

UFO

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'I don't know what is out there. . . . Whatever it is, I want to know, and I want a re-enactment.'

UFOs invade Barwood race

By Michael Murphy
The Arizona Republic

Frances Emma Barwood is going where no politician has gone before, even in Arizona.

In a state already known for its offbeat politics, the former Phoenix vice mayor emerged Tuesday as an international poster girl for the UFO crowd by vowing to become the first candidate ever to push the issue that the government is concealing evidence that alien beings have arrived on Earth.

"I've been called worse," Barwood said. "It doesn't scare me."

In one of the most unusual news

conferences of the election season, Barwood appeared with a group of UFO researchers from across the country to announce her bid for secretary of state.

She initially sought to downplay her promise to unearth answers about extraterrestrials by saying, "That is not my only platform."

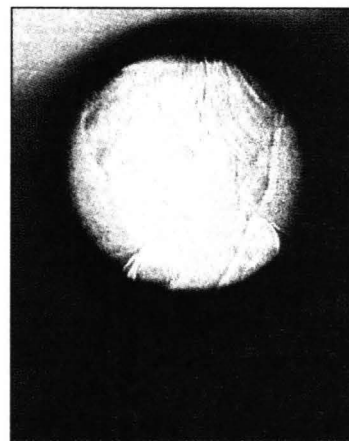
But Barwood's national campaign manager, Stephen Bassett, a Washington lobbyist for UFOlogists, promised that Barwood quickly will become an international figure because of her campaign to force the government to discuss the possibility of an intelligent extraterrestrial presence on Earth. "This campaign is going to truly be the

road less traveled. In fact, this campaign is going to be the road never traveled," he said.

Bassett has been trying to tell Congress about alien spacecraft that have visited Earth over the years, but most members have treated him like he just beamed in from Mars.

But now the Bethesda, Md., consultant has found a candidate willing to press the issue, and he's promising an aggressive campaign that will garner national attention — and campaign contributions.

"You can't imagine the amount of



Mona Reeder/The Arizona Republic
Secretary of State hopeful Frances Emma Barwood as seen through the eyepiece of a TV camera at a Tuesday news conference.

support she is going to get," Bassett said. "We anticipate global interest in this campaign."

Bassett last year assisted Barwood in pressing the government for answers about mysterious lights that appeared over Phoenix in March.

Her harping about the bizarre light show got her plenty of snickers from fellow City Council members, but her effort also gave her national exposure that continued Tuesday as she appeared on the radio show "Coast to Coast

with Art Bell," a live overnight call-in program that airs locally on KFYI-AM (910) at 11 p.m.

Barwood doesn't have any first-hand experience with extraterrestrials, but that isn't stopping her from championing the cause of those who believe alien ships have visited Earth and carted off a few humans on their way out.

"I unfortunately have never seen anything," she explained. "What can I say? . . . I don't know what is out there. I've narrowed it down to three things. It's either military, a

hoax or something unknown. Whatever it is, I want to know, and I want a re-enactment."

Barwood is a Republican, but the state's GOP establishment is likely to treat her as if she just arrived from Neptune.

State GOP chairman Mike Hellon, when told of Barwood's UFO platform, quipped, "Sounds like a major issue for the secretary of state to me."

Hellon is supporting appointed Secretary of State Betsey Bayless but said, "Every Republican has a

right to run for public office. We can't control that."

While the Secretary of State's Office ordinarily deals with more mundane issues like tracking campaign contributions and registering lobbyists, Barwood wants to use the office as a bully pulpit.

Barwood, 54, outlined other platforms that ranged from weeding out non-citizens from voter registration rolls to allowing law-abiding citizens to "carry any weapon, in any way, in any place, at any time."

ARIZONA CENTRAL

Go to **Arizona Central** to listen to audio from Tuesday's announcement and for archived stories about the UFO incident last year. Point your Web browser to www.azcentral.com.

BUCKS CO. TIMES, Levittown, PA - Jan. 13, 1998

Serious about sightings

Tom Carey, a senior financial analyst, heads the southeastern Pennsylvania branch of the Mutual UFO Network, and follows up on every UFO sighting reported to his organization.

By Beth Long

Courier Times
news@calkinsnewspapers.com

Are we alone in the universe?
Is there any way to tell for sure?

Does anyone really care?
Indeed, many in our area have joined thousands the world over who not only care about solving the mysteries of the universe but have made it a lifelong pursuit.

They say they're not wild-eyed fanatics in search of fabled little green men, but serious researchers and writers with a thirst for knowledge and uncovering the truth.

Tom Carey of Lower Merion is the southeastern Pennsylvania section director for the Mutual UFO Network.

He has been a senior financial analyst for Cigna Corp. in Philadelphia for 19 years. Carey is married with two children.

He said he has been interested in UFOs since he was a young boy. "I like a mystery," Carey said. "It's exciting."

He decided he wanted to do something "pro-active" with his interest and has been section director for the international organization since 1986.

He has a 24-hour hot line people can call for more information about the organization and to report any sightings in the area.

"Ninety-nine percent of the calls are serious," Carey said.

Most sighting reports are of the "light in the sky"-type, but he follows through on each call, especially those he termed "good cases."

"A good case would be of a close visual encounter, if there were multiple witnesses to the sighting, if there were visual and radar confirmation and if the case were reported by a credible witness," he said.

Last year, Carey fielded 100 reports of UFO sightings.

Most people in our area report sightings to local police stations, the Fels planetarium in Philadelphia or the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, he said.

The police and Fels report the calls to Carey who then sets out on a follow-up.

How does he find the time for investigations with his 9-to-5 schedule?

"I make the time," he said.

He does not pretend to know all the answers. The lack of answers has prompted him to

conduct research on a continuing mission to find out more.

"I can still be persuaded either way," about the existence of alien life. "We just don't know," he said.

Carey and network members from the surrounding five counties meet monthly at the William Jeanes Library in Lafayette Hill.

On Saturday morning, a group of about a dozen met for brunch at the General Lafayette Inn to discuss current happenings and new findings.

The speaker was Doug Moench of Upper Bucks County, author of several books on UFOs and other unexplained phenomena.

"Back in the '50s," said Moench, "there was much more reporting of sightings."

"The ridicule of the subject goes back to early days," said Carey. "It has taken this long for the subject to gain some credibility."

With the recent popularity of "The X-Files" TV series and movies like last summer's blockbuster, "Contact," the subject has grown more respectable, Moench said.

"You still get your goofballs," he said, "but the vast majority of the research is conducted by open-minded, serious people."

"The more popular the subject becomes," Carey added, "the greater the risk of opportunists and charlatans getting involved."

"There are a lot of deeply concerned people doing research

"There are a lot of deeply concerned people doing research behind the scenes who are afraid to make public statements."

— Tom Carey

behind the scenes who are afraid to make public statements," said Moench.

"Most people," Carey said, "call to report something they don't recognize."

"Mainstream network news won't touch these stories," said Carey, who pointed out most coverage comes in the form of documentaries, books and magazine articles, the Internet and — yes — tabloids.

Carey said you don't have to be a member of the network (annual dues are \$30) to join in the monthly information exchange meetings.

On Saturday, the group discussed the famous reputed crash of an alien spacecraft in Roswell, N.M., and new findings about possible alien technology.

Carey called Roswell his "favorite subject" when it comes to the UFO controversy. He has traveled six times to the site.

Tom Carey's hot line number is 947-4740.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS,
Lincolnton, NC - March 5,
1998 CR: G. Fawcett

Fawcett featured in UFO Files interview

The current Premiere Issue of UFO Files Magazine features a 12 page article based on an interview with veteran UFO investigator George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton.

Fawcett, a Mount Airy native, was interviewed for the article "UFOs From World War II To The New Millennium," by magazine editor Tim Beckley.

In the illustrated article, Fawcett said his interest in UFOs was triggered at the age of 15 by a Boy Scout World War II scrapbook, which told of bomber pilots describing "silver balls floating in the air," both individually and in clusters, during 1944-1945 forays over the German Third Reich.

Fawcett had another influential experience in 1951 at Lynchburg College in Virginia, in which he viewed a large, orange-colored, half-globe object hover in the sky in broad daylight.

George has gone on to investigate 1,200 UFO sightings over the past five decades. UFO Files Magazine touched on a number of Fawcett's findings as both a "curious George of UFOland" and a field investigator for the international Mutual UFO Network, Inc. with headquarters in Seguin, Texas.

Out of this world

UFO researchers seek to give credence to otherworldly reports

By KRISTIN LOIACONO

Special to The Journal

Individually they are men of science, men of letters, holders of advanced degrees. Among them, there's a physicist, a writer, a theologian, a biologist and a retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander. They come from seemingly disparate worlds, but together they form the 14-member board of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research and are united by a single goal: solving the mystery surrounding unidentified flying objects. The group is part of a 2-year-old consortium called the UFO Research Coalition, which also includes the Mutual UFO Network and the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Just don't call them believers. "We don't like the term 'believer.' We don't accept everything that is out there. We are skeptical in the pure sense of the word. Our minds aren't closed but they remain open enough to ask questions and examine the evidence," explains FUFOR board member Rob Swiatek of Fairfax, Va.

In fact, board members have a certain disdain for those who accept information about unidentified flying objects without critically and scientifically dissecting all the reasons attributed to aerial phenomena.

For nearly 20 years, they have attempted to counter claims of fringe UFO hobby groups through public education and scientific analysis of sightings, media accounts and government reports. But they are also looking for breakthrough research that will quiet decades of ridicule of the subject of UFOs and convince scientists and Congress that the subject deserves time and money.

"The subject is extremely serious and should be viewed as such," says Craig Phillips of Silver Spring, Md., a biologist and a founding member of the group.

Swiatek says research is tedious and demands significant funding, which is something FUFOR does not have.

"Progress is extremely slow. We don't have a lot of money and as a result, cannot work on this full time," says Swiatek, a physicist for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and a 12-year member of the group. "You have to be patient. You have to go through a lot of rock to get a little bit of ore. There is so much extraneous information out there that it's a hard task to separate the useful from the useless information."

In 1992, the federal government funded NASA's Toward Other Planetary Systems/High Resolution Microwave Survey, also called the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project, which was designed to detect radio signals from other planets. A year later, SETI was abandoned and its replacement was the privately-funded Project Phoenix, which was conducted by the SETI Institute in California.

Meanwhile, after the NASA SETI project, the government stopped funding investigations into the possibility of alien life. And NASA does not really want to be affiliated with groups that are investigating or researching the UFO phenomenon.

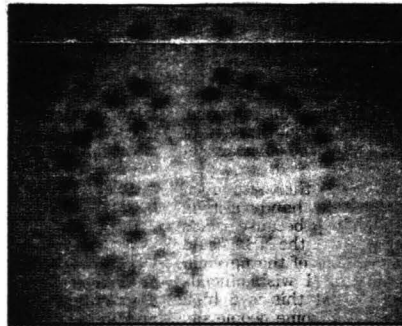
"We have nothing to do with UFO research and we are not looking for intelligent life in the universe," said NASA spokesman Don Savage.

NASA does, however, have an ongoing program in which its scientists seek to understand the origin and distribution of life in the universe. For example, by examining how life on Earth began, they are trying to determine how to recognize life — and the conditions that could spawn life — on planets circling stars in other planetary systems. With hundreds of billions of stars just in our galaxy and almost 100 billion other galaxies, there seems to be plenty of room out there for a variety of groups to keep busy for a long time.

"I've been working in this area for decades and believe that it's the biggest news story in history — the probable existence in our skies and on our land of intelligent nonhumans. I say probable because I don't have actual proof, even though there is expert testimony and radar evidence," said FUFOR's chairman Don Berliner, who is an aviation science writer by profession.

The problem is that there is conflicting testimony and disputed evidence. The July 1947 crash of an object near Roswell, N.M., is one of those cases in which the group's research differs from official government reports. And while FUFOR does not have an official position on what happened in Roswell, members wonder why there isn't more cooperation on the part of the government to explain the discrepancies. For example, according to FUFOR, the U.S. Air Force claims it retrieved the pieces of a weather balloon but FUFOR records contain a videotaped interview with a brigadier general who says the Air Force report was contrived to throw reporters off the trail.

Now 67 and living in Alexandria, Va., Berliner, is an Ohio native who grew up near two military air bases and an airplane factory. He says that as a young boy, he and a friend prided themselves on their ability to identify various airplanes as they flew overhead.



Courtesy Rob Swiatek

One "abductee" had a 2 1/2 inch scar on his thigh.

In 1947, when Berliner was 17, he heard of the first large wave of UFO sightings in the United

States. What struck him the most about the reports was that no one seemed to be able to identify the crafts, he says.

"It was a mystery and it intrigued me," Berliner says.

In 1947 — the year most ufologists consider as ushering in the modern UFO era — there were thousands of sightings worldwide, Berliner says. His group has maintained an ongoing comprehensive study into the 1947 sightings, documenting the initial report of each sighting through old news clippings and then publishing a separate report compiling the approximately 3,000 sightings.

As an aviation historian, Berliner says the reports of these UFOs simply did not jive with what he knew then, or knows now, about aircraft technology.

"The reported performance is off the scale. Silent hovering, violent maneuvering, right-angle turns, instantaneous acceleration. The idea that we could have been flying high-performance vehicles then that are still a secret; it's amazing. If we had these machines 50 years ago, we wouldn't have spent hundreds of billions of dollars building inferior aircraft over the past four decades," he says.

Berliner says he likes to think that he's considered all the alternative explanations. "Either they're alien or they're something else that no one has suggested yet," he says.

Complicating matters for a group trying to scatter the clouds of ridicule that shadow the field of UFO research is the abduction phenomenon.

Forty-nine year old Ron Blevins of Manassas, Va., says his first "experience" was as a preschooler. He doesn't use the word "abduction," he says, because of its negative connotation. Instead, he calls them experiences.

Blevins was 14 when he figured out what had been happening to him in July 1964 in Fairfax.

That was when he went hiking and as he stood looking out over a pond, he sensed someone was behind and observing him. When he turned around, he saw movement in the trees. He said he had "a deep-seated dread that whatever was in the trees was not ordinary."

That afternoon, Blevins says he saw a "tall, nonhuman being." They stared at each other. The next thing Blevins remembers is standing facing the pond again, he says.

"There was a gap in time, missing time. I could tell by the sun that about two hours had gone by."

Blevins continued to have similar experiences throughout his adult life. He had never been interested in science fiction and had no particular interest in UFOs. In fact, he tried to block the episodes from his consciousness until 1989, when he finally read a book about abductions, he says. He had no contact with any investigative UFO group until 1995, when he looked in the Yellow Pages under "UFO" and found the



Rob Swiatek of Fairfax, Va., is a board member of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research.

FUFOR's telephone number.

When FUFOR received its first reports from people who claimed they had been abducted by aliens, Phillips says he thought, "That's all we need." He says abductions are difficult to deal with from a scientific point of view because they can't be measured.

Berliner agrees. "Abductions have complicated the field of UFO research," he says.

Berliner says his group works with psychologists and psychiatrists to determine whether the people claiming they've had abduction experiences are mentally stable. His group receives a steady stream of reports from people who alleged they've been abducted.

"Undoubtedly, we have been fooled on occasion. But we try to observe people over many years," Berliner says.

Yet, there is, he says, no standard length of time of case review.

"There is no point at which you say, 'this is an absolute case.' You're not looking for physical proof. It's more a matter of possibilities."

Sometimes, FUFOR members consult with S. Peter Resta, an adjunct professor of psychology at Prince George's Community College, to work with so-called abductees.

"In my opinion, in most cases, something has happened to these people. I don't know what that something is, but I don't think it's the usual suspects, like a dual-personality or some aberrant mental health problem. Some doctors would say the person has created a screen memory, substituting one event — the abduction — for another, like childhood abuse," Resta says. But the cases he's dealt with "don't fit that kind of matrix."

Swiatek says there are impostors — people who fabricate an abduction experience — but they are rare.

FUFOR is working with two UFO investigatory organizations to build an instrument that would detect if abductions are physical events, Swiatek says. Another project is underway at a lab in New Mexico, where scientists are researching a pentagonal chunk of "unknown material." The material was allegedly given to an abductee by the occupants of a UFO. As FUFOR waits for actual physical proof of abductions, the interviewing process remains a fairly reliable method of weeding the possible from the implausible, he says.

"If the abductee adds more details to the story than were originally revealed, we begin to wonder why the person wasn't able to tell us those details when [he] first reported the

abduction," Swiatek says. He also says that some people just aren't rational, like the report of a woman who claimed she could see nonhuman from the balcony of her house. Her husband couldn't see them and neither could FUFOR members.

One of the research reports available through FUFOR highlights the similarities among 270 abductions. The author of the study found there was a certain procedure to the abduction experience, with distinguishable events happening at certain times during the abduction.

Among the reports, while few people recalled all the possible stages of an abduction, the stages they did recall were reported in the same order.

"There is a certain consistency in objects seen and experiences had," Swiatek says. "The reports tend to follow certain patterns. Certain things do happen and certain things don't happen. But we don't necessarily know why. It just seems that the type of events that happen are limited, and the type of beings [people see] have a finite range of descriptions."

Berliner says leading experts in the field have a checks and balance system that includes keeping secret some of the experiences revealed by people who've claimed they've been abducted.

David Jacobs, author of a new book called "The Threat" in which he attempts to explain why abductions occur, says, "This is a society with so many cult groups with an axe to grind, and the fund is a sober, balanced group trying to provide research and education amidst the craziness going on. I hope the public supports it for what it is."

