

# UFO

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## Science panel says it's worth evaluating UFO reports

BY MICHELLE LEVANDER  
Mercury News Staff Writer

For more than 50 years, UFO investigators have scoured the skies for signs of alien life — completely snubbed by the scientific community as cranks.

But today, in the first independent scientific review of UFO evidence in nearly 30 years, scientists gave a faint nod in their direction by concluding that it might be worthwhile to evaluate UFO reports, marking a major and important shift in the eyes of some UFO investigators.

Some who have been labeled crackpots call it a major and important shift in thinking.

"What we need are more scientists looking at this area if we are going to get answers," said Peter Sturrock, the Stanford University physicist who convened the international panel of "skeptical" scientists. Sturrock assembled the group after being approached by New York philanthropist Laurence S. Rockefeller, the grandson of John D. Rockefeller and someone who reportedly has a longstanding interest in UFOs and psychic phenomena.

Sturrock, whose Society for Scientific Exploration promotes the examination of ideas outside the scientific mainstream, hopes the panel's review of UFO reports, to be published today in the alternative *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, spurs more solid research in the arena.

To be sure, after a rare meeting between scientists and UFO investigators, the scientific panel remained skeptical. Nevertheless, they said the scientific community's refusal to even entertain the analysis of such information has been counterproductive.

"The history of Earth science includes several examples of the final acceptance of phenomena originally dismissed as folk tales," such as meteorites and sprites, the report says. "It may therefore be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science."

One UFO investigator was pleased with the findings.

### Openness, evidence

Mark Rodeghier, of the Center for UFO Study in Chicago, interprets the panel's greater openness as an important step to bring the world of science — which demands empirical evidence — closer to that of UFO observers, some of whom believe they now know what aliens do during human abductions.

Taking a break from the national Mutual UFO Network conference, Rodeghier said, "It would be extremely important for us to know if

aliens are visiting the Earth surreptitiously. I didn't expect in five days that they would change their mind completely. I think it's sufficient that they say the subject deserves study."

For its review, the panel examined evidence such as a 1981 photograph of "a silvery oval-shaped object set against the blue sky," taken in British Columbia — the photographer swears it was not a trick photo of a frisbee — and a 1965 report by two French submarine crews in Martinique of "a large luminous object (that) arrived slowly and silently from the west, flew to the south ... and vanished like a rapidly extinguished light bulb."

The last time scientists took a serious look at UFOs was in 1968, when Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of the Colorado Project, undertook a two-year study sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Air Force. His dismissive conclusion: "Nothing has come of the study of UFOs in the past 21 years ... and 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified ...'"

Already some of this panel's scientists are steeling themselves for ridicule from peers.

"I haven't gone around and advertised I've done this. I thought I'd wait until our report came out and then let them take their jabs then," said Thomas Holzer, senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Still, he adds, he shares the panel's view that more openness is needed.

### Natural phenomena

Some UFO reports, the scientists concluded, could be explained by rare natural events such as sprites, or what appear to be huge sheets of light moving upward from cloud decks caused by electrical activity

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— Mark Rodeghier,  
Center for UFO Study in Chicago

high above thunderclouds.

Unusual radar patterns that UFO investigators interpret as flight patterns of alien craft are likely radar echoes caused by refraction in the atmosphere, said panel member and Stanford professor Von Eshleman, who studies the structure of the atmosphere through experiments on U.S. space missions.

And, the scientists said, some in their community may be more interested in UFOs than they are willing to admit.

Sturrock said his own surveys of

astronomers show that many privately admit to interest in UFOs. Asked for his own views, Sturrock was coy.

"I don't believe in UFOs, but they may exist whether I believe in them or not," he said. "That's saying I don't have an opinion I wish to share."

When pressed, panel member Eshleman said he thinks it would be surprising if there weren't life forms on other planets. Asked about the likelihood of complex alien societies, he said, "It's less probable, but there's no reason to limit it anywhere."

Gregory Benford, a solar physicist at the University of California-Irvine who has reviewed the UFO report, said that when Condon, now deceased, wrote his initial 1968 findings on UFO evidence, he wrote the conclusion first. Even though a scientific panel urged more open-mindedness two years later, it didn't carry much weight.

"He had an automatic aversion to the cranks who had surrounded the UFO phenom," Benford said. "In '68, he just wanted to squash this like a bug. So he said you won't learn anything if you study this any further."

### Looking in new places

"I think that's unwarranted. If you don't look in new places, you won't see new things."

Still, he added, while many astronomers believe that life exists elsewhere in the galaxy, that's a far cry from believing that UFOs are passing over your neighborhood.

"Even if some intelligent being was visiting us from a distant star, why would they fly around and never make any contact?" he said. "If they are hostile, why not do the obvious and wipe us out? It would be dead easy to get in touch with us."

"Just because you are open-minded doesn't mean your brains have fallen out."

PAULDING CO. PROGRESS, Paulding, CO

July 22, 1998 CR: J. Hamm

## Researcher: newest crop circle appears authentic

By DENISE GEBERS  
Correspondent

BROUGHTON — Two years ago, Jeffrey M. Wilson, an undergraduate at Eastern Michigan University who teaches astronomy, visited and investigated his first crop circle. It was located in Jackson Township of Paulding County.

About 130 crop circles later, he has returned to Paulding County, wider and more experienced in his chosen area of research. And he has developed a theory. He believes such events are weather related.

"All (weather) fronts, weak or strong, have an electrical charge, said Wilson. And it is his belief that crop circles and other shapes are created by a phenomenon of weather.

"These come in other shapes. Some can look like random wind damage. But you can't tell unless they're tested," he said. "We find with our meters and detectors the same readings that are found in the geometric figures (circles). It's not very well understood."

The circle found July 6 in Paulding County seems to be no different. Wilson said he and an assistant took samples for six to seven hours on July 12. They took radiation levels, electric field strength, magnetic field strength, microwave and radio wave levels inside and outside the formation.

Although there were no signs of radiation, microwaves or radio waves, Wilson felt the compression was *not* hoaxed.

"Based on detailed indications at the event, I'm led to believe it is genuine," he concluded. "It is an authentic weather phenomenon."

He noted magnetic field strength within the circle was double (1.0) and triple (1.5) that outside the formation (0.5). He hypothesized the radiation levels would have been different if tests would have run sooner.

Wilson felt the circle was probably formed in late June for two reasons: 1) the wheat was ripened before it was flattened and 2) green vegetation was already growing up through the formation.

"There are only signature readings quickly after the creation (of a circle) or it dissipates," he said. Since he calculated the circle was at least three weeks old when he ran tests, he said he was not expecting to find radiation.

Wilson said his presence in the field drew a handful of curious neighbors. All but one of them told him stories of lightning in the area. He said the house south of the field where the circle was found had been struck by lightning June 26 or 27. The occupant had indicated they felt a bolt also hit the field as the most intense part of a storm passed over the area.

Wilson got the impression from those present that ball lightning is not uncommon in the area, which in itself is uncommon.

"Ball lightning is not well understood by physicists," said Wilson. "It is charged plasma (the fourth state of matter). It is not known how it is formed and it does strange things. It can pass through a building without doing any damage."

According to Wilson, neighbors told him stories of power fluctuations and strange noises during this year's turbulent weather in their area.

"It was definitely weather that could have hit the field and created this," he said.

Wilson expected to have some analysis of his tests over the weekend, but could not be reached for further comment before deadline.

**'Based on detailed indications at the event, I'm led to believe it is genuine,' he concluded. 'It is an authentic weather phenomenon.'**

Strange phenomena confront Cartwright and Ryszka with uncanny regularity, from strange pulsating lights to unusual military activity.

While researching the pilot's disappearance, Cartwright learned that a similar plane and pilot fitting the description of her fiancé disappeared at

[illegible]

(continued on page 3)



generation to the next. They live in a world filled with paranormal "oddities," from alien spacecraft to psychic visitations. However, such occurrences are so com-

mon they're normal, said Cartwright.

The Cartwrights live on the slopes of Needle Rock, a massive geolog-



(continued from page 2 - SUNDAY PRESS, Montrose, CO - July 5, 1998)



Investigating UFO reports has kept Davina Ryska and Jane Cartwright busy in Delta County.

## Skywatch Diary

BY CAROLE BAKER

Nights have been warm recently, which is good for skywatching, but unfortunately, at this time of year warm nights often bring in the fog, so some nights have been totally unsuitable for being out and about, let alone for skywatching. Even so, on the "good" nights, we have enjoyed sharing our skywatching time with friend Chris Fowler from Wales. Chris was here a couple of years ago and returned this year to attend the recent Project Awareness Gulf Breeze Conference and to do some skywatching with us. He is still researching the crop circles in England, and together with George Wingfield shares the view that some of the patterns are, in fact, man made. As difficult as this may be for some of us to accept, there is strong evidence to suggest that this theory is valid. This coming summer, Mexican researcher Jaime Maussan intends to take his team to England and hook up with Chris and other researchers to discuss the crop circle situation.

Some interesting sighting reports have come my way this week, some local, some from further south in Florida. Kathy, a North Palm Beach resident contacted me regarding a sighting she experienced in the early hours of Sunday morning, March 29th, 1998. At around 5:30 a.m. she got up to get her cat from the patio when she looked up to see a very bright, huge white light in the southeastern sky. She estimated its size as approximately one third the size of a full moon. She thought for a moment that it may have been an airplane heading directly toward her, but ruled this theory out when there was no change in the position of the light over several minutes. The light just disappeared after a few minutes. She was able to identify the planet Venus in the same portion of the sky clearly, and states that it was much smaller in appearance than the light she had just seen. Later that day she was contacted by a friend from the next county, living near Hobe Sound. These people also reported to her

having seen a similar light in the sky at the same time that morning. They had watched the light for approximately thirty minutes, and ruled out its being a heavenly body or airplane.

A local sighting took place just north east of Cantonment, Florida, just a few miles north of Pensacola. This also took place on the morning of Sunday, March 29th. At 2:35 a.m., James was in his kitchen and noticed an unusual light out of his south facing kitchen window. This is a semi-rural area, and as James stated to me "I knew it did not belong there". James could tell that the very bright, golden yellow light was not an airplane or helicopter or any type of familiar aerial object. He estimated it to be as close as perhaps fifty yards away initially. "I thought it was close, on my property, and my property line is about fifty yards away in that direction," James told me "but after watching it for about three minutes, I saw that it was further away than that". The light appeared to be about one hundred feet above the tree line and through the middle of the light there appeared to be a silhouette or darker shape moving steadily left and right within the light. James' daughter observed the object for a minute or so and James went to get his wife Debbie to come and look at it also. James said "It was strange, not like a normal light, there was no light being emitted around it. It reminded me of trying to look at a black light. It was difficult to focus on it directly." At first James and Debbie, observing through the kitchen window went back and forth between themselves about what it could be. James turned off the outside light in order to rule out the light being some kind of reflection. They decided to go outside and walk to their property line in order to get a better look at the light. James told me "Debbie was a few steps in front of me, and we had walked to the end of the yard." At this point James estimated that the light was actually between a quarter

and half a mile away at most. He said that he is familiar with estimating distance in the woods, since he is a hunter. "Debbie was looking at it and turned back to me with an expression on her face that was just questioning - what is it?" James states. That is when the light blinked off. "She could tell something had happened by my expression, so she turned back to the light and it was gone!" "It's gone!" Debbie yelled. In the length of time it took for his wife to say this, James told me, the light reappeared again to their right (west). "In that very short time," James said "it had moved about a mile and a half across the sky, almost in an instant. It stayed on for perhaps four or five seconds more and then was gone. We never saw it again."

James was very impressed with the speed with which this light had moved. "I know it was not anything conventional," he said. "What we saw, we saw, I don't care what anyone says. What it was, I can't tell you, was it strange? It was."

The next day, James called the local ABC TV affiliate, WEAR TV-3 to see if anyone else had reported seeing this strange object. Despite the early hour of their sighting, James and Debbie thought perhaps someone who was driving on nearby Hwy. 29 had also seen the same thing. When the TV station wanted to know what he had seen, James decided not to share his story with them. He was concerned that they would not handle the story in a reasonable manner.

Another sighting was reported in West Pensacola, occurring late in the evening on Wednesday, March 25th, 1998, but I have as yet not been able to contact the witness personally. I will continue to attempt to speak with him and report his sighting at a later date.

