says, he had already told them what he knew: His radio went dead, he saw the craft, he took four pictures.

nal first.

There are no strings on the photographed craft, she emphatically states. None. Zip. Nada. The photos, she adds, will be available to the public sometime. Heflin wants that.

Of course, you can see the pictures on the Internet. On one Website, the case is not listed among 28 famous UFO sightings. On another, Heflin's photo — or a bad copy — is included, along with the warning: Fake. (The guy who runs the Website didn't respond to inquiries about that.)

Anybody who might have explained why, exactly, they consider Heflin's photos a hoax is no longer interested or willing or alive.

Fact is, his pictures are not the best pictures of anything anymore. Video of unexplained lights and unusual flying objects have tended to be more convincing and more glamorous than what Heflin has to offer. Yet, Wood says, there seems to be no good orderly structure to analyze any of the visual artifacts, whether government-sanctioned or not.

That said, consider that the biggest problem with Heflin's photos is not whether there is a string attached to the UFO. It's a question of how tall the telephone poles that appear in the background of the photographs stood in August 1965. (That's important in determining the possible size of the craft and comparing that with Heflin's estimate of its size.)

Wood went out to Myford Road in June. (The road was 20 feet wide in 1965.) The area is now largely developed. But on the side of the road supposedly overflowed by the craft, commerce has taken a holiday. The area — the one near the creek that forms a boundary between Santa Ana and Tustin — looks like it did in Heflin's photos.

The telephone poles are gone. Nobody really thinks that fits in with a larger cover-up conspiracy. Just telecommunications progress.

But Wood, Druffel, Heflin and, perhaps a good portion of America, are not so sure that the rest of the systematic debunking of what happened that one afternoon in Orange County wasn't a little too convenient to be comfortable.

Heflin does think the government didn't want to believe him. He expresses concern that the feds' explanation of what happened to TWA 800 is more than marginally suspect, too.

In 1965, Heflin didn't have an opinion about where that craft came from. Now he does: "I think now that it was from outer space. At the time, it never bugged me. If that were true, though, I guess you'd have to rewrite all the religion, wouldn't you?"

For years, on Rex Heflin's desk at the county transportation office was a little sign that reminded anybody who came near just who they were dealing with.

It read: "I don't have ulcers, I give them."

PATRIOT-NEWS, Harrisburg, PA - July 9, 1997

## 50 years after, Roswell still a cover-up

Fifty years ago history descended upon the desert scrub outside Roswell, N.M. Bemusingly, the U.S. government can't decide what the history is.

Col. William Blanchard of the 509th Bomb Command at Roswell Army Air Field announced the retrieval of a "flying disk." Within the day, Gen. Ramsey declared the device to be a weather balloon and its foil-and-balsa-wood reflector. Already, the government has some explaining to do if its commander of the nation's only A-bomb squadron can't recognize a weather balloon. ("A cover-up," Blanchard retorted.)

In 1994, the story changed again when the USAF wrote off the swirling rumors of extraterrestrial at Roswell to the crash of Project Mogul balloons which monitored Soviet thermonuclear detonations.

Now it's 1997. And the USAF issues its unequivocal absolute "Case Closed" explanation of Roswell, throwing out Mogul in favor of Project Excalibur which had balloons tossing out dummies onto remote private ranchlands.

Implausibly, the USAF press briefing officer stated Excalibur "probably" explains the Roswell incident(s)

a half-century ago. Probably?! They don't yet know?

Where the cartoon (Patriot-News, July 1) begins "The Air Force claims the Roswell 'aliens' were really dummies....," the reference is no less, and likely more applicable to Pentagon strategists who are those who believe Roswell was America's first Close Encounter of the Retrieved Evidence kind.

As philosopher Jean Cocteau noted: "History is a combination of reality and lies. The reality of History becomes a lie." The USAF's various yarns for Roswell may just be the biggest lie our government has ever told.

LARRY E. ARNOLD  
HARRISBURG

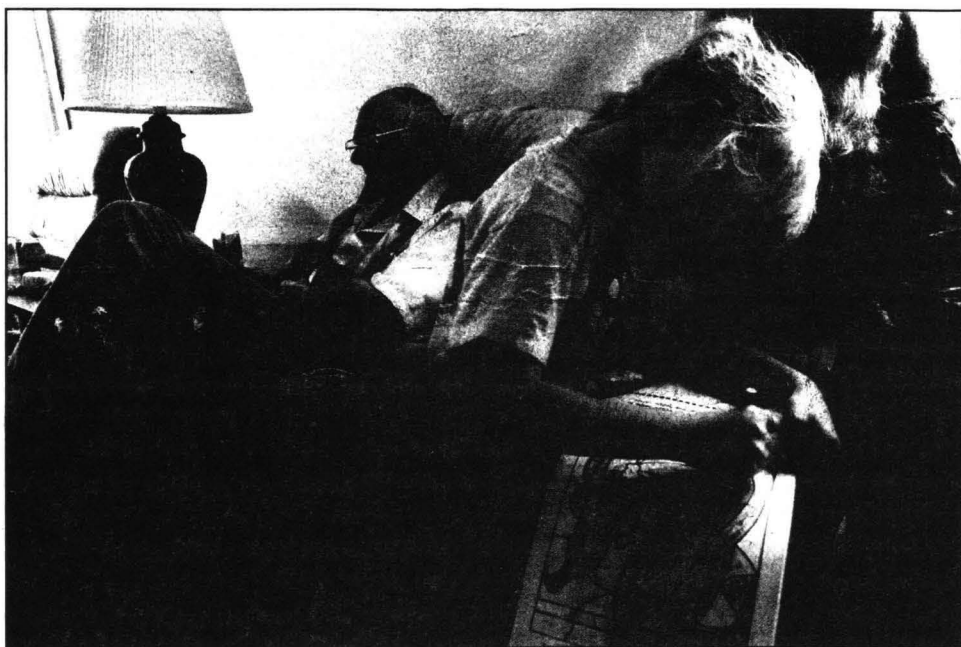
FIFTY YEARS  
OF UFOs:

# The truth is still out there

A glimpse by a pilot launches  
a half-century of saucer sightings  
— and an unending controversy



▲ Paul Trent snapped this famous flying saucer photo on May 11, 1950. A government study of UFOs concluded that the picture had not been doctored. Although some skeptics dismiss it as a hoax, Trent maintains he shot what he saw.



KATHRYN SCOTT/The Oregonian

▲ Farming near McMinnville 47 years ago, Paul and Evelyn Trent witnessed what they maintain was a flying saucer. It's a piece of family history passed down to granddaughter Reannon Gechenour, 6.

By BRYAN DENSON and JIM LONG  
of The Oregonian staff

**F**ifty years ago, a bewildered fire extinguisher salesman named Kenneth Arnold waded into the fury of a noon deadline at Pendleton's daily newspaper and posed an intriguing question:

Was the military testing secret warplanes in the area? Reporter Bill Bequette, eyes on the clock, shrugged.

Arnold explained: He was flying his small plane near Mount Rainier when nine bright objects — shaped like the heel of a Florsheim shoe — scorched in formation along the ice-capped spine of the Cascades. He timed them at better than 1,600 mph — more than twice the speed of the world's fastest airplane.

Bequette, who picked up beer money as a correspondent for The Associated Press, hammered four paragraphs into the AP teletype.

Then he broke for lunch.

It was a feeble beginning for the world's first flying saucer sighting, an event that celebrates its golden anniversary Tuesday. The three-minute glimpse June 24, 1947, anointed the Northwest — home to the Bigfoot mystery — as the launch pad for the modern UFO era.

When Bequette returned to the newsroom that afternoon, he learned he had vastly underestimated his scoop.

"Where have you been?" the receptionist said. "They've been calling from everywhere." New York. Portland. Montreal. They want more, she said. More on the saucers.

"It didn't seem to me to be that big a deal," Bequette, now 79, reminisced from his basement

office in Kennewick, Wash. But a longer story, filed that afternoon, was "like throwing a lighted match into a field of cheatgrass," he said.

During the next half-century, thousands of Americans — one was a Georgia governor named Jimmy Carter — saw UFOs. The hysteria prompted military blunders, cries of government cover-ups, a congressional hearing and a slew of scientific studies. It spawned sensational hoaxes and scores of toys, movies and books, and committed the public to what one researcher called "a morbid national psychology."

It expanded language and intensified a scientific and spiritual debate about alien visits.

And it divided the planet into those who believe and those who don't.

Wondering whether we are alone in the cosmos is a basic question of an intelligent species, said the Rev. Christopher J. Corbally, a Jesuit priest and astronomer at the Vatican Observatory in Arizona.

"When people aren't satisfied with religions, whether they're traditional or otherwise, then they'll cotton onto UFOs," Corbally said.

Although strange craft had been observed on Earth as early as 1594 B.C., the sighting by Arnold — successful businessman, skilled flier, fan of Ike — had timing on its side. America was settling into the postwar technological era of televisions, jet planes and talk of space travel.

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

The lead theory of the time was more sinister than surreal: Given the political climate, many believed flying saucers were experimental aircraft flown by the United States or its new archenemy, the Soviet Union.

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

## 'Roswell Incident' steals show

The uproar that Arnold set off in the Northwest led two weeks later to a flying saucer controversy in New Mexico that

would create its own counterculture of UFO believers.

For the next 50 years, the "Roswell Incident" would grow into a worldwide phenomenon making millions for movie companies, hotel keepers, souvenir peddlers and writers.

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

It was almost forgotten for 30 years, until the National Enquirer resurrected the mystery, inspiring a rash of Roswell conspiracy theories. Freeze-dried aliens were believed to be in government inventory.

On Roswell's 50th anniversary next month, as many as 100,000 visitors are expected in the southeast New Mexico town to celebrate UFOs.

"You can't get a room within 120 miles of Roswell," said Bill Pope, head of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce. More than 10,000 people are camped in motels as far away as west Texas. Others are battling for RV spaces at the Roswell fairground.

The only thing about the Roswell Incident that ufologists and serious researchers can agree on is that something happened — not at Roswell, but at a sheep ranch near Corona, a desert crossroads 75 miles to the northwest.

A sheep ranch manager led Roswell Army Air Field investigators to look at debris that had fallen near his place. Maj. Jesse A. Marcel and Capt. Sheridan Cavitt, intelligence officers for the 509th, picked it up. Cavitt, the only adult witness still alive, was released from his oath of secrecy in 1994 and told Air Force investigators what he really saw: a downed weather balloon.

"Believe me, that's all it was," the retired lieutenant colonel, now 78, told The Oregonian. He described a smattering of tinfoil, balsa sticks, bits of fabric and plastic. He said they threw the stuff in a Jeep, drove back to Roswell and had a beer.

The next morning, they awoke to a mystery that still grips the believing world. Col. William Blanchard, the 509th commander, had released a statement saying that Marcel had captured a flying disc.

Meanwhile, Marcel had flown to Fort Worth, Texas, to deliver his alleged saucer to 8th Air Force headquarters. There, the commanding general's weather officer iden-

tified the litter as "a balloon and a RAWIN (radar reflector) target" despite Marcel's efforts to convince him otherwise. Marcel insisted that notations on some of the target sticks were alien writings.

As recently as 1994, the Air Force reinvestigated the incident at the request of a New Mexico congressman. The inquiry never learned why Blanchard issued the saucer statement but suggested he might have been trying to hide a secret spy program; Project Mogul launched "weather balloons" equipped to read sound waves from a Soviet nuclear explosion.

But Marcel continued to insist, years later, that the ranch debris was a spacecraft. It still makes Cavitt laugh. "You had to know Marcel," he said. "He was a wild Cajun from Louisiana. He made a lot of claims he couldn't back up. He was a one-of-a-kind."

So the Roswell legend rolls on, and grows ever more lucrative.

So far this year, 200,000 tourists have streamed through Roswell's three UFO museums. The annual "Encounter" festival has been expanded for the golden anniversary to include an all-night dance and a space alien vehicle race. Tom Jennings, Roswell's mayor, keeps a bulb-headed alien doll on a chair in his office. It's all just fun, he says.

Others aren't so sure.

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

"We ought to have a national agenda to build scientific literacy into our technological society," he said. "I'm afraid the lay population doesn't understand the difference between credible and incredible information sources. They substitute entertainment for education."

## Snapshot over McMinnville

True believers sought proof.

Kenneth Arnold started to carry a 16mm movie camera in his plane in the hope of capturing a convincing picture of a flying saucer.

Then an Oregon woman looked up.

On the evening of May 11, 1950, Evelyn Trent was crossing the yard of her Bellevue farmhouse, in the lush Willamette Valley, to

feed her rabbits. She glanced skyward and saw what she claims was a magnificent disc hurtling toward the house. Trent, now 71, said she grabbed the Kodak out of the car and handed it to her husband, Paul, who snapped two pictures.

The thing was silver and bronze, she said in a recent interview in the couple's McMinnville apartment. It was soundless, she said, but it kicked up a tremendous wind.

Her husband, a little hard of hearing, rumpled his eyebrows. "What are you talking about?" he said.

"I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE WIND," she said. "After you took the picture of it coming in, and then goin' back out, the wind that came down (had) no motor or no smoke or no nothin' — JUST THE WIND."

"S'all there was," she confided to a visitor. "No motor or sound to it at all."

Paul Trent groaned and stiffened in his recliner. "I told you to forget all about that," he said.

"I know you did," she said. "You told me to forget about it."

Quietly, she added, "We've been bugged so much."

The black-and-white images Paul Trent snapped that day — now engraved in books and magazines and yellowed newspaper pages — almost were relegated to the ranks of a family secret. It was several weeks before the couple finished the roll of film and had it processed.

The snapshots — crisp images of a flying saucer — put the Trents on edge. They figured the military was testing secret aircraft, and their photos might bring them trouble. So, as Paul Trent put it, "I hid 'em."

But the Trents mentioned the pictures to a few friends, and one friend put them in the window of McMinnville's U.S. National Bank. A reporter for the town's weekly newspaper talked the couple out of the negatives — stashed under a couch — and published them.

Reporters swooped in. Skeptics called them liars and poked so much fun that community leaders offered to sign affidavits swearing to the Trents' character.

Air Force and FBI investigators interviewed the couple. One turned the house upside down looking for evidence of a hoax. Teams of private and government

(continued on page 9)



researchers later would analyze the photos.

When the Air Force contracted with the University of Colorado to study UFOs in 1966, a panel headed by Edward U. Condon sent an investigator named William K. Hartmann to review the Trent's sighting.

Hartmann has debunked many purported UFO images. He claimed, for instance, that the famous film footage shot in 1952 near Tremonton, Utah, was a flock of birds. But he couldn't explain the Trent sighting.

It was, he wrote, "one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated ... appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial flew within sight of two witnesses."

He refused to rule out the possibility of a hoax but said his tests "argue against a fabrication."

UFO skeptic Philip J. Klass disagreed. He claims sunlight shows the pictures were taken in the morning, not in the evening. He also finds it curious that the couple waited weeks to develop such extraordinary film.

The Trents didn't make a dime on their famous photos. The extent of their fortune was a free trip to New York City to appear on the TV show "We the People."

The walls of the couple's McMinnville apartment are covered with family photos these days, but not one image of their flying saucer.

Evelyn Trent confided to The Oregonian that she saw something similar in the 1970s. But decades of enduring publicity had kept her mum. And she knows what she would do if she saw one tomorrow.

"I wouldn't take a picture on a bet," she said.

#### UFO inquiry ceded to civilians

A changing panel of Air Force investigators — their projects code-named Sign, Grudge and Blue Book — spent 21 years chasing UFOs.