While FUFOR members are optimistic about the future of UFO research, they conclude that public officials, and the general public, must change their attitude about UFOs.

"Is it all a hoax? It certainly is something all researchers have to confront," Swiatek says. "Are ideas being transferred to people through the media? I cannot believe thousands of people have been systematically lying for 50 years."

Then the skeptic's voice chimes in. "I get suspicious of people who say they have all the answers," he says.

"I hope I survive long enough to see it all out in the open," Berliner says. For him, his efforts on the subject of aerial phenomena are enough. He doesn't need to be in the midst of the action should there be a revelation during his lifetime. "Just knowing I was headed in the right direction will be enough."

Tri-City fireball leaves mystery

By JASON HAGEY
Herald staff writer

No, the mother ship hasn't landed.

We don't think.

And there isn't a steaming rock in anyone's backyard.

That we know of.

But a fireball did apparently streak Wednesday night across the Tri-City sky, disappearing as fast as it flew and leaving behind more questions than anything.

Except for scores of eyewitness accounts, no one could find any evidence Thursday of the spectacular visitor.

Was it a meteor? Was it a piece from an airplane or space junk? Was it a UFO?

"I really don't know what it was," said Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. "But my suspicion is the individuals are reporting accurately what they saw."

What they saw varies depending on whom you talk to.

Judy Smiley, a Kennewick woman who noticed it at 9:55 p.m. while driving home from a Mary Kay makeup party, is certain she saw it land in the Columbia River, just upstream from the blue bridge.

"I saw it splash," said Smiley, who was the first to alert the news media of the fireball. "It was a good size splash. It wasn't any fish jumping."

Others report seeing it headed toward the airport in Pasco.

"My initial thought is that it was a plane on fire trying to land at the airport," said Roger McVicker, who saw the object while driving near his house in north Richland.

"All of a sudden, here it came — zap — from right to left," he said. "But I realized it was going way too fast to be an airplane."



Judy Smiley of Kennewick stands Thursday along the Columbia River, near where she reported seeing a fireball splash down into the river,

just upstream from the blue bridge. Several people across the state reported seeing objects streaking across Washington skies.

Herald/Paul T. Erickson

Tim Irvin, a juvenile detention officer in the Tri-Cities, was driving home from work when he saw it.

"It was headed toward the blue bridge," Irvin said. "It kind of passed in front of me, but I couldn't say it landed in the river. I just saw it really well for a few seconds. It was really neat. Surreal. Kind of like animation."

Animation, perhaps. But not imagination.

Enough people saw the object for Dick Pugh, a meteorite scientist from Portland, to believe something really was in the sky.

Based on what he was told about it, though, Pugh was skeptical about reports it crashed into the river.

"I'm not ready to buy that," he said.

Because no one reported hearing a sonic boom, Pugh said it's impossible the fireball made it to Earth, even though it looked like it did.

"Fireballs come down all the time," he explained, but only about one in 500 results in a meteor making it to Earth.

"They burn out at 12 or 15 miles above the Earth, but they're imprinted on the retina so people think they came all the way down," he said. "You'd swear it hit the ground."

A check with the University of Washington's seismology laboratory, which records earth movement throughout the state, revealed there was no significant impact Wednesday night in the Tri-Cities.

"If it caused the ground to shake, we'd be able to pick it up from far, far away," said Gerick Bergsma, a seismology laboratory assistant.

But there was no sign of it, he said. No one in the Tri-Cities could find any evidence of it, either, including the police. Pasco police looked into the matter enough to determine that a plane hadn't crashed into the river, and then let it drop, said Capt. Doug Chambers.

The news media wasn't as willing to let it go.

The phenomenon dominated the air waves on Tri-City radio station KONA (610 AM) during the morning, and reporters from as far away as

Seattle scrambled to talk to witnesses.

Judy Smiley started getting calls early Thursday morning and the phone rang all day long. A camera crew from Seattle came to the Tri-Cities to talk with her.

"I couldn't believe they were there with the cameras and everything," said Smiley, a homemaker and mother of two. "I didn't know this would cause all this attention," she said. "I just called the paper because I thought maybe somebody else saw it."

■ Reporter Jason Hagey can be reached at 582-1556 or via e-mail at jhagey@tri-cityherald.com

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

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

By Carole Baker

Returning to the Gulf Coast was very difficult after a long weekend in the Smoky Mountains. I keep looking for the purple-hazed high ridges as I drive along now, but of course, they are not there. The Smoky Mountain region of North Carolina as well as the mountains of north Georgia are a truly special place, and we enjoyed a glorious weekend amid peak fall color and warm friendship. We also had a UFO sighting! While skywatching on Sunday evening at around 8:30 p.m. in clear crisp weather we noticed a yellow-white light appear suddenly in the southeastern sky, low to the horizon. It travelled approximately twenty degrees across the sky from east to west following a straight course. Through binoculars, it appeared as a round yellow-white light that was extremely bright, brighter than Jupiter, which was the brightest star visible in the sky at that time. The yellow-white light then slowly dimmed down to

almost nothing. Through binoculars, I was then able to see three red lights revolving around a central dark spot. It appeared as though there was an object out there that was round, and slightly tilted towards our position, making its whole circumference visible, around which these three red lights were rotating. It travelled extremely slowly away to the southwest. Our friends were not surprised we had a sighting while there, they have kept a log of several events occurring during the month or so that they have lived in this particular cabin. The events range from small red/blue/yellow "flashers" in the sky, moving erratically, to large orange balls of light appearing close to the ridge tops. One event involved two "big yellow headlights" appearing out of nowhere in a clear sky directly south of the observer's position and at about a fifteen degree elevation. So, Gulf Breeze is not the only place you can observe UFOs. As I have often said, I firmly believe that if you get out there and look, you are likely to see

something unidentified in the sky just about anywhere.

Visitors to Shoreline Park this week are Cheryl and Chuck from Santa Rosa, California. On a business/pleasure trip across the southern United States, Cheryl and Chuck stopped by Shoreline Park due to Chuck's interest in UFOs. They were so taken with the place and enjoyed skywatching and talking with the skywatch group so much, they decided to extend their stay several days longer than they had originally planned. Chuck's sense of humor sure has lived up to skywatching these last few nights!

When I got back from the mountains, I had a call from Kim in Pace, Florida. She had previously reported a sighting on September 7th and now had another experience to report. She said that she was glad that this time her husband and some friends all got to see it too, so they would know that she really is not crazy!

At approximately 9:10 p.m. Kim, her husband and three

friends were driving west along Nine Mile Road in Pensacola, approaching the junction with Chemstrand Road. "I saw three large lights in the sky in the shape of a triangle. They disappeared and then came back and that's when the others saw them. They were real bright and yellow colored. They disappeared again and then came back on. My husband was watching them and he said, 'What the hell is that?' They disappeared again. We are used to how planes look and these were definitely not like planes, the lights were big and the whole triangle shape was big." Kim and her husband and their friends continued on their way home, discussing what they had seen. They crossed the bridges over the Escambia River on Hwy. 90 going east towards Pace, Florida. "Suddenly over to our right, over Avalon Beach, there was a huge fireball in the sky. It came out of nowhere! We thought a 747 had exploded or something, except that the fireball kept moving. It was huge, way larger than a quarter at arm's length. It just kept moving and it looked just like a huge fireball in the sky. All of us saw it and so did some other people because they were pulling over and stopping on the side of the road. It was 9:20 p.m. A lot of people saw it, then it just blinked off! It just disappeared — no fading, no falling down or anything, just gone. My husband and my

friends just could not believe what we had seen, it was incredible and I know a lot of other people saw it too. We were all kind of spooked by it. When I got home I called my Mom and told her all about it and she told me I should call you." Well, I was very glad that Kim did call me and I am hoping that if anyone else who saw this fireball in the sky on Monday night is reading this, that they will also contact me so that we can gather additional viewpoints information. This is a very interesting sighting.

Some of those who attended the Project Awareness Tampa UFO Conference recently told me that the most popular speakers there were Dolores Cannon, Robert Ghost Wolf and David Adair. The event attracted fewer attendees than usual apparently, possibly due to bad weather on Friday.

Remember to mark your calendar for the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Monthly Meeting on November 16. For more information you can call the hotline number shown below.

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakswd@aol.com or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32511-7152 or you can call the hotline at (850) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

For Heaven's Sake, Don't Fly a U.F.O.

By EDWARD A. GARGAN

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Ho Hsien-jung cradled a bloated aluminum saucer on his lap and looked worried.

"We are scientists," he fumed, carefully placing the shining saucer alongside others on a shelf in his narrow living room. "Our research into U.F.O.'s is scientific. All these other people are cheats. They're cheating people."

As chairman of the Chinese Flying Saucer Research Association, Mr. Ho has good reason to be concerned: a growing number of people in Taiwan are reporting sightings of flying saucers and he has never seen one. Moreover, these sightings have been used by a growing number of religious prophets who promise everything from a fast-approaching apocalypse to instant wealth, alarming authorities at a spreading pattern of religious and financial fraud.

Many people here say they have been fleeced of their life savings by these cult leaders, who are preying on a society that has gone through tumultuous political and economic transformations in the last decade: from dictatorship to democracy, from developing country to one of the strongest economies in Asia.

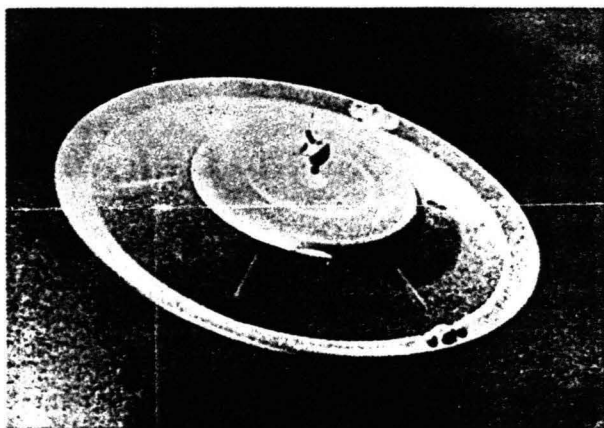
"From ancient times to the Qing dynasty," which ended in 1911, "there are historical records showing more than 1,000 U.F.O. sightings," insisted Mr. Ho, leafing through a detailed listing of historical texts describing mysterious objects and lights in the sky. "But in Taiwan," he continued, "you can't really see U.F.O.'s. They don't come to Taiwan very often. Taiwan is just a small island. They can't see it from outer space."

Undeterred by such assertions from Taiwan's pre-eminent saucer authority, a former medical professor named Chen Heng-ming spent last year busily assembling devotees into his sect, the God Saves the Earth Flying Saucer Association.

Perhaps because Taiwan is so small, Mr. Chen has taken about 100 of his followers to the wide open ranges of Texas where they will, in the words of a follower, Wu Chun-sheng, "be meeting God, who would



Edward A. Gargan/The New York Times



Archive Photos

This flying saucer can be identified positively: it was built in Canada for use in movies. More dubious ones have been used by religious swindlers in Taiwan, to the distress of Ho Hsien-jung, top, an expert on U.F.O.'s.

arrive on a flying saucer to save them." From Dallas, the believers will be whisked to Mars next year in flying saucers. Living a year in a flying saucer, she said, "would be like 10 years on earth."

Interplanetary travel, however, appears to come with a price tag. The parents of several sect members have complained to the police that their children gave Mr. Chen huge sums of money for the privilege of a saucer ride.

In Texas, the authorities are reportedly worried that he intends to orchestrate a mass suicide in the fashion of Heaven's Gate, an American sect in which dozens of members committed collective suicide in San Diego last year.

In articles with blaring headlines here, Mr. Chen has repeatedly assured the people of Taiwan that he has no intention of committing suicide; indeed, he said, he and his 100 or so followers were just "waiting to ride a flying saucer into heaven," a trip that would start on March 31, 1999, at precisely 10 P.M.

While Mr. Chen was scuttling off to Texas for his promised encounter of the third kind, a man named Wu Tai-chung has been corraling members into his own sect, the Sky and Earth Enlightenment Association, by assuring them that he arrived from outer space to save them from planetary Armageddon. Brandishing photographs taken in Taiwan's central mountain district, Mr. Wu told his growing number of followers that the dots of sun glare marring the pictures were in fact "points of inner energy" from outer space; merging with those dots would, Mr. Wu declared, allow believers to soar into outer space on a flying saucer.

Like the rides offered by Mr. Chen, the ticket to salvation by saucer is no bargain.

"We believed, we completely believed," said Tai Chiu-fen, a 38-year-old mother of seven and owner of a car repair shop. "We got involved because my husband had these headaches and we were told he didn't have to have medicine and he would get better. We were very curious and decided to try it."

She and her husband gave Wu Tai-chung the equivalent of about \$312,000, she said. "We have no money left. We spent it all, or rather, we were cheated of it all."

As the flying saucer cults spread, national authorities and officials in Taipei, a city of six million, are becoming increasingly alarmed at peo-

ple's gullibility.

"This so-called religious problem is a social problem," said Chen Shui-bian, Taipei's Mayor, in an interview in his spartan office. "In Taiwan society many people do not have faith in themselves. They feel they can't place their faith in ordinary things, including science and technology, so they put it into these religions."

"These religions," he continued, "are not real religions. They are just another form of deception. People get deeply involved. It's not a question of education because a lot of professors, Ph.D.'s, they can believe in these type of things."

Mrs. Tai, who gave all her money to the Sky and Earth sect, reluctantly agreed with her Mayor when asked why she turned to Mr. Wu's group. Sighing deeply, she explained: "The pressure on our life is very heavy. We all seek spiritual sustenance. I believed in him. He had pictures. He showed them to us. Everyone said it was true, it was real."

She added: "He said that if you want to travel this road, you can't take belongings from this world. No possessions. Only then can you reach this force."

So uneasy are the Taiwan authorities about the spread of these cults that prosecutors have begun criminal investigations into whether adherents have been defrauded.

Liao Cheng-hao, the Minister of Justice, said in an interview that the reasons for the spread of the cults was "very, very easy to understand," adding: "People feel empty and are searching for a kind of civilized society. They are all looking for the true religion. But these flying saucer cults are a relatively strange phenomenon."

For Mr. Ho, for whom flying saucers are a serious business, there is no mystery about them. "If there's a U.F.O. in the sky, you can see it," he said. "It has a shape, a form. It has mass. All the others are cheats."

Despite the spread of cults claiming links with beings on flying saucers, Mr. Ho said he was determined to soldier on with his work. "Our research is scientific," he said. "How could we be affected by these cults? How could this hurt our reputation?"

"Religion itself is very mysterious," Mr. Ho said. "Adding U.F.O.'s only makes it more attractive. But if you're using U.F.O.'s in your religion, your religion has got real problems."

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

Skywatching is generally a quiet and peaceful pursuit, these cool clear evenings at Shoreline Park. The cars of the skywatchers are usually the only ones in the parking lot. Even the straggling fishermen haul their boats out early in the evening and head home. Often the only company we have are those who are wading in the shallow waters of the sound "gigging" for flounder. This process involves shining bright lights down into the water and most of them have a floating rig, so that the eerie lights appear to be surfacing from the depths. It had faked out quite a few visitors who think that some mysterious UFO is about to break the surface and shoot off into the sky! So, generally, by around 8 p.m., except for the occasional drive through visitor, those at the Park are usually there for one purpose, to scan the skies to see what can be seen.

Of course, the familiar winter sky is in evidence now. The winter constellations of Orion and Cassiopeia, and the Pleiades are soon above us in the eastern sky, while Venus makes her way toward the western horizon in all her brilliance early in the evening, followed not too far behind by Jupiter on its westerling path. The

clear nights also make it easier to see shooting stars, and on Sunday night we saw three spectacular ones streak across the sky.

Visitors to Shoreline Park this week include Cameron and his wife Sheila, who had made a previous visit early last summer. Eager and excited, Cameron set up his camera on a tripod atop the boardwalk in the hope of catching a UFO on film. He was disappointed, I am afraid. Cameron told us a story about a sighting a friend of his father had while flying an A-4 some years ago. He noticed something flying next to his plane that appeared to be a "giant steel ballbearing." This reminded us of the stories of "Foo fighters" from World War II, so we spent a little while talking about that. Cameron said that he had not had a sighting personally, but was always hopeful for one. He also told us that his mother had travelled to Mount Shasta in California, and to Sedona, Arizona, and had seen some unusual things in both places.

As an update to the recent sighting report from Alberta, Canada, I have been contacted again by the witness who is now dealing with strange occurrences around his home. These phenomena are affecting all of this family,

including the family dog, a part-Husky, part-German Shepherd who is usually not afraid of anything! The witness describes lights in their house coming on when the switch was turned off. The television set and VCR coming on spontaneously when no one has been near them, and things being moved around in the house. Needless to say, these events have unnerved the witness and his family. These type of occurrences have been reported by others following UFO sightings. It is interesting to speculate what may be causing such phenomena, and whether it is related to the family's recent UFO sighting or just coincidental poltergeist phenomena. If the latter is the case, it is still interesting to note that no such activity had occurred around these people before their UFO sighting.