If anyone wishes to contact me, I can be reached by e-mail at: baker-swd@bellsouth.net or at P O Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152. Keep Looking Up!

view eyewitnesses and investigate weather patterns, radar reports, possible electrical disturbances and gather any physical evidence from sighting locations.

Ryska said she became involved in local investigations shortly after a Mar. 4 Air Force missile launch seen by hundreds of people as it raced towards White Sands missile range in New Mexico. Throughout the spring, an unusually high number of sightings were reported, said Ryska. She speculated the sightings were related to the missile launch, citing a possible government coverup.

A Cedaredge man reported seeing seven lights floating above the town several hours before the missile launch, said Ryska. The multicolored objects hung in the air for some time, then disappeared, she said.

Ryska and Cartwright display a mix of deep-seated fear and intense curiosity of UFO phenomena. Both believe the government is involved with UFOs, saying they're either alien spacecraft or experimental military craft.

What they really fear is reports of UFO abductions. Millions of people claim they were abducted by sinister UFOs and subjected to strange experiments by other-worldly beings, said Cartwright.

With little or no evidence to support them, Cartwright and Ryska hesitate to accept claims of abductions. However, some abductions are real, they said.

Cartwright fears that humans are being used as experimental guinea pigs, and points to an international government coverup. Strange metal probes have been removed from some abductees, said Ryska, and tissue samples seem to have been removed from others.

"I don't know what that's about," said Ryska, "but that's a violation."

"I don't believe (the beings are) benevolent," said Cartwright. "Anything that robs you of your freedom, takes you in the night, binds you and does tests on you is not benevolent."

But beyond their fear is an overriding inquisitiveness, fear of the consequences, but they're curious nonetheless.

"They're not scary, strangely enough," mused Marjorie Cartwright. "It's just puzzling."

UFO reports from have been coming from Delta County for some time.

Police Chief Paul Suppes received a couple calls of unusual lights in the Peach Valley area last year.

However, he said that UFO reports that were common in the 1970s are virtually non-existent anymore.

Suppes believes UFOs exist, although he's never seen one. However, Suppes said he has little more than a minor fascination with the subject.

"I think anyone with the mentality to think logically should be able to understand that there's something beyond that great big blue horizon," said Suppes. "After all, if God had the ability to put us here, he ought to be able to whip something else out."

Several Delta County residents reported UFO sightings to Dr. Gordon Gilbert over the years.

UFOs are real, insist Cartwright and Ryska.

What they are and what significance they hold for us has yet to be determined, they said, but the answers out there.

### Just how many UFO cases have critics investigated?

Recent viewpoints aired by critics of my lifelong findings about UFOs and their occupants are always welcomed, especially if they are informed ones — which sadly this time is not the case.

UFO eyewitnesses have included astronauts, astronomers, professors, pilots. These UFO observers are not known to be clowns, paranormal freaks or phony reporters of UFOs. Nor have I found such types of eyewitnesses during my investigations and research in either North or South Carolina.

Little green men in flying saucers are terms used for ridicule and humor, I acknowledge, but making authoritative statements without first investigating the UFO phenomenon is not being scientific. So far our learned professors and students haven't told us how many, if any, UFO cases they have investigated. Ridicule is not part of the scientific method, either.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT  
Lincolnton



Fawcett

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - April 8, 1998  
OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - July 30, 1998  
CR: G. Fawcett

# Crop circle is discovered in county

By DENISE GEBERS  
Correspondent

BROUGHTON — Wasn't it just a couple year ago, Fourth of July weekend, that the infamous Paulding County Crop Circle hit the scene and put our little corner of the world on the map? Seems like once isn't enough, because there is another one!

This time, the circle was not found from the air, but by a Grover Hill farmer harvesting wheat July 6. Brian Ruble was combin-

ing an 18-acre field in Latty Township when he first glimpsed the phenomena.

He said, "I saw it from a distance and didn't know what it was. When I got closer, I could see it was a crop circle. My 8-year-old daughter has been looking for a crop circle since she and her mom went to see the one at Arend's. I never thought I'd find one."

He combined around it. Later he told his father and his wife,

who called landowner Georgia Price.

"I don't know what to make of it," said Price. "I don't believe in outer space stuff. I don't know why anyone would go to this trouble."

She said her family has farmed the land 45 years and it has never before produced such a crop.

**A case of vandalism?**

Sheriff Dave Harrow said his office received a report of crop

vandalism at 6:14 p.m. July 6.

He denied the existence of a crop circle in the county, although he said the vandalism was circular in shape. He said his office has no suspects and because the landowner did not want to press charges, the case is closed.

Ruble said the sheriff came out July 6, compared the formation with those in a book, declared it a hoax, and recom-

mended they to plow the compression under.

In spite of this, one witness said nearly 150 people were on the scene later that evening. This circle has not been roped off and had people inside it before experts arrived on the scene.

**Samples taken for study**

But, the circle was still intact over the weekend when it was visited July 12 by Roger Sugden and Jeffrey Wilson. Both researchers made trips to Paulding County when the first crop circle was reported.



This field south of Broughton yielded more than wheat for farmer Brian Ruble. Hidden in the amber waves of grain was a crop circle — the second such formation to be found recently. The first was southeast of Paulding in 1996. The site, which may have been formed a few weeks ago, has been relatively undisturbed. Two researchers initially called the circle "authentic," but the sheriff is calling it vandalism.

Sugden said he and Wilson each documented the circle and took samples for study. Sugden took measurements, drew a field diagram and checked electromagnetic readings (which were higher inside the formation), before taking wheat and soil samples from inside and outside the circle.

Samples taken by Sugden were sent to the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Chicago at the request of John Timmerman from its Lima office; BLT Research in Grass Lake, Mich., at the request of biophysicist Dr. William C. Levengood; and the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a Texas-based research group for which Sugden is a field investigator. He also took aerial and ground-level photographs.

Wilson is an independent crop circle researcher from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in Ypsilanti, Mich., where he teaches astronomy.

**Similarities seen**

There are many similarities between this circle and that found two years ago in Jackson Township. Both occurred in a field of bearded wheat, are about the same size, (this one is 92 feet in diameter while the first was 93), each has an offset center, and both were centered between ditches. They're only three miles apart (by air, five by roadway). This one spins down in the opposite direction, however.

Sugden said nodes on the plants were enlarged and stretched, which is a good indication of an authentic formation.

He also noted a single thick stemmed dark weed, he thinks perhaps dock, inside the circle. "It is the only thing left standing. It's about two and a half to three feet tall. If this was hoaxed, they wouldn't have seen the weed and it wouldn't be standing," said Sugden.

The formation lies at the back of the field with two north-south ditches running through it and a lot of clover growing in it.

Because of this growth, Sugden feels the circle was made in late June or very early July. He also said the landowner told him the house just south of the field had been struck by lightning June 27. He believes there could be a connection between the two.

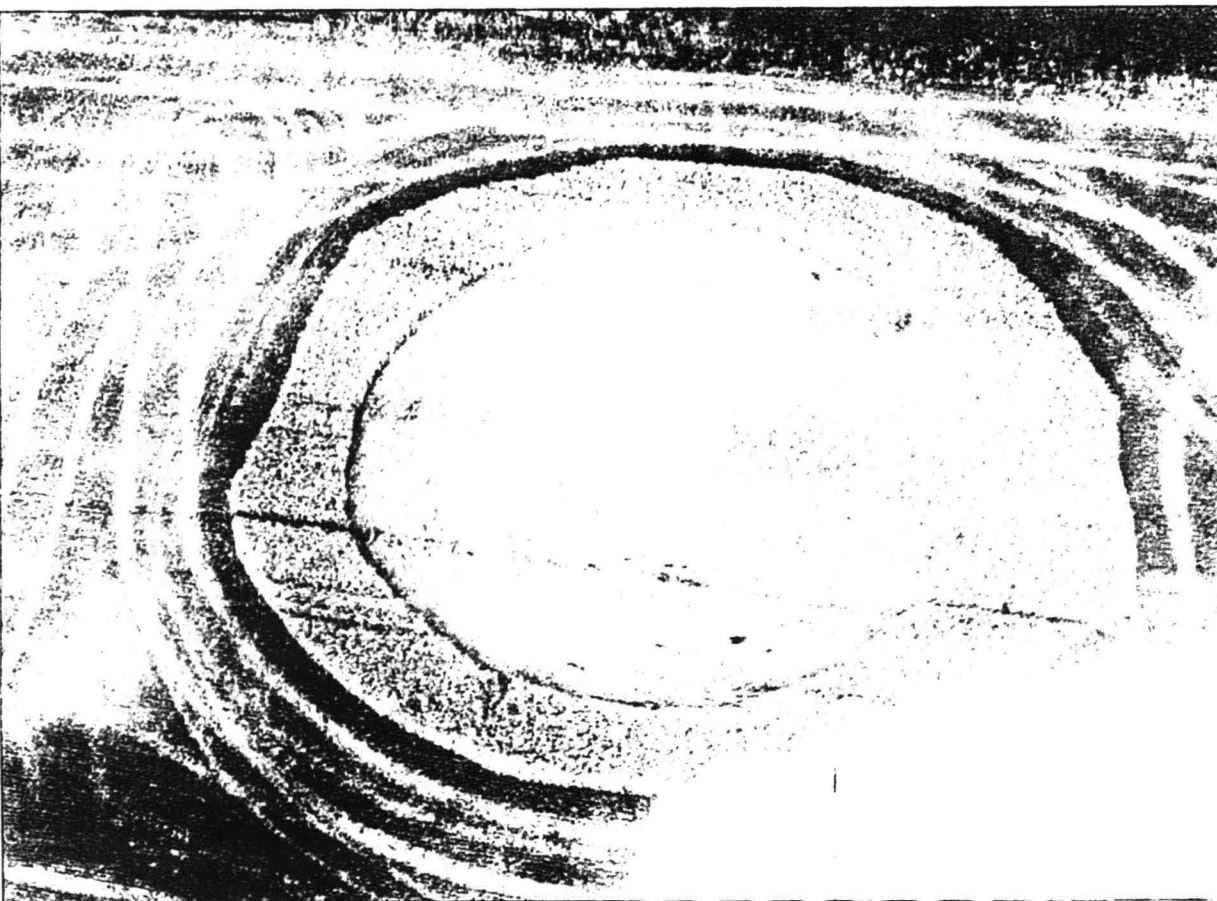
**Awaiting test results**

Sugden doesn't believe this formation is a hoax. Wilson didn't have an initial comment. Both are awaiting testing results for confirmation. Sugden, who also works with UFO sightings, said there were no UFO indicators at the site.

Two neighbors in the quiet area two miles south of Ohio 637 on Road 131 said they neither saw nor heard anything unusual that weekend.

The first crop circle was not hoaxed, but was caused by a type of natural atmospheric disturbance, said Dr. Levengood. In May 1997, he released a report on his findings from crop circle samples taken from the Arend farm site the previous year.

The report said "the results clearly indicate that this event was not, in fact, man-made. Instead, the findings support Dr. Levengood's theory that very complex, turbulent, thermodynamically unstable atmospheric energy systems are the causative agents...it is clear that both heat and electromagnetic components were present, of the type that would be expected in association with a highly-charged plasma vortex."



GOING IN CIRCLES — It's been deja vu all over again for the county, as a crop circle was discovered in our midst, south of Broughton. Unlike the first incident in 1996, this circle has drawn little attention. The phenomena is again being studied, with soil and wheat samples taken over the week-

end. What is the cause — an atmospheric disturbance, perhaps linked to a nearly lightning strike? Or "vandalism circular in shape"? This aerial photo was taken just after the formation was discovered, when the field was combined and before visitors started arriving.



*The mysterious ring is three miles from where  
an identical circle was found in July, 1996*

# Sheriff just sees prank, no aliens in crop circle

BY MIKE TRESSLER  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

BROUGHTON, O. — A so-called "crop circle" has some Paulding County residents scratching their heads — again.

Is it man-made? The creation of a mysterious natural force? The impression of an alien spaceship?

In *X-Files* fashion, investigators of the paranormal have come and gone in Latty Township, as they did exactly two years ago to another field south of Paulding.

They peered, probed, and collected dirt and stalks where wheat was mashed flat in a perfect circle.

While they returned to laboratories to analyze samples and ponder data, Paulding County Sheriff Dave Harrow looked the site over and made his conclusion.

"It looks like a case of vandalism of wheat," the sheriff said. "It does not look like the work of extraterrestrial beings."

The round patch of flattened wheat was discovered by farmer Brian Ruble on July 6 while he was harvesting wheat on a farm owned by Georgia Price.