But the government's secrecy about its investigations forced civilian buffs to wander without a compass. And as real events made the concept of space travel more credible, believers began to suspect a government cover-up.

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, the Earth's first artificial satellite. Scientists began to plot how to send men to the moon, and the notion that intelligent beings might exist on other planets entered the mainstream.

U.S. physicist Philip Morrison suggested tuning a radio telescope to 1,420 megahertz and listening for signals from another world. And in April 1960, Frank D. Drake, a 29-year-old astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, W. Va., did just that.

For less than \$5,000 in federal money, Drake piggybacked Project Ozma on the 85-foot dish's regular work. It was the first of four SETI — Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence — programs eventually established in the United States.

Drake's first target was Tau Ceti, a sun-like star that remained dishearteningly silent. The star slid finally below the horizon, and Drake rotated the Ozma dish to another star, Epsilon Eridani.

Bingo! A strong, rhythmic signal jolted the instruments at Green Bank. When people in the control room calmed down, Drake began running tests. If the signal was coming from near Epsilon Eridani, it would quit when the antenna was moved off the star.

People held their breath. Drake moved the antenna. The signal continued. The air went out of the room, and Drake tracked the source to an Army transmitter in Maryland.

Despite the disappointment, scanning the heavens for radio signals seemed a more practical way to contact aliens than hunting UFOs.

The Earth was a small planet spinning around a common star in a galaxy of as many as a half-trillion stars in a universe of 200 billion galaxies that extended ... nobody knew how far.

Twenty-five billion light-years was a guess.

Seth Shostak, a staff astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif., offered this perspective: "There are more stars in the visible universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the Earth. Next time you go out and kick your feet in the sand, think of each one of those as a star somewhere."

The idea that UFOs might come from another planet in the Earth's galaxy, the Milky Way, seemed less of a stretch than imagining they were intergalactic.

The Milky Way is 100,000 light-years across, a spiral galaxy that resembles a fried egg. The egg is 6,000 to 10,000 light-years thick at the yolk, which bulges down as well as up.

The Earth is nearer the edge than the center. The nearest star is about four light-years

away. Even if scientists could build a spaceship that travels at the speed of light, a round-trip would take at least a decade.

Bothun, the University of Oregon astronomer, says there are daunting obstacles to finding other civilizations in space.

He estimates that the Milky Way contains at least 10 billion habitable planets and that even if intelligent life arises on only one planet in a million, "you still have the possibility of 10,000 civilizations out there."

But that doesn't mean they can talk to one another. Some civilizations may be pre-technological. Others may have fizzled out a million years ago, making it too late to listen.

Against these daunting odds, some well-qualified scientists hold out hope that UFOs are real. James E. McDonald, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Arizona, blasted the Condon report for wasting time on crackpot sightings and not giving enough attention to the 30 percent of the Air Force's 10,000-plus reports that couldn't be easily explained.

McDonald pointed to a bomber crew that reported a prolonged encounter with a UFO while returning to Kansas from a training run over the Gulf of Mexico. That object, he said, was sighted visually, and on the bomber's radar and on ground station radar, as it performed impossible maneuvers in a period of hours.

But McDonald had few allies. Carl Sagan, the Cornell University astronomer who was an imaginative proponent of space travel, said there was no convincing evidence for UFOs.

In 1993, Congress canceled SETI's financing, forcing Frank Drake to keep the project alive with donations from such computer pioneers as William Hewlett and David Packard.

The SETI Institute continues to buy listening time on the biggest telescopes it can arrange. Next year it hopes to use the Arecibo Observatory's 1,000-foot dish, with 36 times the listening area of Green Bank.

What SETI looks for is not an alien message but an alien "carrier signal" that propels the message. "You could say we're looking for the dial tone and not the conversation," Shostak said.

SETI listens to 28 million channels and finds a tantalizing signal about once every five minutes. Computers sort them out, and "every single one of them has turned out to be terrestrial," Shostak said.

But Shostak, who has worked at some of the world's biggest radio observatories, is not discouraged by endless false alarms.

"Do you ever get discouraged putting nickels in a one-armed bandit in Las Vegas?" he said. "You keep thinking, that next nickel could be it."

#### UFO hot line: ET, phone home

On Halloween 1968, the University of Colorado concluded its report on UFOs for the Air Force:

"There is no evidence to justify a belief that extraterrestrial visitors have penetrated our skies, and not enough evidence to warrant any further scientific investigation."

The government ceded the flying saucer reporting business to civilian groups such as the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

The center's headquarters is a carpeted cubbyhole in the basement of a rental house on a quiet, tree-lined street near the University of Washington. The office, which smells as if a cat has wintered there, is choked with file drawers, a computer, telephone recording equipment and Radio Shack trays brimming with cassette-tape interviews.

Director Peter B. Davenport, a 49-year-old Russian translator and ufologist, mans a UFO reporting hot line. His obsession is to collect irrefutable proof UFOs exist. He has collected taped interviews with more than 5,000 people, but none has yielded the smoking saucer.

"They sort of show themselves, and then they're gone," Davenport said. "We don't have any proof, in the sense that we can't put a saucer with aliens on a laboratory bench."

Davenport saw his first UFO 43 years ago, at age 6, as he sat in a 1953 Studebaker at a St. Louis, Mo., drive-in theater. Something red and brighter than a welder's torch flew over slowly.

"Suddenly," he said, "it accelerated and went, 'pssssshoooooooooof!' And it was over the horizon under two seconds — from a dead stop."

Davenport's Midwestern diction, crisp as a Saltine cracker, grows precise when he relates sightings. He often opens these tales with dates.

Nov. 17, 1995. An air traffic controller watching the skies over Long Island, N.Y., got a radio call from pilots aboard two commercial jets. Davenport pushed the play button on a recorder.

Lufthansa pilot: "It was looking very strange, with a long, uh, light in the tail."

British Airways pilot: "Yeah, a big bright white light on the front, and a greenish tail

coming out the back."

Controller: "Lufthansa 405, how far off to your right side did ... the traffic pass?"

Lufthansa pilot: "It was pretty close, and like Speed Bird said, it looked like (4,000) or 3,000 feet above on the left wing, just one mile and, uh, on opposite track. ... It didn't have any, uh, lights ... beacon lights or red or green lights. Only a white light in the front, and with a long green light. It looked like a UFO."

Davenport punched stop.

"What you've just heard described by these two pilots was one of seven objects we can account for on the East Coast that night," he said.

UFO skeptic Klass dismissed the mass sighting as probably a meteor fireball or space debris.

Davenport welcomes such skepticism, saying it keeps him honest. The people he disdains are the true believers on the fringe.

"They know where (UFOs) come from," he said with a smirk. "They're from the Pleiades. They came on hyperdimensional beamships, and the Goddess of Light is their personal friend."

#### New trend: Abduction therapy

The lore of UFOs and related subjects is a booming cottage industry for writers, filmmakers, Web-page designers, amateur museum curators and trinket makers.

The latest trade is in alien abductions.

Thousands of Americans now claim to have been kidnapped or contacted by space aliens. And for every one, there seems to be a psychologist, psychiatrist or hypnotherapist willing to listen to the story, for a fee.

The movement isn't new. A New England couple, Betty and Barney Hill, claimed in 1961, under hypnosis, to have been taken aboard a spaceship and examined by aliens with intense eyes.

Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack renewed the abduction craze in 1994 with a book professing belief in such stories.

"It can't be just laughed away," Mack told 700 rowdy skeptics at a Seattle conference that year. "These people have a high degree of consistency in detail with their accounts, and they've not been in contact with each other."

An organization called Alien Abduction Experience and Research has a licensed psychologist on call. A one-hour phone consultation costs \$90; payment is in advance, credit cards welcome. An Internet brochure promises: "He can relieve your anxieties and your hurt."

Yvonne R. Smith of Verdugo City, Calif., has used hypnotic regression for seven years to help abductees. She charges \$75 for a two-hour session and has about 200 clients. Many come to her marked with triangular bruises or scars. Under hypnosis, some tell of sexual examinations by aliens.

Derrel W. Sims, a Houston hypnotherapist and "alien contact investigator," claims he has been abducted, although critics call him a relentless huckster. Sims now hypnotizes UFO contactees so that a Ventura, Calif., foot surgeon can remove metal implants mysteriously imbedded in their flesh.

#### Ridicule exhausts Arnold

After reporting his UFOs in 1947, Kenneth Arnold was besieged by insults and inquiry. Skeptics dismissed his sighting as window glare, geese, an exploding meteor and an overactive imagination.

But thousands sent Arnold fan mail. A few showed up at his door to relate their own sightings. Leaders of several offbeat religious groups hailed him as a prophet.

"You have to understand, he was not a religious fanatic," said Arnold's daughter, Kim, a 43-year-old Boise homemaker.

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

Bill Bequette, who spent four decades honing his skepticism as a newspaper reporter and editor, believes Arnold saw something.

"He was an honest man," Bequette said. "And he was an experienced flier. So I think he had to see something that was out of the ordinary."

The last time Bequette talked to him, Arnold claimed to have seen several more UFOs and had talked to countless others who had seen them.

The search, celebrity and occasional ridicule exhausted him, said Greg Long, an Oregon ufologist now ghostwriting a book for Kim Arnold on her father's life.

"He was terribly bitter," Kim Arnold agreed. "He thought this was a serious subject. He thought this was something that humanity should have the answer to."

#### EPILOGUE

■ Kenneth Arnold died of cancer in 1984, in Bellevue, Wash., after a bitter crusade to prove the existence of UFOs.

■ Paul and Evelyn Trent reside in an assisted-living apartment in McMinnville. Asked about their famous snapshots, Paul Trent says, "Forget about it."

■ Jesse Marcel opened a radio-TV repair shop in Houma, La., where he died of heart failure in 1986. He never changed his story about Roswell.

■ Sheridan Cavitt is retired on the north end of the Olympic Peninsula. He remains amazed by the flap about Roswell.

■ James E. McDonald, who had lambasted the military for not taking the study of UFOs more seriously, shot himself to death in 1971. An earlier suicide attempt had left him blind.

■ Bill Bequette is the retired editor of the Tri-City Herald. He still writes a Sunday column and tends a yard bursting with roses. "I remain skeptical," he says.

## Aliens and UFOs

# This object was not an airplane

Do I believe in UFOs? That's a tough one to answer, but I would have to say yes.

I am a former Naval officer and pilot. I flew for NASA for four years flying Non Braun and the Astronauts. I hold an airline transport rating with a lot of flying time. I owned the Piper Aircraft distributorship for Arkansas at the Municipal Airport for many years.

My "encounter" with an unidentified object came in 1960 while flying back from Dallas to Little Rock. The weather was excellent, about one-10th cloud coverage. It was around 4 p.m. I was around 8,000 feet at a speed of 220 Kts.

I had just cleared Texarkana when off my right wing I saw an object that was definitely not an airplane. It seemed to be about one-half mile level with me and flying at the same speed. It looked like two aluminum saucers on top of each other. It flew there for approximately three for four minutes and then went straight up and disappeared from my view.

I reported this incident to Memphis center. In a few days, two Air Force officers came to my office and asked me about the sighting.

Was it a UFO? I know one thing: It wasn't any type of aircraft that I had ever seen.

**JIMMY WOODARD**  
Hot Springs Village

## A great light in 1917

I don't believe in aliens, for God made the sun, moon and stars for light by day and night.

I do believe in UFOs, for one night in 1917 about 10 o'clock I saw a light as big as the bottom of a No. 3 wash tub. It moved at a normal speed and was about 1.5 miles in the air.

It was 1919 before I saw an airplane, so it wasn't a plane. It was a great light and was very unusual.

**LEWIS M. ADAMS**  
North Little Rock

# Net has UFO news the papers won't run

By COLMAN JONES

Media coverage of things extraterrestrial leaves a lot to be desired, with its dismissive tone and lack of investigation.

However, the wide-open landscape of cyberspace provides ample opportunity for those interested in what's out there to report sightings and trade stories, and there are thousands of sites dealing with the UFO



phenomenon (even I've got one).

Nutcases abound, like the conspiracy-oriented Richard Hoagland, whose pretentious Enterprise Mission site (at <http://www.enterprise-mission.com>) serves as a platform for his outlandish analysis of photos from Mars and the moon.

Whitley Strieber, author of the best-selling Communion, has also set up a site (<http://www.strieber.com>), where he recounts his abduction experiences in detail.

All the same, there are few better places than the Net to keep up on the latest developments in this strange field.

## UFO mystery

All the main UFO organizations are online, ranging from the Fund for UFO Research, at <http://www.fufor.org>, which provides financial support for scientific research and public education concerning UFOs, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the largest grassroots group dedicated to investigating the UFO mystery (at <http://www.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/MUFON>), and the National UFO Reporting Centre at <http://nwlinc.com/~ufocntr>, which offers a 24-hour hotline for calling in unusual sightings, and posts reports from all over the world, including that of four spherical objects sighted through a Phoenix astronomer's telescope against the face of the moon a few weeks ago. (The newsgroup [alt.ufo.reports](http://alt.ufo.reports) also serves this function.)

One of the best-documented sightings of anomalous airborne activity took place over Belgium, where the military dispatched fighter jets to track a huge triangular object hurtling through the air at over 1,000 miles per hour, to no avail. What distinguished the incident was the openness of the Belgian government, which released control-tower transcripts and radar tapes, admitting it, too, was baffled.

Now, a theory has surfaced that a wedge-shaped aircraft known as the LoFlyte (low observable flight test experiment), developed by NASA and the U.S. air force, may actually have been to blame, at least according to Thierry Wathelet, whose page

at <http://www.finart.be/Ufocom/Hq/english/loflyte.html> raises a lot of questions about possible secret military operations.

## Bizarre activity

Canada, of course, has had its share of bizarre activity in the skies, as chronicled by the University of Manitoba's Chris Rutkowski, whose site (at <http://www.winnipeg.freemove.mb.ca/iphone/ufo/index.html>) documents sightings over the years. One of the more recent came from the Northwest Territories, reported here in NOW February 1, 1996 and well covered at UFO Phenomena In The NWT, at <http://www.ssimicro.com/~ufoinfo/>.

For those interested in a cultural take on the obsession with aliens, Screen Memories: An Exploration Of The Relationship Between Science Fiction Film And The UFO Mythology, a paper by Briton Mark Pilkington, offers a fascinating analysis of the apparently symbiotic

relationship between the representation of UFOs and aliens on screen in films and television and the way they are described in reality (<http://www.hedweb.com/markp/ufofilm.htm>).

Many Net sites devoted to alien topics are temporary — up on the screen one day, gone the next. An exception is the Internet UFO Group (at <http://www.iufog.org>), formed three years ago as a forum for researchers and the public to share information regarding UFOs. The group is currently completing an ambitious research effort into the UFO wave of 1947, entitled Project 1947, which involves screening thousands of newspapers from all over the world for UFO reports.

The most significant event of that year, of course, is the famed Roswell incident, in which the debris and apparent occupants of a crashed spaceship were allegedly found in the New Mexico desert by a local rancher, only to be seized by the military and hidden ever since. The tale has reached such mythic proportions that there's even a museum dedicated to it, the International UFO Museum and Research Centre (<http://www.iufomrc.com/>), sponsors of this week's Encounter 97, marking the anniversary of the incident.

When most people think of Roswell these days, however, the grainy film that's come to be known as the "alien autopsy" is the first thing that springs to mind. For an authoritative debunking of this piece of exploitation, check How To Make An Alien, at <http://www.trudang.com/autopsy.html>.