There was an interesting article in our local Sunday newspaper, which I am sure was covered in the Science and Technology section of many other newspapers also. It concerns the effect that rapidly spinning black holes and neutron stars appear to have on the space around them, which would apparently prove Einstein's hypothesis regarding the theory of general relativity. This theory

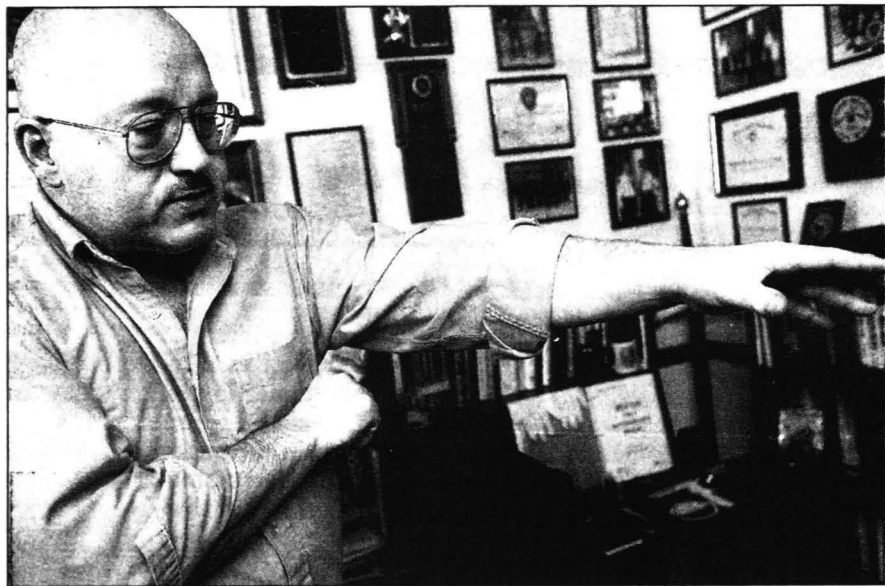
predicts that moving objects ought to generate a force in addition to gravity. Also, that this force can "drag" space around, which Austrian physicists Josef Lense and Hans Thirring predicted in 1918. NASA states that the true test of Einstein's Theory and of the Lense-Thirring effect will come early in the next century when NASA will launch an experiment known as the Gravity Probe B. A satellite will carry four extremely sensitive gyroscopes into orbit around the earth. If Einstein's theory is correct, the top-like instruments will wobble in slightly different ways from each other, thus proving the Lense-Thirring effect. The "wobble" effect will show that space can be changed or manipulated by naturally occurring large objects. It is not too far a stretch to imagine that such an effect can be recreated on a smaller scale which could address the question of distance travelled by extra-terrestrial visitors to our Solar System.

I have also heard of some sightings recently in the United Kingdom. These are being investigated by British researchers Tim Matthew, Gloria Dixon and Eric Morris. They occurred on October 10th, 1997 and a local British radio station, Red Rose Radio—999 MW received over thirty calls from listeners who had seen UFOs flying over the Lancashire area of England. Two calls that came in were from sailors on HMS Shetland out in the Irish Sea, west of Lancashire.

They saw a bright light approaching the ship which then paced the vessel for a few minutes before flying away. Apparently the British Ministry of Defense has confirmed that HMS Shetland was off the coast of Lancashire at the time the sightings were reported. Other people reported seeing spinning discs and anomalous lights over the towns of Burnley, Blackpool, Crosby, Southport, and Bamber Bridge, Lancashire. If I receive any further information from contacts in the UK regarding these sightings I will include that information in a future Skywatch Diary.

The tenth anniversary of the day that Ed Walters first photographed the now famous "Gulf Breeze UFO" occurred on November 11th. The only coverage afforded that event by our local media was a very brief, two minute segment which showed some historical UFO pictures and interviewed Hank Guess, of the Kanga Kab Company. Hank runs a Gulf Breeze UFO Bus Tour and commented that "the UFO sightings bring a lot of tourists into this area." Apparently none of the witnesses or investigators of this now famous case were available for comment.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at cbakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, Florida, 32522-7152. Thank you, and remember—Keep Looking Up!



Photos by MARLENE KARAS / Staff

At home with strange phenomena, Mutual UFO Network Georgia director Tom Sheets' mission is to investigate and put the public at ease with sightings of unidentified flying objects.

UFO investigator group drawn by unexplainable

Network's chapter in Georgia thrives

By Rick Minter
STAFF WRITER

Life's looking up for a group gathering today in Fayetteville. People who investigate strange things in the sky will meet to compare notes and share knowledge with the public. MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, a 29-year-old organization that claims 5,000 members worldwide, 60 of them in Georgia, is holding the meeting, which is free and open to the public.



Tools: Above are the investigator's manual and field investigation kit used by MUFON, meeting in Fayetteville today.

"We're trying to get across the fact that UFOs are a real phenomenon," said Tom Sheets, a retired police chief of College Park who now is state director of MUFON of Georgia. "We don't understand the phenomenon, but what we try to do is investigate sightings, learn more about what's out there, and emphasize that you're not crazy if you have a sighting."

Sheets, who lives in Fayetteville, first was drawn to UFO research when he saw a strange set of lights flying over College Park in the mid-1960s. He said it is not unusual for people living south of Atlanta to see strange objects in the sky.

The area around LaGrange, including Troup and Heard counties, is known among UFO watchers as the Troup-Heard Corridor and has been the scene of numerous sightings.

One of the best-known sightings of a UFO occurred in Valley, Ala., when an object was photographed hovering over a pasture.

MUFON members say they often are ridiculed but continue seeking answers for the unexplainable.

Mark Ausmus, a computer programmer from Lawrenceville, has been interested in UFOs since hearing his father talk about seeing a black ball fly over a cornfield.

"When other people report sightings, you could say they're probably lying," Ausmus said. "When it's your father, there must be something to it."

The MUFON meeting begins at 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in Fayetteville. For more information, call 770-917-4419.

BEE, Sacramento, CA - Feb. 16, 1998 The UFOs at Area 51

Re "No laughing matter," editorial, Jan. 31: Groom Dry Lake Air Force Station, popularly known as Area 51, indeed exists as an above-top-secret exotic-technology research and development facility, operated by the Department of Naval Intelligence. The Bee correctly criticized the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for upholding an executive order exempting Area 51 from environmental laws.

But The Bee's characterization of reports of UFOs and extraterrestrials at Area 51 as "ridiculous rumors" is absolutely false. As a published researcher into extraterrestrial matters, I can assure you that ample evidence exists. At my suggestion ABC television news of Las Vegas went to the entrance to Area 51 in December 1992 and filmed a UFO flying out from the base. That footage was shown on the then-ABC affiliate station in Sacramento, KOVR. And I have personally witnessed antigravity craft flown at Area 51. Furthermore, Michael Wolf, M.D., Ph.D., of the National Security Council's classified MJ-12 subcommittee has described in his book, "Catchers of Heaven," working at Area 51 side by side with an extraterrestrial.

The Bee itself owes it to its readers to stop mislabeling documented facts about UFOs and ETs at Area 51 as "ridiculous." As repeated public opinion polls show, it is the government's UFO cover-up that is ridiculous.

Richard Boylan, Ph.D.
Sacramento

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

As 1997 draws to a close and we look toward the New Year, I wish everyone peace in their hearts, health and happiness.

To continue our look at historical sightings in the Gulf Breeze area, the following are reports of sightings taken from past issues of the *Pensacola News Journal*.

This short report appeared in the *News Journal* on November 26th, 1957: "Flying Objects Reportedly Seen Near Hurlburt—EGLIN AFB, Nov. 25—Crewman of a B66 jet bomber reportedly saw three unidentified objects in the Gulf of Mexico south of Hurlburt Field Monday night. Capt. W.L. Sheppard of Eglin reported that the crew saw the objects about 10 p.m. upon return from a training mission to Atlanta. Sheppard cautioned that they might have been stars. However the objects reportedly were seen on Eglin radar."

The following account of a man and his truck being taken up by a UFO appeared in the *Pensacola News Journal* on October 18th, 1973. "Pickup by UFO Reported—A Pensacola businessman says he and his truck were swooped up by an unidentified flying object (UFO) on Interstate 10 last night, heading the list of hundreds of UFO sightings in Northwest Florida-South Alabama, area law enforcement officials said today. Many of the reported sightings could be cleared up, however, by helicopter maneuvers in Mobile,

atmospheric testing at Eglin Air Force Base, or weather research balloon floating low in northern Santa Rosa County near Jay. But the alleged abduction could not. Clarence Ray Patterson, 2106 W. Godfrey Street, told Police Sgt. Lucien Mitchell that he was returning to Pensacola from Mobile on Interstate 10 last night when a UFO swooped up him and his truck, near the Loxley exit. Patterson, an electrician, told Mitchell that the creatures examined him for about 30 minutes before releasing him on State Road 297 just outside Pensacola. According to the police report filled out on the incident, the first known written report filed here on UFO sightings, Patterson first noticed "an unidentified spaceship" hovering over his pickup truck. "He continued to say that this object hovered over his pickup truck and then pulled the vehicle inside the spaceship," Mitchell said. "The description given of the creatures was vague, however, it was similar to other reports, such as the Mississippi incident where the two fishermen were pulled inside a spaceship," Mitchell said. "The inhabitants were described as short, with claw-like arms. Patterson said during the examination the inhabitants seemed to be reading his mind. He said they kept him inside the ship for approximately 30 minutes and during that time he was taken from Loxley to State Road 297 in

Escambia County. He said that he was released unharmed, then drove to Pensacola where he immediately notified city police. Patterson became very emotional and started crying. He told me that I thought he was some kind of nut and that he refused to tell this story again to anyone. I might add, when Patterson was relating this incident to me he was very nervous and said from the beginning of the interview that no one would believe him," Mitchell said. Mitchell and other officers said that Patterson was not under the influence of any type drugs or alcohol. The report was made by Sgt. Mitchell after the police department and the sheriff's office received numerous complaints about unidentified flying objects. "I might add that I didn't see any," Mitchell said. But other area law enforcement officers apparently did. Between 3:40 and 5 a.m. today, at least seven Escambia deputies reported seeing UFOs hovering south of Pensacola Beach, according to a resident who monitored a police-band radio. It could not be immediately confirmed if these sightings could be accounted for by testing at Eglin Air Force Base, between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakewd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember-keep looking up!

VALLEY NEWS TODAY, Shenandoah, IA - Jan. 20, 1998 UFO sighting aboard U.S. Navy aircraft carrier

Dear Editor:

I am sending you some information, it is about the true story of a UFO sighting aboard a U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier. This takes place in the year 1958. We were on a shakedown cruise when there was a small light that was following our ship. Then this light came right at us; it came in close enough to us so you could see the shape of the object and also see that there were figures inside of it. Also, the impression that I got was that those figures were not human beings.

The object at that time turned a bright red-orange color and took off fast. Our ship's maneuvers stopped suddenly for some unknown reason. They kept the incident quiet. A bunch of men were transferred off the ship.

Years later after I was out of the Navy, I found out about other UFO sightings from that same ship. Some of the witnesses had to sign papers to keep silent for 20 years and the other UFO sightings were from the 1950s and that same ship. The ship deck logs do not show anything about any of the sightings.

And, the Freedom of Information Act requests to the Navy Department, the CIA and the NSA did not produce any information. Why all of these UFO sightings from one Navy ship? The USS F.D.R. was the first Navy aircraft carrier that was allowed to carry nuclear weapons and this was including the H-Bomb.

Sincerely,
Chester C. Grusinski,
USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA-42
1958-60,
Clinton Township, Mich.

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Many people who come to Gulf Breeze area to look into the UFO phenomena here, and particularly those who come out to skywatch at Shoreline Park often have questions about the history of UFO sightings in the area.

Much research in past issues of local newspapers has so far yielded this report from the *Pensacola News Journal* dated July 27, 1952. We will continue to search for even earlier reported sightings, but so far this is the earliest one we have found. This particular report states that "One Warrington Navy man reported that he saw three ember-red lighted objects in the sky in his neighborhood." He said they "travelled real fast, then seemed to stop abruptly." He reported that he was familiar with all types of aircraft, but that he had seen "nothing like these" ever before. The article goes on to state "... An East Pensacola woman said she had seen disc-shaped objects flying overhead, and that they had an orange glow to them. Residents of the Eglin Air Force Base area reported that two orange-colored discs hovered to the south-southeast for three or four minutes before vanishing. These persons too reported that they were familiar with conventional aircraft and their characteristics and that the discs fitted no conventional crafts' description." The article goes on to discuss various other sightings around the country in the same time frame including those which showed up on radar in the Washington, D.C. area. Eyewitness reports of "orange glowing balls" flying across the sky in River Edge, New Jersey and Cleveland, Ohio are also included. The article concludes with a report from Key West, Florida of "an orange-yellow ball of fire (that) streaked across the sky."

We have other sighting reports from local newspapers citing events occurring between 1952 and 1986 which we will include from time to time and we will continue to research the history of sightings in this area prior to 1952.

Of course, most people became aware that any kind of anomalous phenomena exists in Gulf Breeze in the late 1980s with the much

publicized Ed Walters case. The photographs that Mr. Walters took are now recognized worldwide, and to some have become a benchmark in the phenomena. However, Mr. Walters' experience is not unique to the area, there are other witnesses who have taken photographs and video of what they have seen in the sky here. No other photographic evidence has been offered, however, that is as numerous or of such quality as the Walters photographs, and the publicity that surrounded the case is what makes most people think "Ed Walters" when they think about Gulf Breeze.

On talking to many of the fishermen who frequent the Bob Sykes Bridge, and in conversations with fishermen and long time residents in the area, there are many stories of quite amazing sightings that predate the Ed Walters case, including the "Jane" photographs from 1986, and even this report from 1952. People talk about the stories their grandfather told them of the "weird lights" they used to see while fishing in local waters. I also know of one woman whose grandmother used to take her and her sisters out at night to the north shore of Gulf Breeze in the Naval Live Oaks area "to watch the lights." So, the events that continue to occur in the Gulf Breeze area, whether they are sightings of anomalous lights or strange, unidentifiable silver-metallic craft hovering over Shoreline Park in the daylight, have a long and intriguing history.

One purpose that I feel these historical sightings serve is to address the issue of military involvement, which is often proffered as an explanation to the "Gulf Breeze sightings." Obviously, those who are even the tiniest bit skeptical quickly latch on to the fact that Gulf Breeze, and Shoreline Park itself is surrounded by military establishments and is adjacent to a busy public airport. Of course, those of us who skywatch regularly are only too familiar with the commercial, military and private aircraft that we see so often. Their lighting patterns are distinctive and we have witnessed them flying in all kinds of conditions. Therefore, when we see something anomalous, we can quickly determine whether or not it is

actually an identifiable aircraft. The historical perspective also raises an interesting question in this regard. If the sightings that were reported back in the early 1950s or before are describing light configurations and craft that look exactly the same as those we see today, how can they be military craft? We had barely begun to fly jet aircraft in the early 1950s and look where that technology is now. Surely if our government were working on saucer-shaped craft, etc., they would have developed enough to appear differently over the course of over forty years. If that was the technology then, it would not still be at the same stage today. Surely if our government had tested these super-maneuverable, silent craft with the ability to disappear and reappear randomly in the 1950s we would see them as a known part of our military hardware today. The government war machine being what it is, I doubt they would have hidden these advantageous craft in light of conflicts such as Vietnam and the Gulf War. Of course, it could still be argued that they are used in covert operations, but really, by now some retired pilot or mechanic who worked on such a craft would have come forward to tell his story if that were the case.

Skywatching has been a hit or miss prospect this week, and Saturday night saw totally unfit conditions, with rain and fog prevailing. We set out for Shoreline even so, in the hope of running into J. Michael and Donna Ling from Laurel, Mississippi, who had e-mailed stating their intention to skywatch on this particular night. They did arrive and so did a couple of our regular group despite the bad weather. It drizzled on and off through the evening, and the ceiling was very low. Nothing unusual showed up in the sky, but we spent an evening of pleasant conversation with our visitors. By around 10 p.m., we were all damp enough and decided to call it a night and return to our respective hearths to dry out!

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. Thank you—And remember - Keep Looking Up!

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROL BAKER

A couple of weeks ago we were contacted by a Gulf Breeze resident who we had visited about two years ago after he had taken some video of what appeared to be an anomalous phenomena in the sky over Gulf Breeze. Mr. Ubaldi has continued to skywatch over the last two years and has amassed quite a lot of video footage of apparently anomalous objects/lights in the day and night sky over his home. One particular piece of video that he was excited about was shot on December 30th at about 4:30 p.m. He brought this video to us to look at and we passed it on to Ray Pollock of the Gulf Breeze Research Team who analyzed it to the best of his ability using the Apple TV/Video System installed on his Macintosh PowerPC Model 6320CD and an Admiral 4-head VCR from a second generation copy of the video.