The mysterious ring is three miles from where an identical crop circle was found in July, 1996.

Mrs. Price herself inspected the 92-foot circle. There were noticeable footprints leading to the circle. But she said they were from people traipsing the wheat field to stare at the ring.

"The wheat was flattened to the ground, all bent over in one direction, counterclockwise," she said.

What is it? What caused it? That's what observers ask every time a crop circle appears.

Theories abound among students of the paranormal. Are crop circles weather phenomena? Landing pads for unidentified flying objects? The result of quirky winds or magnetic energy forces?

Or are they hoaxes, made by jokesters?

In 1996, spectators flocked to see the circle on a field farmed by Dan, Don, and Dave Arends. Investigators studied soil and wrote reports. T-shirts were sold.

This time, not as many noticed. "Curious people came to look the first few days," Mrs. Price said.

"I don't know what the circle is. Most folks around here think it's weather-related or something, or maybe it's caused by them



Investigators of the paranormal have been examining the 'crop circle' in Latty Township.

little green men from outer space.

"We joke about that, but we don't really know."

Sheriff Harrow does not have those doubts.

"It looks like vandalism to me," he said. "The case is closed."

Crop circles have cropped up on farms since they first were found in England in the 1970s. Since then, thousands of them have appeared there.

The rings, of all sizes, have been investigated by organizations which look for evidence of paranormal activity or clues to the existence of unidentified flying objects.

An investigator from the Mutual UFO Network, Roger Sugden, and an Eastern Michigan University professor, Jeffrey Wilson, were on the scene one recent day, Mrs. Price said.

But most crop circles have proved to be hoaxes, perpetrated by practical jokers.

It was concluded the 1996 Paulding County ring was man-made.

One investigator, Joe Nickell of the nonprofit Skeptical Inquirer, declared, "They're all hoaxes."

Likewise, a 1996 crop circle in Allen County was declared a fake.

In 1995, several crop circles were discovered in Michigan's Lenawee County, prompting speculation about alien landings and supernatural forces.

Five teens confessed to walking in circles to trample the wheat.

And in England, two men were found to have mapped and made many circles using string and boards to flatten the stalks.

Still, UFO enthusiasts and sleuths of the paranormal prick up their ears whenever a new crop circle is found. Not all could be bogus, they say.

"Sure, some are hoaxes, but some are unexplained," said Richard Thielmann of Toledo, a Mutual UFO Network member.

"Our organization has analyzed wheat and found chemical changes in stalks and how grain was broken off that could not have been done by pranksters," he said.

Sheriff Harrow has studied the topic since the 1996 crop circle caused an uproar in his county.

"I've read documents about them and I went out there to look and I'm satisfied it was made by people," the sheriff said.

He says he especially does not believe it is UFO-related.

"I personally think if intelligent extraterrestrial beings evaded radar and other detection, they would not make a mark by landing in a wheat field when there are so many empty paved parking lots for them to land on."

BLADE PHOTO BY LISA DUTTON

## SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker

### PART 2

Another approach to the study of OVNI in Brazil is to form a research group. Unlike the centralized control of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) in the United States, Brazilian groups tend to form autonomously. An example of such a group is that of MPUP (Associacao Mata-grossense de Pesquisa Ufologica e Parapsicologicas) in Cuiaba, state of Mato Grosso. AMPUP is an energetic university research group devoted to both the tangible and preternatural aspects of contact with UFOs and alien beings.

Additional groups, like GEONI (Grupo de Estudos de Objectos Nao Identificados), located in Taubate, state of Sao Paulo, conduct their independent research through direct observation. GEONI is coordinated by Alexan-

dre Minoru Ito, and is found on the Internet at the worldwide web address: <http://taubate.valley-bbs.com/geoni/>. Alexandre Ito is a respected researcher and contributing editor to UFO Brazil. He and his group, like his colleagues in Cuiaba, exemplify the best of the many young Brazilian ufologists.

"Direct Observation" groups like AMPUP and GEONI organize night and day time sky watches to observe, record and document first hand sightings of any anomalous lights or otherworldly space craft they might encounter at UFO "hotspot" locations such as the Taubate Valley, the crystal fields of Jaboticatubas and Alto Paraiso. Most sightings are of the "fireball" type of OVNI commonly seen throughout Brazil and the Americas. However, the

triangular and saucer shaped crafts have also been sighted. An example of the "fireball" type OVNI can be seen in a photograph taken during a recent skywatch in Sao Tome and is on the web at <http://www.delcree.com/brazil/page3.htm> courtesy of Alexandre Ito.

The "fireball" type OVNI's are of particular interest because stories of this kind of sighting have been documented in the pre-Colombian art and oral history of the Americas and by archeologists, anthropologists and historians for many centuries now. The "Madre de Oro" or "Mother of Gold" legend tells of fireballs streaming from the sky impregnating the earth with gold. This legend parallels other stories from Mexico that tell of God/men coming to earth on golden orbs of fire. The current speculation is that the fiery OVNI's may be here mining "energy" from the plentiful quartz crystal found throughout Brazil.

One of the most valuable collects first documenting the "fireball" like crafts is a twelve-volume set that scientifically details the ideas, customs, institu-

tions and religion of the Nahuatl people, called *Historia general de las cosas de la Nueva Espana*. Fray Bernadino de Sahagun (1499-1590) collected the material over a six-year period and wrote it in Nahuatl. "Sources of Sahagun" as it is called was completed in Spain in 1570 (Los OVNI's de Oro, Ernesto Cardenal, University of Indiana Press, 1992, p. 425). Unfortunately, natural and cultural histories such as Sahagun's are often disparagingly looked upon as mere legend, folklore or myth.

However, as the research team discovered along the banks of the Amazon River, the word "myth" may also carry with it a positive meaning. It describes the imaginative process of "theory development". It is this creative process of speculation by which we question, or try to make sense out of, such things as the nature of our universe and our role in it. When we do not have, or cannot get, the facts about our universe, then "myths" and "theories" become hypotheses waiting to be tested. As many of us know firsthand, UFO "theory development" in-

volves personal and professional risks - risks of failure, of ridicule and of career loss. Yet, only by testing the various UFO theories, no matter how implausible, against actual experience, will we ever be able to differentiate the mythical from the real."

If you wish to contact me, my e-mail address is: [bakerswd@bellsouth.net](mailto:bakerswd@bellsouth.net) or my mailing address is P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. KEEP LOOKING UP!

# Tormé talks about UFOs

TAMMY SANNER  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

If people are looking for proof of the existence of UFO phenomenon, they simply need to read what the skeptics write, says a Hollywood film producer.

Tracy Tormé was the keynote speaker at this year's UFO Encounter '98 Roswell Daily Record Celebrity Banquet.

Tormé is best known as the producer of the television series "Sliders." His other credits include writing for "Saturday Night Live" and "Star Trek the Next Generation."

Tormé told the crowd of about 175 people that he first became interested in UFO phenomenon when he was in grammar school.

"When I was in grammar



Tormé

school and I read books I knew even then that the skeptics's explanations were so off, were so desperate and were so pathetic that there must be something here," he said.

Tormé said in many cases the skeptics are right and many stories do not hold up but that is one of the challenges of UFO research.

He said people who want to promote serious research into UFO phenomenon need to be careful about what they promote and believe in order not to promote the attitude towards ufology which has placed the subject in the same aisle as astrology in the books stores.

One skeptic which Tormé said surprised him was Gene Roddenbury, creator of "Star Trek."

Tormé said he was writing for "Star Trek the Next Generation" at the same time he was working on a movie, "Fire in the Sky," which was about

two men who had seen a UFO.

He said Roddenbury was adamant about the falsehood behind UFO sightings.

"He (Roddenbury) had a look like I had never seen before on his face toward me of like total amusement and disgust," Tormé said.

"Not only was he a complete skeptic, he was an angry skeptic. He thought all of this stuff was total nonsense."

Tormé said even Carl Sagan had some erroneous views toward UFO phenomenon. For example, he would make sweeping statements along the lines of "only drunk farmers see UFOs while driving down a country road at 3 in the morning."

Tormé said many of these claims are not true and if the skeptics were to research their claims they would find many of them to be false.

"I believe less and less as I go on. I am more skeptical the longer I'm in this," he said. "But I still believe at the core there is a very real physical phenomena that is amazing."

"I encourage anybody to look into it and explore it but explore it with a skeptical eye with a big grain of salt because that is what we all need."

Tormé said he often

tries to keep his sense of humor when it comes to UFO research in order to keep from "going nuts."

One way he has done this is play practical jokes on his co-researchers who Tormé said tended to be paranoid when it came to conspiracy theories.

Tormé shared several memories concerning these jokes, several of which were targeted at his friend, Bill Moore.

Tormé said one night he and Moore were in the same hotel and Tormé called Moore's room and let the phone ring once before hanging up.

He said Moore immediately called him and told him, "They know we are here."

The banquet also included the premiere showing of "Roswell: The UFO Uncoverup," a one-hour documentary produced and directed by Christopher Toussaint.

The film documents the 50th anniversary of the 1947 Roswell incident and explores recent revelations concerning the crash.

"It holds up a mirror to American to show ourselves how we are handling either the greatest event in our civilization's history or the most interesting enigma ever to beset a culture," Toussaint said of the video.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - July 8, 1998

## SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



A sighting was reported over the Wal-Mart store on Hwy. 98 east of Gulf Breeze on Saturday, June 20, 1998 at around 9:30 p.m. Despite reports of actual craft being sighted and multiple calls being made to the local police departments, there seems to have been only one telephone call logged by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department. I spoke personally with Frank Sullivan of the public affairs department for Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department. He told me that the only call that was received was from a witness calling on a cellular phone from his vehicle. Mr. Sullivan said, "we don't even have the witness' name". Mr. Sullivan told me, "at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday

evening, the communications center received a 911 call from a cellular phone on a vehicle. The witness reported a bright light hovering over Wal-Mart on Hwy... 98." Mr. Sullivan said that during the call the witness stated "I don't want you to think I am crazy....." During the phone call between the communications center and the witness, a second identical light appeared in close proximity to the first, then both lights proceeded to the west, toward the City of Gulf Breeze. Mr. Sullivan said the operations center dispatched a deputy to the scene and he was on site within four and one-half minutes. A few minutes later the deputy cleared the call stating that he could "not see anything unusual."

I then telephoned the City of Gulf Breeze Police Department and was told by their business office that they had received no calls about this incident, and it was out of their jurisdiction. Any such calls would have been referred directly to the Santa

Rosa County Sheriff's Department. A short segment regarding this sighting was aired on WEAR Channel 3 News on Monday evening, July 22, 1998. Apparently, there is no way to contact the witness who telephoned the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department. If that person happens to read this article, I would encourage them to contact me at the address shown below. Thank you.

We are still having a constant stream of visitors coming through Shoreline Park looking for information about sightings in the area, and willing to share their stories with us. Recently we had a visit from Conner Smith and his little sister, Maggie. They came with their Uncle Mike Conner, who is a Gulf Breeze resident. Conner and Maggie were visiting on summer vacation from just outside Atlanta. Conner and Maggie were both very excited to see a UFO and brought their binoculars so they would be ready! Unfortunately, we did not see a UFO on the evening they visited, but Maggie had fun picking flowers for her uncle anyway.

I can be contacted by e-mail at bakerswd@bellsouth.net or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. Keep Looking Up!



# Arizona UFO second to Roswell

SANTA FE — Roswell isn't the only place UFOs have been spotted. It's just the most famous — probably because for one day the U.S. military told us it had a flying saucer. We've never let 'em forget it. Today, 71 percent of Americans think the U.S. government knows more



INSIDE THE CAPITOL

JAY MILLER

about UFOs than it's telling.

The most confounding UFO report in the 50 years since Roswell was the strange object that appeared over central Arizona the evening of March 13, 1997. It was witnessed by thousands and videotaped by dozens during the 106 minutes it was visible. Pilots asked air traffic controllers at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport to identify the lights. Although controllers could see the lights, nothing showed up on their radar screens. It flew directly

over Luke Air Force Base north of Phoenix and was chased by three F-16s, yet base officials said nothing happened.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., asked the Air Force in Washington to investigate. The Air Force, claiming it has no interest in UFOs, said it was a local matter. So a Phoenix city councilor asked for an investigation. The mayor said the city couldn't investigate because it doesn't have an Air Force. "We pick up trash," he said.