## Twisted accounts

Needless to say, there's no shortage of Roswell babble, most of it tired regurgitations of often twisted accounts. Unearthing anything new has become increasingly challenging for investigators like Stanton Friedman (<http://www.ufori.com/>), who's had to contend with another round of denials from the air force (<http://www.af.mil/lib/roswell/>), dismissive coverage in Time Magazine (<http://www.pathfinder.com/time/magazine/1997/dom/>)

970623/society.did.aliens.re.html) and the recent defection of fellow Roswell sleuth Kent Jeffrey, former coordinator of the International Roswell Initiative.

This effort collected over 20,000 signed copies of a declaration requesting an executive order to declassify any government-held information on Roswell or UFOs in general.

Now, Jeffrey has changed his

tune, and the site <http://www.roswell.org> now carries his impassioned Roswell: Anatomy Of A Myth, in which he denounces his former colleagues as fools for continuing to believe that something extraterrestrial landed at Roswell.

Speaking of skeptics, they too maintain a profile in cyberspace. Perhaps the most reasonable of the bunch are the Internet UFO Skeptics at <http://www.geocities.com/>

Area51/Corridor/8148/iufos.html, who are out to "depolarize and depersonalize" the discussion.

Harder edged is the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal at <http://quest.com/~fitz/csicop/>, whose new book, The UFO Invasion, argues that we are being invaded not by UFOs but by "irresponsible reporting that needs investigation." ●

NW FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - Sept. 3, 1997 CR: B. Reid

## Air Force searching woods

By LEE FORST  
Daily News Staff Writer

Air Force security police were searching the woods in Walton County late Tuesday night for an object, possibly an airplane, spotted by radar operators at Eglin Air Force Base.

"We can't even confirm at this point it's an aircraft," Eglin spokeswoman Leigh Anne Redovian said about 10:15 p.m. "We're not sure what it is."

Radar operators reported that their screens had picked up something on the ground about four miles south of Test Site C-6 near Portland

about 8 p.m. Security police were called out along with a C-130 aircraft from Hurlburt Field to investigate, Redovian said.

The Walton County Sheriff's Department received a similar call about 7:45 p.m., but could not confirm whether it was an aircraft.

The area is on Eglin's reservation in restricted air space, Redovian said.

Radar controllers would know if any Eglin aircraft were up that night, she said. If the object was an aircraft, it would likely be a small civilian plane, Redovian added.

"The chances of it being one of our planes is nil because we would know," she said.

NW FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - Sept. 4, 1997 CR: B. Reid

## Eglin says no radar, 'no idea' on object

■ On Tuesday night, something was reported falling to Earth; nothing was reported found Wednesday.

By JOHN KEEGAN  
Daily News Staff Writer

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's, well, no one really knows.

After several reports of a light descending in the sky above the Eglin Air Force Base reservation late Tuesday — possibly a crashing plane — Eglin officials diverted a C-130 aircraft to search the wooded area east of Freeport.

Eglin officials announced Wednesday that no civilian or military aircraft are missing and it's unknown what, if anything, was seen Tuesday night.

"I have no idea what it is," Eglin spokesman Maj. Matt Durham said.

Eglin radar operators reported Tuesday that a falling object was detected on radar about four miles south of Test Site C-6, but that was refuted Wednesday.

"Someone not actually at the radar screen made a bad assumption," Durham said Wednesday. "We felt

satisfied that nothing went down. As far as we're concerned, the matter is closed."

Durham said much of Wednesday was spent reviewing tapes of Tuesday's radar activity and nothing was detected.

Eugene Robinson, who lives in the last house on the north end of Site C-6 Road, said neither he nor his neighbors witnessed anything Tuesday.

"Four miles south of Site C-6 would put it right across the street from my house," he said. "We didn't see anything or hear anything. If my neighbors did, believe me, I would have heard about it."

Federal Aviation Administration officials in Atlanta, also said Wednesday that there were no reports of crashed or missing civilian aircraft in Walton County.

Durham said Eglin's Range Operations Control Center "speculated" that the lights may have been a meteor, but there was no tangible evidence and no meteorite had been found.

Eglin Range Patrol, a C-130 from Hurlburt Field and Walton County sheriff's deputies ended their search Tuesday night and didn't continue during the daylight.

Finding a meteorite soon after it was seen falling is a "very rare" occasion, said Wayne Wooten, staff astronomer at Pensacola Junior College's Space and Science Theater.

The last recorded time a meteor was seen falling and recovered was two years ago in New Jersey, Wooten said.

Wooten suggested that witnesses could have seen an exploded meteor, also called a "bolide" or "fireball."

"Sometimes you can see one breaking up and it looks like a whole chain of lights and that might look like an aircraft," he said.

The last meteorite found in Walton County was the Grayton Beach Meteorite found in 1983. The bowling ball-size meteorite was "hundreds of years old" and found buried in an Indian shell midden, Wooten said.



Daily News/KEN MAINES



This article is available on line at: <http://www.now.com/issue/1997-09-04/tech1.html>



►MYSTERIES

# Author tells local group of 'UFO Healings'

By Ana A. Lima  
Staff Writer

HESPERIA — A handful of true believers gathered Saturday as a Mutual UFO Network investigator publicized his new book — "UFO Healings: True Accounts of People Healed by Extraterrestrials."

Preston Dennett presented the findings of his five-year study of people who claimed they have been cured by aliens. Even though he doesn't have medical proof, Dennett claimed he reviewed doctors' reports describing healings that couldn't be explained in any other way.

Saturday's meeting was an attempt by MUFON's investigators to share UFO-related information with high desert residents. The group holds most of its monthly meetings in San Bernardino and Riverside.

The 12 members of the audience listened attentively as MUFON investigators discussed recently reported sightings in the county. A table was filled with drawings of UFOs and extraterrestrials done by Dennett's sister-in-law, who also illustrated the slides he presented.

John Boyd, 75, of Riverside, said he attends MUFON meetings regularly. His interest in UFOs developed during World War II when American pilots reported having seen strange lights in the sky. He was working for the Air Force in England at the time.

Another member of the audience said she believes UFOs can cure humans. Irene Sims, 76, of San Bernardino, said she thinks her son might have been cured by aliens 45 years ago. She was driving him back from the hospital when they both saw a UFO hovering over the Highland sky.

Since then, Sims said she became interested in UFOs. While under hypnosis, she said she recalled being abducted by aliens when she was a child.

Dennett said 11 percent of human encounters with UFOs are for healing purposes. Dennett said he found more than 100 cases of people throughout the world whose illnesses mysteriously disappeared after making contact with a UFO.

"I came to think of UFOs as more of a floating hospital," he said.

Dennett said ETs' blessed hands and advanced technology have cured patients with AIDS, arthritis, infertility and others.

White, blue and purple beams of light seem to be the main instruments for ET healings, Dennett said.

Dennett said he wants people to know that UFO contacts can be a positive experience for humans.

"For the most part they are benevolent," he said.

Carol Giddens, of Pinon Hills, said she hopes to hold regular meetings in the high desert in the future due to a large number of reported sightings and UFO believers in this area. Giddens, who claims she saw a UFO in November of 1996, has recently become a MUFON field investigator.

For information on MUFON, check its web page at <http://www.blackhole.net/mufon/> or call (909) 8755005.

# Locals tell tales of UFO sightings

By Billy Cox  
FLORIDA TODAY

In many ways, William "Blackie" Raulerson's UFO story is like countless others: two guys hunting in a backwater twilight; the approach of a glowing, unconventional flying machine; the observation of strange beings; and the rapid ascent without a trace.

And the next day, when he told his teacher what he'd seen, Raulerson got a swift rebuke: "She made me stand out in the hall 'til class was over."

What makes Raulerson's tale a bit different from the rest is location — north Merritt Island, just west of modern-day Kennedy Space Center, November 1950, roughly four months

after the United States entered the rocket era with ignition of the Bumper sequence from the Cape.

Today, with public opinion more receptive to UFO possibilities, logic suggests extraterrestrial visitors might naturally want to check out our space activities. Documenting that sort of surveillance with official records is another matter, however.

Last November, for instance, several Kennedy Space Center workers reported seeing UFOs — and jets — following the launch of Mars Global Surveyor from Cape Canaveral Air Station.

Last April, in response to Florida Today's Freedom of Information Act request for records of that event gathered by Defense Department as well as Russian spy satellites, the Air Force replied that the "Space and Missile System Center neither controls nor otherwise possesses the requested information."

In the maze of government bureaucracy, knowing where to direct requests can be a dicey process. But, even anecdotal stories are contentious business. Consider this account by Richard Bowen of Houston.

In 1965-67, Bowen tracked Minuteman and Titan missile launches as an assistant superintendent for range operations with Pan Am. He claims he saw bogeys approaching a Titan the first time he sat in front of a radar screen.

"It was the damndest thing," Bowen recalls. "You'd see these things coming in, pulling 90-degree turns at speeds of, I don't know, what? 9,000 miles an hour? Much faster than anything I've ever seen, anyway. And I'm going, 'Look at this! Look at this!' And the rest of the guys are saying, 'Relax, it happens every launch.' By the third, fourth and fifth launches, I'm getting used to it too. I'm just sitting there drink-

ing coffee like the rest of the guys. Whatever these things were, they followed us after every launch."

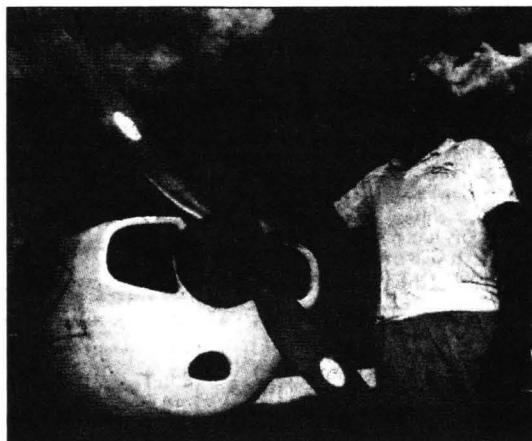
Tom King was Bowen's supervisor back then. He still works at the Cape, with McDonnell Douglas. King says he has no recollection of missiles pursued by UFOs. He says the most exotic aircraft he remembers tracking were U-2s and SR-71s.

"I think I would've been made aware of something like that," King says. "Dick is very emphatic and adamant about a lot of things."

Bowen, now an international commodities broker, says King's response is typical. "Tom doesn't want to jeopardize his standing out there. Me, I don't care, I've got money."

Omar Bowley, 85 of Cocoa, worked as a blockhouse and pad inspector for Northrop, mainly during the Snark rocket tests. But most notable among his memories is what happened over a 10-minute span shortly after 11 p.m. in December 1959.

Off duty, having pulled over in his car to watch a late-night launch not far from pads 3 and 4, Bowley watched as three glowing objects — "with edges slanted like pie plates and if you turned one



Craig Bailey, FLORIDA TODAY

**WILLIAM "BLACKIE" RAULERSON** is one of many locals who say they've had an encounter with a UFO. His sighting was near what is now Kennedy Space Center.

upside down on top of the other" — descended upon the launch area from the north.

"They were in a triangle formation, one in the lead, two in back," Bowley says. "They were off-white in color, I guess, and absolutely noiseless. It was astounding. When the rocket launched, the first one turned over on its side in a vertical position and followed it, then the second vehicle followed, then the third, in single file. One was near the front, another was near the middle, and the other was near the back end. They all went out of sight together."

"There was one other fella pulled over at the time. He was in a Jeep, sort of a mustard color. I remember he looked at me and said, 'You didn't see anything at all, nothing occurred here. If you say anything you'll be in deep trouble.' So I didn't say anything. But I never forgot it."

But for sheer details, it's hard to match Blackie Raulerson's story. Owner of two light aircraft and a flyer for 40 years, the 65-year-old retired postal worker from Titusville doesn't much care whether people believe him or not.

Early one evening, he and

schoolmate Tommy Brown were hunting on Merritt Island when they heard a "noise winding up like a turbine" coming from the southeast. From roughly two miles out, the "radial wing" aircraft approached slowly, until it was directly overhead, some 60 feet off the ground, maybe 90 to 100 feet in diameter.

Raulerson says he could see inside its 12-to 14-foot-high windows of bluish tinted glass, behind which was "about a 28-foot long console cabinet with instrumentation." Moreover, he recalls seeing crew members, six in all, wearing "light blue-looking flight suits with square, black collars, about six inches tall." The crewman he saw most clearly had "reddish blonde hair — it looked like a crewcut."

The vehicle glowed from the inside, Raulerson says, but had no running lights. The only exterior light was "a 14-inch diameter hole on the bottom that was this solid, flaming red. But there was no exhaust coming from it."

The encounter lasted 3½ to 4 minutes. "Then it took off real fast, to the northeast," Raulerson says. He was only 18. But he still looks at the sky, wondering. "There's not a day goes by," he says, "that I don't think about what I saw."

## Points of View

# UFO puzzle ferments in brew of silence, lies

The real myth is the government's debunking debacle

As an interested observer of UFO reporting over the past 47 years the subject has impressed me as the most intriguing, frustrating and exasperating thing that has ever come down the pike.

When my mother and I observed strange nocturnal lights in the summer of 1952 in New York state, we realized that this phenomena might be more than just reports. We saw on a clear starry night objects which could move with amazing speed or stop immediately and hover. Proof of anything? Of course not. But from that time on, I be-



John Howd

came skeptical of the debunkers who couldn't really explain things like that either.

I have just read a fascinating book called "The Day After Roswell" with a forward by U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond. It related the ex-

periences of Col. Philip J. Corso who was the chief of the Army's foreign technology division during the early '60s. He was responsible for the stewardship of alien artifacts from the UFO crash.

This is an account coming from the inside of the intelligence community, the people who knew what was going on and were themselves involved in the coverup.

As Corso relates, the government officials and the military were honestly afraid of another scare along the lines of the 1938 Orson Welles radio version of the H.G. Wells turn of the century "War of the Worlds" novel.

At the same time, of course, it was at the beginning of the Cold War with Soviet Russia. So at that early stage it was evolving as a necessary "big white lie" to protect people from panic.

But the Cold War is over now and the Soviets are not around any more. According to Corso, the coverup continues out of sheer inertia and I would add that it has become a dinosaur that no unprejudiced, intelligent and informed person takes seriously anymore. Most people are not UFO buffs, yet a recent poll revealed that 71 percent of Americans believe that the government is not coming forth with what it knows

about the subject.

The recent Air Force announcements were a travesty. It was a transparently obvious case of what is known as "disinformation." In the Air Force "explanation," it combined a small truth with a big lie. I have no doubt that there was an exercise involving dummies attached to balloons in the New Mexico desert in the 1950s. That this was somehow confused with Roswell in 1947 is the big lie.

The Air Force announcement was about a week after the arrival of "The Day After Roswell." That is not likely to be a coincidence.

This stuff comes straight out of George Orwell's novel "1984." It was published in 1949 and people were naturally reminded of Soviet Russia where whatever the Soviet government said was true by definition. Orwell called it "newspeak." Disinformation was a sub-class of newspeak known as double-speak.

When it comes to UFOs, we have been informed with great consistency that the subject is a myth like the Easter Bunny or the tooth fairy. But the real myth is the "debunking" story the government has spoon-fed us over the years as if we were perpetual little children who can't face the cosmic reality.

Civilian science and the national press always have swallowed it as if they were so many puppets on a string.

John Howd of Lansing is retired.

## Seeking answers yet

Flying saucer mania triggered by pilot who landed in Pendleton still raging

What people don't understand they often ridicule. And if it scares them, expect even worse.

So it is that Kenneth Arnold, a 28-year-old pilot who landed in Pendleton 50 years ago to tell of seeing nine mysterious objects racing through the sky, spent the rest of his life trying to justify his fame. Fame he never wanted.