The video itself shows a very brightly lit object, which appears silver/white in the western sky. We questioned the witness as to whether or not he could identify Venus in the sky at that time. He said he could not, since at that time of evening the sky was still too light for Venus to appear. We observed the sky personally at the same time of day just a few days later on December 3rd and 4th, and indeed Venus was not apparent, although it was possible to faintly see the moon approaching its first quarter. Also, the shape of the image, its rather sudden disappearance and the fact that Venus would continue to glow brighter in the darkening evening sky seemed to rule out this video being of a planet, such as Venus. Therefore it was determined that the very bright object which Mr. Ubaldi had video taped was not Venus. The object appears on the video for approximately thirty seconds before fading out very rapidly and disappearing

altogether. While Mr. Pollock's analysis of the video allowed us all to view the object more clearly, and while it appears not to be anything conventional, it is still difficult to make a final determination. The stills captured from the video show a brightly lit object with an approximately rectangular shape. In these still captures, some of the pixels around the top right and top left of the object show some shadowing which is a result of electronic smear as a result of camera movement and does not appear on all frames. No structure is visible surrounding the white light object as would be expected in the case of a conventional aircraft, helicopter, etc. There is no evidence of wings, a tail, or of rotor blades. In the video, the object appears to be lower in the atmosphere than a star would appear and its most significant aspect is its method of leaving. The object begins to fade slightly by frame #10 of the video and continues to fade, disappearing completely by frame 21 or 0.37 seconds. Total disappearance occurs between frame 20 and frame 21, or in 1/30 second. Also of note is the fact that the object is brightly lit on its eastern side, i.e. facing away from the setting sun and therefore the light generated from the object is possibly not light reflected from the sun. Although there may be some reflective light associated with the object, there are some self luminous spots scattered with the field when it is expanded to an individual pixel level. Mr. Ubaldi has previously forwarded some of his footage to Strange Universe and to Dr. Bruce Maccabee.

We had the opportunity to skywatch only once this past week, on Sunday night. We would have liked to have had other opportunities, but unfortunately the weather has again been a determining factor. We did

have one really clear night though, just before the full moon. The sky was clear and beautiful and the full moon in the eastern sky was shining lightly.

Two visitors from Miami arrived at Shoreline Park while we were skywatching. It was rather chilly, and they had been out the previous evening for a short while, so had come prepared this time with towels to sit on the sweatshirts, etc. Susan and Karen are health care workers in the Miami area and Susan is considering moving to the Gulf Coast. She has a deep interest in UFOs and was really hoping for a sighting while she was here. Unfortunately, nothing showed up, but she got very excited each time one of us picked up our binoculars to check out a passing plane, etc. Susan plans to return to the Gulf Breeze area in March and do some more skywatching. We enjoyed talking with these two ladies very much and look forward to another opportunity to spend an entertaining evening together again in the near future.

For more information about the Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held March 20th, 21st, and 22nd on Pensacola Beach you can hit their website at: <http://www.projectawareness.com>, write to Project Awareness, P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561, telephone them at (850) 432-888 or e-mail: vickilyons01@sprynet.com.

For more information on the annual Ozark UFO Conference to be held April 10-12, 1998 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas contact: Ozark UFO Conference, 2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumville, AR 72121-8725, telephone: (501) 354-2558.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember—Keep looking up!

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - Jan. 20, 1998 CR: J. Brown-Jacobs

Fireball piques scientists' curiosity

■ A Tri-Cities woman gets calls from afar after she reports seeing a possible meteor plunge into the Columbia River

The Associated Press

KENNEWICK, Wash. — Judy Smiley apparently isn't through answering questions about the fireball she reported seeing streaking over the Tri-Cities nearly two weeks ago.

The object — possibly a meteor that might have ended up on the bottom of the Columbia River — created only a brief ripple of local interest after sightings were reported Jan. 7.

But phone calls from outside the area have continued coming in to

Smiley's Kennewick home since she told reporters of her experience.

She's heard from scientists at New Mexico's Sandia National Laboratory, a talk-radio host in Seattle and a man from New York who thinks a meteor took down TWA Flight 800.

Almost without exception, the callers have been stunned by the notion that no one in Kennewick has gone bobbing in the river with a face mask and a metal detector.

"They're really surprised nobody's looking for it," Smiley said. "They say they'll get back to me because they might come out here."

Smiley said she was driving home at night when she saw a ball trailing orange and red flames in the eastern sky.

She said she watched the object fall for about a minute before it splashed into the river.

Pasco police said one officer reported seeing a meteor shower about the same time, though the officer did not see anything fall to the ground. The Federal Aviation Administration has said a United Airlines pilot reported seeing two or three meteors in the sky near the Tri-Cities area that night.

Police said a local airport reported seeing nothing unusual on its radar.

Finding whatever the object was or even charting its path could help explain a previously unknown phenomenon, say two scientists who contacted Smiley.

Richard Spalding and Paul Beck of the Sandia National Laboratory

are hoping anyone who saw the fireball will call them to talk about it.

Such information could help solve centuries-old mysteries, they say.

The scientists are investigating apparently natural phenomena that they cannot explain.

They say evidence of the phenomena is frequently seen on equipment at the Sandia lab used to detect nuclear activity wherever it happens in the world.

Sometimes, Beck said, the equipment detects something other than a nuclear bomb detonating. Often the non-nuclear readings can be attributed to lightning.

Sometimes, the readings can't be explained. Beck and Spalding want to find out if the Tri-Cities fireball may be such a case.

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

Sighting reports continue to be received concerning the night of January 31, 1998. As mentioned last week, there was a sighting from Pensacola Beach that was confirmed by another witness in Pensacola. Bill Ford, Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON's Chief Investigator also shared information with me from a call received by another man in Pensacola who, along with his neighbor had also had a sighting that night, possibly of the same object. Also, I myself had a sighting that evening. Here are the details of what occurred on the evening of Saturday, January 31, 1998.

I planned on arriving at Shoreline Park early, at around 6 p.m. to see if there was a repeat of the sighting from the previous evening. I was delayed in leaving and was still at home at 6:28 p.m. when Vicki Lyons called me on her cellular phone from Pensacola Beach. She and a group composed of Art and Mary Hufford, Topper and Marianne Jones, Pat and Buddy Crumbley, Bruce and Anne Morrison and Whitley and Anne Streiber had gathered at the public parking lot east of Tristan Towers on the Gulf side, and were having another sighting! They were witnessing a single, steady red light to the north of their position, at about seven degrees above the horizon, back over towards Pensacola. It was either varying in intensity, or the high, light clouds that were in the sky that evening were passing over it. It was estimated that it was between six and ten miles distant from their position. At one point Whitley Strieber said that through binoculars he thought he could determine that it was in fact a ring of lights, rather than a single light. The light appeared to travel slowly towards their position and to the east, on a south-easterly course. The sighting lasted from 6:22 p.m. until 6:48 p.m., a total of twenty-six minutes before the light faded out. The wind was from the south at about 5 m.p.h.

Immediately gathering up binoculars, jacket and cellular phone, I left my house and drove quickly to the three mile bridge between Pensacola and Gulf Breeze. My house is only about a half mile from the north end of the bridge, so I was traveling on the bridge in just a few minutes. There is a clear view of the sky over Gulf Breeze and much of Pensacola to the north, east and west from the bridge so I hoped to be able to confirm the sighting the skywatchers were having from the Beach. I was driving slowly, at about twenty to twenty-five miles per hour searching the skies to my right, the west, for anything anomalous. I did not see anything at all in that direction. However, something, I don't know what, caused me to look to my left, the east, and low to the horizon at

about five degrees elevation over an area known as Garcon Point, I saw two red light UFOs. They were in close horizontal proximity, being about one inch apart at arm's length and it has been speculated that there may have been lights on one object, rather than two separate objects. Each configuration comprised of a central larger light, appearing at arm's length to be the size of the eraser at the end of a pencil. Each of these lights had a smaller light on each side, in very close proximity and I would judge these lights to be about half the size of the larger one. The right hand configuration, the southernmost one, also had a second small light on the right hand side, that appeared slightly higher, giving me the impression of it being on the edge of a circle, or ring. I slowed down immediately to around ten or fifteen miles per hour to observe these UFOs. I watched them for approximately one and a half minutes (the clock in my car read 6:35 when I first saw the configurations and 6:37 after they blinked out) until they blinked out. Immediately, I tried to call the skywatchers at the Beach, but Vicki had turned off her cellular phone so I drove out to the Beach to report my sighting.

As I was pulling into the parking lot where the skywatchers were on Fort Pickens Road, I received a phone call from Ray Pollock from his home in central Pensacola. He and his wife, Elise, had just come inside their home after having a sighting over his house that lasted from 6:22 p.m. for approximately twenty six minutes—the same time frame as the sighting the observers at the Beach had witnessed. I will quote directly from Ray's report: "It was the typical Gulf Breeze red light—it appeared approximately halfway between the horizon and the moon at that time of the evening and gradually moved north and rising until it was approximately the same elevation in the sky as the moon from our vantage point. It moved from 240 to 270 degrees to the north then changed direction to an east, southeast movement until it was around five degrees shy of being directly overhead—and faded out. There was a dimming and brightening more or less constantly during all this time, though it remained various intensities of red. There was no sound associated with the sighting—the object could be clearly observed passing stars all along its path until it disappeared. There is little doubt that Ray and Elise Pollock were observing the same object as the witnesses on Pensacola Beach.

I received the following information from Bill Ford via e-mail. Two calls were made to the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON

Hotline. Here are the details from Bill's report. One call was from a man living in the Montclair subdivision in Pensacola which is near the junction of Michigan Avenue and "W" Streets. He noticed a bright red light was coming from the center of an object that was bigger than a star but smaller than the moon or about like a traffic light down to the road ahead. It (the light) shifted position from the horizon to the east, to the southeast, to northwest, to east for about a fifteen minute period. Its main position was almost directly overhead, and it seemed to put out spikes of light at times as if growing brighter in intensity. The witness called a friend who went outside and observed the object and made the second hot line phone call. This second witness states that upon receiving the call from his friend, he went out and observed the object from the same general area, but apparently got a closer look since he was able to provide a more detailed description. He spotted the bright red light in the east initially, and it travelled to the southwest, directly in front of and above him. He states that it made no noise and had an oblong shape with four triangle shapes attached or imposed on it, two on the front and two on the back. He could only see the shapes when it was red and the triangles also gave off their own red glow. It would occasionally change to white in which case he couldn't distinguish the shape due to the brightness. When it was red, it would change from a bright cherry red to a deeper dark red. It continued to move to the northeast, but not smoothly. The witness described that it would "scoot and drift off in different directions while making its way along a general path, jogging back and forth." This witness called his parents and a neighbor and the neighbor's son out to look at it with him. The witness' mother may have been able to take a couple of photographs of the object and the witness will let Bill Ford know if anything shows up on the prints. If we are able to gather any information from these witnesses concerning this sighting, we will relay it at a later date.

All in all, this was an extremely active and interesting weekend of sightings. In fact, I think the twenty-six minute duration is a record for a "Bubba" type sighting in this area. We are all hoping that the events of this last weekend in January herald the beginning of yet another Gulf Breeze flap. I'll keep you posted and remember y'all better keep looking up!

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. thank you. And remember—Keep Looking Up!

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Well, the excitement continues this week with sighting reports coming in on a regular basis and local media expressing an interest. Everyone's interest is piqued, apparently, and we have not had this much activity in this area in quite a while.

I received a cellular phone call on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 4 from Vicki Lyons. She was driving west on I-10 toward Mobile. It was 3:55 p.m. on an absolutely clear, cloudless winter afternoon. Winds were out of the northwest at about fifteen miles per hour. Driving through an area of Pine Forest, with virtually no landmarks, she was passing the vicinity of mile marker 61, when she saw a perfectly round silver ball-shaped object in the southwestern sky. It was clearly visible and contrasted against the clear, brilliant blue sky. "It looked like a sterling silver marble hanging in the sky," Vicki told me. She estimated that the object was approximately one mile away from her at an approximate fifteen degree angle from the horizon (she actually describes the elevation as being approximately twice that of the height of the nearby treeline). She describes the size as being comparable to an aspirin at arm's length. As she observed this object, suddenly and with no precursor it took off toward the north at tremendous speed, crossing I-10 and disappearing almost instantly. "It took off at a tremendously fast speed . . . the speed of the object was indescribable!!! My eyes could hardly follow it—just too fast for human eyes. It looked like a blur and then was gone," Vicki told me. Shortly afterward, she saw a commercial airplane flying in the same area of sky and because of the clearness of the day, states that she could "easily and clearly identify it as a plane, wings, and tail clearly outlined against the sky."

Interestingly, just a few days later, Pat Crumbley, also a co-director of Project Awareness, as is Vicki Lyons, had a similar daylight sighting. Pat was driving east on I-10 on the afternoon of February 11, 1998 on her way to Niceville, FL from her home in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Her husband Buddy was driving and they had just passed the Milton, Florida exit. Pat states, "I was talking to Buddy, facing him when something caught my eye and I looked up." About fifteen degrees above the horizon Pat observed a silver ball-shaped object about one half inch in diameter at arm's length. She states, "I was

stunned, it took a couple of seconds to say "Buddy look! Buddy look!" By the time she had said that, and Buddy had turned to look, the object has disappeared. Pat also states that soon after the disappearance of the silver ball-shaped object, an airplane flew through the same area of sky and she could clearly discern that this was an airplane, since she was able to see the wings on it.

In the midst of all these reports coming in, on Monday night, February 10, 1998, our local FOX Television affiliate station out of Mobile, Alabama, WALA-Channel 10 aired a video of a UFO that had been taken by a Robertsdale, Alabama couple, Christie and Scott Edwards. The video shown was shot by the Robertsdale couple on February 7, 1998 at 7:06 a.m. The witnesses reported also seeing the same UFO as is shown on the video on February 10, the day the story aired. Christie Edwards is quoted as saying "Looks like just a bright light, but it is real big and it is nothing I've ever seen before." The National Weather Service in Mobile states that the object could be a weather balloon or a planet. The Robertsdale Police Department has urged anyone who is concerned about this sighting to give them a call. The video shows a very bright, silver metallic spherical object with a dark bottom. It was difficult to tell from the video if the object was moving in the sky, or if the apparent movement was due to camera movement, and this issue was not addressed in the television report. The object shown on this video closely resembles the object that was captured on video by Tony James, an English researcher, during his visit to Gulf Breeze in 1995 as well as that on Dennis Ubaldi's December 1997 video which was discussed in a recent Skywatch Diary. Other comparisons have been made to the objects shown on videos coming out of Mexico in recent years.

As a result of this video and all of the recent local activity, Whitley Strieber and Vicki Lyons were featured on the Art Bell show on February 10, 1998 discussing the video and recent sightings in the area and the Art Bell website has a still photograph from the video as well as real time audio of the show on which Whitley and Vicki were featured. You can access the Art Bell website at: <http://www.artbell.com>.

As a footnote to all this local activity, there have been reports of skyquakes in the area again. As many of you who keep up with Gulf Coast UFO sightings will remember, we

have often had skyquakes in association with sightings in the past. The *Mobile Press Register* ran an article in their Friday, February 6 issue. The headline "Explosion likely was sonic boom" was followed up by, "But none of officials asked can be certain." Just after noon on Thursday, February 8, a "rattle and boom" that shook downtown Mobile and the Theodore, Alabama area caused 911 phone lines to become busy. This was a "double boom" event, with the first timed at approximately 12:05 p.m. and the second at about 12:20 p.m., emergency phone lines in Mobile received a dozen or so calls as did the Sheriff's Departments in an area from Grand Bay in southern Mobile County to Citronelle in the north. There were many reports of walls shaking and merchandise crashing from shelves in local businesses. Meteorologists with the National Weather Service in Mobile stated that the booms were not caused by thunder or any other weather-related phenomena. A spokesperson for the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado stated that the booms were not related to an earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey have installed several seismological instruments in the area following the earthquake activity last year. Some people speculated that there were "sonic" booms generated by aircraft flying in the area. Bates Field in Mobile reported no aircraft with such capabilities flying from there, and the Naval Air Station Pensacola Operations Office stated that while they have been flying a lot of training missions, they had only been at subsonic speeds. The same is true for the Air Force out of Keesler AFB, in Biloxi, Mississippi. A public affairs officer for Eglin AFB in Florida also stated that there were no missions in the area at that time, and that there had been no supersonic flights in the area for sometime. The only way they could have been sonic booms, was if they were generated by aircraft flying at high altitude between bases in Florida and Texas. The weather conditions were apparently generated by aircraft flying at high altitude between bases in Florida and Texas. The weather conditions were apparently conducive to the amplification of a sonic boom. However, none of these explanations are conclusive.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakewd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember - Keep Looking Up!

Westchester Boomerang, years later

Authors say UFOs in Bedford's skies have yet to be explained

By R.J. MARX

"Something truly extraordinary happened not long ago in the Hudson River Valley just a few miles north of New York City. Hundreds, and probably thousands of astonished people looked up in the sky and saw something they had never seen before.

It was enormous, awesome and spectacular.

It was seen not just once, but many times over a period of more than three years.

No one knew what it was. No one yet knows."

So opens "Night Siege: The Hudson

Valley UFO Sightings," by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Pratt.

Fantasy from the minds of sci-fi scribes? Or a reasoned analysis of unexplained phenomenon from researchers daring to step forward where others have feared to tread?

"Night Siege," originally published almost 10 years ago, is due to be reissued in May of this year. It follows on the heels of another book by Mr. Imbrogno, "Contact of the 5th Kind," written with Greenwich, Conn., author Marianne Horrigan and published by Llewellyn Publications.

The book hypothesizes not only the appearance and sightings of UFOs throughout the northern Westchester area, but multiple incidents of "contact" between residents and aliens, incidents of "high strangeness" and abductions — all on such familiar thoroughfares as Interstate 684, Route 116 and other nearby locales.

"People who never believed in UFOs saw this undercarriage of dark material, beams of lights shoot down, sometimes engulfing the people. Some of the people said they felt some kind of connection between them and the UFO. Some of the

people who experienced this connection later had an abduction experience."

Mr. Imbrogno, also of Greenwich, has been studying the UFO phenomenon for the past two decades. He has provided research for such shows as "Unsolved Mysteries," "Sightings" and "Encounters." His articles have been published in Omni, UFO Universe and Scientific American.