By most accounts, the "Phoenix lights" as they are now called, consisted of five glowing orbs, flying in a V-shaped formation. Many described the orbs as connected in some way, possibly by a triangular mass that wasn't really visible but was more like a wavy, gray distortion that blotted out the stars. And it was enormous. Estimates ran from three football fields to over a mile across.

Over a year later controversy still rages over the suspected cover-up. Luke Air Force Base officials say they are tired of being called liars. Additional sightings of V-shaped craft, high-speed triangles and luminous orbs have been reported over

Zanesville, Ohio; England and Australia. In the past few years, some researchers have come to believe that the Roswell saucer was more of a triangle, the shape of the X-33, designed by Lockheed-Martin. Many ufologists contend that the Roswell craft was given to Lockheed by the military to reverse-engineer.

The most fascinating story of all started making its rounds last spring, around the time of the first anniversary of the Phoenix sighting. It appeared on the Internet and shortly after, in an Arizona Republic column. It seems the strange lights over Phoenix weren't the only oddity of that March 13 evening. On that same night a U.S. reconnaissance satellite, which presumably could have picked up the source of the Phoenix lights, went dead for no apparent reason. About the same time, the Pentagon increased the country's military preparedness to DEFCON 3, the highest state of readiness for peacetime conditions.

And that ain't all folks. It was that same night that President Clinton stayed at the Florida estate of golfer Greg Norman.

After talking with Norman late into the night, the White

House reported, the president tripped on a step and seriously injured his knee. Remember?

Well, according to one source (I realize we in the media are supposed to have more than one source, but that's no longer necessary when reporting on the president.) Clinton really wasn't that clumsy. This source said the president was notified of the UFO activity while at Norman's house and damaged his knee while being hustled away by the Secret Service to a secure location from which he could oversee our national defense.

There's a little more. When the president returned to Washington, he went directly to Bethesda Naval Hospital for further examination of his injury. And who arrived at the hospital shortly before Clinton but Congress' chief UFO investigator, Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., who was experiencing problems following his initial cancer surgery.

Schiff said he was impressed with the security force that was gathered for his visit until told that the president was arriving soon and that his own lab work might be delayed.

SOUTH WHIDBEY RECORD, Langley, WA - June 3, 1998

## Crop circles just a short drive away

The Coupeville crop circle phenomenon was fun while it lasted and saved those of us who are remotely interested the expense of buying a few tanks of gas or some airline tickets to go see them somewhere else.

Readers of the popular press have known about crop circles for years, starting in Great Britain, which is the center of the crop circle world. Thousands of others have been reported worldwide, from Kennewick to Australia, but never until now on Whidbey Island.

Mysterious designs in crops have prompted widespread interest, as can be proven simply by typing in the two words on an Internet search engine. A long list of websites and related topics pops up, which inevitably lead to other lists of equally esoteric subjects. Crop circles are out there with UFOs and channeling, always ready for a TV news magazine that's fresh out of new ideas.

Compared to the intricate crop circle designs pictured in England, the Coupeville crop circles were a disappointment, even though one "expert" said they were caused by a higher intelligence from a different plane. If so, this particular higher intelligence was artistically challenged.

There is little doubt that the farmer was right — the Coupeville crop circles were caused by rain and wind. But it says something about humanity that so many people are so willing to believe in supernatural explanations for so many things, even in this age of scientific reason. It's enough to make a scientist pull his or her hair out. For the rest of us, it makes life kind of interesting.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - July 1, 1998

## Calling for Real X-Files

**A**FTER REVIEWING 30 years of tantalizing reports of flying saucers and space aliens, a group of scientists has called for serious research into mysteries surrounding UFO sightings.

Lead by Stanford University physicist Peter Sturrock, a panel of internationally respected scientists heard presentations last fall by UFO investigators at meetings in Tarrytown, N.Y., and San Francisco.

The panelist analyzed the UFO evidence and issued a report this week saying although they had found no convincing evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence, there were many intriguing and unexplained phenomena that justify further study.

The panel chided fellow scientists for shying away from UFOlogy, fearing the ridicule of their colleagues. As a result "the problem is in a very unsatisfactory state of ignorance and confusion," the panel said.

With more than 60 percent of the American public open-minded and curious about UFOs and space aliens, scientists may never have a better chance to get funding for such research.

They should go for it.

## MYSTERY ON WHIDBEY



Jim Larsen / staff photos

The Coupeville crop circles attracted people from all over the area, including Bellingham resident Burrell Jull and his son Peter, who braved the rain to walk in the barley. The Julls concluded it was all a hoax. The farmer blames rain and wind, while a crop circle expert says a higher intelligence did it.

# Coupeville crop circles stir nationwide interest

By JIM LARSEN  
Record editor

*This is best read with the theme from "The Twilight Zone" playing in the background ...*

Coupeville became the center of attention Tuesday night for millions of radio listeners nationwide who are interested in such esoteric subjects as government conspiracies, interstellar explosions, impending cataclysms, UFOs and, in this particular instance — crop circles.

Crop circles are designs that inexplicably appear in farmers' crops. It's a worldwide phenomenon that is unexplained, although guesses range from artistic pranksters to some higher intelligence trying to send a message.

A report of Coupeville crop circles aired on Art Bell's popular "Coast to Coast" radio program Tuesday night, and life changed dramatically for farmer Don Sherman. The show largely deals with strange and weird events.

By Thursday, Sherman was accustomed to total strangers driving up to his field adjacent to Highway 20, walking into the downed crops, snapping pictures and taking measurements. Add the occasional newspaper reporter and TV camera crew and activity was anything but rural.

"There's been a lot of attention," said Sherman, who has no doubt that the designs in his crops were caused by such natural factors as wind and rain, not some higher intelligence

from outer space or elsewhere.

Sherman said he lost 50 percent of 12 acres of barley in the field next to the highway, and more in another field away from the main thoroughfare. He said barley is more prone to bending than wheat, and this has been a bad year for rust problems and rain.

"We've had 1.7 inches of rain since Sunday," he said.

The crop circle furor started Tuesday night when Greenbank area resident Captain Kelly Sweeney, a Merchant Marine, called Art Bell.

On the line with Sweeney and his wife Frances was Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, who received the first report from Sweeney. Davenport told Bell that Sweeney was "an absolutely Class A source of information," based on an accurate Nov. 14 report of a mysterious "cluster of lights" over the Bangor Submarine Base. A tape of the show was provided to The South Whidbey Record.

Sweeney told the audience, estimated by Bell at 15 million people, that he and his wife were at the Greenbank Store when they heard about the crop circles, and they drove up to take a look.

"We couldn't believe what we saw," he said. "They were made with cookie-cutter precision. It definitely was not a hoax."

Sweeney didn't return a call Thursday morning, but his phone was answered by a visitor from Portland, a



Designs in the Coupeville crops were rough on Wednesday morning, but much more clear-cut earlier in the week, according to crop circle enthusiasts.

one-named woman called Ilyes. She identified herself as national coordinator for the Center for Crop Circle Studies, U.S. Network. The center originated in 1993 in her native England.

According to Ilyes, people who saw the crop circles on Wednesday or Thursday did not see what the Sweeneys had witnessed earlier in the week.

"They (the Sweeneys) saw three circles, very crisp, with swirls in the center," she said. "It wasn't like that yesterday."

Although more rain and wind had apparently distorted the designs, Ilyes said the Coupeville crop circles were created by something other than the elements. She has examined many

crop circles, including a famous one near Kennewick, and studies the grain's "bundling, nodes and the way the crop lies." Her conclusion: "A genuine formation was there ... there's no question there's an intelligence behind them."

What kind of intelligence? Not aliens from outer space, Ilyes says, but rather an intelligence "totally, spiritually involved," from a different plane or dimension. She says they're trying to tell us something, although she doesn't know what.

Sherman, however, sees only damaged crops, as he has during similar weather patterns in past years.

"If extraterrestrials could pick it back up, then I'd be a believer," he said.



## Men In Black Not A Stretch:

A Brief Dip Into Evidence  
For Extraterrestrial  
Intelligence

By Stephen Simac

It would be more amazing if there weren't extraterrestrial intelligence in this boundless universe than if there is. We imagined ourselves alone in a fixed cosmos once upon a time. The days when Galileo had to deny that the earth is the center of even the solar system seem like a fairytale now.

Whether those aliens have visited earth or are here now is open to debate. The official government version is that all sightings are explainable by natural phenomenon or weather balloons.

The unofficial versions are legion and myth-like. There are so many types of aliens from different planets, star systems, other dimensions, from the hollow of the earth and beyond, allegedly visiting earth, controlling earth, conducting breeding experiments or merely observing the critters in the zoo, they must be stumbling over each other.

That something is going on seems indisputable, unless you think denial is a river in Egypt.

Just what is going on is a mystery. That the government is lying to us is common knowledge to tabloid readers. Mainstream media pay almost no attention to UFOs, as if it were beneath them, although nothing else is.

Yet government cover-up is documented. Their top debunking scientist from Project Blue Book, the military UFO investigation in the '60s, has his own website now, saying they are real. He says the project researchers ignored the unexplainable sightings and contacts they investigated and seized on the easily ridiculed ones to squelch mass panic over the truth.

**The truth: We are not alone**

Just as the church fathers twisted the limbs of any heretic who denied a central earth peopled by the only children of God, the media tweaks them with ridicule or indifference.

The Brookings Institute survey of Americans' reactions to aliens in the '60s predicted that there would be mass panic, riots, or

work stoppage if the existence of UFOs with alien intelligence was acknowledged.

It would not be much different today. Infantile narcissism is terrible when challenged. Human self-absorption ignores the other intelligent life on this planet. It's only lately that we've started to think of some fuzzy animals around us as different than targets or threats. Aliens! What if they weren't even interested in us humans, just wanted to hang with the octopi? We would be so hurt. Our self-esteem is fragile.

Religions and churches would lose membership if the aliens claimed they had been genetically and psychologically guiding humans since we were chimps. Said, "We're the gods all the holy books were written about and we're back." They could be lying, of course. Like Cortez when the Aztecs thought he was Quetzalcoatl returning. Just a little pissed, like Jesus would be.

Right now the government believes we are children and better off ignorant of what they know. In a way, I agree with them. Until the aliens land and announce their intentions, what difference does it make? Yet people will believe what they want to believe. End up waiting for mother ships to pick them up in Garland, Texas, or committing mass suicide in California to hitch a ride on a comet. UFO cults are going to be big for the millennium.

I've been fascinated with them since I saw my first one as a teenager in Florida. A brilliant, flying light which bobbed around as if drunk for awhile, then streaked off over the ocean, into the Bermuda Triangle. Dozens of other people reported it to various agencies in South Florida.

**Government cover-up exposed**

That the government has lied to us about their investigations is the subject of the video *UFOs: Fifty Years of Denial* by a Marin videographer, James Fox. It focuses on government cover-up of their findings about UFOs and includes a variety of exceptional photographs and videos of lights and craft from around the world. There are even cave paintings of UFOs from 10-20,000 years ago, which are shown in the video as well as more recent sightings.

He interviewed former military and

government agents who claim there really was a UFO crash near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, and that the true findings of Project Blue Book and NATO's UFO study in the '70s were suppressed. Some of these men participated in the cover-up, but now are recanting in their old age.

Colonel Philip Corso, a member of President Eisenhower's National Security Agency, and Edgar Mitchell, man on the moon, both say that the explosion near Roswell, first described as a UFO crash by the nearby military base, then denied by higher-ups, was one. That the military collected some extremely light but strong metallic substance, and several alien bodies. The evidence was switched with weather balloon material and aliens officially became testing dummies later, but the original evidence was saved and studied.

This crash of aliens or dummies has become world famous, fueling conspiracy theorists and night-time radio talk shows. The tales that the government has secretly collected alien space ships in Area 51 in Nevada and through reverse engineering has learned to build and fly them are widely told. Others claim that the aliens first gave the Nazis flying saucer technology in the '30s, a fleet now based in South America or the North Pole or inside the hollow earth.

UFO researchers have to wade through swamps of competing theories and explanations from abductees hypnotically remembering missing time episodes, to channelers of galactic histories, to alien walk-ons or bodysnatchers. Some of these seem like Freudian fairytales, with highly advanced beings conducting anal probes of depressed housewives.