To those who remember him, such as former EO reporter Bill Bequette and retired Pendleton radio personality Ted Smith, his integrity was never an issue. Arnold, they said, was a professional pilot, a serious businessman, a no-nonsense man who had no reason or personality for a hoax.

He was believable, regardless of whether or not you wanted to believe that flying saucers exist. He was the kind of man who couldn't help but tell honestly what he saw, even if he knew he would be mocked for it.

"Everyone says I'm nuts," he told Bequette in a story printed in this paper on June 26, 1947. "And I guess I'd say it too if someone else reported those things. But I saw them and watched closely. It seems impossible — but there it is."

Arnold, after describing to the EO that the flying objects moved like a saucer if skipped across the water, in effect coined the term "flying saucer." His sighting also seemed to rip open the floodgates of the UFO phenomenon, with all its exaggerations and deliberate deceptions — and its occasional unexplainable event or unflappable witness.

The world was not kind to Arnold. With a penchant for accuracy, he was continually barraged by careless reporters seeking the sensational rather than the facts and a prying public that wasn't interested in detail and insight as much as seeing "the man who saw flying saucers."

Much of his bitterness was warranted. The very first story written about his sighting, a four paragraph story in the EO, incorrectly identified him as with the "fire control in Boise," giving the impression he worked for the Forest Service. In fact, he was a fire-control engineer who ran his own business, a point clarified the next issue in a much more complete interview.

It was a minor error, but it showed how a story can be bobbled by even careful journalists intent on getting things right. So it's sad but possible to see how once the careless got a hold of his story, phrases like "greenish, glowing orbs" — something he never said — slid their way into the growing pile of rhetoric.

Arnold once referred to himself as the "scapegoat who saw them first." From his perspective, he had no choice but to tell honestly what he'd experienced.

Unfortunately, the past 50 years haven't been a whole lot of help in solving the mystery. If anything, there have been more questions raised.

But incidences like the March 13 report in Arizona of hundreds of people who reported an enormous object or objects in the night sky keep the debate raging. And the hope alive that the truth, and maybe vindication for some, is waiting for us out there somewhere.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR - Aug. 12, 1997

### Encounter with flying disc

Have I ever seen a UFO? I have told this story ever since, oh, about March 3, 1973. Some people believe me, but most do not.

I was working at a Beebe trailer factory that year and was driving from Pleasant Plains to Beebe every day. One morning at about 5:30 I was coming out my door to go to work when I looked up and about telephone pole-high and about 30 yards away was a hovering disc about 20 feet wide and about 15 feet high.

I thought I must be dreaming but no, there it was, bright yellow, green and red lights along the bottom, folks.

Let me tell you, it was something not of this world and real. I said to myself, "Man, wait till I tell everyone," but then I thought that no one was going to believe one person. I stood and watched this thing for about five minutes just to be sure that I was seeing it. I thought I would go wake up my wife so she could see this; then I would have proof and everyone would not think I was crazy.

Just as I was halfway through the living room the UFO started to rise higher and move out across the fields at a high rate of speed. All the time I am yelling for my wife to get up and come to the front door to see this. She never made it, and the UFO was out of sight by then.

Yes, folks, there are UFOs. It changed my life ever since that day. I would take a polygraph test or whatever it takes, but I know what I saw. Someday they will land again out in public for everyone to see; then let our government tell us it's a weather balloon.

G.L. OLIVER  
Jacksonville

## More stonewalling on Cosmic Watergate

A month ago, I sent a freedom of information request about UFO-related material to the assistant secretary of the Army for research, development and acquisition. The lack of a reply makes me wonder if, after 50 years, the Army does indeed have something to hide about what happened (and why) at Roswell, N.M.

My request seeks access to all federal records pertaining to:

■ A 1961-1962 memorandum written by now-retired Army Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso to his then-boss, Army research and development chief Lt. Gen. Arthur G. Trudeau, in which Corso discusses evidence of alien technology from the "flying saucer" retrieved near Roswell.

■ The "medical examiner's" report on the retrieved alien bodies, as recalled by Corso in his recent book "The Day After Roswell." In the past several weeks, Corso's smoking gun revelations about the behind-the-scenes Army harvest-

ing of alien technology probably have become a painful thorn in the side of those officials who prefer denial-and-censorship over truth-and-disclosure.

That pain might become unbearable if enough other UFO cover-up whistle-blowers of Corso's caliber were to come forward.

If I file suit against the Army for not answering my freedom of information request, it will invite all these whistle-blowers to put their accounts on public record — in the form of sworn declarations and documentary hard evidence — as to the Army's recorded role in the Cosmic Watergate.

So, go ahead, Mr. Assistant Secretary of the Army, take all the time you wish in stonewalling my freedom of information request. In doing so, you, too, will be inviting the emergence of other whistle-blowers and "leaked" evidence from insider sources.

LARRY W. BRYANT  
Alexandria

MAIL, Stayton, OR - July 8, 1997

### A crop circle, or well-planned hoax?

Mary Ann Koch has been fascinated with the phenomenon of crop circles for six years. Now she thinks she may have spotted the first crop circle to be documented in Oregon.

Koch said Saturday she found a double circle with a rectangular pattern in the center in a wheat field about 100 yards northeast of the Silver Creek Falls exit from Highway 22. The geometrical formation - 50 to 60 feet across - does not appear to be man-made, she said.

"I really don't know what causes them," she said. "The grass is always laid down in a woven-type fashion," not mowed laid over.

She said she contacted the media so that the circle could be documented. She's arranging to have aerial photos taken for further documentation.

Koch was drawn to the study of crop circles because of the patterns. She designs jewelry and is fascinated by the intricacy.

Sightings in the United States have been reported for only the past few years. The first recorded case is from England in 1973, according to information from the crop-circle web site on the Internet. Now there are about 5,000 reported cases, usually in crop fields. Wheat and barley are the most common.

Public interest waned in the early 1990s when two British men confessed to having made the first formation.

Koch said she couldn't help but "be intrigued by the beauty of the circles. "What they're trying to say, I don't know," she said. "Who's trying to say it? I wish I knew."

JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, GA - June 26, 1997

## Explanation of UFOs won't fly

Even dyed-in-the-wool disbelievers in UFOs must be shaking their heads at the Air Force's limp attempt to explain away the strange happenings outside Roswell, N.M., half a century ago. After decades of intelligence-community stonewalling, how can the Air Force seriously think one speculative official report will debunk what has become a legend of extraterrestrial visits to Earth?

It was downright silly for Col. John Haynes, who briefed the press Tuesday, to say the Pentagon was "confident this will be the final word on the Roswell incident." In no way can this report be considered comprehensive and conclusive.

By the Air Force's own admission, it is the work of just two researchers — no matter how scholarly — and their sources of information were entirely unclassified.

That's about as authoritative as a high school book report, considering how security-sensitive the subject matter is.

It took the Air Force 47 years to finally admit it had conducted top-secret high-altitude reconnaissance balloon experiments over the New Mexico desert during 1947 — the debris from which, it went on to say, was presumed by unsophisticated civilians to be spacecraft

wreckage. That Air Force disclosure, by the way, was pried loose three years ago only after Rep. Steve Schiff (R-N.M.) threatened a Government Accounting Office investigation of the Roswell affair.

Tuesday's fuller explanation, complete with theories aimed at clearing up the mystery of so-called alien corpses, was timed to put a damper on 50th anniversary "festivities" in Roswell next week. Though plausible to the casual observer, the Air Force speculation about dummies and burned air crash victims being mistaken for aliens will not sway confirmed UFO believers.

Washington officialdom has no one to blame but itself for the doubts about its version of events outside Roswell. When the alien story really began gathering momentum in the 1970s, the Air Force might have cleared up the matter if it



Associated Press

The Air Force says dummies were mistaken for extraterrestrial corpses.

had systematically dealt with the bizarre reports and admitted its failed 1947 balloon tests, which by the '70s were of no interest to our Soviet adversaries. Instead, the culture of secrecy prevailed, and a flimsy rumor became a folk myth.

This makes as good a case as any for Washington to break down useless walls of secrecy that obstruct Americans' view of the truth.





## FOREIGN NEWS

(All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.)

# More UFO sightings in B.C.

By JODY LAMB  
Sterling News Service

CRANBROOK — British Columbia is a hot spot for supernatural sightings, says a researcher on a life-long quest to unlock the mystery of unidentified flying objects.

Graham Conway, who admits to being smitten with the idea of UFOs, has been researching and documenting unexplained phenomena for more than 50 years.

"Of the percentage of reports across the country, B.C. stands out way ahead of anywhere else," Conway said.

"Whether it's because 'A' we are getting more reports or 'B' we've got a better reporting system, I tend to think we have a better reporting system."

Last year, Conway and other members of UFO-BC sent letters to the editor to 156 newspapers in the province, looking for stories of UFO experiences.

A disappointed Conway said he only received about 50 responses — most from Port Alberni, Prince Rupert, Kamloops and the Surrey/North Delta region.

A man from Port Alberni described seeing a ball of light during the day coming across a lake.

On another occasion, while working at a mill, he and another man saw an object approaching slowly. When it got closer it seemed to have a number of lights around it.

Other accounts describe circular, submarine shaped, illuminated, highly reflective, slow moving, and silent objects.

People have had occasions in which they've seen bright lights hovering over highways, over cars or over farms, where the animals have been greatly disturbed, Conway said.

"Most of them are calling because they have had some sort of personal experience, which they have had no opportunity of reporting, other than to the family," Conway said.

"They are very apprehensive about telling anyone because unfortunately there is this developed fear of ridicule."

Conway believes the response UFO-BC received underestimates the actual sightings in the province.

A report by astronomer and science writer Chris Rutkowski indicates there have been approximately 455 reported sightings in B.C. since 1989, compared to 234 in Ontario and 208 in

installations, nuclear plants, you will find reports consistently of UFOs," he said.

"The only common observation I could offer would be these are principally power sources and for whatever purpose they're using them I truly don't know."

Ninety-eight per cent of UFO-BC's calls are from people living in a two-mile wide corridor of power lines and substations in the Surrey/North Delta area.

Conway isn't convinced UFOs are from outer space. He leans

in favor of a theory that they are from a parallel dimension.

"In so far that they can slip into our space and slip

out again, because the two objects I mentioned to you there in Ontario in 1966, one of them literally disappeared in front of my eyes when I was watching it through my binoculars," he said.

UFO-BC is attempting to accumulate as much information as it can on sightings west of the Rockies in hopes of possibly publishing a book.

Conway said he has no difficulty sorting out the tall tales from the truthful accounts of UFO sightings.

"You really have to take it on the strength of the witness," he said. "You can tell by the emotion in the voice, they tell me stories that happened 20 years ago and they will tell you it with the same degree of emotion and excitement and fear, as if it happened yesterday. Seldom do they have exaggerated detail."

He said often skeptics try to rule out sightings by saying the person confused the object for a bright planet or a reflection of the moon.

"But again I repeat the people who make these statements to us have often had the opportunity of ruling out these factors before they report to us. They're familiar with the area in which they live."

But even with continued sightings and reports, Conway said his organization is no closer to unraveling the mystery.

"I can tell you equally well that in all truthfulness I feel no closer to a solution today than I did when I started 50 years ago," he said. "I have accumulated a wealth of information, heard many astounding stories, but I feel no closer to a solution."

But he has no plans of giving up.

Conway has always had a fascination for the unusual. Growing up in Britain, he was surrounded by haunted castles, Stonehenge and the Loch Ness monster.

"So there were lots of things for me to pursue and I was always interested in Egyptology and archeology of any kind...and then this emerged and I was hot on the trail," he said.

When a pilot went public with a story of seeing a "flying saucer" over Mount Rainier in 1947, Conway's interest was piqued.

Years later he began to have his own experiences. To date, he says he has had more than two dozen UFO encounters.

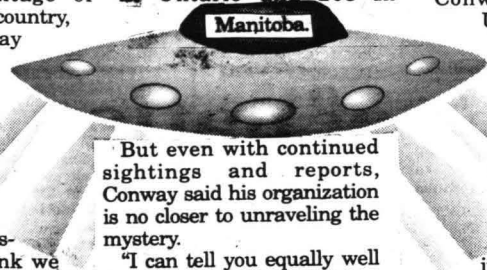
"In Ontario I watched two objects in the sky for an hour and 15 minutes with binoculars and, significantly at that time, this was in 1966, a nuclear plant was being built on the shores of Lake Ontario," he said. "Since then I have read the Ontario Hydro house magazine and seen that they have received similar reports of objects being seen over the plant on frequent occasions."

Conway said the majority of sightings tend to be grouped near power sources.

"Wherever there are power lines, power stations, television antennas, radio antennas, microwave dishes, dams, mines, hospitals, military

Witnesses, from Telford, also noticed a rectangular bright, white object hovering in the sky. He also saw another rectangular craft cross over the M54 towards the M54.

Witnesses can contact Mr. Pointon, from Chapel Street, Stoke-on-Trent, on 01782 522620.



KINGSBRIDGE GAZETTE, Devon, England - May 16, 1997

## UFO leaves couple with 'horrible feeling'

A COUPLE were left with "a horrible feeling" after a UFO experience on the road from Hove to Galmpton at 10.30 last Thursday evening.

The husband and wife, who have asked for their names not to be revealed for fear of being considered cranks, were walking up the road towards Galmpton after playing a game of bowls at Galmpton Village Hall.

They were about 300 yards from their home when from the Solberry Down direction on their right flashed a tea-plate size white object.

It came to a sudden stop in their path and instantly switched off.

The woman gave her description: "It came to us at such speed...it was like a shooting star, only much closer to earth. There were no flashing lights or anything like that, just a simple white disc."

"When the object stopped in front of us it was as if a light went out. It was a strange, strange feeling, like we were still being watched."

"I didn't say anything because I thought it might just be me who saw it, but then my husband shouted 'What the heck was that?'"

"I think he was more affected by it than me. He can't stop talking about it."

"It has left us both with a horrible feeling, especially as we are beginning to think we were the only people who saw it."

She reckoned the whole incident lasted only about a second.

SUNDAY MIRROR, London, England - June 1, 1997



CRASH-LANDING: The alien

## Caught on film...proof that aliens do exist

IT is bug-eyed like an insect, has a huge head and weird, grey body — and it comes from a galaxy near you.

TV viewers have just been shown the first-ever pictures of a LIVE alien.

Investigators say the frail, ET-like creature survived a spacecraft crash in New Mexico FIFTY years ago.

The amazing video footage — which was shown on the German PRO 7 Channel — was smuggled out of the top secret Area 51 US airforce base in the Nevada Desert, where the alien was said to have been interrogated.

Now, despite claims that the film is a hoax, it has sparked an international call for US President Clinton to "come clean" on America's secret files on UFOs and aliens.

## Believing in UFOs

Regarding "For Many Americans, Existence of UFOs is an Article of Faith" (April 5):

The writer smugly dismisses John Mack, the Harvard psychiatrist, as having the view that "if people believe they have been taken by aliens it must be true."

But Dr. Mack is no believer. Indeed, he continually disappoints the UFO fanatics by denying that he is one of them. He is first and foremost a scientist, honor-bound to try to develop theories that fit all of the facts, not only the ones that are convenient.

A theory is not a belief. I transcribed several hypnotic regression sessions used as raw material for Dr. Mack's best-selling 1994 book, "Abduction," and despite the writer's suggestions to the contrary, I never heard evidence of Dr. Mack leading a patient in any particular direction.