And he and his co-author, Marianne Horrigan — who has written for FATE Magazine and UFO Universe — believe the UFO sightings in the northern Westchester of the 1980s have never been adequately explained.

The 'Westchester Boomerang'

The alleged sightings began in late-March of 1983, when hundreds of area residents reported an object resembling a "boomerang," with multi-colored lights. It was said to hover, and did not produce an engine hum. Witnesses said traffic came to a stop on the Saw Mill River Parkway, Interstate 684 and the Taconic Parkway as eyewitnesses marveled. In Mount Kisco, police officers and citi-

zens reported a UFO traveling down Main Street, some calling it "larger than two football fields." In Yorktown, Mr. Imbrogno wrote, the police department was so deluged with reports that callers were unable to get through.

In "Contact of the 5th Kind," Mr. Imbrogno estimates that more than 1,000 people saw what he and others continue to describe as a UFO as it hovered over the major highways of Putnam and Westchester counties.

From a sparsely furnished Greenwich apartment, Mr. Imbrogno and Ms. Horrigan take the matter very seriously.

"It's like all UFO sightings, it's very controversial," said Mr. Imbrogno. "You'll get mixed opinions. Some people saw something that could be explained, and other people saw something that could not."

He said official explanations of the sightings included Cessna aircraft, the stealth bomber, and most commonly, ultralight aircraft from Stewart Airport flying in formation.

(Members of the Bedford Police Department said they did receive UFO reports at the time but said they were definitely attributable to ultralight aircraft in the region).

Mr. Imbrogno said he doesn't buy the ultralight theory as an explanation for all the sightings. He said he has spoken to the pilots of the ultralights, who were "very elusive."

He said there were nights when the UFOs were spotted and the pilots were not flying. He also said that the UFOs were spotted with winds gusting to 30 mph — weather clearly not suited for ultralight aircraft.

Mr. Imbrogno brought a 1984 videotape of the UFO to be analyzed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

A laboratory analyst told Mr. Imbrogno the object represented a single solid object, and not individual objects such as airplanes in formation.

Mr. Imbrogno said similar objects were seen in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and in Belgium. "The Belgian UFO sightings were identical to the Hudson Valley sightings in the mode of operation, the time and dates. People who were investigating wrote a letter to me saying, 'All we had to do was change the location and I could have the Hudson Valley sightings right here.' Are these objects flying all over the world?"

Mr. Imbrogno spoke of the "quality" of the individuals who had sightings. "Even to this day, they indicate that they saw something that they could not explain," he said. "In Danbury, 12 police officers



Authors Philip Imbrogno and Marianne Horrigan believe this area has been visited by extraterrestrial beings.



had encounters, including the chief of police. There are police officers, scientists, who to this day, indicate that what they saw is totally unexplainable."

Why here?

If UFOs are out and about, why have they chosen northern Westchester?

"Good question," said Mr. Imbrogno. "In UFO literature we have areas in the world that break out from time to time with UFO sightings. These are called 'flaps.'"

He said the late Dr. Hynek — co-author of "Night Siege" and former scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book — had hypothesized that the UFOs represent "some kind of alien intelligence."

"He indicated to me that the UFO phenomenon is perhaps more complex and more exotic than we realize."

Mr. Imbrogno explained Dr. Hynek's theory of "multiple dimensions."

"There are certain areas on the

"If the UFO is representing some other intelligence they could use these electromagnetic anomalies areas as some sort of bridgeway to their parallel reality."

PHILIP IMBROGNO

earth where these dimensions intertwine, causing this phenomenon to take place," Mr. Imbrogno said. "Maybe in the Hudson Valley we're dealing with an area where portals of space and time open up, allowing this phenomenon to appear."

In "Contact of the 5th Kind," the authors state that the sightings are continuing and many area residents are reporting abduction or contact experiences with extraterrestrial life.

"This is not going away," said Mr. Imbrogno. "This is increasing. Not only people who claim abduction reports, people who report mental contact with alien intelligence."

Stone chambers hold key?

Mr. Imbrogno and Ms. Horrigan are at work on a new book, "Lost in Time," that examines the relationship between the UFO sightings and a series of stone chambers throughout northern Westchester and Putnam counties, which, they theorize, may serve as an "electromagnetic anomaly" with some connection to the extraterrestrial craft.

"These chambers sit on areas of extreme magnetic anomalies," Mr. Imbrogno said, "as if they were not built randomly."

He said the chambers were of Celtic origin, and had been the scene of many close encounters in the area and reports of "strange creatures."

(Others, such as Susan Allport, author of "Sermons in Stone: The Stone Walls of New England and New York," say that the chambers were to store food for 19th century farmers and their livestock).

Ms. Horrigan said there are approximately 200 such chambers in the area. These chambers start near Route 116 in Lewisboro (near the "Balanced Rock") and proceed northward, with a particular concentration in Kent Cliffs and Putnam Valley. They are not seen further north than Fishkill.

"If the UFO is representing some other intelligence," said Mr. Imbrogno, "they could use these electromagnetic anomalies areas as some sort of bridgeway to their parallel reality."

Mr. Imbrogno said sightings were continuing, and there were increasing reports of contact with extraterrestrials.

"We've had 256 reports, from New Jersey, southern Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut," he said. "They come from a combination of people who have seen creatures coming in the roads, and people who have been driving along and a UFO landed and they were taken aboard and had this scenario under hypnosis."

"These people are relaying an experience they believe is the truth. Very few people come across as hoaxes or having flights of fancy. Many people believe this experience has actually happened."

The authors believe they may be part of the early groundwork for what Mr. Imbrogno calls "the science of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd centuries."

"We're dealing with phenomena here that have to be looked at in greater detail and studied," said Mr. Imbrogno. "There's a new generation of scientists that's going to pick this up and finally give us some answers. We won't have the statements of people who are daydreamers, but we'll have hard scientific evidence that we should pay more attention to."

Mr. Imbrogno and Ms. Horrigan have invited those with sighting information to contact them at PO Box 4218, Greenwich CT 06831. They say they are especially interested in photographs, tape recordings, or videos of UFOs or other forms of paranormal phenomena.

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD MATERIAL



Daily Record • Bill Ross

UFO researcher George D. Fawcett, 68, researched and investigated UFO phenomenon for the past 54 years and donated his collection to the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell.

Researchers donate items to UFO museum

MIKE BUSH
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Two longtime UFO researchers have donated their lifetime collections of UFO-related materials to the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

The 88 boxes and eight file cabinets delivered by truck to the museum contain correspondence, journals, newsletters, magazine articles, questionnaires, slides, books, photographs, cassette tapes and scrapbooks of newspaper articles containing material dating as far back as 1944.

Most of the material is the collection of George D. Fawcett, of Lincolnton, N.C., who has investigated more than 1,200 reported UFO sightings since 1944 and has published more than 100 articles and founded several UFO study groups.

He also has written a book, "Quarter Century Studies of UFOs in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee."

The rest of the material is from E.R. "Bob" Sabo of St. Petersburg, Fla. He founded the UFO Research Organization of St. Petersburg in 1964 and published a monthly newsletter through 1969.

He also was a member of the investigative subcommittee of the National

"We want the world to know that they can come here and our files will be open, our books will be available."

Deon Crosby
UFO Museum director

Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C., from 1964-80.

He continued to collect UFO materials, including audio and video tapes, slides and photographs, field-investigation reports and other materials. He has estimated he has more than 10,000 items compared to about 21,000 in Fawcett's collection.

Museum officials estimate the value of the two collections at about \$250,000.

Fawcett and his wife, Shirley, were at the museum Tuesday to talk about the collections.

Fawcett said the Smithsonian Institute's Air Research Museum had accepted his collection in 1960 as a

permanent exhibit. But Fawcett said soon after he did a press release announcing the Smithsonian's action, he was contacted by then-museum Director Philip S. Hopkins saying the institute was not longer interested in his collection.

Hopkins told him the museum had not intended to use or display his full collection, Fawcett said.

"He had intended to take my collection ... and whitewash it according to the Air Force party line in Washington at that time," he said.

He said he realized then his collection "wasn't just mine, but it belongs to probably thousands of contributors all over the world who shipped stuff over here and I wasn't about to sell them short, too.

"So I wrote back and said 'Well, I'm no longer interested in you.'"

Because of that, 37 years later, he has probably five or six times as much material "coming to a friendly location in Roswell, New Mexico," he said.

Fawcett said they chose the museum in Roswell as a depository for their material "primarily because they have proved themselves not to be fly-by-night. They're level-headed."

He also noted the museum had

(continued on page 12)

nearly 200,000 visitors in 1997.

UFO Museum Director Deon Crosby said the museum is starting to get a lot of smaller collections, also.

If the museum continues to get collections, which it expects to do, more room will have to be found, Crosby said. That will mean either expanding the museum or finding a new location, she added.

She said the museum intends to make all materials available to researchers.

"We want the world to know that they can come here and our files will be open, our books will be available," she said.

"We want to be a clearing-house for the entire world for UFO information."

Physicist lectures at UFO Museum

Chet W. Sapalio will present "Possible Propulsion systems of UFOs" Saturday at 7 p.m. at the International UFO Museum and Research Center, 114 N. Main St.

Doors at the museum will open at 6 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public. A question and answer period will follow the lecture.

Sapalio will discuss contemporary physics theories as they relate to the UFO propulsion question.

He will also discuss how he believes the future holds intergalactic travel.

time travel and maybe even interdimensional travel.

According to Sapalio, society must establish a priority of developing the engineering and technology necessary to apply the theories that have already been discovered to be true.

Sapalio has done graduate studies at Penn State University and has studied physics at the undergraduate level. He is in the process of attaining his Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics, specializing in Quantum/Gravity. Sapalio is a scientist and entrepreneur with a strong interest in the UFO phenomenon.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - March 4, 1998

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

We are still recording, documenting and researching sighting reports which are coming in from all along the Gulf Coast.

Bill Ford shared the following sighting report of an event that took place on Monday, February 9, 1998 that he obtained from the witnesses themselves just a few days after the sighting. The two women, a mother and daughter, were returning to their home in Fairhope, AL from Biloxi, MS. They were driving east on I-10 and at about 5 a.m. they observed a big, bright white light to their right (south), out over an area of water. (It is not clear from Bill's report if this was the Gulf of Mexico, or a bay or inlet). The witnesses estimate that the light was at an approximate elevation of 45 degrees from the horizon. One of the witnesses judges the size of the object to be about half the size of the full moon at arm's length. While still watching the light, the witnesses pulled their car over into a rest area to better observe the light. One witness reports that she observed the light in the same position until about 6:30 a.m., whereupon it turned to a "golden" color and grew smaller and appeared to withdraw until it looked into an average star in the sky. Interestingly the other witness reports feeling drowsy and sleepy during this time, but corroborates the light turning golden and growing smaller, etc. Bill states that he addressed the issue of possible missing time with these witnesses but both do not feel that this was part of their experience. The witnesses then resumed their journey home. Interestingly, one of the witnesses, the daughter, can recall a prior sighting of round, globe-shaped lights, which took place in 1975 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She shared this previous sighting with her sister and until questioned by Bill about any prior sightings had not shared this information with anyone. My thanks to Bill for sharing this report and

gathering all the pertinent information. This is the third sighting recently reported from the Interstate. It seems as though driving on I-10 between Mississippi and Florida is a good place to have a sighting these days!

I also received an interesting report this week of a sighting that took place later in the day on February 9, 1998. The witness wishes to remain anonymous since the witness is connected with a military installation here in the local area. The report of this sighting is particularly interesting since it is rather unusual and the report is very detailed. The witness states that on February 9, 1998 he was fishing in about three feet of water in Choctawhatchee Bay. He was at a position that would put him south of the runway at Eglin Air Force Base. He notes that the moon was almost full and rising in the east. There was a thin scattered to broken cloud deck at 7000 feet (this was checked with local authorities after his sighting to confirm this detail). At approximately 6:05 p.m. he heard a muffled steady "blowing" sound coming from the north. He looked in that direction, but could see nothing as the noise came closer and closer. As it continued to approach him, he could tell that the noise was coming from above ground level. He continued to look and saw that an area of cloud above him appeared to move. He saw that it was not the clouds that were moving, but a V-shaped, translucent object that was passing below them, making the clear object between me and the clouds appear to be moving. "There was no mistake about this," the witness states emphatically, "there was a clear object between me and the clouds, moving in a steady motion." The object passed straight over the witness and proceeded in a straight path southward toward the Destin Bridge and disappeared. "The entire sequence took about 10 to 12 sec-

onds," the witness states. The object was between 500 and 1000 feet above ground level and travelling at about 200 to 250 knots in the estimation of the witness. "There was no propeller or turbine noise . . . Just a steady rush of air seemed to propel it. It was very controlled and remained at one speed. The estimated distance I saw it travel was between three and four miles." This is a very interesting and unusual sighting and if anyone else was in this area on the evening of February 9 and saw this object, I would be very interested in hearing from them.

News of another sighting came at around 8:30 a.m. on the morning of February 17, 1998. A local radio station in the Pensacola area, WABB 97.5 FM received a call from a young woman, calling from Cantonment, Florida who stated that the previous evening while travelling on Hwy. 29 to Molino, Florida with her mother, she had a UFO sighting. She reported that a square object with what appeared to be lights "like a pair of headlights" flew over their car and dropped a "light thing" that they thought was a fireball or something similar. This frightened the witnesses drastically, and the girl stated that her mother sped off down the highway at around 80 miles an hour to get away from the scene. I personally contacted the offices of WABB later that morning in the hope of being able to gather more information from these witnesses about this event. I will relate any further details if they are forthcoming in a future Skywatch Diary. There are still several other sighting reports in the local area which are avidly gathering information on, and details of these sightings will also be included as they become available.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakewd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152-7152, thank you. And remember - Keep Looking Up!



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Mystery of pattern in slough is solved

In last week's paper we printed an aerial photo of a marsh that showed some odd geometric patterns.

All we knew was that the photo of circles and lines in a marsh was taken somewhere over North Dakota or southern Saskatchewan on Sept. 3, 1996.

A crop circle enthusiast from Vermont was anxious to find out if the pattern could be some type of unexplained formation. I told him it looked like it could be some sort of waterfowl nesting project. He was sure it was probably visitors from another dimension. We were both curious, and I thought if we ran the picture someone might recognize the marsh.

Well, the paper was only out for a few hours before I got a call from Rob Austin. He had flown over the marsh and noticed the odd patterns. It is between Weyburn and Radville, he said, which fit the other information we had — that the snapshot was taken from an airliner on its way to Calgary a few minutes after it flew over Minot, N.D.

Rob told me he wondered what the pattern was, and found out it was a Ducks Unlimited nesting habitat project.

Maggie Austin then gave me a story she had written about the patterns in the wetland, which is known as Tataqua Marsh. Here is what she wrote:

I had the strangest experience when Rob



Kevin Weedmark

and I were flying to visit Melany and Dave at Radville. I closed my eyes as we neared the end of our flight. If I watched the landscape below too long, my mind involuntarily processed all the shapes and patterns in the cultivated green fields and dark sloughs, searching for recognizable shapes, like some giant Rorschach test.

When I opened my eyes a few minutes later, I thought I was seeing things. "Look at that!" I almost shouted into the headset. Two immense geometric configurations had been carved out in the scrubby green bog below. They created precisely-cut water channels of loops, lines, and curves in contrast to the drab surrounding prairie. My intellect grappled with this new puzzle. I couldn't help thinking of spaceship circles in English wheat fields. For a split second I wondered if anyone else had seen this.

"Do you think it's a drainage system?" I asked Rob.

"Maybe, or some kind of nesting scheme

for Ducks Unlimited."

"Or aliens," I said, almost under my breath. Rob laughed. Then I remembered when Melany and I were kids, she used to talk about a marsh which neighbored their farm. Tataqua Marsh, such a lyrical name. I remember as a child wondering why anyone would give a name to a place where only frogs and ducks lived.

Tataqua, I checked the aviation map. The spelling looked Indian. I imagined Cree travellers coming to know this wetland in the midst of the swaying grass.

These loops in the marsh reminded me of a carving I had seen as a girl. We had been on our class field trip in Regina and were shown a boulder at the Museum of Natural History. It was found in some farmer's field not far away from the city. On it was a simple light bulb shaped human face worn into the rock thousands of years ago by Indians.

Once we arrived in Radville we asked

Melany and Dave about the strange shapes in the marsh. They hadn't heard a thing. The topic of aliens came up and Melany was soon telling us about cattle around Radville, found with their brains and hearts missing but no signs of blood or incisions. I couldn't resist adding a few tidbits about UFOs and army coverups. After all, stories of unexplained phenomena, preferably told late at night, had always been the cornerstone of Melany and my relationship.

We had a good weekend and when we flew over Tataqua Marsh on the way home the dark water loops still boldly defied the quiet prairie. They remained a mystery for a few weeks until I visited my brother Jim on the farm. He confirmed that the channels were in fact Ducks Unlimited nesting aids. He had flown over them once with a neighbor.

As it turned out, the mysterious loops created islands for the ducks to nest, free from foxes and other predators. So once again, the legendary marsh was being cared for by those who place value on frogs and ducks.

So much for the visitors from another dimension theory.

Unless you believe that the waterfowl that nest in the marsh come from the mysterious Duck Dimension, that is.

NEW TWIST TO FALKLAND UFO PROBE

THE Falkland UFO case took another bizarre twist this week.