The similarities of myths and fairytales with modern UFO stories has created several camps. One says the aliens have been visiting earth all along as gods or elves, another that they are manifestations of earth energy, like crop circles and leprechauns, or paranormal activity like poltergeists and ghosts, while some academics believe they are a product of our psychology interacting with the world, a cyberbiology like visions of angels, shamanic journeys or life-after-death. There is some evidence for all these views, but most proponents are ivory-tower theorists who ignore any evidence

that doesn't fit their theory.

**Brazilian invasions**

Jacques Vallee, a careful UFO researcher and writer who has been traveling to contact sites and interviewing eyewitnesses in Europe, North and South America for two decades, has documented hundreds of sightings, dozens of close encounters, examined photos, videos and material evidence and is still mystified.

Some of his most interesting cases are the flying lights which have been attacking hunters in remote areas of Brazil for the 20 years and the besieging of an island village near the mouth of the Amazon by flying lights every evening for three months in 1977. An army special investigation team and numerous journalists photographed and reported on this invasion.

In many of these cases there were ill effects and some deaths with numerous photos and verifiable, eyewitness reports. Other contactees in those and other areas have had healings or improved health from contact with the aliens. Some claim to have traveled to distant star systems at warp speed with aliens from Orion, Sirius and its twin star YoucanbeSirius.

The Verdants from Vegas may be ready to cash in their chips. A *Los Angeles Times* retired editor claims to have been brought aboard a ship and briefed by these aliens. He was told that before only people who were less likely to be believed were abducted. Now they are grabbing more influential people in order to build credibility and reduce panic when they land.

These Verdants are pond-scum eaters who live thousands of years. They've been watching us for even longer and are sure we are messing up. Instead of sky-writing this, they are recruiting influential humans to spread the gospel so we'll change. They told him the rising incidence of cancer is from motor vehicle exhaust, which makes sense since the increased rates of gasoline consumption and cancers correlate.

His mission was to write a book that would let humans in on the big news. It's in the stores now, and on the internet. The Verdants are supposed to land in the desert southwest after first making it bloom, possibly this summer. Sounds like a party.

**Angels or aliens**

In the end, it is impossible to know just what is going on, even if you've had your own UFO experiences like I've had. In 1984, on Maui, a brilliant light hovered overhead when I'd become lost after dark. I fell on my knees praying for help. It streaked away incredibly fast. I stumbled in that direction and found the trail back to the road. Another person witnessed the light from the camp I'd hiked away from that afternoon. Maybe it was an angel, maybe a UFO.

On Haleakala's peak in Maui that same year, two other hippies and I watched a brilliant light slowly circle over us for almost an hour. If aliens are communicating with us, what I heard was that they have the capability of turning plutonium into lead, and they will do so if we humans start World War III. It wouldn't hurt if they'd start early.

Plutonium and UFOs do have a link, because at least some sightings are reported to leave radioactivity in their wake. Perhaps these are the government models, which would explain why the military-industrial complex loves plutonium, and why no one seems worried that background radiation levels have doubled since the first nuclear detonations.

Wilhelm Reich was working on a secret government project involving UFOs in the '50s, and reportedly he was able to deradioactive materials with his orgone generators. He was put in prison for marketing these as medical devices and died there.

The mother ship I witnessed one night in West Marin was huge, a football-field sized dark oval with brilliant colored lights rotating around its edges. Other people have seen this phenomena at different times. It was very beautiful and if it landed I'd get right on, even if I had to become an alien sex slave.

I don't think there is any point in waiting for the aliens to land or whatever. They are probably already here making dumb movies about blowing up Washington, but don't worry, humans can whip their asses with cigar-smoking flyboys or country music. If those are supposed to make humans feel better about alien invasions or space creatures, they have a low opinion of our intelligence. Can't say I blame them.

Most likely they plan on trading alien trinkets and technology for our earthly treasures.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - June 18, 1998 CR: G. Fawcett

## Strange light seen in night sky

TAMMY SANNER  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

The aliens may have arrived early for Roswell UFO Encounter '98

At 8:45 p.m. Tuesday the Chaves County Sheriff's Department received a call about a red ball of light falling from the sky.

Sgt. Mike Wood said no one was dispatched to the area, but the caller said about 10 people witnessed a red object fell from the sky toward a dairy on Darby Road off of the Old Dexter Highway in the Midway area.

Linda Ortiz, 35, said she, her children and her neighbors witnessed the object from their home on Crocket Yard Road and called the sheriff's department.

She said she was heading southeast on the Old Dexter Highway when she saw the object.

"We saw this big red ball, but it wasn't on fire because there wasn't no streak," Ortiz said.

"It was real bright and red and I saw it land, no explosion or nothing like that. It just landed and it turned off."

When she got home she discovered her neighbors and children had also seen the red light.

"The light was so bright my kids said the cows looked pink from the brightness of the light," she said.

"It looked like a big red ball and it just landed," said Josie Herrera, 18, Ortiz's daughter.

"I thought it was fireworks but it wasn't because fireworks just dissolve away and that one didn't."

Ernest Silvas, 29, a neighbor who also lives on Crocket Yard Road, said he saw the light from four miles away and dismissed it as an airplane.

"I just saw an orange light," he said. "I didn't pay any attention because I thought it

*"A meteor leaves a trail through the sky where a meteoroid, a piece of rock, is burning up. They are usually very tiny."*

David Finley  
Public information officer

was an airplane."

No comment was available from the dairy where the object allegedly landed.

The State Police did not receive any calls concerning the object.

Officials from White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base all report that there was no military activity anywhere near Roswell at the time of the sighting.

The National Weather Service received no reports of any meteors which fell from the sky Tuesday night.

There were also no balloons scheduled to be in the area.

David Finley, public information officer for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro, said there were no reports of meteors near Roswell Tuesday night.

"A meteor leaves a trail through the sky where a meteoroid, a piece of rock, is burning up. They are usually very tiny," he said. "Very few of them make it to the ground."

"Striking the ground reports have to be taken very skeptically at first."

The Associated Press reported two meteorite fragments landed in Portales Saturday morning at about 7:30 a.m.

# Farmer can't explain weird wheat circles

By KAREN ZACHARIAS  
of the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Farmers around these parts don't cotton to tomfoolery very much, but Scott Montgomery is hard pressed to explain the two concentric circles he sighted in a wheat field west of town last week.

"I thought somebody had made a big bull's eye to shoot at," Montgomery said.

If so, it must be the Jolly Green Giant.

The circles, one within the other, range in diameter about 25 feet for the inner circle and 50 feet for the outer circle.

Montgomery, a farm manager, said he has farmed all of his life and never seen anything like this.

"It's really unique," he said. Montgomery figured Gary Hanzen, the owner of the field, knew what had created the circles.

Hanzen, whose family has owned the farm for a century, said when Montgomery first told him, he thought it was a joke.

"Scott asked me, 'Who's been drawing targets out here?'" Hanzen said.

But he said he knew when he saw the circles, this was no prank.

"It's kinda weird. The wheat is all smashed down together in a swirling motion," Hanzen said.

The wheat lies counter-clockwise, with the heads of the grain intact. The only breaks are at the base of the stalks. Standing wheat of varying width — 6 feet at the east-west ends and 8 feet at the north-south ends — separates the two circles.

Hanzen said evidence indicates the circles weren't created by pranksters.

"If somebody had done this, I would find broken straws. It's \$100 damn good of a job," he said, considering the symmetry and full straws.



Staff photo by Don Cresswell  
Gary Hanzen stands in the outer ring of two unexplained wheat circles northwest of Pendleton.

"You couldn't stomp something like this. I like to think it's a UFO," he said.

With the airport so close by, Hanzen is surprised a heli-

copter didn't spot the rings sooner.

Why aliens would chose to land in his fields confounds Hanzen.

"Maybe lights from the airport attracted 'em," he said. Or perhaps it's because bad

# Researchers discuss, share UFO theories

TAMMY SANNER  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Pearson Auditorium was once again turned into a forum for UFO researchers to discuss their theories.

The International UFO Museum and Research Center sponsored this year's UFO Encounter lecture series. Leading researchers came to Roswell to discuss what they believe to be beyond our solar system.

Friday Clifford Stone and Peter Gersten opened the series.

Stone, a retired Army officer and author of "Let the Evidence Speak," presented his views on Plausible Deniability.

He said Plausible Deniability is the label given to an effort on the part of the "keepers" of information of UFO cases from elected officials.

The concept is the subject and title of a new book Stone is working on which he said should be published early this summer.

Gersten, a criminal defense attorney, spoke about Freedom of Information Act lawsuits pending in U.S. District Court.

Gersten said he can prove in a court of law that extraterrestrials exist and we have already been contacted.

Saturday morning, Dennis Balthaser, a ufologist with the UFO museum, discussed his experiences in the fall of 1997 when he attempted to obtain a piece of metal allegedly taken from the 1947 Roswell Incident.

Balthaser said he believes government agents prevented him from obtaining the material.

Budd Hopkins spoke on Saturday about recent abduction cases he has been

researching. Hopkins has been involved in abduction research since 1964 and is the author of three books, "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," "Missing Time" and "Witnessed."

Saturday afternoon, Robert O. Dean spoke of his work with his wife, Cecilia Vindiola Dean, campaigning for open congressional hearings on the UFO subject.

Michael Lindemann, publisher of the Internet newsletter CNI News, spoke Saturday night about four different contact scenarios.

Lindemann said he believes contact with extraterrestrials is possible, based on current and proven scientific knowledge, and will occur in one or more of four ways:

- Radio signals or artifacts found on surfaces of terrestrial bodies such as the moon or Mars;

- Direct contact with non-intelligent life such as life forms on Mars or Europa;

- An actual arrival such as the one depicted in the movie "Independence Day"; or

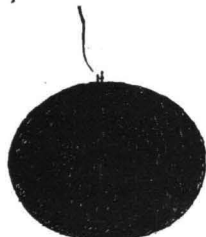
- They are already here and have been observing us, for example through what has become known as the abduction phenomenon.

Today, Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist, will speak at 9 a.m. at Pearson Auditorium at the New Mexico Military Institute concerning his belief that Earth has already been visited by extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Vitorio Pacacinni will speak at noon concerning a UFO case involving witnesses to a strange being, military knowledge and conspiracy, death threats, missing persons and very few answers.

COURIER-POST, Cherry Hill, NJ - July 17, 1998

Dad, do you think there's life on other planets?



## Eye on UFOs

Re: "Flying saucers on the plate?," (editorial, 7/9).

I want to commend the C-P for carrying its recent editorial concerning the new willingness of some scientists to start studying unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

As a former Air Force intelligence officer and flier, I can assure you there are UFOs in our skies on a daily basis. I have chased them in Air Force aircraft and photographed them. If the C-P desires to photograph them, I can help accomplish that feat on almost any day with a clear blue sky. In fact, they are often easier to find than many rare bird species.

More importantly, I believe UFOs are a threat to the safety of the American people. For example, on Aug. 9, 1997, a Swissair 747 departing Philadelphia International Airport had a near miss with a UFO. It was reported in the newspaper as a balloon. We have closely examined this case and interviewed the Swiss pilots. They assure us this was not a balloon and that the craft that almost

struck them was similar to a large gasoline tanker you often see on our highways.

I'm the eastern director of Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) with more than 4,000 members and more than 100 Ph.D.s and M.D.s studying the problem. We invite anyone who is interested to contact me at 654-0020. We understand that this subject is difficult for the average person to accept. We ask you only to have an open mind and a willingness to do a little research.

The Delaware Valley should be aware that some of these visitors are not friendly and may already be interacting in our lives. I receive phone calls on an almost daily basis from frightened people. UFOs are being seen in New Jersey on a regular basis.

They are usually observed almost in the trees at low altitudes or well above the standard commercial traffic at more than 50,000 feet. Any aircraft that seems to loiter in your area should be closely observed and local authorities contacted.

GEORGE A. FILER  
Retired U.S. Air Force Major  
Medford





## FOREIGN NEWS

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

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - March 9, 1998



Have aliens already established bases here on earth? NIGEL BURTON meets a man who thinks they have and who travels the world in search of evidence

# A Good man looking for aliens

**T**HE DUSTY road from Caguas to Humacao on the southern border of the El Yunque National Forest, in Puerto Rico, is usually as quiet as the grave in the early hours. So when Piedro Viera, a former police officer, spotted a strange light in the sky on January 12, 1997, he sat up and took notice. As the object came closer he could make out that it was shaped like an upturned saucer. The strange craft pulled up about 200 yards from Piedro's car. It was about 150 feet in diameter with a dozen or so windows. Then, without warning, a beam of light came out of the craft and engulfed two cows in a pasture. Before Piedro's astonished eyes one of the animals was lifted into the sky and disappeared into the saucer which began to move away. As if this wasn't spooky enough more was to come when the ex-cop tried to give chase. Before Piedro could put his car into gear and join the pursuit a black 4x4 vehicle pulled up beside him. Two men dressed in military-style clothes got out and ordered him to switch off. "Why?" asked the frightened driver. "Just stay where you are and allow us to do what we are doing," came the sinister reply. After the men had gone Piedro set off, cautiously following the UFO's general direction. Soon, he came to the dead cow, lying at the side of the road. "It had apparently been dropped from above because two of its legs were badly smashed," he remembered. "There were five incisions in its side and a circular hole in its rump. But there was hardly any blood...."