JOEL SPEERSTRA.  
Gothenburg, Sweden.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, London, England - May 2, 1997

VENTRY EXPRESS, Northants, England - March 20, 1997

## UFOs gather overhead



Fiona Blackwell shows neighbour Will Gilchrist where she spotted two UFOs.

THE mysterious UFOs sighted over Daventry last week have been spotted again — at exactly the same time a week later!

Carl Neville, aged 28, of Joseph Priestley Court has told how he and neighbour Fiona Blackwell, aged 20, watched two lights fly across the town at around 11pm last Wednesday night.

Carl said: "We saw two bright orange lights bobbing and weaving in formation. They didn't make any noise so they can't have been planes."

"They moved pretty fast and we chased them down the High Street but they disappeared. I never believed in UFOs before but I do now."

The two told neighbour Will Gilchrist about the sighting immediately afterwards. "I didn't believe them at first but they convinced me they really did see something," he said.

In last week's Daventry Express we reported a similar

sighting by Maxine Lodge of Howe Crescent, who saw two lights flying over the Long March Industrial Estate. Spookily, that sighting was also at around 11pm on a Wednesday night (March 5)!

● And two Daventry teenagers say they saw a flying saucer swooping over the Southbrook estate.

Claire Cresswell, aged 19, of Collingwood Way and Ellie Lake, aged 17, of Admirals Way, watched the UFO for five minutes just after midnight last Tuesday.

Claire said: "It was spinning really quickly and flashing white, green and red. Then it sped away. We were pretty scared."

● Have you seen anything odd soaring over the skies of Daventry? Or can you come up with an explanation for the strange sightings?

Call reporter Dan Grimmer on 01327 703383 and help us to solve this mystery. The truth is out there.

## Flying saucers search

A UFO group is trying to track down possible sightings of flying saucers in the sky near Wolverhampton shortly before Christmas.

The British UFO Research Association launched an investigation following a report of a sighting on the M54 motorway between junctions 2 and 3 on December 4.

"A motorist and his passenger say they saw a number of bright lights moving rapidly in the sky towards Cosford," said Dave Pointon, association investigation co-ordinator.

GAZETTE, Grand Forks, B.C., Canada - Feb. 5, 1997

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Jan. 24, 1997

## Leisure

## not alone!

With a humongous piece of space rock currently whizzing past Earth and turning the night sky into some sort of stellar tourist attraction, interest in all things resembling a flying object—unidentified or not—has suddenly gone off the scale. DAVID LICHTNEKER tucked his X-Files under his arm to find out why Comet Hale-Bopp has caused such a fuss, why Rotherham has suddenly gone UFO bonkers and attempted to discover if the truth really is out there.

**SPOOKY** — not just Fox Mulder's nickname on *The X-Files* — but the fact that on the day we spoke to the Yorkshire UFO Network's (YUFON) director of investigations, Martin Jeffrey, an unexplained craft was reported to have crashed in South Yorkshire.

Creepy, but was it just a coincidence, or were other forces at work?

While you ponder that, we'll open the file on 25-year-old full-time UFO chaser Mr Jeffrey, founder of YUFON and a man who has been digging around to see if the truth is really out there ever since he had a close encounter of the first kind when he was 12.

Based in Sheffield, Martin (pictured right) isn't the weirdo many might expect him to be.

Open-minded, sceptical, yet passionate about his work, his UFO hotline has been sizzling lately, with one of those calls coming from Rotherham's Central Library, who have been inundated with queries about bizarre flying

objects ever since Comet Hale-Bopp appeared.

"They got in touch with me and said that a lot of people had been asking about UFOs over Rotherham and that there appeared to be a lot of interest," he explained.

As a result, YUFON will be unveiling a display at the library on Wednesday which will answer many of the most-common questions about UFOs and will also feature photographs, case histories and bags of other information.

Martin will also be there from noon to 2pm to answer questions personally.

Now, some might scoff at the mere suggestion of visitors from other worlds coming to Rotherham, but the town has a bit of a history and, apparently, Rawmarsh is a bit of a hotspot.

Martin filled us in on some of the most famous cases.

"Back in 1989 a triangular craft was seen hovering over where Meadowhall is now and over Rawmarsh and Ecclesfield," he

revealed.

"It was seen by something like 200 witnesses and for one night it just took over the sky."

"At the same time, over in Belgium, the Belgian Air Force was chasing triangular UFOs."

There's also a famous case involving an amateur astronomer who took a photograph of the moon from his Rawmarsh back garden and captured an unexplained triangular object on film, and another incident from Rawmarsh when witnesses saw a strange craft landing in a field which left indentations in the ground, but no craft was ever found.

Martin admits that his work has "taken over my life," a passion which surfaced when he was on holiday with his family at Butlins in Minehead when he and his father saw a UFO.

"It was a massive, glowing disc, which hovered above us and to this day I don't know what it was," he said.

"That's how I started investigating and I have just immersed myself in the subject."

One of the most exciting cases he worked on was the Mansfield crash in 1989 when a UFO supposedly came down but managed to take off again.

"Witnesses were hushed up and they were told that if they talked they would be shot," he said.

"The army rebuilt a bungalow which was hit and repaired the entire area because there were metal fragments everywhere which they didn't want anyone to get hold of. We know someone who says he has some



locked in a bank vault but he's too scared to show us."

Martin also thinks there is an underground base in Chapeltown beneath the Midland Bank.

He claims surveillance has revealed that 20,000 gallons of cryogenic liquid is delivered every month, something which is either used to destroy huge amounts of paper, or as a coolant for a nuclear generator.

The presence of guards and cameras is something else he uses to back up his claim.

But if there are such things as UFOs and visitors from other worlds, what do they want? "I honestly believe that we are being visited by extra-terrestrials and they're not coming here for the good of us," he said.

"I can't see anyone coming this far to save us from ourselves. If they're coming here,

they're coming for themselves."

"That's the crazy part of it, why do they come here? Perhaps it's to mine, or perhaps it's the abductions."

Admitting that what he does "isn't all aliens and little green men," Martin is about to write a book on Sheffield's secret UFO history, which includes a story about a woman from the Manor who saw a disc-shaped object in 1947, two days before a disc-shaped object supposedly crashed in Roswell.

But for now, he's concentrating on next week's Rotherham exhibition and a number of related events which make up UFO Week, including skywatches — at Hooper Stand on Monday and next Saturday — video nights and lectures.

We'll leave the last word to Martin's screen saver: "UFOs are not just flying saucers; they

may just be the key to our future as well as our past."

For more information and details about YUFON, Martin can be contacted on Sheffield 275 6144.

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Blackburn, England - April 19, 1997

## Debut of the East Coast UFO

this footage in the future and we are giving people in East Lancashire the first chance to see it.

## Evidence

"There will be a talk on UFOs and video evidence and we will be trying to show the public that UFO sightings are made during the day and we have photographs and video evidence."

"There has been huge UFO activity in Mexico for the last five years but many people don't know about it so we will be showing films from there and also footage shot in Russia."

"Some of it is pretty remarkable and changes people's minds about the phenomenon."

The talk costs £4 and £3 concessions and will begin at 7.30pm.

The society is investigating reports from Earsby, Barnoldswick and Burnley of aerial lights being seen on the border between Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Mr Matthews added: "If anyone sees anything they wish to report to us I would be pleased if they could contact me on 01704 549322."

By CATHERINE SMYTH  
EXCITING video footage of a triangular shaped unidentified flying object over the East Coast will be given its first public showing on April 28 in Burnley.

The Lancashire UFO society has been given the film, taken at 3pm by a 20-year-old air craft enthusiast, and is going to make it the star attraction at its meeting in the Tudor Room of the Mechanics.

Chairman Tim Matthews said: "This is going to be better than going to the cinema. 'People are going to hear a lot more about

## Schoolboy sees UFO over road

An 11 year old Shropshire schoolboy has described how a triangular-shaped UFO hovered in the skies above himself and a friend as they drove home — and then suddenly vanished.

Quick-thinking Peter Scutt, from Blackfriars, Oswestry, made a sketch of the flying object, spotted in the skies between Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

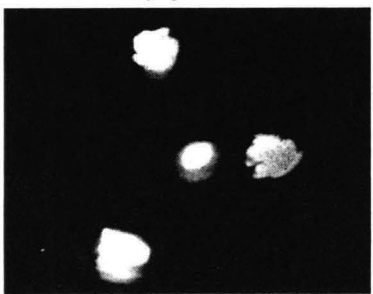
He and family friend, David Evans, 18, had been returning to their homes from Shrewsbury on the evening of February 25 and, finding Montford Bridge closed, travelled along the Shrewsbury to Four Crosses road.

"It was really weird. There was this triangular UFO hovering above us. All of a sudden a massive flame shot out of the back."

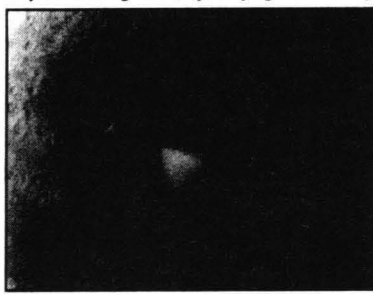
"It could not have been a plane."

An RAF spokesman said it was doubtful that the object was an aircraft on night training.

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Wellington, England - March 10, 1997



A triangular UFO photographed over Belgium in 1989 on the same day an identical craft was spotted over Rotherham.



The photograph taken by a Rawmarsh amateur astronomer from his back garden which shows a triangular UFO travelling across the front of the moon.

## Mystery object in sky seen by many

by Pam Jenner

THE *Weekly News* has been inundated with calls following our report of a UFO sighting near Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden.

Numerous people appear to have seen the same huge red object floating over town two weeks ago that was originally spotted by a father and son living in Radwinter Road.

The Cambridge UFO Group, based in Sawston, is now planning to investigate further and wants everyone who saw the object to write to it at 122 New Road, Sawston, Cambs, CB2 4BW.

Those reporting sightings of the UFO include Janice Wayback, Saffron Walden, who said: "My cat saw it first and suddenly sat up."

"I looked out and saw

what I originally thought was a firework but it carried on floating towards Ridgeons. I can't imagine what it could have been. My cat was fascinated."

Another caller saw what she thought was "a very strange rocket like thing in the sky" near Saffron Walden County High School.

"It moved quite fast but it was not a plane. It was a red gold colour."

Tina McCauley was making a phone call at her Ashdon Road home in Saffron Walden when she saw a "round red circular object" out of the window.

"It seemed to have two rows of lights around the circumference," she said. "It was high enough to

light up the sky. It made no noise, it just moved slowly and disappeared over Whiteshot Way."

A group of university graduates were having a bonfire in the garden of a house in Mill Road, Cambridge, when they saw a similar object on March 12.

Said Phil Andrews, 24, "At first we thought it was a fighter plane and we watched it for about 10 seconds moving south. Then it just shot off in an arc shape at ridiculous speed. There was no sound."

His friend, Robin Adams, said: "I thought it was an aircraft bathed in a red glow but they don't go at the speed this thing was going at. It shot overhead and whizzed off."

There was also a sighting in the Chesterton

Road area of Cambridge at around the same time the UFO was reported in Saffron Walden.

Steve Gamble, chairman of the Cambridge UFO Group, said: "Whilst approximately 90 per cent of all UFO reports can be reasonably explained, after investigation, to be a natural or man-made phenomena, it would be fair to point out that in the region of five per cent of the UK population have actually seen something they believe to be a UFO."

"Even if it does turn out to be a natural phenomena people should not be afraid of coming forward."

Mr Gamble added that there was not yet enough evidence to show whether UFOs were connected with life elsewhere in the universe.

## Shoppers' UFO report

UFO experts have been alerted after shoppers spotted a strange object flashing across the city sky.

Janet Pearson (44) noticed the silver oblong object she spotted across the sky at high speed as she sat in a car at the Asda car park, in Kingswood.

The object was also seen by her brother Alan Symington (52) and his wife Brenda (47) as they popped into the supermarket.

According to Janet, from Borthwick Close, Kingswood, the object was about the size of a car and was travelling at very high speed.

She told the Mail: "I've never seen anything like it before. It was just an amazing sight. It was tumbling over and over itself and we just sat there and watched it until it disappeared out of sight."

The spellbound trio only noticed

By Alistair Keely  
NEWS REPORTER

the strange looking object because a police helicopter was hovering in the same area and made them look upwards.

A police spokeswoman said the crew had not reported anything unusual in the area.

But according to Mrs Pearson a similar object was spotted by her daughter Leigh Symington (24) a week earlier, in the same area.

Mrs Gloria Dixon, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, said it was impossible to say what it was at this stage.

She said: "There is probably a simple explanation. The majority of unusual sightings can normally be put down to military or civilian aircraft and we would need to investigate more."



# Close encounter in a Chelsea flat

**MILITARY** giants don't come much bigger than Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley.

A war hero who flew Mosquitoes against the Germans, he has held one of the highest ranks in the RAF and has been an intimate adviser to the Queen and Prince Philip.

He has also, he claims, met a visitor from another galaxy.

Sir Peter has kept his close encounter with the mysterious man he calls Mr Janus in a London flat a secret for 43 years. But now, at the age of 76, he is ready to go public.

Fixing me with a steely gaze, he says: 'We talked for hours about travelling in space and time. I don't know what or who he was. He didn't say he was a visitor from another planet but I had that impression. I believe he was here to observe us.'

'I never saw him again. I have no qualms about the reaction to my experience with Mr Janus. I don't care what people think - it was what happened.'

His extraordinary testimony - in his autobiography, *Sounds From Another Room*, to be published in the autumn - and his uncompromising belief in unidentified flying objects will no doubt ruffle the sangfroid of the men at the Ministry. For, incredible as it seems, it is the evidence of a man who once ran the country's front line defence at RAF Strike Command, and was a Buckingham Palace aide for six years.

At his riverside cottage in Hampshire, where Christmas cards from the Royal Family hang in the lavatory, he discusses the presence of alien spacecraft with unswerving nonchalance.

'I would say they come from another planet somewhere in

## RAF chief's memoirs on a man from outer space

By Fiona Barton

the universe but not in our galaxy. They are benign, not aggressive and, like us, are explorers,' he says.

His interest in UFOs began, he says, in 1952 while he was an equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh and was sparked by newspaper reports at the time.

He joined the Royal Household in 1949 as a squadron leader who

**'I don't care what people think - it happened'**

had been decorated for his work as personal pilot to Major General Sir Miles Graham during the Normandy Invasion.

Sir Peter says he talked to Prince Philip of his interest in UFOs. 'He was quite interested. As always his mind was open. He agreed I should do a study on the subject in my spare time as long as I kept it in perspective and didn't bring the Palace into dispute. He didn't want to see headlines about him believing in little green men.'

Sir Peter started by interviewing people who claimed to have seen UFOs and invited a BOAC captain to visit him at Buckingham Palace. His own

encounter came in 1954. 'At the end of my tour at the Palace, I had a very strange experience,' he recalls with charming understatement.

He says he was introduced to a General Martin who arranged for him to visit the Chelsea home of a Mrs Markham.

Sir Peter cannot remember the date or the number of the flat in Smith Street - nor can he describe the man he met there - but he is adamant the encounter took place.

'Janus was there, sitting by the fire in a deep chair. He asked, "What is your interest in flying saucers?"'

And then he gave a Wellsian account of space travel at the speed of light with spare body parts in the luggage. When Sir Peter went back to the flat it was empty.

But his interest in the paranormal stayed with him during his rise through the ranks to the crucial post of Deputy Commander in Chief of RAF Strike Command in 1973.

Sir Peter insists: 'I don't think I am a crank about it at all.'

But at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, jaws are dropping. As one former senior officer put it: 'Oh God. How unfortunate that the public will learn that the man who had his finger on the button at Strike Command was seeing little green men.'