An Edinburgh-based philosophy group revealed that it is probing the alleged close encounter on a local road.

Transformation Studies — whose members include university graduates and academics — has conducted field trips to the site of the alleged alien landing.

But, its efforts to find five trees said to have had their tops blown off during the incident have so far proved unsuccessful.

Ufologists have already called for a government inquiry into last September's incident when a young mother, her 10 year-old son and a close friend claim to have witnessed flashing lights in the sky, the appearance of a massive black craft and beings roaming a wood just off the Newton of Falkland road.

Since then, the witnesses claim to have been plagued by strange goings on at their home.

TS secretary Sally Campbell said the group were interested in

Report by Mike Delaney

the Falkland incident and in other strange happenings in the vicinity, including a pensioner's report of a bright and motionless night over the village on June 16.

She added: "Basically, we take a very philosophical approach to the whole matter to toss around ideas as to why these sightings are happening."

"Some of our members believe that 'little green men' are responsible whilst others believe secret military technology, weather phenomena or even people's imaginations might be a more realistic explanation."

Mrs Campbell continued: "It appears that the establishment in this country does not believe in UFOs, not for any sinister reasons but because they do not understand it."

"It can never be said that there is no such thing as alien life because this cannot be proved and, for all we know, might never be proved."

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE!

UFO spotted over Launceston

A LAUNCESTON man spotted a UFO hovering in the sky above the town on Tuesday afternoon.

Roy Sandercock watched the circular silver object for over 10 minutes at 2.30pm before it shot off "like a rocket" in a southerly direction.

Retired lorry driver, Mr Sandercock, of Broad Park, saw a trail across the sky through his front room window and took his binoculars into the garden to get a closer look, believing it was a fighter plane.

However, when looking through the powerful lenses he saw a round object glinting like a mirror. It was silent and stationary, but then suddenly turned left "like going into a side road."

"No aircraft can do that," said Mr Sandercock who

was formerly in the RAF.

"For a second it scared me."

He stood watching it through the binoculars until his arms ached, before it flew off at a terrific speed.

"It was not visible to the naked eye, only with binoculars."

"I have never seen anything like it before."

Mr Sandercock spent the rest of the afternoon looking to the blue skies in an attempt to catch another glimpse, but to no avail.

When asked of his previous belief of such objects, Mr Sandercock added: "I like to keep an open mind."

● Did you also see this object? Contact the 'Post' on 01566 774444.

Call for an end to UFO secrecy

By DAVID BURROWS

THE director of a national UFO investigation centre is urging people to lobby their MPs over alleged Government secrecy over UFOs.

Eric Morris, director of the British UFO Studies Centre in Cheshire, which has investigated crop circles in Chester and Chirk and UFO phenomena in Wrexham, wants the new Labour Government to include UFO investigations in its proposed Freedom of Information Act.

Mr Morris said a number of sightings in the North West had not been explained, and he also claimed the existence of a Government department set up to investigate UFO sightings.

Mr Morris said: "In the past BUFOSC has attempted to extract information from the Ministry of Defence in London relating to UFO sightings over the North West without success."

Huge

"Our attempts to extract information are met with a reply stating that unless UFO sightings are of any defence significance the Ministry of Defence does not investigate them, and to date no sightings have been of defence significance."

Mr Morris said that did not explain two Tornado jets escorting a huge triangular object over the North Sea two years ago or another triangular object which narrowly avoided colliding with a Boeing 767 arriving at Manchester Airport in January, 1995.

Mr Morris said BUFOSC knew what the triangular craft was, claiming it wasn't extra-terrestrial.

He added: "Ponder another question. If UFOs are of no defence significance then why is there a department at the Ministry of Defence that investigate them? And why do they deny there is such a department?"

"Write to your MP and ask him if a department exists. BUFOSC can confirm there is such a department. It is called Air Staff 2 (a)."

Mr Morris said BUFOSC and two other similar groups would be mounting a campaign to lobby against Government UFO secrecy nationwide, culminating with a day in Hyde Park, London.

UFO search

TWO UFO investigators are hot on the trail of a new sighting in the Lakeside area.

A resident has told them of a cigar shaped pink cloud with sharply defined edges, slowly moving away.

The observer, who wants to remain anonymous, said they saw a small ball of light detach itself from each end and move away and then rejoin the larger object.

The case is being investigated by John Hanson and Dawn Holloway who have been investigating UFOs and crop circles for many years.

ADVERTISER, Redditch, England - Aug. 20, 1997

ADVERTISER, Helensburgh, England - Aug. 28, 1997

UFOs in Garelochhead?

ANOTHER close encounter with UFOs in the area occurred on Monday night, this time near Garelochhead, with four people witnessing the sighting.

Last month, a Rhu man sighted something but was pronounced by the British Astronomical Association as a possible weather balloon, apparently a common sighting.

However, Mike Smith, who lives in Ardspeaton near Garelochhead, says he and his wife saw what they think was "a very large UFO".

Mike, who is a writer, told the Advertiser: "Four of us actually saw it. My wife and I and our neighbours all saw something moving in the air late on Monday evening."

"It was above the

Ardentiny hills and it was enormous. I'm ex-RAF and my neighbour is an army major so we know what aeroplanes look like and it wasn't that."

"It was gold, disc-shaped and kept turning about and going between clouds. Then disappeared in a flash. There was no bright light or anything like that but it just disappeared."

Mike added: "It was an

extraordinary thing and was tremendously massive."

He then rang the British Astronomical Association but in this case, couldn't provide any explanation.

Apart from contacting an amateur informer of UFO sightings who has asked him to send him a description for a magazine, Mike said: "No one's been much help about it at all."

EVENING LEADER, Wrexham, England - Oct. 1, 1997

The Truth Is Out There

Do you believe in UFOs? If not why not?

While there are millions of sceptics worldwide who dismiss UFO sightings as sheer lunacy and the result of an over active imagination, others will argue that the truth is out there and far too frightening ever to be made known to you and I.

There are many who make their living studying UFOs and similar phenomenon.

And they will tell you that UFOs are real, the Government, politicians, scientists and the military all know and they don't want us to find out.

Why not?

Matthew Williams worked as a civil servant for a number of years.

His fascination for the unknown, flying saucers and crop circles intensified as he came into regular contact with what he calls "evidence of UFO existence."

And just as Agent Mulder is regarded as an outcast in the hit sci-fi TV series The X Files Matthew's determination in following his own interest, in discovering the truth about what he saw and what he read only served to isolate him from his contemporaries - he was fired.

"I think I had stumbled upon something I was not meant to see," he said.

"I saw documents acknowledging the existence of UFOs. There are tunnels that stretch for miles underground all over England that are used to develop and experiment with unusual new aircraft."

"There are military bases around the country that are building machines as we speak. Why do you think most UFO sightings are recorded near to military units?"

Twenty-six-year-old Matthew also testifies to his own close encounter which took place in Wiltshire back in 1993.

Parked on top of a hill overlooking the county, the UFO spotter suddenly became aware of what he describes as a "little bright light getting bigger" in his rear view mirror.

Thinking it was another vehicle making its way to the popular tourist spot Matthew paid little attention to it, until the light grew bigger and brighter.

Getting out of the car Matthew turned to face the strange light and remembers feeling exhilarated at the scene before him.

"It was fantastic," he said.

"There was no noise, just this light hovering about 60 feet above me in the air. Suddenly it just seemed to shrink and before I knew what had happened the light had switched off, like some sort of lamp and all I could see was this rim of light in the sky which then shrank in size, flashed across the sky and disappeared."

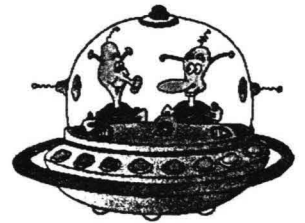
Matthew tours the country lecturing people on the facts he says he has unearthed about UFOs.

He claims there is an international cover-up by the United States and Europe who will not admit publicly the scale of UFO sightings which is "beyond belief."

Using slides and video footage he takes his audience on an investigative journey to a number of secret locations and what he calls "UFO facilities" highlighting examples of when and where

MATTHEW WILLIAMS is a former civil servant who claims to have secret documents acknowledging the existence of 'flying saucers.'

LICHFIELD POST reporter Steve Sharma went to meet him and see if the truth really is out there ...



where flying machines have crashed and how "people in high places are keeping it quiet."

"The level of conspiracy among those in power is so large it controls society," argues Matthew.

"You only hear what they want you to hear, see what they want you to see. If the truth was ever made public knowledge it would change the face of society and community life as we know it."

So next time you are gazing at the sky at night and you think you've seen something strange, something that cannot be explained - think again.

Have you experienced anything unusual such as strange lights in the sky or other similar phenomenon?

If so contact our reporter Steve Sharma on 01543 258523 or write to The Lichfield Post, 33 Bore Street, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6LZ.

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - Sept. 25, 1997

I took cover as UFO fell in my garden

EXCLUSIVE
By RAY NOTARANGELO

A HOUSEWIFE had to dive for cover when a UFO landed on her doorstep.

Last night, experts said they still didn't know if the silver ball Margaret Benvie found came from a meteor or spacecraft.

Emergency services were bombarded with calls after people saw flashing lights in the skies across Scotland.

Defence experts first said the scare was caused by fragments of a Russian spy satellite failing to burn up in the earth's atmosphere.

But they changed their minds and now think a



MISSED ... Margaret with pieces from UFO **SPACE INVADERS 2**

meteor is responsible.

Margaret, 28, was sure a chunk of a spacecraft had just missed her outside her home in Tullibody, Clackmannanshire.

She said: "A glint in the sky caught my eye and I was mesmerised. As I watched, this object fell."

"It came whizzing past at quite a speed. It just missed

me and my husband and landed on our doorstep."

Margaret later discovered neighbour Caroline Gear, 32, had found a similar object in her garden.

A spokesman for the MoD urged anyone finding fragments to hand them to the police. He said: "We don't know for sure what caused the incident."

Airborne mystery

A BATLEY UFO investigator is appealing to sky watchers to help him track down sightings of a mystery black aircraft spotted over Yorkshire.

Graham Wilson, 23, of Cardigan Close, Soothill, saw the triangular-shaped object gliding silently through the night sky in Wakefield on Tuesday.

He says the aircraft has also been seen over Middleton, Leeds, Ilkley Moor and Newsome, Huddersfield.

Graham, who has investigated UFOs for the last seven years, saw the eerie aircraft at 11.30pm on Tuesday as he made his rounds as a security guard in Westgate, Wakefield.

He has heard of several sightings and now wants to hear from others who saw it so he can compare descriptions and map out a possible flight path.

"The object I saw was triangular-shaped, black in colour with red lighting underneath. It moved slowly without making a sound. It appeared to be smaller than a jumbo jet and flew like an aircraft coming in for a final approach before landing," he said.

Anyone who has seen the aircraft can contact Graham on 01924 423758.

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - Sept. 12, 1997

Witness



BRIGITTE Grant was working as a make-up artist in Los Angeles when she first set eyes on visitors from outer space.

She was driving with a friend along a road in Sunset Boulevard in 1993 when she says a spaceship glided across in front of her before disappearing over the horizon.

She described the craft as oval-shaped with no wings, no fuel trace and no visible means of propulsion.

It was solid, metallic and had an orange glow radiating from its underside.

And Brigitte believes she and her friend saw the object for around a full two minutes.

"It was broad daylight and I could have reached out and touched it," she said.

"My throat was going crazy, my eyes were watering, it's just shock. The emotion is going through you because you just can't believe it."

Brigitte also claims a posse of military helicopters chased the object across the sky and that a car carrying US government 'Men in Black' agents soon arrived at the scene.

She said she has spotted four UFOs in the years since, but nothing to rival her first sighting. Brigitte added: "When that day came it totally turned my world around - for the better."

EXPRESS & ECHO, Exeter, England - Nov. 7, 1997

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Oct. 21, 1997

TERRIFIED SISTERS SPOT LARGE MYSTERIOUS CRAFT HOVERING ABOVE THEIR CAR

EXCLUSIVE

TWO sisters have reported a close encounter with a mysterious black triangular UFO over a disused airfield in Somerset.

The sisters, aged 17 and 22, were driving past the base at Westonzoiland at night when they saw a large craft, apparently hovering over the base.

The object, the size of a jet, had white and green lights at its corners. It passed slowly, about 15ft above their car, before speeding away.

The terrified girls returned home and reported the sighting to the authorities.

They were told there were no aircraft in the area at the time.

Details of the sighting in April have emerged now following recent reports of unidentified triangular craft over Somerset.

The mother of the girls, who do not want to be identified, said: "We do not think it was from outer space, we think it is something the Ministry of Defence does not want us to know about."

"I was here when they came in, and I am quite convinced it was true. They were so scared."

She said the girls described the craft as

Close encounter with the black triangle



An impression of the Stealth-like UFO spotted by the sisters

By Edward Oldfield

similar to a U.S. Stealth bomber. It had fins underneath and was silent as it passed overhead. The craft made an electrical noise as it sped away.

Last Tuesday there were four separate

sightings of a black triangular craft in Somerset, including a report from a couple near Wellington.

The latest reports are bound to reignite speculation about secret testing of aircraft with revolutionary new propulsion systems.

Mr John Beveridge, assistant editor of the Glastonbury-based magazine UFO Reality, said: "Sightings of the black triangle have quietened down recently, but two years ago it was seen a lot."

"It seems like it might be some kind of secret technology."

"And it has been suggested it might come from the future."

"Apparently it is not picked up on radar and my own feeling is that it is possibly a follow-on from Stealth."

He said it was about the size of a football pitch. It could float in mid-air and appeared to be flying very low without being concerned about being seen.

The Ministry of Defence has denied reports of secret experiments and says there is no evidence to support reports of unidentified craft in the skies.

FIRST SIGHTING OF KGB X-FILES

THE clearest photos ever taken of UFOs have been unearthed in a massive KGB archive hidden since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

And the dozens of pictures PROVE we are being visited by aliens, says the first Western expert given access to the incredible X-Files.

British-born Philip Mantle showed some pictures exclusively to the News of the World.

He said: "They're fantastic, among the best I've seen."

"Most UFO photos are taken at night, but these are all daylight shots of great clarity."

Explained Philip: "In the 1980s the KGB instructed military personnel to report any sightings. Their files are huge, the biggest UFO study in history."

"The information in them is superb-and nobody outside Russia ever knew about them."

Flashing

News of the archive comes just 48 hours after a Swissair jumbo jet captain insisted he had a near-miss with a "spherical" UFO at 23,000ft over New York.

And a flying saucer features in one of the best KGB-file photos.

Taken in Moscow on October 13 1990, it clearly shows a dark craft flashing by residential tower blocks at high speed.

Author and lecturer Philip, 39, of Leeds, a



Picture: FIRST

SOME FEAT: The mystery toe implant

By JAMES MILLBANK and ALEX HITCHEN

former investigations chief of the British UFO Research Association, concludes: "This goes to show that there ARE strange things in our skies. They are either aliens... or something even more sinister."

"I am sure the truth will come out."

US investigators have now revealed evidence of alien technology implanted in humans.

Californian surgeon Dr Roger Leir has removed three "highly anomalous implants" from a couple who claimed to have had UFO encounters.

Two were removed from the woman's toes. The third was in the man's hand. And all

were attached to nerves where no nerves were known to exist.

Dr Leir, working with Houston-based alien investigator Derrel Sims, said the implants were ultra-hard magnetic cores surrounded by a dense grey membrane which could not be cut.

Tissue

The membranes, made of tough proteins formed from skin and blood, prevented signs of inflammation or rejection.

No one knows how the objects entered the body because no scar tissue or entry point was found.

Dr Leir said: "If these can teach us how to prevent tissue rejection, we could revolutionise surgery."



RUSSIAN BY: The stunning saucer shot taken in Moscow seven years ago

All hover bar the shouting

A GROUP of walkers on a charity trek across the North York Moors believed they were joined by two UFOs.

As the 14-strong group tackling the Lyke Wake Walk from Osmotherly to Ravenscar, crossed the moors by torchlight a pair of hovering objects appeared to home in on them and follow their path.

Every member of the team from Whitbread's Castle Eden Brewery, near Peterlee, saw the objects, which were the size of a small aircraft with bright, white lights.

Walk co-ordinator George Bean said: "The objects didn't make a sound and seemed to be focusing in on us."

"We were walking by torchlight and it was as if these things were interested in us. They formed a distinct formation in the sky and just hovered overhead."

The walkers' back-up team, waiting at Ralph's Cross, also saw the mysterious objects which they thought must have come from the nearby Fylingdales early warning station.

But the RAF has said it did not have anything which would hover above the walkers keeping pace with them as the two objects did.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, York, England - Oct. 17, 1997

EVENING STAR, Ipswich, England Nov. 18, 1997

Beautiful lights in sky are a mystery to family

By RICHARD CORNWELL

A FELIXSTOWE family is convinced it has seen a UFO buzzing the resort's seafront.

Eddie Dahl and his wife Verena, and their children Eleanor, 15, Adrian, 11, and Robert, nine, all saw the mysterious object - and say several night-time fishermen on the beach also witnessed the amazing sight over the sea.

The Dahls say they could think of no rational explanation for the sight and it is something they will never forget.

Eddie, 49, who has had many psychic experiences and does healing, has seen UFOs before - and saw another just a few days after the Felixstowe one.

"We were driving down Walton High Street when we saw this glowing disc in the



sky at about midnight," said Eddie, of Grange Road.