**T**RUE story or the ramblings of a mad man? Someone who thinks Piedro Viera may be telling the truth is British author and world authority on UFOs, Timothy Good.

In fact, he believes Piedro's sighting may be just the tip of an awesome iceberg, and has spent the best part of a year in Puerto Rico trying to prove his theories.

If Piedro's story was a one-off it could be dismissed as just another UFO sighting, one of millions reported world wide every year. But it isn't

an isolated incident.

Scores of people living near the El Yunque National Forest have reported similarly terrifying encounters. Some have even returned with the bodies of strange creatures reportedly living in a cave system somewhere in the mountains. Scientists have been unable to state what the creatures may be.

Superstitious locals have even given the animal mutilators a name, "chupacabras" (meaning goat sucker) because of their predilection for selecting their victims from local flocks.

After sifting through literally hundreds of sightings Tim Good has reached a startling conclusion. His latest book *Alien Base* suggests Puerto Rico is host to an extraterrestrial outpost - and its inhabitants may not be entirely benign.

"The aliens are here, they are among us and they may have been here a very long time." As long as humanity itself, perhaps, because Tim believes mankind may be the result of an alien breeding programme started thousands of years ago.

And Puerto Rico may not be the only alien base on earth. In his book, Tim claims to have uncovered similar extraterrestrial establishments in America, Argentina, even, good old England. He says as many as a dozen different extraterrestrial species may have made contact.

Since he started writing about UFOs, Tim Good has become a leading figure giving lectures at universities, schools and commercial organisations around the world. He's acted as an associate producer for a number of TV documentaries and is known to audiences worldwide through his TV appearances.

It's all a far cry from his "day job" as a professional violinist. He played with the London Symphony Orchestra for 14 years ("For which I'm extremely grateful because it gave me the chance to travel the world pursuing my interest in UFOs") and nowadays works on film scores. His most recent work included the James Bond movie *Tomorrow Never Dies* and the sci-fi film *The Fifth Element*, in which a beautiful extra-terrestrial helps save earth from Armageddon.

His hobbies include photography

but most of his time is now devoted to researching UFO sightings and interviewing witnesses.

Tim Good is nothing if not thorough, all his books are meticulously researched and cross referenced, but he's forced to admit he's been duped.

"Unfortunately there are some people whose claims get wilder and more outlandish every time they are retold. There's more bullshit and disinformation put about by so-called UFO researchers than the whole of the intelligence community put together."

Area 51 is a good example. It's a top-secret US military base in the middle of the Nevada desert. The perimeter is patrolled by armed guards and lasers are used to detect intruders. Unauthorised personnel are most definitely not welcome.

UFO researchers believe Area 51 has been used as a holding area for the remains of crashed alien craft. These claims are based on the many reports of strange lights seen near the base. But one of the former employees who supplied Tim Good with sensational claims about alien space craft has since been discredited.

"He told me he was a nuclear physicist, that he worked at Area 51 where his responsibility was making sense of alien technology and incorporating it into new weapons for the Americans. Unfortunately, he's since proven dishonest. Perhaps he had some kind of inferiority complex or disillusion of grandeur."

Tim Good isn't sure if we'll get to the bottom of the UFO mystery in his lifetime. The man who inspired him, US major Donald Keyhoe, who wrote

several books on the subject, died before he could make sense of the millions of sightings all over the world.

"I'm doing my best but I think there's more chance of the mystery being solved in your lifetime than mine," he says.

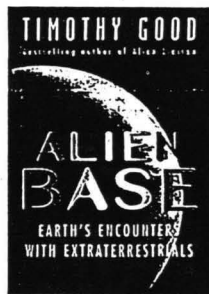
When his UK tour finishes, Tim is flying back to Puerto Rico where he hopes to discover more about alien bases.

"Why do they come here? I don't know. Perhaps it's because

Earth is unique in the solar system, perhaps it's a paternal instinct to look after us, perhaps it's because we have something they need.

"Whatever the reason I firmly believe they are already here, confounding our concepts of space and time. Contact has been established - we just have to make sense of it all."

● *Alien Base* by Timothy Good (Century Books, £16.99).



ADVERTISER, Andover, England - May 29, 1998

## Did you spot the UFOs?

TWO sightings of oddly-shaped objects in the morning sky has left engineer Richard Elliott convinced he's seen UFOs hovering near Portway Industrial Estate.

He saw the first as he was driving to work on the estate at about 8am on 19 May.

"It was hamburger-shaped but bright silver and about 100 feet up," he said. The object hovered over Andover Airfield, making it difficult to tell how big it was. Richard lost sight of it as he continued on his way to work.

But just three days later at about the same time he saw the second object moving backwards and forwards 200 feet above the houses in Red Post Lane, Monxton.

"This was black and shaped like an inverted fried egg. It must have been five to six feet in diameter," he said.

Richard, who lives in Goodworth Clatford, has spoken to Boscombe Down Airbase and discovered there was nothing airborne from there or Middle Wallop until after 8.30am on both days.

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - May 23, 1998

## UFO video footage 'no hoax'

WEST Dorset UFO investigator David Kingston is on cloud nine after witnessing one of the best sightings over the county.

Video footage was passed to him after a holidaymaker filmed a strange saucer-like object in the sky over the Ridgeway.

David, an ex-RAF communications officer from Goldcombe Farm, Martinstown, has been studying UFOs for the last 30 years and has more than 200 hours of video footage.

He claims the latest footage is definitely no hoax.

He said: "In all my years studying the subject I have not seen anything quite as clear as this before."

The five-minute footage, shot at 11am on April 7, was taken by a holidaymaker from the London area.

The film shows a saucer-like object hovering in the sky above farm buildings near the Ridgeway.

David believes it could be similar to a sighting the RAF stumbled upon some weeks earlier over the North Sea.

"I would like to hear from anyone else who saw the object. I know there was a red Nissan K-reg car in the layby at this time and would like to get in touch with the person."

# Strangers in the night exchanging glimpses

BY HOWARD WILLIAMSON

MYSTERIOUS lights in the sky - first reported over Leeds in February - have been seen again over Yorkshire.

They have twice been seen by a full-time investigator, Russell Kellett, of International UFO Research Network.

And he has had more than 80 calls about them in the last three months with sightings reported as far away as Skipton and Halifax. He hesitates to

say they are extra-terrestrial craft, simply saying: "What they are remains to be seen."

Many people reported seeing two bright lights on Monday, February 2, and Leeds resident Ken Field shot video footage of them which has since been seen on television. Some experts say the lights are the strongest evidence of UFOs over Leeds in the last 15 years.

Mr Kellett, 34, of Springfield Avenue,

Lidget Green, Bradford, has had numerous calls from other people in North and West Yorkshire who claim to have seen them.

He has had two sightings himself, the first at 12.15am on Sunday, February 22, when he was watching television. He heard a strange irritating noise over his home which sounded like a Second World War "doodlebug" or flying bomb in flight.

He went outside to look but the

sound had simply evaporated and then he spotted two bright shapes which moved slowly across the sky.

On April 4 he and some friends were returning from Barnoldswick, Lancs, when they saw two bright lights about 200ft away which appeared to be about to land in fields near the Skipton Bypass roundabout at Cross Hills. The time was 11.17pm.

Mr Kellett rushed to get his camera but found the batteries were dead. The

lights disappeared in front of his eyes.

Other recent mysteries are the sighting of shapes like an illuminated Ferris wheel over Brighouse and lighted scaffolding pipes over Bolton Abbey.

Mr Kellett, is now working on a book about UFOs seen around Bradford. He is appealing for information about the sighting of a cigar-shaped craft over Associated Weavers on Toftshaw Lane, Tong, about 1974. He can be contacted on 01274 501463.

# NET GAINS FOR 'UFO CAPITAL'

Report by Susie Kelly

**THE EERIE UFO sightings over East Kilbride have become a huge hit — on the internet!**

For thousands of people across the globe are paying daily visits to an official web site dedicated to the unexplained phenomenon buzzing the town since January.

East Kilbride has now been declared the new UFO capital of Scotland because of close encounters experienced by dozens of local residents.

The bizarre sightings listed include the recent tale of 39 year-old driving instructor Brenda Hughey who watched flashing objects whizz across the night skies on Stathaven Road.

But scores of other residents have surfed the 'net telling of their UFO encounters.

One resident known as 'Gaar' refused to be named, but confessed he had spied a UFO on March 24 while driving along Strathaven Road.

He wrote: "Something very odd is going on here.

"When I approached the mini roundabout I saw a chopper visibly floating and hovering over the fields and factories.

"It had the shape of the Airwolf chopper on TV and was either dark green or black in colour.

"Cars were in front of me and slowing their speed, watching it circle and turn."

Other people claimed that East Kilbride had been transformed into a red-hot UFO zone and demanded answers from the Government.

Another witness wrote: "I never saw military jets but a huge black helicopter and it was only a couple of hundred yards away from my window."

Scotland's top UFO hunter this week said British ufologists were completely bamboozled by the East Kilbride incidents.

Falkirk-based Dave Ledger, founder of the group UFO Scotland said: "We can safely say there is indeed military involvement involved in the EK incidents and anomalous lights.

"Our studies show the sightings are connected to the skybooms in December.

"The question we are left with is: what ARE the helicopters looking for?

"It may just turn out to be military exercises in the area although at this stage it looks highly unlikely."

STAMFORD MERCURY, Lincs, England - April 17, 1998

## More UFOs in Mercury Triangle

RESIDENTS continue to report UFO sightings following recent incidents in 'the Mercury Triangle'.

On Sunday night Stamford youths Steven Williams (15), of Casterton Road, and Paul Lomas (15), of Keats Grove, saw a bright blue light cross the sky from south to north above Casterton Road.

Steven told us: "It was very faint at first, and took about 15 seconds to cross the sky — it was quite strange."

A teenager from Rippingale has reported seeing lights hovering over the village of Stainfield, two miles north of Bourne, earlier this month. Her father told the Mercury: "She was driving home and came in and said she thought she had seen a spaceship. This was before anything was in the paper — we all sort of laughed.

"It had lights at the front and rear, and she says it definitely wasn't a helicopter.

She went to bed quite shaken up by it."

Oakham resident Alice Warren spotted a strange light over Rutland in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Mrs Warren was putting her dogs out at around 2.45am when she spotted something in the direction of Uppingham. She said:

"It was a terrific bright light in the sky and it didn't move at all — although it definitely wasn't a helicopter. There also seemed to be two or three streaks of light coming from it. It was most odd."

Trevor Dixon, of Trinity Road, Stamford, contacted us with an incident which happened in October 1997.

A bright, orange, triangular object could be seen in the sky as he was driving to Stamford along the A47 and A1.

He said: "It was moving very slowly, and eventually moved over the car."

His girlfriend's son saw the object from the back window and could see a light on it as it moved away.

● If you spot an alien or UFO contact David Ogden on the Mercury UFO hotline on 01780 762255.

GLoucester Echo, Cheltenham, England - June 13, 1998

# Olé, I've finally spotted a UFO

by Paul Bull

**UFO hunter Robin Cole had to travel to Spain to experience his first close encounter in more than 20 years.**

Mr Cole is convinced he saw a strange emerald green hexagon hovering over the Mediterranean sea.

And he says he wasn't on the Sangria at the time.

Father-of-three Mr Cole, 31, is a member of the Cheltenham-based UFO research group Circular Forum and has been investigating cases for years. During his work he has checked out dozens of strange sightings in the skies above Britain but has found a rational explanation for most.

Nevertheless, nothing prepared him for his experience last month when he travelled to the town of Moraira in Spain to give a lec-

## Robin, 31, sees saucer over Spain

ture to local UFO enthusiasts.