*Sounds From Another Room* is published by Leo Cooper in October.



**FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES:** Sir Peter, circled, was close to the Queen and Prince Philip. Picture: DAVID O'NEILL

TOPPER, Nottingham, England - May 14, 1997



## 'UFO crash site found in Notts'

**RESEARCHERS** say they've uncovered new evidence to back claims that a UFO crashed in Notts 10 years ago.

A thunderball was blamed for tearing through 13 homes at Kirby-in-Ashfield - blowing out windows and bringing down chimney stacks on November 12, 1987.

But East Midlands UFO Research Association says that theory doesn't add up.

Director Anthony James

**REPORT by JOHN HOWORTH**

said: 'An insurance expert said at the time that it defied reason.'

'Folk say they were stopped in their car by a police roadblock near Annesley and told they couldn't go any further as a helicopter had come down in some woods.'

'Other witnesses came forward with snippets of information. British UFOA investigator Dominic Beglin believes the object was trying to avoid built-up areas and veered south heading towards Hucknall Airfield.'

'The UFO didn't make it that far and a possible crash site has since been found in the countryside north of Hucknall.'

'Witnesses at the time said they saw a ball of light travel across the sky in zig-zag fashion - not in a straight line which would support the thunderbolt theory.'

Anthony added 'a top secret cover-up' was later launched - and the incident hushed up.

Mr Beglin is guest speaker at the EMUFORA's meeting at Basford Community Hall on May 18 (4pm).

He will be releasing details about the incident. Admission to the event is £1.

**TAKING FLIGHT:** UFO investigators claim this is the site where a mystery craft landed 10 years ago - but say the incident has been covered up by the authorities who blame freak weather for damaging nearby homes

PICTURE BY WILL PICKERING

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - May 6, 1997

# UFO investigator calls for spacecraft inquiry

A FIFE-BASED UFO investigator has called for an urgent inter-governmental inquiry into reported sightings of gigantic alien spacecraft off the east coast of Scotland and Iceland in recent months.

Reports by fishermen and military personnel stationed in these areas have led Mr Bob Stewart of Cupar, an investigator for Stirling-based Strange Phenomenons Investigations (SPI), to demand that the "true facts" of the matter be made known.

He believes it is possible that extra-terrestrial life intent on study or takeover of the human race may already have bases on Earth. This follows recent reports from Scandinavian fishermen of huge triangular objects - some as large as football stadiums - seen emerging from and entering the sea in the North Atlantic.

Mr Stewart said his sources tell him that in one case NATO aircraft were scrambled to intercept a 180-foot long object which was accompanied by numerous glass-like balls. In other sightings, similar sized objects are said to have been accompanied by blue fluorescent lights or red balls of light hovering nearby.

In January this year it was claimed that airliners attempting to land at Keflavik airport in Iceland were delayed because UFOs were intruding into civilian air corridors. Similar sightings are said to have been seen down the British coast as far as Lincolnshire.

Meanwhile, fishermen near the Shetlands are said to have encountered Underwater Submarine Objects, or USOs, which subsequently snagged and destroyed their nets.

Speaking yesterday, Mr Stewart said it was important for him to make clear the difference between mere stories and facts.

'It is important that I keep my finger on the pulse, so to speak, and to do this I must consider all the reports that are made public. It's the facts I want,' he added.

'People fishing in the Icelandic waters are seeing some strange things, and although many may have perfectly logical explanations, many have not been satisfactorily explained.'

The investigator, who regularly attends SPI meetings across the country, has also been very interested in reported confrontations with close encounters in the Fife and Tayside areas over the past year or so.

In February 1996 he interviewed

witnesses of Broughty Ferry's Orchar Park sighting, when several children said they were approached by a giant object which was described as "like a rugby ball with lights."

He also took an interest in a report from a few weeks ago that a civilian employee working late shift at RAF Leuchars was "buzzed" by a UFO while sitting at the Reres Wood end of the runway one dark night.

Meanwhile, at the latest SPI meeting in Stirling, Mr Stewart was intrigued to learn that the alleged landing site of a UFO said to have touched down in Fife last September was a field at Newton of Falkland in the shadow of the Lomond Hills. Countless other tales of lights in the sky have also been reported.

Like the other sightings worldwide, none of these local mysteries has ever been officially explained.

# They're out there

By Wanda Chow  
Staff Reporter

If you've seen any unidentified flying objects lately, UFO\*BC wants to hear from you.

Based out of the New Westminster home of one of its directors, West End resident Gavin McLeod, UFO\*BC collects reports of sightings and paranormal events in the province.

"We're trying to establish a degree of credibility (for such events)," said the group's president, Graham Conway, 70, who claims he has personally had "at least two dozen" such experiences over the last 50 years. Along with aiding in research, collecting and documenting such sightings can only support their case that strange, unexplained events have taken place, the group says.

Conway said that the number of people who have seen UFOs or related occurrences are more than one might expect. "I guarantee 50 per cent of the people around you have seen something (they can't explain)."

Since the group was formed at the end of 1995, it has received more than a hundred reports of sightings. There were 60 in 1996 and so far in the first quarter of this year, they've already surpassed that number, Conway said.

Vice-president David Pengilly believes that was due to interest in the Hale-Bopp comet causing more people to look skyward in early April. At around the same time, a New Westminster high school student, a Coquitlam woman and a man out by Georgia Strait at the time all reported seeing an object in the sky with



Gavin McLeod and his New Westminster-based UFO\*BC, believe "They're out there."

Photo By Keith Morrison

lights which flashed repeatedly in a horizontal pattern before eventually taking off — straight up, he said.

The group members do their best to rule out astronomical events or objects or other explanations before including sightings in their collection. For example, Pengilly recalled, a woman reported seeing strange lights flashing in the sky only to have UFO\*BC learn that B.C. Tel was holding a laser light show in the city

at the time.

What they're left with are the truly unexplained events, they say.

Take Gavin McLeod's own experiences. Now 49, he was six years old in 1953 when he fell asleep in a chair in front of his family's East Vancouver home. He awoke, he said, to see an object hovering 50 feet away over by his neighbor's house. It was like a kid's top, the size of a house and had a dome on it. "This

was not an aircraft."

His family didn't believe his story but years later, while flipping through an early book on UFOs, he said he saw a drawing that was "absolutely identical" to what he had seen as child. Still later, while working as an engineering technologist, he met a man who recalled being at the airport in 1953 and seeing a "grey saucer-like object (which) headed off in a northeast direction

which would've taken it right over my house."

Many people go for years without telling a soul about sightings they've experienced simply because they're afraid of being ridiculed, Pengilly said. "If all we do is listen to them, we've done them a service."

For some, proving the existence of alien life forms will take more than sightings and eyewitness accounts.

Barry Beyerstein, a psychology professor at Simon Fraser University and chairman of the B.C. Skeptics Society considers himself "quite agnostic when it comes to life elsewhere." While not discounting that people actually have unexplained sightings, "even most avid UFO buffs generally agree that 80 to 90 per cent (of sightings) have prosaic explanations."

"It doesn't mean that because you can't explain it that there's no rational explanation. Because you can't explain them doesn't mean they're extra-terrestrials either."

Studies have shown that people have a tendency to infer things (windows and a driver on an unidentified flying object, for example) when describing events or objects, Beyerstein said. His view is based on "the absence of any other objective reason (for sightings) and what I know about the fallibility of human cognition and memory."

"I'm always interested in how few astronomers see UFOs. They're professionals that are not likely to be taken in."

To contact UFO\*BC, call 878-6511. Their Internet web site can be found at <http://www.ufobc.org>.

EVENING POST, Reading, England - May 29, 1997

## UFO alert: X-Files-style sighting

# 'I saw two spaceships in the sky'

By YASMINE COLLINGS

A WOODCOTE man believes he saw two spaceships flying across the Reading sky this week.

In an amazing incident reminiscent of the supernatural tales featured in the television series *The X-Files*, the man saw the mysterious objects flying from east to west as he looked up from his back garden at 11pm on Monday.

The man, who does not want to be named, said: "I have never seen an unidentified flying object before but, if I'd had my camera with me, I would now be a wealthy man."

"There was a loud noise and I would be surprised if no one else saw it."

He said the first flying object was a triangular shape with lights in each corner.

The other UFO, which followed after, was a long thin shape with bright red lights surrounding three bright lights.

Neither Reading police nor the Bracknell-based



► SKY HIGH — Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny star in the hit television science fiction television *X-Files*

Meteorological Office have received any calls about sightings of a UFO on Monday.

However, Dr Margaret Penston, an astronomer from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, said: "I have had a report about a very bright meteorite that is thought to have come down in Dartford. This may not seem close but it is close for a meteorite."

"I also had a call from someone who saw a bright

light in the sky through her bedroom window at Finchampstead, on Tuesday at 2am.

"I think it was probably a bright star close to the horizon."

The Woodcote man is eager to hear from anyone else who saw the objects in the sky.

Call Yasmine Collings at the Reading Evening Post newsroom on (0118) 957 5833 if you can shed any light on this mystery.

TIMES, London, England - May 13, 1997

## Unidentified flying diction

OPERA

The Roswell Incident  
Bury St Edmunds

IT IS now 50 years since the most famous UFO happening of them all, the so-called Roswell incident, subject of a film documentary and much press comment still. If an unidentified (and manned) object landed in the New Mexico desert in 1947, then everything about it was ruthlessly hushed up by the US central government.

John Hardy's new opera based on the incident was premiered by Music Theatre Wales at the Bury Festival, under the auspices of the East Anglia Year of Opera. He has taken several risks. There is no programme synopsis, which is admirable in principle — imagine going to *Tosca* for the first time and not knowing how it is going to end — but dangerous in practice: it presupposes clarity of diction that was not consistently forthcoming last Friday at the Theatre Royal. He has also composed a leading role for female child soprano,

which compounds the first risk: and after a battery of electronics to set the scene, he launches his piece with a 20-minute baritone solo which, in a work in two acts of only 50 minutes each, risks a certain imbalance.

In the first act, there is an element of the protagonist, the intelligence officer Captain Bradwick, suffering a nervous crisis, not unlike Britten's *Governance*. Fine: much of the interest in the subject lies in why people need UFOs, as many patently do. But this promising idea is not pursued in the second part, which depends too much on face-value narrative — the gruesome and unnecessary post-mortem of an alien

corpse, intervention from the Pentagon and so on. The work ends with a politically correct green message: "they", if "they" existed, were warning us about the consequences of the horrible things we are doing to each other and our planet.

Again, fine, and the *ET*-ish association of Midwich-Cuckoo aliens with children is nicely handled, but the dramatic focus of Heledd Wyn's libretto could be much tighter. Hardy's approachable score, for string quartet and keyboards, ranges from Brittenesque nervousness for the protagonist to New Age, neo-minimalist lyricism for "them". It was amplification of keyboards and voice that muddled the diction of young Sian Winstanley, otherwise wholly admirable as the Alien-Child, but Gwion Thomas got every word across as the Captain, and in several other roles as well (there is much doubling). Sadly, crucial solos for Gareth Lloyd in the second act were completely wordless — black mark.

Well conducted (Michael Rafferty) and directed (Michael McCarthy), *The Roswell Incident* is already a likeable piece; some workshopping and rejigging could turn it into something rather more.

RODNEY MILNES

POST, Petersfield, England - May 14, 1997

## Woman claims she saw UFO over her village

A white metallic tubular object hovering above Liss Forest may sound like something straight out of the *X-Files* — but that is what a woman claims she saw while out walking her dog.

June Chalcraft, of Warren Road, Liss Forest, said she saw the UFO around 10am yesterday while she was walking through the Longmoor Enclosure.

Mrs Chalcraft described it as a white tubular object flying just below cloud level. She said it was heading north towards Alton.

She said: "At first, I thought it

was a barrage balloon — but as it moved slowly along the downs and then stopped completely I soon realised it was not."

After watching the object for about 15 minutes, Mrs Chalcraft said she continued her walk.

She said: "I just can't explain what it was. It was like nothing I had seen before."

A Whitehill police spokesman said no reports had been received of UFO sightings.

Did you see something strange in the sky? If so, ring The Post on 01730 268021.





LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - July 29, 1997

## Pilot says he saw 'blast' before TWA crash

By DAVID E. HENDRIX  
Riverside Press-Enterprise

A military eyewitness to the TWA Flight 800 disaster who was the first rescuer on the scene says the jetliner and 230 people aboard were knocked out of the sky by an explosive projectile, probably a military warhead, and not by some, internal mechanical catastrophe.

Frederick C. Meyer, one of two Air National Guard helicopter pilots who witnessed the jetliner's breakup, said he was not sure what the projectile was and did not know its source. A Jane's military expert said Meyer's description of the incident matched that of a missile detonating.

Meyer said he cannot say the object that struck the Boeing 747 was a missile, but is convinced he saw an "ordnance explosion" burst near the plane just before it blossomed into a deadly fireball.

Although the ex-Navy officer and Vietnam War helicopter pilot previously had described what he saw to investigators and to the media, he said he was breaking his self-imposed silence on his conclusions about what occurred. He said the reason he was speaking out now was because of FBI and National Transportation Safety Board statements that a mechanical spark most likely touched off fuel tank fumes and caused the July 17, 1996, air disaster. He also noted that investigators had treated him perfunctorily and did not ask him many questions or anything about his conclusions when they talked.

"I'm not a professor with a Ph.D. in explosion watching, I'm an eyewitness," Meyer, an attorney, said. "I know what I saw. I saw an ordnance explosion. And whatever I saw, the explosion of the fuel was not the initiator of the event. It was one of the results. Something happened before that which was the initiator of the disaster. Everyone involved in the FBI and NTSB are intelligent enough to know that."

NTSB officials confirmed that Meyer's conclusions were new to them and that he had not previously offered his beliefs to investigators. An FBI spokesman said the agency does not comment about statements of an individual witness. NTSB and FBI officials said there was no physical evidence a bomb or missile downed

the plane. The FBI has said it expects to withdraw from the probe soon because it has no physical evidence that would indicate there was a criminal cause.

There have been other eyewitness reports about missile-like streaks followed by an explosion but these have been primarily from people on land or in boats.

The FBI and the NTSB have said they believe that the central gas tank explosion was most likely touched off by an internal event. They have not shut the door entirely on other prevailing theories — that a bomb or missile caused the disaster — but they have belittled them.

Meyer, in a series of interviews with The Press-Enterprise from his Shinnecock Hills, Long Island, N.Y., office, said he had not offered his opinions during several brief meetings with FBI and NTSB investigators because he wanted to present facts, not conclusions. However, he chided FBI and NTSB examiners for not asking him any questions during individual sessions, the first two of which he initiated.

Capt. Chris Baur, his co-pilot that night, could not be reached for comment and has declined interviews, reportedly under orders, since shortly after the disaster. But published reports quote investigators as saying Baur thinks he saw a missile.

Meyer said he saw a streak from the west of the spot where the TWA exploded seconds later. Baur said he saw a streak from the east.

Meyer said the accounts are not contradictory if there had been two projectiles, such as two missiles or a drone target and a missile, approaching from opposite directions. Meyer said he believes there were two projectiles but said he could only testify about the one he saw. He rejected efforts to discuss Baur's reported comments, saying that would be inappropriate and would detract from the substance of each account.

Meyer, 57, said he, Baur and flight engineer Denis Richardson were practicing instrument landings for Baur around Francis S. Gabreski Airport, a former Air Force Base on eastern Long Island, at about 8:30 p.m. on the Wednesday evening TWA 800 crashed. Meyer was watching for-

ward, southwest, for possible conflicting aircraft. Baur, his head down, was reading instruments. Richardson was facing the side from the left gunner's position to watch for aircraft.