"We followed it down to the seafront and could see it hovering over the sea. It changed from green to pink, red, yellow and then white - nice soft colours and you could see the reflection clearly on the water."

"After three or four minutes of watching it, it suddenly divided into three balls of light."

"It was then that we noticed about 500ft up in the sky a large dark delta-shaped object. The three balls of light joined it at the corners and it darted about the sky and it revolved and then sped off at incredible speed."

Ex-Army chief calls for UFO probe

THE FORMER head of Britain's armed forces is pressing ministers to investigate an alleged UFO attack on nuclear weapons stores.

But Lord Hill-Norton refused to explain what evidence he has for the bizarre claims.

Last week, in a written parliamentary question, he asked ministers: "Whether they are aware of reports from the United States Airforce personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the weapons storage area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period December 25-30, 1980."

Defence minister Lord Gilbert replied: "There is no evidence to suggest that the Ministry of Defence received any such reports."

Quizzed

Lord Hill-Norton also quizzed ministers on nuclear weapons allegedly stored at RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters, and about the alleged suicide of a UFO security policeman at one of the bases in January 1981.

Again Lord Gilbert said that the MoD has no information concerning the alleged suicide.

He added: "It has always been the policy of this and previous governments neither to confirm nor to deny where nuclear weapons are located either in the UK or elsewhere, in the past or at the present time."

Lord Hill-Norton was previously head of the Army Chiefs of Staff.

Delta-shaped

The family parked and watched the object near the Fluders in Undercliff Road East between midnight and 12.15am on November 1-2.

"It was the most beautiful sight. We didn't feel threatened by it at all. It seemed that the delta-shaped object was some sort of craft and the three balls of light were smaller ones which appeared to dock with it," said Eddie.

A few days later Eddie saw a very similar object in the night sky as he travelled back from a healing session he had been doing in Sudbury.

As he came back through Great Cornard he could see an object hovering over the countryside ahead of him.

"I got out to have a look but I must confess I felt very uneasy - not a good feeling at all. I have read the details of people said to have been abducted and I was worried a little as I watched that UFO," he said.

EXPRESS, Glasgow, Scotland - Oct. 28, 1997

Men in Blackout

BY KERRY GILL

RAF pilots gagged says UFO author

UFO watchers in Scotland were last night backed in their claims of a Whitehall cover-up.

A "Men in Black" style Government agency is gagging RAF pilots who report UFO sightings, according to an expert.

Nick Redfern, author of "A Covert Agenda", insists top-secret officials have been ordering its pilots and radar operators to stay silent on so-called alien activity for more than 40 years.

And he claims the Ministry of Defence continues to maintain "a conspiracy of silence" about UFO sightings in Bonnybridge. Mr Redfern, who

has examined thousands of previously classified MoD and RAF documents on UFOs, said yesterday the conspiracy "stemmed from the highest level".

But a Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday that there was no policy towards UFOs and "certainly no attempt" to gag military personnel.

Last night, top Scottish UFOlogist Brian Wilson welcomed the new allegations, saying: "We've suspected this cover-up for years."

Hovering lights spark X-Files style mystery

UNEXPLAINED lights have sparked an X-Files style mystery in Warrington.

First, Oakwood woman Sarah Wood saw a golden ball shooting through the night sky. When she saw it a second night, she contacted the GUARDIAN.

Sarah, of Noble Close, said: "I was starting to think I must have imagined it the first time, but now I definitely know I've seen something."

Sarah says the shining orb, which appears slightly bigger than a golf ball, flew at around 40ft above the ground and was too fast to be a plane or a bird. The sighting follows other reports of unexplained lights in the area.

Eddie Owens, a security guard at Birchwood Mall, was on duty when he spotted a hovering light. He immediately reached for the video camera: "It was around 2am when I saw an opaque light the size of a tennis ball," he said.

"It was making methodical movements along the edge of a building. It hovered over a man hole, a litter bin, an emergency light and plants and trees and seemed to look in through a window."

"When I looked through the video lens, I could see through it, like a bubble."

Colleague Keith Atkinson called in TV expert Jenny Randles. She passed the video evidence on to UFO experts in America, but so far, the sightings have left everyone baffled.

Security guard Keith, also saw the latest 'travelling light' as he drove along the M62 on Sunday. "It had white lights and hovered really low, following a steady path," he said.

GUARDIAN, Warrington, England - Oct. 31, 1997

ALLOA & HILLFOOT ADVERTISER, Scotland - Oct. 30, 1997

UFO 'cover-up' talk

ALLOA-based paranormal investigator Malcolm Robinson has organised a special lecture that he claims will lift the lid on a British Government cover-up of UFO reports.

Saturday's lecture in Stirling is being given by Nick Redfern, a self-styled leading UFO researcher and author who claims to have gained unprecedented access to thousands of Ministry of Defence and

Royal Air Force UFO files and interviewed military personnel, civil servants and pilots who have tracked or encountered UFOs.

Conspiracy

Like Malcolm, he believes there has been a "conspiracy of silence" by the Government to hide the truth behind UFOs and is convinced there is

an alien presence on Earth.

Both UFO believers and sceptics are being urged to attend the evening lecture at The Cowane Centre.

Meanwhile, Malcolm, the founder of Strange Phenomena Investigations is working on his book, "UFOs: A Scottish Perspective," which he hopes will be published some time next year.

UFO sighting is still a mystery

ETTA Quinn watched in amazement as an unidentified flying object hovered over Cookstown, Co Tyrone.

Mrs Quinn, 67, rushed out of her home at Gor-

talowry Park and urged her husband Joe to look at what she had been watching.

"The thing must have been travelling at a fair speed," said Mrs Quinn.

"It was U-shaped and beautiful with its colour was emphasised by the setting sun on its left side.

"However, when my husband arrived it had obviously moved some

distance because by the time Joe saw it, it was only about the size of a chicken wishbone heading west away from Cookstown."

The mystery remains. What actually did Mrs Quinn see? Was it a UFO?

A spokesman for the Met Office in Belfast denied they had any weather balloons up in the Co Tyrone area at the time of the sighting.

Police and Army authorities were also quick to point out that although they had helicopter and security spotter aircraft in operation in the area, none of their craft matched the descrip-

tion of the object Mrs Quinn had seen.

"As it flew it emitted a lovely silvery colour in the sunshine," added Mrs Quinn.

"Perhaps it was because of the sun that I saw no lights, but there is no mistaking the fact that I definitely saw what appeared to be a UFO.

"I watched it until it flew out of sight in a westerly direction."

Mrs Quinn's sighting of a UFO is the second sighting of a UFO over Co Tyrone in recent years.

In 1994 another strange aircraft over Cookstown was reported.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Oct. 30, 1997

Sighting claim

ILKESTON: An amateur astronomer claims to have seen a UFO in the skies above Ilkeston.

Sean Cumberland (30), from Kirk Hallam, says he saw strange lights in the shape of a diamond at 6.15pm last night.

"I was on Nottingham Road when I saw two sets of lights. There were four lights in the shape of a diamond."

UFO picture they've hidden for 14 years

BY JAYNE DAWSON

THIS is the picture UFO investigators say they have been battling to show the public for 14 years.

They say it shows an orange ball of light about 10ft in diameter hovering behind the tree branches about 25ft back from the car on the far left of the picture.

It was taken at the Craven Arms pub, in Appletreewick, North Yorkshire on May 30, 1983 at about 2.30pm by a woman who has since died.

She told ufologist Nigel Mor-

Experts study strange 'orange ball' in sky

timer at the time that she was trying to capture the Morris dancers on film when she felt a whoosh at the side of her and saw a blur of light.

When the film was developed, the picture contained the UFO.

Mr Mortimer, of Menston, near

Leeds, said: "She was frightened by the picture and sent it to us, but she did not ever want it to get wider publication during her lifetime."

The family have now allowed us to use the picture."

Mr Mortimer, a full time ufolo-

gist who has set up a group called Connect UFO Investigations, says he has spent years investigating the circumstances surrounding the picture and is convinced it is genuine.

He said: "We are not saying this is an alien craft but we are saying it is a UFO."

"In the Wharfe Valley there have been many sightings of two types of phenomena - the orange ball of light and a gun-metal grey saucer shaped disc.

"Recorded sightings of orange balls of light go back hundreds of years and we think this is one of these."

Tests

Nigel says ufologists have tried to replicate the object to test whether it is a hoax.

Nigel says when the picture was processed the photo laboratory produced a report saying the object was physically there, it was not a chemical or due to any fault in photoprocessing.

Said Nigel: "I am open minded but evidence that comes to me has got to be proven or the subject will never move on."

"UFOs often have an effect on the environment and even three years after this appeared vegetation would not grow under where the orange ball appeared."

Leading writer on UFOs, Jenny Randles has also seen the picture. She said: "We could not say definitely it was a UFO but we could never adequately explain it at the time."

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST, Preston, England - Oct. 15, 1997

Plot thickens in 'UFOs' mystery

MORE sightings of mysterious UFOs in the Lancashire skies have come to light.

Triangular-shaped lights were spotted this week in the Chorley and Bamber Bridge areas.

Bombarded

They follow stories about red and blue lights hovering off the Blackpool coastline last week.

The claims were made by callers

By STUART DRAPER

who have bombarded the Tony Newman late night talk show on Red Rose 999. Thirty-five listeners, including somebody who claimed to be a sailor on a Royal Navy ship, said they had seen the square formation lights when they rang the show on Thursday.

Four others who lived in the South Shore area of Blackpool said

they had seen a red, spinning, disc-shaped object.

On Monday evening, two more callers from Chorley and Bamber Bridge phoned the radio presenter to say they had just seen lights in a triangle shape in the night sky.

Tony said: "Clearly, there is something going on and I don't know what it is. There are too many people over too large an area seeing things."

'Men in Black' may be reality, claims book

A FIFE-BASED UFO investigator believes that a new book which claims there is a "Men In Black-style conspiracy of silence" operating at the highest levels of the British Government should not be written off until the real truth is known.

This view was made clear yesterday by Bob Stewart, of Cupar, a paranormal researcher for Stirling-based Strange Phenomenon Investigations (SPI), who is looking forward to meeting the author of the controversial publication at a public meeting this coming Saturday night.

Nick Redfern, author of *A Covert Agenda*, will be at the Cowane Centre,

Cowane Street, Stirling, from 7.30 to 10 pm to explain his insistence that top secret officials have been gagging RAF pilots and radar operators for over 40 years.

In his book Mr Redfern claims that the Ministry of Defence continues to maintain "a conspiracy of silence" about UFO sightings in the central Scotland town of Bonnybridge—the apparent UFO capital of the world outside of Roswell, New Mexico.

He also claims that military personnel from RAF Leuchars are among those to have been gagged between 1991 and 1996. He has apparently based his findings on an examination

of thousands of previously classified MoD and RAF documents on UFOs.

Yesterday, however, an RAF Leuchars spokesman said he had never even heard of anyone at the Fife air base even suggesting that they had seen anything unusual. He added that all reports from the public were passed on to a special branch of the MoD in London.

Although this was confirmed by the MoD, a spokesman said they had no policy towards UFOs and denied that military personnel had been gagged.

Mr Stewart has investigated many UFO sightings in the Fife and Tayside

areas over the past few years, including the Orchar Park sighting at Broughty Ferry when three children were allegedly buzzed by an object which was described as being "like a rugby ball with lights."

Other alleged incidents have included silvery-coloured spherical objects spotted over St Andrews, Luthrie and the Lomond Hills and strange air activity over Leuchars and the radar installation at Balado, near Kinross.

Mr Stewart is convinced that there could be much more far-reaching consequences for the human race as we approach the millennium if it turns out there has been an inter-

governmental cover-up.

Mr Stewart explained, "When I speak to Mr Redfern on Saturday I really want to challenge him on what he means by saying that 'official confirmation of their presence will soon be forthcoming.' Does he mean that the Government will announce something or is he talking about alien plans to introduce themselves?"

"I have no time for juicy stories or prophecies of doom and am only interested in finding out the truth. But if we discover that his information is accurate it is something which will undoubtedly affect each and everyone of us on this planet."

VALE ADVERTISER, Denbigh, England - Nov. 14, 1997

Shock: Man sees spinning top shaped craft in field

Mystery object was UFO says club boss

By DAVE JONES

NIGHTCLUB owner David Foulds is still recovering from an out of this world experience which has left him feeling spaced out.

Last Saturday night Mr Foulds, who runs Katrina's nightclub in Denbigh, was driving out of Llandyrnog when he saw something which he believes was a UFO.

As he took the roundabout and turned towards Denbigh he saw a massive spaceship-type object in a field.

"It was absolutely huge and shaped like a massive spinning top," said Mr Foulds, who is also a Denbighshire county councillor.

"It was covered with thousands of lights and lit up the whole area.

"I was so shocked the car almost left the road, but I thought I might be seeing things so I drove on.

"Then I stopped and turned round and it was hovering over the Creamery. Then it just disappeared. I still can't believe it."

Mr Foulds said he has always believed in UFO's and this had strengthened his faith.

Mr Foulds said he was now considering putting a searchlight on top of Katrina's in a bid to attract the spaceship back.

However, it is not the first reported recent sighting of a UFO in the Denbigh area. Three months ago a couple from Betws-yn-Rhos claimed they saw one.

Margaret Fry, head co-ordinator for the North Wales branch of Ufologists, said: "Mr Foulds may well have seen something unexplainable but I will need to speak to him further."

● Anyone who saw anything or wanting to know more about Ufologists contact Margaret Fry on (01745) 860537.

UFO caught on camera

DAVID DANE,
White Horse Lane, Briggate.

I would like to respond to the recent letter by John French regarding the UFO video footage taken by David Spur of Oulton Broad.

There is a great deal more to this event than has been reported. To date there have been six separate video recordings on different dates of perhaps six different objects in the vicinity of Oulton Broad. We have independent witnesses for at least two of these sequences.

For the purposes of this letter and the article in the EDP (October 4), my comments should be confined to the first segment of video footage depicting the cigar-shaped object.

The object filmed is of cylindrical shape, rounded at both ends, has no wings or tail assembly and displays some extremely unusual lights flashing irregularly several metres away from the fuselage or body of the object.

It is directly overhead to begin with and it subsequently accelerates rapidly and climbs

up into the sky and disappears.

To dispel any suggestions of temperature inversion, I can categorically state that a similar object has been reported across the length and breadth of East Anglia. It has also been reported from Staffordshire, the west coast and I have just been informed of an identical object over Alice Springs, Australia.

In many years of studying this subject (in my spare time) these sequences of video footage are among the best I have ever seen of these mystery objects.

Indeed, I now have confirmation that experts at Quest International have stated that the first video sequence (which so far is the only footage forwarded to them for analysis) is "one of the most extraordinary pieces of video footage ever to come out of Great Britain".

Author and UFO expert Timothy Good has also added his seal of approval to the video.

At no time have I ever claimed that these objects are piloted by "Little green men in silver suits with antennae on their heads" that is simply ridiculous - we all know that they are grey!

EASTERN DAILY PRESS, Norwich, England - Oct. 14, 1997



HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, OR - Jan. 8, 1998

Search for Sasquatches is being organized by Dorris true believer

By LEE JULLIERAT
H&N Regional Editor

DORRIS — Doubters, beware.

Beyond a doubt, Ryan Emerson and other members of his Dorris-based U.S. Expedition and Exploration Society believe Sasquatch — actually several Sasquatches — live in the forests of far Northern California, Oregon and Washington.

And, if things move along as planned, more than 200 society members will gather this spring to comb the forests south of the Oregon-California state line, on Bly Mountain and in other areas around the Pacific Northwest to prove Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, exists.

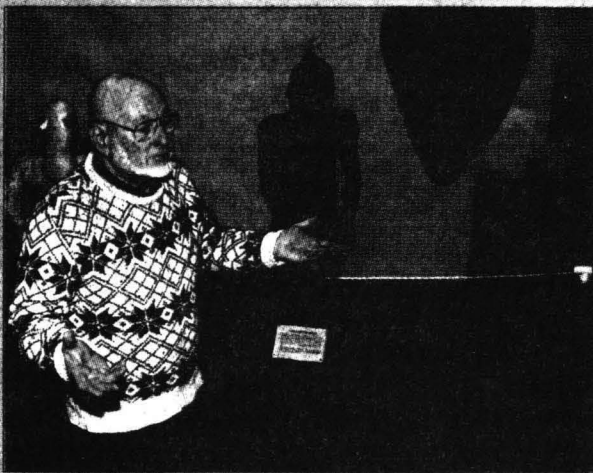
"If we can get 10 or 15 people to take a picture, there's no way anyone can deny there's a Sasquatch," said Emerson.

As to disbelievers and skeptics, he replies, "Since 1860 there have been 5,000 sightings of Bigfoot in North America by all kinds of people — police officers, scientists, military personnel. Five thousand people can't be wrong."

Emerson, 65, is among the 5,000.

His initial viewing was about 25 years ago, while camped with his Doberman pincher named Max near the U.S.-Canada border.

"Max started whining and



H&N photo by Lee Juillerat

Ryan Emerson of Dorris has plans to lead a May expedition to find Sasquatch.

crying and I looked across the lake and there was the 'thing.' It must have been eight-feet tall. I didn't know what it was. I had never heard of Sasquatch."

Sighting No. 2 was a few months ago, at a high elevation location on the Klamath National Forest south of the Oregon-California state line. Emerson said residents in the sparsely populated region, which he declined to identify, have known about the Sasquatch and his family for years.