Mr Cole, of Battledown Approach, Cheltenham, said: "My girlfriend and I went out for a walk at about 10.45pm and when we looked out to the coast we could see this enlarged hexagon of emerald green travelling over from a north-east direction.

"It wasn't particularly high and was about half a mile away. I hear so many stories but to experience it is a fascinating thing."

Mr Cole and members of the local Javea

UFO Research Discussion Group checked air traffic and military movements but came up with no rational explanation.

It was the first genuine UFO sighting Mr Cole says he has had since he was six years old, when he claims to have spotted a large saucer type craft hovering above a tree in Langdon Road, Leckhampton.

Javea group treasurer Patricia Thompson said: "We've had quite a few sightings around here.

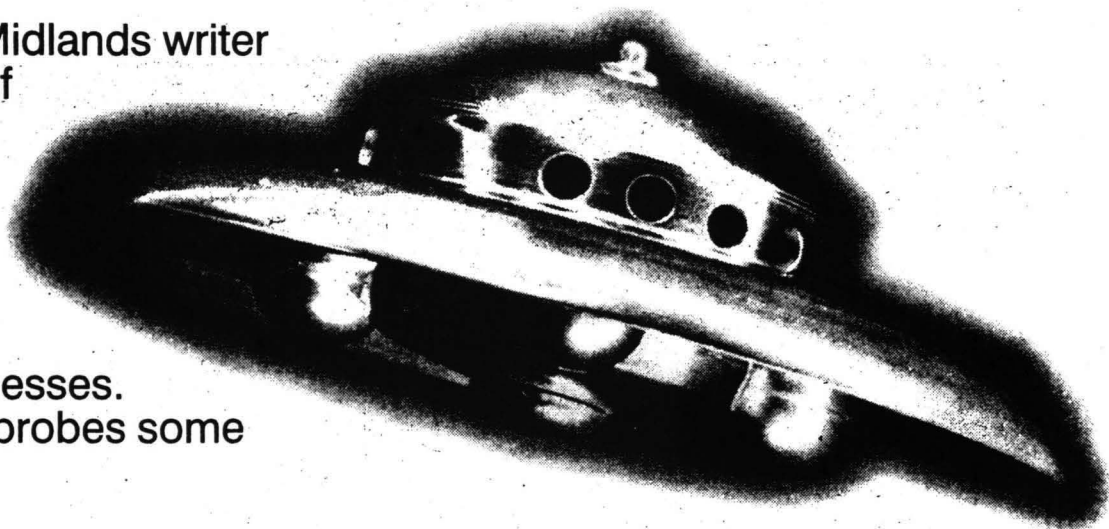
"Rumour has it there is a triangle which goes out to Ibiza and back. Fishermen tell strange stories of seeing lights going out into the sea. I'm convinced Robin saw something. He's a very genuine guy."



Robin Cole



A new book by a Midlands writer claims hundreds of UFOs have been spotted in the skies. And it also reckons mystery men have been putting the frighteners on witnesses. BECKY HODGES probes some disturbing stories



# Hounded

*— by the all-too-real  
Men in Black . . .*

**P**OP STAR Will Smith sang about them and Hollywood produced a film about them — but who exactly are the Men in Black and do they really exist?

According to a new book by full-time UFO researcher, Nick Redfern, from Walsall, those seemingly fictitious characters are out there terrorising witnesses to any extra-terrestrial visits.

In an unparalleled expose, *The FBI Files* — a follow-up to the successful *A Covert Agenda* — reveals that in the last 50 years, literally hundreds of UFOs have been spotted in the skies.

And what better way to launch a cover-up than to warn off potential witnesses with a visit from the MIBs?

Redfern devotes a whole chapter to the phenomenon and it makes for disturbing reading.

A Cannock housewife, who up until now has remained quiet about her meeting four years ago, reveals her chilling encounter with the Men in Black.

She recalls: "The door banged really hard and when I opened it there was this horrible little man, about five feet tall.

"He was dressed in a black suit and tie and had a funny little hat on. His cheeks were all gaunt; his eyes were dark and his skin was almost white.

"All he said was, 'We would ask you to cease your studies. The sky lights, always the sky lights.' Then it dawned on me, I'd seen a UFO late at night when my husband and me had been driving home — we both had a really weird dream afterwards."

**T**HE woman, who then claims she thought she was about to be attacked, slammed the door in his face and immediately felt dizzy, falling asleep afterwards for more than three hours. She later reported a strange burning smell in her home which lasted for more than three days and could only be removed by cleaning agents.

Another witness, an American musician claims he was abducted for more than three days in 1996. When he returned he too had a strange visit by three very pale, bald men dressed in black.

"I sat in the back seat of their car. During the ride I was warned not to continue talking about my alien abduction," he said.



Nick Redfern: "The public has a right to know."

"They showed me picture after picture of what happens to people who do not comply."

Genuine Men in Black or FBI agents working to silence those implicated in the alien abduction puzzle? The mystery remains unsolved.

Since the early part of the 50s, the Men in Black — the expression is plural as they are generally reported in groups of three — have been a

persistent part of UFO lore, according to Redfern.

Typically, the book states, those who attract the MIB are either UFO researchers who have perhaps uncovered details of something a little too sensitive for their own good, or witnesses to UFO phenomena.

More often than not the person is visited at their home and ordered not to discuss their experiences with outsiders.

UFO researcher William Moore is convinced that at least some of the MIB are really government people in disguise and originated from "an oddball unit" of Air Force Intelligence.

Redfern, in his book, does not offer an explanation as to who the genuine Men in Black are. But he does go on to provide document after document proving that the FBI have indeed been monitoring UFO activity since they first came to light in the late 40s.

He managed to obtain the information following the passing of the United States' Freedom Act, when the FBI was obliged to make available to the general public thousands of official documents which had previously remained classified.

**R**EDFERN reveals a number of remarkable UFO encounters in which the FBI has been directly implicated — encounters involving military and civilian pilots, radar operators, police and security personnel and the public.

This demonstrable evidence leads him and many others to believe that, since the late 40s, the UFO intelligences have displayed a deep interest in monitoring both our development and use of atomic energy.

Redfern ends his book with the prophetic words of pioneering investigator Donald E Keyhoe, who said: "It is my earnest hope that there will prove to be no danger behind the UFO surveillance of our world. But as long as such a possibility remains, the facts should be frankly revealed."

"The public has a right to know — and to be prepared for whatever is to come."

• *The FBI Files* is published by Simon and Schuster, price £16.99.

# UFO buffs, crop-circle theorists head for small town in Alberta

The mayor of St. Paul believes that a conference this weekend dedicated to aliens will draw lots of earthly visitors.

CANADIAN PRESS

ST. PAUL, Alta. — The truth is out there and John Treflenko hopes UFO buffs, crop-circle theorists and cattle mutilation investigators will flock to it in St. Paul.

Treflenko, mayor of the small town of 5,000, believes a conference this weekend dedicated to aliens will draw plenty of earthly visitors.

"We feel this annual conference, besides having a bit of a tourist-economic spinoff, will probably give us some answers as well," said Treflenko.

Stanton Friedman — a nuclear physicist who investigated the purported crash of a spaceship near Roswell, N.M., in 1947 — is the keynote speaker for the two-day conference starting tomorrow.

"I don't expect any UFO to show up for my lectures," Friedman said at a Wednesday news conference in Edmonton. "It would be great — that would be real news."

Friedman expects the conference will draw the curious rather than the kooky.

"I guess the kooks have their conferences, too, but I

have been to a lot of conferences in the last several years, partly because of Roswell, and what it is mostly is the healthy agnostics," said Friedman, an American who now lives in Fredericton.

"I'm not trying to reach the UFO buffs; that's preaching to the converted. I want to reach the world, the general public."

"You're never going to get 100 per cent of the people to agree with you. Five per cent of the American public doesn't believe we've been to the moon."

Other conference highlights include a controversial film of an alleged alien autopsy, a psychologist's session with an alien abduction victim and a local cattle mutilation investigator who is bringing his slide show.

"I'm quite positive it is not the coyotes and the wolves doing this," said Fern Betz, who sells purchased cattle in St. Paul and has investigated three recent deaths in the area.

"Some people think it is predators, others think it is satanic cults, but there are a few ranchers convinced it is aliens doing this."



ED KAISER/Edmonton Journal

**SPACESHIP PROBER:** Stanton Friedman (with his reflection) at news conference Wednesday in Edmonton.

St. Paul, about 200 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, already has an affection for extraterrestrials.

The town built a circular UFO landing pad as a centennial project in 1967 and made headlines in 1995 by starting a toll-free hotline (1-888-SEE-UFOS) to record sightings of alien craft. "It was started as a publicity stunt, we make no bones by that," conference organizer Paul Pelletier said of the hotline, which is bankrolled by an anonymous patron in Las Vegas.

"At the same time, we almost immediately started getting a tremendous amount

of calls, serious UFO reports, which kind of took us off-guard a little.

"We quickly adapted and realized very early in the game that we were providing a very necessary service. It was a safe place for people to call without fear of ridicule."

About 500 earthlings are expected this weekend. The town, Pelletier says, is ready to greet them — and believe them.

"The general public in St. Paul, as a whole, is very supportive of the UFO conference and really feel that this is something St. Paul was destined to do."

REPORTER, Wigan, England - April 2, 1998

# UFOs are out there — I know

I WAS quite intrigued by a letter to the CAB column in your newspaper last week.

A subscriber, asked the lady who replies to readers questions whom he should contact regarding the sighting of a UFO in this area recently, and she provided him with an address nationally.

Now most people are cynical about flying saucers and other unidentified flying objects but from the comprehensive research I've done over the years such sightings are not to be dismissed as nonsense. Absolutely not.

Such notaries as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin reported having encountered UFOs during their Apollo 2 landing on the moon in July 1969.

Thousands of other famous people have also added their viewings to the UFO news since the initial sightings in the mid-forties, just after the Second World War.

Numerous scientific professors have stated: "It is our conclusion spaceships DO exist, are very real and travel from one or more other solar systems." Cynics must take seriously such accounts from eminent sources.

I have read hundreds of books relevant to UFOs and I too am convinced that other forms of intelligence visit this planet.

Many planes have disappeared in pursuit of these craft never to be seen again, many airline pilots have been censored from revealing

their encounters with alien flying objects, and the RAF and USAF have withheld all information from the public.

Governments have done all they can to dispel such information regarding this craft, yet everyone is aware of the Bermuda Triangle phenomena and the Roswell incident in America.

In the mid-50s a spacecraft did crash in the desert area of an American town but like all other incidents it was hushed up for security reasons.

Anyone in any doubt about these events should read Timothy Good's book *Above Top Secret*. It will vindicate the millions of rendezvous with unearthly beings, occurring since the conclusion of the last World War.

Perhaps these other beings are preparing for a formal tryst when peace exists on this planet. I'm absolutely sure other species other than human beings do visit us on earth.

I'll describe a very strange occurrence I experienced in the early 1980s.

Whilst travelling to work on night shift at Triangle Valve with a workmate, we had to use the country lane from Ashton to Pemberton as the A49 was closed at that time.

As we passed the farm at the top of Billinge Road, near the two-mile stretch a large luminous object appeared over the farm, all the instruments on my car dashboard began to play havoc, the clock span through the numbers and the car

came to an abrupt stop.

The next thing my mate and I were aware of was putting our clock cards in the automatic clocking on machine at work, it was 10.20pm and we were over an hour late for work.

The last time I'd noticed the time was 8.40pm on the car clock.

We had no knowledge of where we'd been for the hour and half previously.

When we went to cook our meal on the works stove we were astounded that when we unwrapped our eggs, bacon and sausages to cook, the bacon was crispy, the eggs hard and the sausages done. Mystifying, but authentic.

Terence Blackledge  
Horne Grove  
Worsley Mesnes

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, Bradford,  
England - March 22, 1998

## UFO mystery is still not solved

SIR - With regard to Mr Wood's letter "Reason for lights", I feel compelled to reply further because his explanation of the lights observed over Bradford on February 2, as being possibly due to the ionisation of the air as a result of high speed meteoric dust, does not seem adequate to account for the observations made by many of your readers, for the following reasons:

1. The duration of the sightings would seem to be rather prolonged to be accounted for by an atmospheric plasma effect as the amounts of energy required to create such a long-lasting effect would be immense.

2. It would take a brave person to make an assumption about the nature of a phenomenon without having access to direct observational evidence.