"Right in front of me, slightly to the left of centerline, at a distance that I then estimated as 10 miles and an altitude that I estimated at approximately 10,000 feet, I saw a streak of light."

The light, he said, was reddish-orange and "had a trajectory of a shooting star: virtually horizontal, with a gradual descending curve." The streak lasted three to five seconds and disappeared.

"About a second, and then further to my left, along the same trajectory as the streak, I see a violent explosion, which resembles a flak explosion, and I've seen those. It's yellowish-orange and red in color and it generates a little black cloud of smoke, and the smoke generally congeals above the explosion and above the light. It is a high-velocity explosion."

Flak is antiaircraft cannon fire that explodes near its target and fragments into shrapnel. Meyer described a high-velocity explosion as "now you don't see it, now you do."

"A second or maybe a second and a half later, at an altitude that looked like the trajectory was bent downward a little, I saw a brilliant white explosion. I don't know what it was. It looked somewhat like a white phosphorus round, but not exactly. It was a separate, distinct explosion. They were not concentric. They were two different explosions, the second to the left of the first."

Next came a low-velocity explosion, a fireball that grew in size and continued moving to the left, or east. The third explosion could either have been two separate ones that merged or just one large event, Meyer said. The entire sequence took 12 to 15 seconds from the initial sighting of the streak to the fireball, Meyer said.

Baur said in interviews shortly after the accident that he saw a streak moving from left to right, or east to west, before the first explosion. That first burst was a "hard white light," he was quoted saying in a March 10 story in Aviation Week and Space Technology. The magazine attrib-

uted its account to unnamed crash investigators who quoted Baur.

"I was trying to figure out what it was," the story quotes Baur as saying. "It was the wrong color for flares. It struck an object coming from the right and made it explode."

But Baur's head was down when Meyer first saw a streak. Meyer said his view to the left was partially blocked by Baur's body and the cockpit's structure.

"I'm just in total awe and saying (to myself) 'What in hell is that?'" Meyer recalled. "I, I, just don't know what it is," he said, still stammering and groping for words a year later.

After seeing the explosions, Meyer and his crew decided to investigate, radioed the tower, and accelerated almost due south toward the fireball, which they saw hit the water.

The helicopter crew was the first to reach the disaster site, arriving while bodies and flaming aircraft parts still rained from the sky into a growing lake of fire floating on the ocean. The crew skirted 50-foot flames billowing from jet fuel while looking for possible survivors but found none. They spotted a life raft but it was empty.

Meyer was interviewed by media in the first few days after and said he couldn't conclude he saw a missile, a word he still avoids.

"I don't know," he said. "It could have been. But there is a big difference between could have been and I saw a missile."

He is adamant, however, that what he saw came toward the plane, not from it.

"I have no idea what that streak of light was," Meyer said. "It could have been a number of things. It could have been the tailpipe of a missile. But I know the explosions I saw were ordnance. The first two I saw were ordnance. The third was petrochemical."

The NTSB plans to hold a public hearing in Baltimore in December to review evidence and take testimony. NTSB spokesman Peter Goetz said he did not know if Meyer would be asked to testify because witness lists were not complete.

(Distributed by Scripps Howard News Service.)

## Tribes' services allowed

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Indians have been allowed to hold spiritual observances over a 9,300-year-old skeleton known as Kennewick Man as scientists in court fight government plans to give the bones to the tribes.

Army Corps of Engineers officials recently acknowledged that tribal members visited the bones five times, sometimes for religious observances, in a climate-controlled room in Richland, Wash.

The skeleton was discovered a year ago along the Columbia River near Kennewick, Wash.

The corps initially decided to turn the bones over to the tribes under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

But eight anthropologists and a nontribal religious group sued in federal court. They claim the skeleton bears white, non-Indian features and should be studied to determine its ancestry.

TIMES, Washington, DC  
Aug. 15, 1997 CR: T. Good

## 'Tongue-eater' monster afoot in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Deutsche Presse Agentur) — The "tongue-eater," a mysterious monster described as a cross between a turkey and a cat, is terrifying the peasant farmers of Nicaragua's central province of Boaca with its lust for the blood of domesticated animals, news reports said yesterday.

In the past several days, the so-called tongue-eater has killed several cows and other domesticated animals by ripping out their tongues and sucking their blood, the reports said.

There have even been reports that the mysterious animal has attacked humans. But so far not a single tongue-eater has been caught.

The Nicaraguan reports are reminiscent of similar accounts last year in Mexico, where an unidentified mystery animal was said to have sucked the blood of goats and domesticated animals in remote regions of the country.

Mexican authorities suspected the culprits were wolves or mountain lions, but advertisers and other entrepreneurs used the idea of such a "monster" to decorate T-shirts and as models for children's toys.

NEWS LEADER, Surrey/North Delta, B.C., Canada - Aug. 23, 1997 CR: G. Conway

## Who mutilated the cat, owner asks

Paul Dillon  
STAFF REPORTER

Lynn Brown is looking for answers after discovering the mutilated remains of her cat in the middle of a busy Newton street Saturday.

The pensioner's 12-year-old Burmese-Siamese mix, Samantha, rarely left her 133B Street housing complex.

Returning home Saturday from shopping, Brown noticed what she thought was a stuffed animal lying on 72 Avenue, four blocks from her home.

She pulled over and pointed the animal out to a man working in a nearby tire store.

To her horror, he returned with

she was severed in half with a sharp blade," said Brown.

"There was no blood or anything. I can't understand who or what would

**'The SPCA tried to convince me she was hit by a train, but I'd like to know how she made it from the tracks to 72 Avenue, two blocks away, without any internal organs.'**

— Lynn Brown

Samantha, who appeared to have been cut in half.

All that remained was the tiny feline's head and shoulders.

"I'm in absolute shock. It looks like

do this, but the SPCA said there haven't been any incidents of satanic rituals or things like that.

"They said I could drive it to Abbotsford and pay \$100 for an

analysis but it's pretty obvious that she was cut in half."

Despite a wide search of the area, she and her neighbors never managed to locate the rest of the animal.

"The SPCA tried to convince me she was hit by a train, but I'd like to know how she made it from the tracks to 72 Avenue, two blocks away, without any internal organs," she said.

"People are saying it was connected to that machete attack last week. Another person said it's voodoo. None of-use can understand what happened."

# Saying her experience real, N.C. woman backs those who see bigfoot

By ANDREW M. HAWORTH  
T&D Staff Writer

The uproar in the town of Neeses over a "bigfoot" sighting has caused not only a stir at the state level, the story's gone national.

Brenda Polk, a self-proclaimed expert on bigfoot, was watching the Friday evening news in Concord, N.C., when a Charlotte television station aired the tale of a 14-year-old Neeses boy's account of a bigfoot attempting to break into his dog pen.

"Every time that I hear a bigfoot's been spotted, I try to get in touch with the people who spotted it," Polk said. "I called the sheriff's office down there and they gave me the number to the paper."

Polk, who said she had a close encounter with a bigfoot in 1991, has been fascinated by the creature since. She is setting up a support group for bigfoot sighters in the Carolinas.

"I'm trying to get a support group started for people in the Carolinas that have spotted bigfoot and have a place for them to report without people telling them they've lost their mind," Polk said. "People that have talked to me about it tell me it's a good thing. I even bought a computer to get on the Internet; there's a lot of bigfoot information on there."

Polk also had a special message for Jackie Hutto, the Neeses youth who says he spotted such a creature Tuesday afternoon.

"I want to tell him to hang in there," Polk said. "Just tell him to,



Bigfoot welcome sign in Neeses

no matter what people say about him, to stand by what he knows is the truth. The thing was not there to hurt people, but the dogs had probably been agitating it."

"It does cause you to have a lot of emotional problems. It's just like a ghost. People don't believe it, and people need to experience it for themselves before they will believe it," Polk said. "They won't attack anyone unless they are attacked. I don't think it's going to hurt anybody down there."

Eventually, Polk said the furor around the event will die down.

"As other people's reports come in, he will be forgotten, because that's what happened to me."

But Polk will probably never forget her life-changing experience with a bigfoot one late fall night in Stanly County, N.C., near the South Carolina border.

"When I moved down there in 1988 I never dreamed that would happen," said Polk, a skeptic at that time. "I decided to run over to a store about three miles over and on the way back about a quarter-mile from my home I saw this thing by the side of the road."

"I stopped in front of it and turned my bright headlights on. I just looked at him and he just looked back at me. I had a feeling that he knew me. He had silver hair. It was gorgeous."

Polk said the creature had a face that resembled an Alaskan Husky, but was standing upright like a man.

"He was fully male - he had male genitals," Polk said. "He was real muscle-bound, he had slim hips, but huge thighs. The hair was 4 to 5 inches long on his arms and silver. I'd say he was well over 7 feet tall."

"There was something about his eyes and it was like he was communicating to me through his eyes," Polk said. "After he got a

good look at me, he ran off."

"I didn't get afraid and I'm still not afraid," she said. "I've always been truthful and reliable and that's why people always believe my story."

Polk said people should not fear the creature, although they don't take well to dogs.

"They don't like dogs, and dogs don't like them," she said. "I've been studying it now for the past year. It has attacked dogs, but I haven't seen anywhere where it actually attacked humans other than when they harassed it."

Her research has also led her to the Bigfoot Headquarters in California, which provides her with updates on bigfoot sightings nationwide. Additionally, Polk says the mountainous regions of North Carolina are alive with sightings that people don't report because they are scared of being ridiculed.

Polk encourages anyone who sights a bigfoot to report the incident to her organization via fax or phone call at (704) 795-7092.

The Associated Press is comparing the story to the South Carolina "Lizard Man" sightings in

1988. 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.

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.

The 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.

But for Polk, bigfoot sightings mean more than T-shirts and tales for youngsters to recount during campfire storytelling. She is concerned over the fear some people have of the creature.

"The only reason I'm afraid to go out at night now is because of humans. This thing is not a human, it's a very intelligent animal," Polk said. "I want the media to know about the bigfoot, because the more people know, the less they will be afraid of him."

"This bigfoot encountered me to tell me this I think."

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Aug. 20, 1997 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

## Reward offered for live capture of 'extinct' Tasmanian Tiger

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian officials have posted a reward for anyone who captures a Tasmanian Tiger, a doglike striped animal that zoologists say has been extinct for at least 60 years.

While there's no scientific proof of their existence, news reports Tuesday quot-

ed villagers as saying that packs of Tasmanian Tigers have been killing farm animals in moonlit attacks to feed their pups.

The official Antara news agency said officials in the remote mountainous interior of Irian Jaya, the Indonesian-controlled western half of the island of New Guinea, offered \$670 for the first Tas-

manian Tiger captured alive.

Named after their only known habitat in Tasmania, an island state off southeastern Australia, the animals have dark stripes on their backs. They raised their young in pouches like kangaroos and other Australian marsupials.

Hunted mercilessly by European sheep ranchers last century, they were declared extinct when the last known Tasmanian Tiger died in a zoo in Hobart in 1936.

Dozens of unsubstantiated sightings have been made in Tasmania ever since.

Now New Guinean villagers claim packs of six or seven Tasmanian Tigers have been killing pigs, cats and other domestic animals during the past month.

The Indonesian Observer newspaper said one Tasmanian Tiger was killed recently by villagers and sold to highway workers who ate it for dinner.

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - April 15, 1997 CR: M. Fraser

## EXCLUSIVE: Fishermen tell of mystery loch monster



CROCODILE VIEWS ... now film footage of the strange beast is set to be shown on television screens across Europe

**M**ONSTER stories flooded the Daily Record last night after our picture of the beast of Croc Lomond.

We told last week how a crocodile-like animal had been seen in the loch.

Now one man has admitted he spotted the creature 16 years ago, but kept it quiet.

Keen fishermen claim the Croc could really be a huge pike.

And film of the new Nessie is now set to be shown across Europe.

Eric Meikle, 62, of Balloch, Dunbartonshire, is delighted folk have spotted the creature - because it means he hasn't gone loopy.

He said: "Sixteen years ago I was walking along the shore with my wife when we heard a strange

# WE'VE ALL SEEN CROC LOMOND!

By RAY NOTARANGELO

grunting noise and saw movement on the water. The thing started heading to the shore, kicking up a wake. Then it disappeared.

"I kept what I saw quiet all these years, but after seeing the Record's story, I don't feel silly to speak out."

Glasgow student Michael Fagin, 18, said he saw what looked like a crocodile in the loch on Tuesday.

And William Longwill, 50, of Paisley, said a 12ft beast swam by him in the loch seven years ago.

He added: "It was moving in an undulating sort of way and would have had a girth of about 18 inches."

Angler Alistair Arbuckle thinks the beast could be a giant fish. He said: "Twenty years ago a skull of a pike estimated to have weighed at least 70lbs was washed ashore."

Edinburgh journalist Nick Taylor, who has a five-minute film of the mystery creature, said he has now been approached by a German film crew to screen the footage.



# Shades of Lizard Man: Sleepy summer yields

From staff and wire reports

NEESES — Nine years ago, sightings of the Lizard Man kept people in Lee County on edge.

Now residents of the Orangeburg County town of Neeses can relate. Bigfoot may be on the loose in their community.

An 8-foot hairy man was reportedly seen this week tugging on a dog pen.

It was 14-year-old Jackie Hutto was saw the creature, and though some are questioning him, he has stuck to his story. His

older brother, David, has backed him up. But 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.

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.

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," he said. "He had to try and eat those dogs because if he went in a restaurant he would get thrown out."

Others don't believe Bigfoot's in their town and are upset the media ran the story. "I think it's a bunch of baloney," Darlene

## sighting tale

Riley said. "I have about 10 kids in this house who are scared to go out and play."

It was 1988 when a Lee County teen first reported seeing the Lizard Man, a 7-foot-tall hairy bigfoot-like creature with red eyes — not, as the name suggests, a scaly beast that crawls through the swamp on its belly.

The Lizard Man brought international attention to Bishopville after a man said the three-fingered creature chased his car at speeds of 40 mph along a rural road.

The 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.

A Columbia radio station even offered a \$1 million Lizard Man reward. But no one was able to bring the creature in and collect the cash.

Back in 1977, Harold Berry of Saluda County and Leonard Gromoske 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 Hum' remains mystery

Mysterious noise baffles scientists, creates buzz across state

By Adam Lisberg  
Free Press Staff Writer

NEWARK — They are scattered across Vermont, listening. They sit at their kitchen tables; they cock their heads to one side in their foyers; they turn off appliances and stand stock-still, listening.

Sometimes, they hear The Hum.

"You can hear that, can't you?" asked Claire Van Vliet, perched on a stair in her Newark home, where an observer could hear only the clock on the wall. "This is there all the time."

It's a low-pitched sound, constant, like a refrigerator running in a distant room, she said. Sometimes, there's an even deeper noise, one that shuts on and off randomly, one that forces her to sleep with pillows stuffed against her ears.

"It's like a barking dog," said Van Vliet, whose complaints about The Hum this spring sparked a surge of interest and elicited similar reports from other Vermonters. "You never know when it's going to start up."

She's not the only one who hears The Hum. There's Rochelle Schenk, who lives quietly down the gravel road without electricity or a phone, but still hears it when she settles in at night. There's construction worker Steve Weaver, sitting at the kitchen table in his mother's Waterford home, describing his eight years hearing The Hum.

And there are others — in Vermont, in New Mexico, in Michigan, elsewhere in the U.S., even in Britain — who hear The Hum.