"You could see the three of them in the trees. They didn't come out where (I) could take a photograph," Emerson said. "There's no doubt what they were because they were huge ... It looked like they were picking things from the trees."

In early December, Emerson sent a letter to President Clinton, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Rep. Wally Herger, R-Calif., reporting the Sasquatch family sighting and seeking

approval to capture, tranquilize and hold the creature two or three days for scientific testing.

"The real fear, if we capture and tranquilize the creature, is that any government agency could come in and take custody and take the creature away and we'd never see it again. God knows what they might do with it," Emerson said.

Emerson has not received any responses to his letters.

This morning, however, a researcher from the FBI crime lab in Washington, D.C., told Emerson that suspected Sasquatch hairs found at the Klamath National Forest location are those of a Kodiak brown bear. Kodiak bears typically live in Alaska.

Emerson and society members have scaled back their capture plans. They now envision holding the creature only as long as it remains tranquilized.

"I think the main thing is to photograph it so we can verify it, have a veterinarian examine it, draw some blood samples and take measurements. We don't want any harm to come to the creature."

Society members will arrive May 15 then spend about three days attending workshops in Klamath Falls before setting up camp. Emerson's Museum of the Unexplained in Dorris will be the expedition headquarters.

Word of the local Sasquatch sightings have spread quickly. A tabloid newspaper offered a "large amount of money" for exclusive rights.

"I turned them down because I don't want a lot of crazy stuff. We really are approaching this on a scientific basis."

Although Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, is steeped in doubt and mythology, Emerson said a recent Herald and News photo and story about his museum stirred significant interest, including five people from the Bly Mountain area who separately reported sightings.

"People who have seen the Sasquatch or fresh prints are very serious. They are relieved there is someone who takes the creature seriously enough to create a museum."

Many people, he said, tell him they've kept quiet because they fear they will be ridiculed.

Emerson expects many of those believers will participate in the May expedition. For a \$25 society membership, he says people will be sent informational materials and become eligible for the expedition. Money is needed, he said, to buy equipment, such as tranquilizing rifles, night vision scopes and parabolic microphones.

Information is available by contacting Emerson at P.O. Box 149, Dorris, CA 96023, telephone (530) 397-2259.

Police on track of big cat sightings

By GILLIAN HARRIS

THE growing number of big cat sightings in Britain will be discussed for the first time tomorrow by a conference of more than 60 high-ranking police officers.

Delegates from Scotland's eight forces will be told how to deal with reported sightings of the mysterious animals by Hans Kruuk, who has studied large mammals for many years. Dr Kruuk, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Aberdeenshire, is sceptical about the possibility of big cats roaming the countryside but thinks each reported sighting should be taken seriously.

In his talk at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine, Fife, Dr Kruuk will teach police officers how to verify sightings by the size of the animal and its tracks. In Scotland many turn out to be wild cats, which are slightly larger than domestic cats. He will also explain how dogs can be used to chase the animals into trees where they can be sedated with a tranquiliser gun.

In Scotland there have been more than 1,000 reports to the police of sightings of big cats over the past 20 years.

JOURNAL SENTINEL, Milwaukee, WI - Aug. 14, 1997

Something strange is out there

It's the Unnatural Mystery Museum, a Web world of odd phenomena

By BOB SUTER
Newsday

In a summer when we've witnessed the return of Steven Spielberg's dinosaurs, the daily broadcast of photos from the surface of Mars and renewed speculation about what may or may not have landed 50 years ago near Roswell, N.M., it's nice to have a place on the Web such as the Museum of Unnatural Mystery to calmly place these and other unusual phenomena in perspective.

Pass through the torch-lit portal to the site that describes itself as "a slightly bizarre cyberspace science museum for all ages. Are there really flying saucers? What killed the dinosaurs? Is there something ancient and alive in Loch Ness? The museum takes a scientific look at these and other questions. Feel free to wander our halls and make some serendipitous discoveries."

Do wander the halls and visit one of the current exhibits, such as the Hall of UFO Mysteries — very timely in this summer of Roswell. What you'll find is a lot of well-reasoned and impartial research examining the long history of man's observations of unusual objects in the sky. Topics warranting further explanation are linked to places where you'll find just that. The Roswell incident gets this treatment; you'll also learn that Foo Fighters is not just the name of a rock group.

Speaking of rock, while Pathfinder's rover rolls about the Martian landscape beaming data back to Earthbound scientists about Yogi, Barnacle Bill and the gang, you might enjoy learning about a Martian rock encountered a lot closer to home. This meteorite was found in 1984 in Antarctica, and microscopic imaging of tiny tubular shapes in its interior suggests the possibility of Martian microbes. (How about that, H.G. Wells?)

The UFO exhibit, like others at the Unmuseum, as it calls itself, is chock-full of photos, il-

lustrations and links to additional sources. Dozens of past exhibits are archived, so you can spend hours traversing the Bermuda Triangle, examining riddles of ancient civilizations or tramping through the great Northwest with Bigfoot or around Nepal with his Himalayan cousin, the Yeti. There's a special children's reading section and a section where you'll find experiments you can conduct at home — provided, of course, there's a responsible adult on the premises.

The work of Lee Krystek, The Unmuseum is part of a group of Web sites called The Mad Scientists Ring. If you enjoyed your visit here, you can easily click to other spots on the ring.

Oh, and by the way, did we forget to mention that some of the exhibits can be seen in 3-D? Yup, a handy icon will take you to the site of the world's largest manufacturer of 3-D glasses, where you can order a free pair.

The Museum of Unnatural Mystery is at unmuseum.mus.pa.us/unmuseum.htm

Anti-gravity causing rapid expansion of universe, scientists say

BY KATHY SAWYER
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The universe is expanding at an accelerating rate, according to startling new evidence suggesting that a mysterious anti-gravity force permeates "empty" space and is counteracting the pull of gravity on a cosmic scale.

If the new results hold up, scientists said, they could have enormous ramifications for theories of cosmic evolution, resolving some conflicts and creating new dilemmas as they reverberate through studies of the largest-scale structures in the cosmos, the smallest particles in nature, and the frustrating quest for a "theory of everything" that would unify those fields.

Scientists have reacted to the findings with a mix of shock, amazement, horror, excitement and suspended disbelief.

The question of the fate of the universe — whether it will expand to infinity, contract in a "cosmic crunch," or flat-line somewhere in between, is one of the oldest and most controversial in cosmology.

Most astronomers agree that the universe began in a Big Bang up to 15 billion years ago, when all of time and space were contained in a single dense point — a singularity — which abruptly expanded outward in a fireball of particles.

The most popular, and the simplest, Big Bang model holds

that the resulting universe should contain exactly the "critical density" of matter required to keep it geometrically "flat," with just enough gravity to balance the outward momentum, slowing it down. The result: a cosmos coasting indefinitely on the verge of collapse.

Instead, the new evidence indicates that stars and galaxies are flying apart in all directions at an ever-increasing rate — thanks to an anti-gravity push, meaning there must be a unexpected mix of ordinary matter and some kind of unseen "dark matter" of an exotic nature. It also means, scientists said, that the far-flung universe of billions of years hence will seem dramatically more empty, dark and lone-

ly.

"This is nutty-sounding," said Robert Kirshner, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, a member of the international observing team. "But it's the simplest explanation for the data we've got."

The findings, reported in today's issue of the journal *Science*, appear to bolster similar results presented last month by another international team using similar methods, all made possible only recently by powerful advances in observing technology.

The emerging picture of the universe represented in the spate of recent findings appears to reanimate a controversial concept known as the "cosmological constant," which Einstein first

proposed in his theory of general relativity. At the time, he introduced the notion of a repulsive force in space — pushing objects apart — to counterbalance the attractive force of gravity — pulling objects together — to support his theory that the universe is static; that is, neither expanding nor contracting. Observations soon showed that the universe is not static at all but, indeed, expanding. Einstein renounced the cosmological constant as his greatest blunder.

But the concept has been kept around for use as what some call a "fudge factor" whenever it's needed to make theory and observation conform.

"My own reaction is somewhere between amazement and

horror," said Brian Schmidt, of the Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatory in Australia, leader of the group that reported the latest results, known as the High-z Supernova Search Team. It also includes scientists from the United States, Latin America and Europe. "Amazement, because I just did not expect this result," he said, "and horror in knowing that [it] will likely be disbelieved by a majority of astronomers who, like myself, are extremely skeptical of the unexpected."

Both the observing teams themselves and independent researchers emphasized that further observations must be done to make sure there is no other explanation for the data.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Jan. 18, 1998 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Mars 'face' gains interest as spacecraft nears

By MICHAEL WOODS
Toledo Blade

WASHINGTON — The mysterious "Face on Mars" is not an optical illusion nor a natural feature on the Red Planet, a scientist reported last week at a major astronomy conference here.

Tom Van Flandern reached the conclusion after new studies of the Cydonia region, where strange-looking landforms have excited science fiction and life-on-other-worlds buffs for decades.

His report, presented at the 191st national meeting of the American Astronomical Society, attracted unusual attention because sharp new images of the face may soon be available. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Global Surveyor spacecraft, now orbiting Mars, is scheduled to begin imaging in 1999.

Global Surveyor's camera is capable of making images with 30 times the sharpness of the Viking cameras. It can distinguish objects as small as 4.6 feet across, and will try to image the face.

Van Flandern holds a doctorate in astronomy from Yale University. Until 1991, he was chief of the celestial mechanics branch at the U.S. Naval Observatory, a respected astronomy facility. He then founded Meta Research, an organization based here that fosters research on topics that conflict with mainstream theories in astronomy.

The "Face on Mars," he explained, certainly fits that bill. Some people claim that images of the Cydonia region, taken in the 1970s from the Viking spacecraft, show a gigantic human face, a pyramid and other structures left by some ancient extra-terrestrial civilization.

In the eyes of some, the face bears a striking resemblance to the "death masks" that ancient Egyptians used to adorn the sarcophagus of King Tut and other rulers. Indeed, some hint that the face may be part of an immense tomb on the Red Planet.

Believers have come up with all kinds of intricate mathematical relationships between the face and several associated

landforms that supposedly prove the structures are artificial.

Conspiracy theories, charging NASA and the military with a cover-up, also abound. "The conventional view is that this is all nonsense," said Michael Malin. He is chief investigator for the Mars Global Surveyor Orbiter Camera.

Cydonia, he explained, is a desertlike region that has undergone the same kinds of weathering that carve weird landforms in terrestrial deserts. He regards the features at Cydonia as strictly natural, the result of Martian weathering and erosion.

Van Flandern said his study undermines the main argument against an artificial origin for the face: Its apparently random orientation on the Martian surface.

"No apparent purpose is served by a face monument looking upward toward space if it is not oriented right-side up and in an attention-getting location with respect to the surface of the planet," he said.

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When consorting with fairies, it's best that you be polite

"There were good times once, not your time or my time but somebody's time." Many Irish stories begin this way, and so too does this one.

Before St. Patrick converted Ireland to Christianity in the fifth century, the land belonged to the fairies. These beings were neither good nor evil, but they were easy enough to get along with and could even be helpful to humans if help was returned in kind or, better, given first. In a way, Ireland still belongs to the fairies, although modern humans have broken the dialogue with fairies and put up a wall of disbelief between the two worlds. Fairies still show themselves to mortals who have an innocent and sincere belief in nature, and who are willing to believe that there are many wonders between heaven and earth.

When they appear to humans, fairies do not usually frighten anyone because they physically resemble mortals. Of course, fairies have no human defect in beauty or grace because they're made of mist and magic, and they do not decay, but other than that it's hard to tell any difference at all.

Fairies dwell in most countries of the world, but they're doggedly independent. Most fairies prefer to be left alone, but humans have a way of wandering into their territory. (Fairies are likewise wont to intrude into human affairs, but they never

Back then, mortals were more godlike than they are today, and the fairies were more likely to care for them. But as the mist of time faded and the fairies and mortals parted ways, the fairies became more suspicious and the mortals became more skeptical. When St. Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland, the Christian converts attempted once and for all to discredit belief in magic by supplanting the fairies' divine origins with historical ones. The Christians knew it is easier to kill a hero than a god. Once the fairies lost their roots in the mother goddess Danu, the people gradually forgot the fairy-gods of ancient days.

But there was a problem: if fairies no longer existed, who were the beings who lived in the underworld and occasionally came out to communicate with and even help humankind? These entities, the people were told, were fallen angels, cast out of heaven for their lack of loyalty. Too good for hell and too bad for heaven, they were to dwell on earth. With this explanation, the fairies were thus finally stripped of their divinity and incorporated into the Christian canon.

Both the Christians and the fairies were satisfied with this arrangement. Fairies have never held a desire to compete against the Almighty. They take to themselves what is theirs and leave to God what is God's. In some counties, particularly Donegal and Galway, fairies are even known to escort the souls of the human dead to the gate of heaven as an act of charity toward humans and God.

Here on earth, mortals who are not yet dead should take care when greeting a fairy. Be polite, direct and respectful, showing no sign of discomfort or fear. Most of us lack the leisure time to encounter fairies, but if you do bump into one, you can be certain of being rewarded for your generosity of spirit. Try offering cold potatoes, milk or wine. You will be especially endeared to the fairies if you agree to help them in a vigorous game of hurling, but be sure to watch the game long enough to be-

**Deborah
Halter**



admit it.) Humans needn't lock up their possessions when fairies are about, because Fairyland is not divided into Yours and Mine. What the moment brings they embrace, and then they let it go. And that is that. They don't bother with the human concepts of Past and Present, so their enjoyment of Now is complete.

The fairy world is one of feeling and sensitivities—closer to the realm of God than of humans—and they love with a love so pure that when you hold it to the light it becomes invisible. Fairies are beautiful and generous, and they dedicate themselves completely to whomever they are with or whatever they are doing at the time. For this reason, they have difficulty understanding the human inventions of mediocrity and apathy. They simply cannot, nor would they want to, understand why a human would go to all the trouble of existing, simply to exist.

Fairies are particularly likely to show themselves to humans on St. Patrick's Day, because it is St. Patrick who first began

come acquainted with the skills and rules required to play so that you hurl in the right spirit.

Be careful when building a relationship with fairies, because whenever humans enter into an alliance with a power greater than our own, we stand to receive either great blessings or great blows, and often both. But if you let yourself grow very qui-

telling people that fairies do not exist. Some say, however, that later in his life St. Patrick became fast friends with the fairies and shared many good times with them. After all, there is no reason why good Christians and fairies can't live together quite happily.

Should you be lucky enough to meet a fairy, your simple courtesies will be repaid many times over. For instance, never completely empty your wine glass, but leave a little bit of cheer for the next fairy who happens along. If you throw the wine out of your glass, don't do so until you're sure it will not land on a fairy going about her errands.

The fairies will always reciprocate human kindness, but since it is not their way to learn foreign customs, it's up to humans to learn fairy ways.

If you want to know fairies intimately, it helps to know their history. In the long ago, the distant children of the mother goddess Danu entered Ireland on a cloud of magical mist that obscured their appearance for three days and nights. After much planning, they snatched the island from its former inhabitants. Soon, however, the children of Mil, from whom present-day Irish humans are descended, attacked the fairies. But the humans and fairies reached an agreement: the mortals would inhabit the earth's surface, while the fairies would make their homes in the sea caves.

et and take a walk in the wood of an evening, say on St. Patrick's Day, you may enjoy the company of a fairy visitor. And it won't hurt to carry a bit of shortbread and some milk along, just in case.

Social commentator Deborah Halter's column appears every Sunday. Write her at P.O. Box 250386, Little Rock, Ark., 72225.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - March 6, 1998 CR: J. Fry

Big doings at Ohio Bigfoot Conference

One night in mid-December two coyote hunters were crouched in the darkness in Scioto County when they heard a sound in front of them.

The men thought a coyote was coming toward their recording of an animal distress call.

Through night-vision equipment the hunters were using, they suddenly saw a 7-to-8-foot-tall creature standing upright.

"It stood there for a few seconds and then turned around and walked back in the woods," said Don Keating of Newcomerstown, Ohio, director of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Investigation Center. He compiled the report of that sighting, the most recent in Ohio.

Keating is one of the organizers of Saturday's 10th annual Ohio Bigfoot Conference at the Newcomerstown Elementary School in Newcomerstown. The conference will be from 6 to 10 p.m.

Speakers are coming from Oregon, California and British Columbia.

Keating said there were 12 sightings in Ohio reported to him in 1997.

Most of the sightings were in Tuscarawas, Guernsey and Coshocton counties, he said. "That area we call the sasquatch triangle," he said.



**JOHN
SWITZER**

Keating plans to show a video of an animal he filmed at a distance of less than 100 yards in 1992. It was of a "light-colored, two-legged individual," he said. He estimated the animal to be 9 feet tall and said it was walking down a country road in Coshocton County. To this day no one has been able to prove what is on the film taken that summer day, Keating said.

You never know what you are going to see in the woods.

Take for instance the woman who was driving home after dropping off her son at work last July. She was near the Bolivar Dam on the Tuscarawas-Stark county line when something crossed the road 75 to 100 yards ahead of her. She said the animal walked on two legs and was about 8 feet tall.

Then there was the elderly couple taking a walk along abandoned railroad tracks outside Marietta, Ohio, in the spring of 1996. Ahead of them they saw a dark, hairy creature about 8 1/2 feet tall with a juvenile clinging to its knees. The creatures walked down into a ravine and out of sight.

Keep an eye out when you're in the woods. Today will be mostly cloudy with nothing more than a sprinkle or flurry.