Scientists from federal laboratories and the University of New Mexico have studied The Hum. They can't find a source — but they believe it's real. Some hearers blame secret military projects;

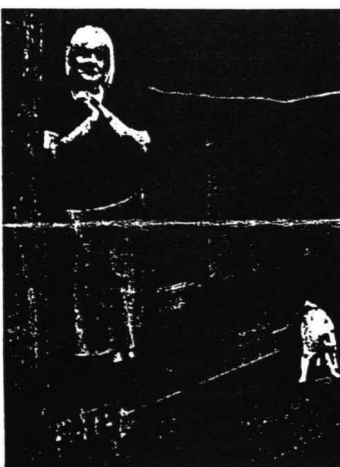


"I just try to push it out of my mind. I don't want to hear it."

Rochelle Schenk (below)



Steve Weaver (left)



"I've had people call up and say I'm listening to the 'om' of the universe."

Claire Van Vliet (above)

### WHAT IS IT?

- It's a rumbling, grinding low-frequency sound.
- It has been compared to an idling truck, a low-flying propeller plane, a refrigerator, and a big bumble bee.
- It is said to turn on and off abruptly, or fade in and out, or pulse, or stay constant.
- Some people hear a somewhat higher-pitched sound.

### WHERE IS IT?

- The United States. The first reports came from Albuquerque, N.M. in 1989; since then, people have heard it all over America.
- The United Kingdom. Researchers have studied similar reports of The Hum in Britain since the 1970s, but have identified sources in 90 percent of the reports.

### HUM ONLINE

- Hum-hearers have their own home page on the World Wide Web, complete with an annoying background pattern, just like The Hum itself: [www.eskimo.com/~bilbl/hum/hum.html](http://www.eskimo.com/~bilbl/hum/hum.html)

### The Hum survey

In 1994, the University of New Mexico surveyed 8,000 Taos residents about The Hum. Of 1,440 respondents, 11 percent reported hearing it. Of those 161 who heard it:

- 52 percent were women
- 73 percent were between 30 and 59 years old

■ 75 percent heard it at least once a week

■ 5 percent heard it constantly

Quote from survey: "A number of respondents complained the survey was a waste of time and blamed newcomers, New Agers, or 'pot-smoking hippies' for what they perceived as an invention. However, hearers outnumbered the skeptics three to one."

much caffeine," Weaver said. "But that was before I drank coffee. So they weren't much help."

He thought he was alone. He didn't know that at about the same time, city officials in Albuquerque, N.M., investigated residents' reports of a similar noise but couldn't find any source. More reports surfaced two years later in Taos, N.M., prompting jokes and national attention — and a federal investigation.

Nine scientists from three government laboratories and the University of New Mexico converged in May 1993 to listen for what was becoming known as the Taos Hum.

They brought fancy equipment, including a microphone 10,000 times more sensitive than the human ear, and a seismic monitor that could sense a burrowing gopher. They found nothing.

"Team members did not detect the source of the hum in Taos, but they continue to believe the

phenomenon is real," the report concluded. "The hum, a bona fide scientific mystery, deserves additional inquiry."

### Military secrets?

"We enjoyed the country a lot, but we couldn't find it," said one of the scientists, Horace Potect. He's an electrical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, which used to blow up nuclear bombs underground before times changed. He hears The Hum, too — "everywhere I go."

Before they began their study, Potect said, he and the other government scientists asked their bosses whether any secret projects might be the cause. The answer, they were told, was no.

It wasn't an unreasonable question. The deserts of the West are dotted with secret government laboratories and military bases; two weeks ago, the Air Force celebrated the 50th anniversary of flying saucer reports from Roswell, N.M., by releasing new details of then-secret projects that it said were the cause.

"I can believe the government would cover things up, Potect said, "but not in this case."

The team did listen for signals from military activities, such as radar beams and the extremely low-frequency (ELF) radio waves the Navy uses to reach nuclear submarines. They found nothing.

### Electric lines?

Back in Vermont, Van Vliet isn't so sure. She thinks the Navy's ELF project might be to blame, vibrating across the earth's crust, through the bedrock and into her spruce-and-pine home.

When she first heard the noise, Jan. 26, Van Vliet wrote "Sound" on her calendar and started asking questions. She called the local electric company to ask if they were doing anything strange with the wires. She checked into the snowmaking over at the Burke Mountain Ski Resort, and the sawmills in the area. None of them panned out.

She did, however, find that one of her neighbors, Rochelle Schenk, had been hearing The Hum since late last year. Schenk's home isn't hooked up to the power grid, so she doubts the cause is electrical; she's given up hope of ever finding the source.

"It's very bizarre," said Schenk, 54. "I just try to push it out of my mind. I don't want to hear it."

Van Vliet, though, wanted an-

swers. In March, she talked about The Hum to the local paper, the Caledonian-Record. The Associated Press picked up the article and sent it out on the wires.

The same day, she said, the lower-pitched noise stopped — and new irritations began. Tabloid TV shows wanted to talk to her. Wisecracking radio hosts put her on the air, then insulted her.

"It got to the point where I didn't answer the phone for a while," she said. "I've heard people call up and say I'm listening to the 'om' of the universe."

It was unnerving for Van Vliet, an accomplished 63-year-old artist and bookmaker who won a prestigious \$330,000 "genius grant" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1989. Still, she also heard from people who were glad to know the sound they were hearing wasn't just in their heads.

That's how Jeff Jeffries in Fairfax learned she wasn't alone. A retired medical researcher, she first heard The Hum last fall; she pressed her ear to the refrigerator, the furnace, the hot water heater, and couldn't find the source. Now, she hears it intermittently, usually late at night and into the morning.

"There really isn't any central place to report this," said Jeffries, 73. "You don't know whether to call your doctor or the FBI or what."

## SPACE ICE

Two large blocks of ice which crashed into Brazil's Sao Paulo state



from clear skies are believed to be part of a meteor, according to Brazilian researchers. The first chunk weighed more than 110 pounds and tore through the tiled roof of a bus factory July 11 in Campinas. The second plummeted to the ground July 15, about 37 miles north of Campinas, causing a small crater. Officials at the local airport ruled out the possibility that the ice may have fallen off passing aircraft as none were in the area when the two chunks fell.

In April 1995, Chinese experts announced that they recovered a chunk of meteoric ice that fell in Zhejiang province.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK  
July 27, 1997 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

# BIGFOOT GAINS HIS OWN EXHIBIT

## Ashland museum presents evidence, lets you weigh it

By Cindy Long  
of the Daily Courier

**W**anted: A big hairy creature that stands 8 feet tall and weighs about 800 pounds, with 14-inch-long feet.

The mystical sasquatch, or bigfoot, apparently has managed to elude its human neighbors for centuries, despite various sightings reported for the better part of the last 100 years.

For some, bigfoot is a fantasy — kind of like Santa Claus. But for others, the elusive creature is real. After all, just because you haven't seen it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Take China for instance — how many Grants Pass residents have actually been to China and physically seen it. Not that many, but everyone believes it's there. For the open-minded, the bigfoot search has been going on for decades.

Regardless, the bigfoot legend is here to stay. An old trap set up in the 1970s still stands in the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest. Also, the Pacific Northwest Museum of Natural History in Ashland has a large exhibit under way in honor of the furry creature.

These days, the door to the bigfoot trap is bolted open to prevent any unsuspecting visitors from inadvertently getting caught. Quite a few visitors sneak a peek at the now non-functional trap.



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

**Bigfoot trap remains out in the forest but isn't set.**

"Yeah, it's safe," said John McKelligott, public services supervisor for the Applegate Ranger District. "We go up to look at it. But we're not going to maintain it."

McKelligott said the Forest Service checks on the over-sized bear trap occasionally to make sure it's still safe, but there are no plans to spend any money to fix it up.

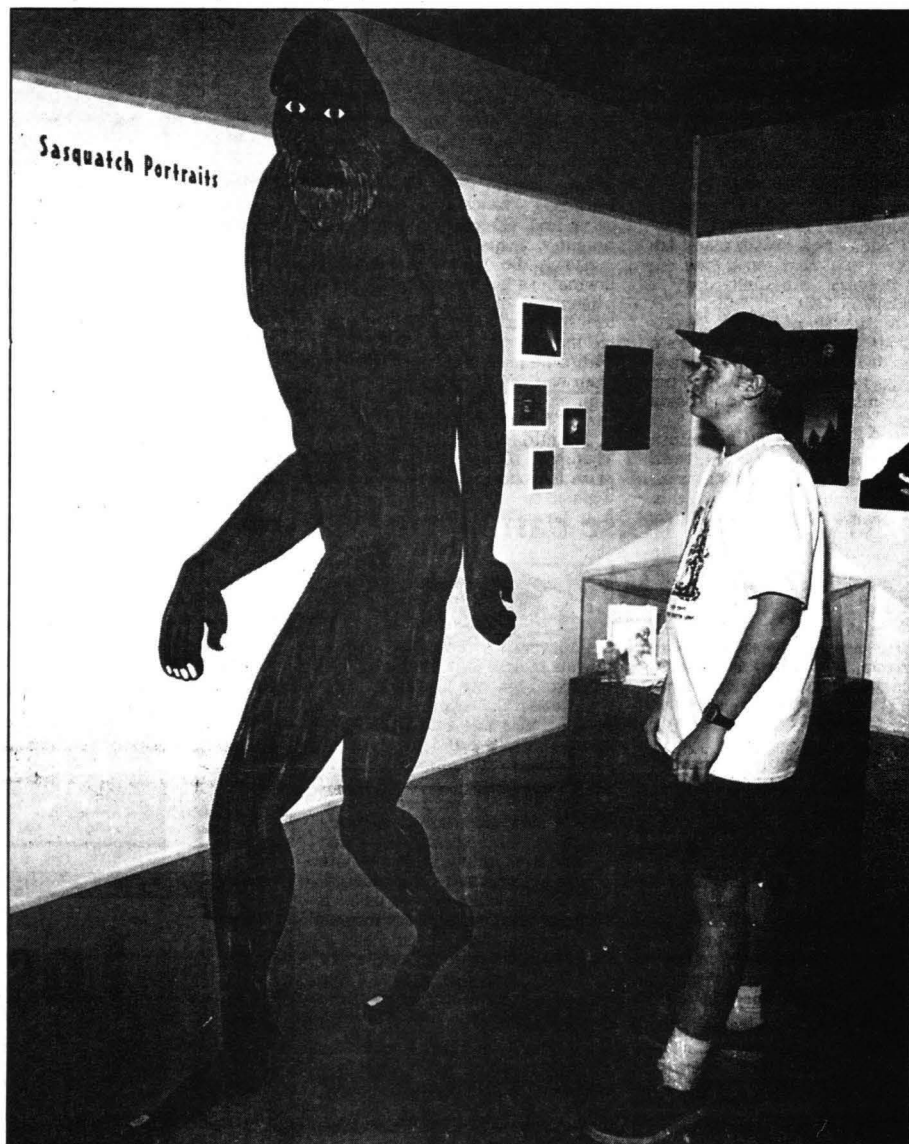
North American Wildlife Research applied in the 1970s to get a special use permit to build and maintain the trap, which is located about a half-mile up a trail that begins across the road from Hart-tish Park, said McKelligott. Eventually, the company lost interest in the trap and the Forest Service quit renewing the permit. The trap has, on occasion, attracted attention across the country and around the world.

But he remains neutral on whether the bigfoot fables have merit.

"I'm uncommitted," he said. "...It's kinda like Santa Claus. It's fun to believe in."

Meanwhile, the museum in Ashland is taking a more scientific approach to the matter. Designer Tony Kerwin said the display is set up to allow viewers to use the scientific method when trying to figure out if bigfoot tropps around the woods at night.

The display, which took about six months to put together, has five areas. One for eyewitness accounts, another for bigfoot footprint casts, a third has fossils of suspected bigfoot ancestors,



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

**Adam Hunt, 15, from Davis, Calif., looks at life-size wooden cutout of a bigfoot.**

another has a famous video of an alleged bigfoot and the final area is a summary of the evidence.

The display also gives people a chance to vote on whether they believe bigfoot exists. Only about a quarter of the people who visit the display actually vote, but so far the unscientific poll has 50 percent saying, "yes there is a bigfoot." The other half is split evenly between "no" and "not sure."

Kerwin reluctantly gave his vote:

"I looked into it for six months and I keep looking into it," he said.

"I'd have to say I don't (believe), but I like the idea."

Kerwin said the lack of physical evidence after so many years is pretty condemning.

The display opened earlier this month and will run at least through autumn. So far, it has

attracted the attention of about 5,000 visitors.

"What we hope is people will take a look and follow (the scientific method)," Kerwin said.

"Some read through the scientific method. We hope that people pick up a little bit of that, so they have another way to look at the world around them."

The museum is located at 1500 E. Main St. in Ashland. For more information, call (541) 488-1084.

NEWS LEADER, Surrey/North Delta, B.C., Canada - Aug. 27, 1997

## Cat mutilations likely by coyotes, SPCA says

Paul Dillon

STAFF REPORTER

The severed remains of two cats found in Surrey in recent weeks are likely the result of coyote attacks.

Early Saturday morning, Surrey resident Paula McLeod discovered the back end of a cat, cleanly cut through the middle of the torso, outside her mother's Whalley home.

"It's like it was cleanly cut with a knife or a machete," she said. "Just the legs and tail were left. There were no guts, no blood and no internal organs left."

"Then I read the story in The Leader about the other woman and now I'm wondering if there isn't some sicko out there."

On Aug. 16, a Newton

woman discovered the eviscerated remains of her 12-year-old Siamese-Persian mix several blocks from her home.

It too appeared to have been cut in half by a sharp, bladed object.

However, the Surrey SPCA says it is likely the work of predators.

"My best guess is that it is coyote predation," said Cameron Robertson. "That scenario is fairly consistent with coyote predation. It's clean, they do a good job and don't leave much behind."

Vancouver Humane Society director Ingrid Pollack said a spate of similar incidents in upscale Kitsilano two years ago had area residents on the lookout for a cat killer.

"I don't want people to over-react," she said. "Coyotes will do things like that to a cat. At

the same time, when you work in the humane movement, you realize there are sick people out there who hate animals."

Coyotes have adapted remarkably well to humans, whose pets make for easy kills.

They live in parks, graveyards and any other green space where they can den in security. They hunt at night and are particularly active in the hours before dawn.

Several people in recent months have reported seeing a pair hunting together in a North Delta neighborhood, near the Gateway SkyTrain station and throughout Cloverdale.

The best advice is to keep dogs and cats indoors during the evening hours, Robertson said.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 18, 1997 CR: G. Conway

## A big mess from above

LINCOLN, N.B.

— Alma Arthurs hasn't been able to identify the reddish-brown gunk that fell from the heavens and covered her house.

Arthurs and her husband were at home last Friday — the 13th — when the sticky substance splattered over much of their home.

She thinks it was human waste from a passing airplane and has called upon the RCMP and Fredericton airport officials to investigate.

She also wants the environment department to run tests.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
June 7, 1997 CR: G. Conway

## Sky Stone

A 20-kg boulder fell from the sky into a garden in Russia's Kostroma region, about 325 km northeast of Moscow. Konstantin Nechayev, a resident of Ikonnikova village, says the impact created a one-metre-deep crater as it crashed into the ground with a "whip and grinding sound similar to that of a bullet fired from a hunting rifle." He dug out the skull-shaped stone to find it cool to the touch and split in two, revealing an apple-size cavity at its core. Government officials measured the radiation level of the rock, but found nothing unusual. The probable meteorite was sent to the ministry of the interior to be analysed.

"It went all over the window and the door," Arthurs said.

Airport officials in nearby Fredericton say there were no commercial planes in the area at the time.

— CP