The characteristics of what was observed on February 2 do not tally with the "nebulousity" which Mr Wood mentions, but even allowing for this it would seem highly improbable that two such objects produced in the manner he suggested would "float" about in formation with each other! Witnesses described two lights travelling in formation for periods of up to half an hour!

Russell J Kallett, International UFO Research Network, Springfield Avenue, Lidget Green.



# Ministry has those UFO reports taped

Andrew Buncombe on the official view of unexplained phenomena

IN ROOM 8245, deep in the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, sits a telephone answering machine containing messages from the mad, the misguided and, perhaps occasionally, the privileged.

The machine, in the office of the MoD Secretariat (Air Staff), is the one conduit where the public can pass on sightings of UFOs to the Government.

Even believers admit that the vast majority of UFOs reported turn out to be IFOs - identifiable flying objects. But for some people there remain sightings that cannot be explained by reference only to the terrestrial. In 1997 the machine took 250 calls. There have been 56 so far this year.

"We check the machine every hour," said an MoD spokesman. "It is easier to have the answer machine because otherwise we would find ourselves having all sorts of people who claim they have seen all sorts of things."

The position of the MoD is that it is only interested in UFOs if they constitute a threat to national safety, as the answering machine message makes clear.

But most of the reports are made hours, days or even weeks after the alleged sightings, by which time any threat would be long gone.

In any case, the MoD remains confident that any genuine threat would be picked up by its huge pyramid radar at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, which constantly monitors the skies.

UFO interest groups say the number of sightings reported to them is steadily rising. Between September 1996 and August 1997, the British UFO Research Association (Bufoa) received reports of 386 sightings.

Glenda Dixon, the association's director of investigations, said that up to 95 per cent of sightings could be explained. She said that most sightings were actually ordinary aircraft, laser lights, or even bright planets viewed through binoculars. Satellites, weather balloons, birds,

kites and reflections also accounted for some false alarms. Bufoa also believes that many sightings are of test flights of new, secret, military aircraft.

The number of reports of "close encounter experiences" is also increasing, Mrs Dixon said. "The close encounter experience is a problem, as although it is interpreted as being like a UFO encounter this may not be the case. These extraordinary events could be linked to other anomalies such as paranormal events which may or may not include encounters with UFOs and aliens."

One reason for the increase in reports is the huge amount of coverage that UFO and associated matters now receive in the media and on television programmes such as *The X Files*. The opening programme of a new BBC television series of *Everyman* on 24 May will include the testimonies of people who claim to have been abducted.

Malcolm Robinson of Strange Phenomenon Investigations, which has offices in London and Scotland, said: "People are becoming more prepared to report their sightings."

He agreed that around 95 per cent of all reported sightings can be explained. It is the remaining five per cent that interest him.

"I got into all of this in an effort to disprove it," he said, "but you realise that, once you have swept away all of the debris, there is a hard core of cases which cannot be simply explained."

He recalls the case of two men from Edinburgh who claimed to have been abducted by aliens as they drove home one evening. "They had no interest in UFOs at all," he said. "I spoke to them at length. They are genuine people. They believe they had a close encounter and I believe them as well."

Anyone else believing they have had a close encounter, or wishing to report a sighting, can leave a message with the MoD on 0171-218 2140.

DAILY STAR, London, England - April 15, 1998

## NO POWER SAUCE

FOUR flying saucers are being blamed for massive power cuts in Bariloche, Argentina. Witness Marie Sanchez, 44, said: "I saw a large ship and three smaller ones." Power chiefs are baffled.

POST, Stafford, England - April 9, 1998

# UFOs seen over town

A new wave of UFO sightings have been reported by Stafford residents.

by Jenny Amphlett

It was silent and travelling in a westerly direction at a very low height.

Graham Allen from Staffordshire UFO Group contacted the Air Intelligence Service and was told that although aircraft were known to be in the areas at the time it was not aware of any unidentified traffic.

Mr Allen said: "These reports are similar and consistent with other reports that I have received."

Anyone wanting to report sightings should contact Graham Allen on (01889) 585149.

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England

April 15, 1998

## Mystery craft over ancient landmark

A HUGE triangular craft has been spotted over an ancient fort on the edge of Dorchester.

Five people, including a vicar and a medical practitioner, said they saw the mysterious object hovering for 15 minutes over Maiden Castle.

West Dorset UFO expert David Kingston is appealing for more witnesses to the latest UFO sighting to come forward.

The ex-RAF serviceman and UFO researcher from Martinstown has been busy taking calls after reports of bright lights and an unidentified object hovering above the Iron Age hill fort.

Mr Kingston, said: "It all started with an e-mail I received from a friend who said he saw a strange object with bright lights in the sky. Thereafter I had four other people contact me to describe something similar."

"The craft started off in a triangle shape and then merged into a sphere before shooting off into the distance."

The last UFO sighting of a similar description was reported back in October when a string of bright lights were seen hovering above Portland and then travelled towards Maiden Castle before shooting off into the distance.

"When I heard about the latest sightings I thought maybe these people had seen what is known as earthlights. These are natural lights which occur in areas with high amounts of quartz in the ground. Maiden Castle is mostly chalk and flint, so these sightings suggest it was a UFO they saw."

Mr Kingston is interested in other witnesses to the sighting, which took place towards the end of last month, to contact him on 01305-889108.

Did you see UFO above town?

OBSERVER readers are being urged to remain calm after a mysterious UFO was spotted in the night sky above Mansfield.

The alien space craft was seen hovering above the town for more than 10 minutes.

It all happened around 11.50pm on Wednesday 3rd March.

It was described as triangular-shaped with many lights.

After remaining motionless, the spaceship shot off across the sky in a south-easterly direction - possibly heading towards Rainworth.

The British UFO Association is now appealing for anyone who may have seen the ship to contact them immediately.

The contact is Dominic Belgin on 01298 812036.

It is still unclear why Mansfield was being targeted by the alien spacecraft, but residents are being told not to panic.

MANSFIELD & SUTTON OBSERVER, England - March 12, 1998

# The creatures were green with glowing eyes, and were hovering above the ground

Judith Jaafar is Britain's answer to The X Files' Dana Scully. She's one of 30 accredited investigators of the British UFO Research Association, or BUFORA. Judith, 41, is also the co-ordinator of BUFORA's witness support group for people who have had close encounters with UFOs or paranormal phenomena. She lives in Ealing, West London with her three children Karim, 13, Rasha, 18, and Jenan, 21. JANE SIMON hears about her work.

I have a photo in my study from the very first case I investigated. A man was walking in the Quantock Hills in Somerset when a large UFO came in so low he had to lie on the ground to avoid being hit by it.

He took photos of the underside as it passed overhead. It looks like a huge ring of concentric lights going up in tiers like a wedding cake, but it's rather blurred because he said as he was taking the photo the camera was melting and his hands were burning. Afterwards, he became violently ill, he couldn't eat or drink, and by the time we got to him he was dying.

I used to think I'd love to have a close encounter. I was always looking for UFOs, but the older and wiser I get the more wary I am. A lot of people find these experiences extremely unpleasant and some of them are terrifying. If some strange craft landed on my back lawn now, I'd have to go with them out of sheer scientific curiosity but I'd have reservations about it, whereas before I'd have jumped at the chance.

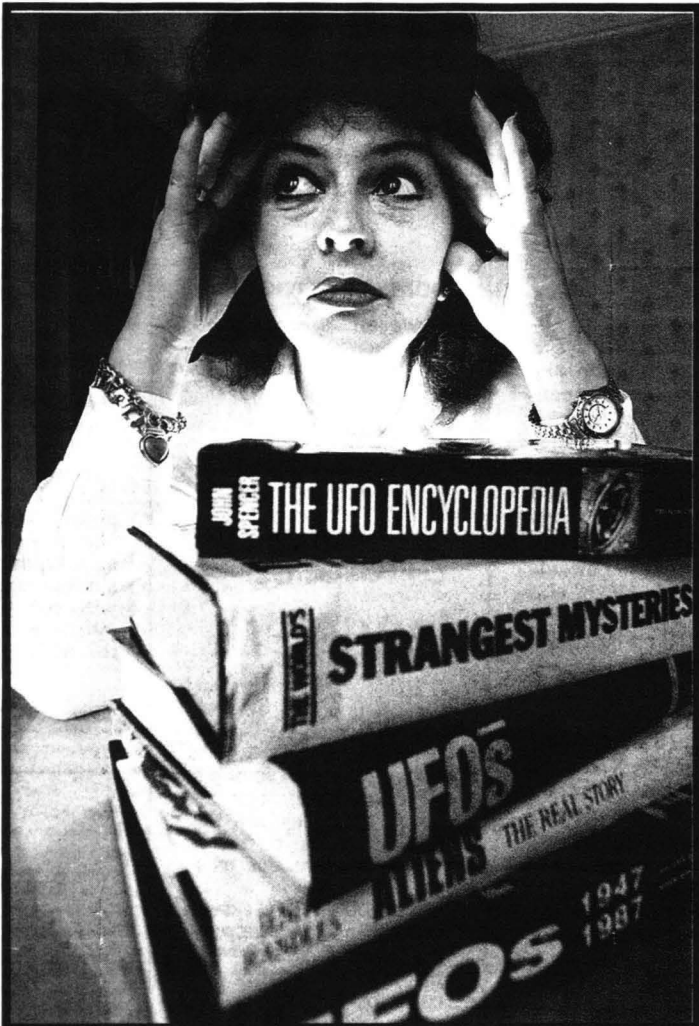
For this man, the UFO sighting was just the tip of the iceberg. Throughout his life he'd had unexplained experiences - missing periods of time, psycho-kinetic ability - but the most bizarre were the creatures he saw early one morning. They were fluorescent green with large, saucer-shaped red, glowing eyes, pointed ears like a goblin, little spindly bodies and long arms. They were hovering above the ground then dropped on all fours and ran off faster than any animal he'd ever seen.

Some researchers would think a case like that is too bizarre and drop it but his description exactly matched a little-known case I'd read about from America in the '50s, that this man could not possibly have heard about.

People think The X Files is just fantasy but practically every episode is based on a reported case of paranormal phenomena. My work is like the real-life X Files, but I'd love to have the money and the backing that Dana Scully has - the plane fares and the hire cars. My job is entirely voluntary. None of us gets paid and keeping BUFORA afloat isn't easy.

I get up just before eight, and after I've made breakfast for the children I have endless cups of coffee while I read the newspapers, then switch on my computer and download all my E-mails.

I've just been sent details of a potentially interesting case from Devon where the whole family have been



UFOLOGIST JUDITH: "I used to think I'd love to have a close encounter, but the older and wiser I get the more wary I am." Picture: MIKE MOORE

## MY DIARY BY UFO INVESTIGATOR JUDITH JAAFAR

- affected by paranormal activity for several years. They thought it was a haunting but now they think it's aliens. That's the trend at the moment - anything abnormal must be the work of aliens or ETs.
- BUFORA investigates 400 cases a year. People assume that being a UFO organisation we'll just accept these things at face value, but all of us apply sound scientific principles to our investigations,

- although sometimes that's not easy because the phenomena are so elusive.
- We're always on the lookout for frauds or hoaxes, and 95 per cent of UFO sightings are just military or civilian aircraft, laser light show, Venus, bolide meteors or some other natural phenomenon. We have to know astronomy, climatology, meteorology, aircraft technology, flight-paths and so on.

The other five per cent is the interesting stuff you can really get your teeth into.

The witness support group meets every two months and we have 30 regular members. Their experiences aren't necessarily UFO-related.

Alien abduction is a buzz-word at the moment but we don't like to use that term. Everybody has preconceived ideas about what an abduction is - grey aliens with black eyes dragging people up beams of light to a spacecraft to do horrendous medical experiments on them. But a lot of these abductions are only remembered after regression hypnosis, which is extremely dodgy. Hypnosis has already been discredited for producing false memories in child sex abuse cases.

During the afternoon, I'll make phone calls and I keep in touch with all the members of the group. One woman has become a spiritual healer following her experience. Other people have developed artistic or mathematical abilities. The close encounter experience seems to awaken some dormant powers, like switching on a part of the brain. Whether this has anything to do with extra-terrestrials seems very unlikely - but one day I may have to eat my words.

I believe we're dealing with some kind of non-human intelligence that's been with us since time began and manifests itself in different ways. Fairies, ghosts, demons, angels, elemental spirits, gods from ancient mythology are all different facets of the one phenomenon.

I grew up in Glasgow and, thanks to my Celtic upbringing, ghosts, fairies, apparitions and visions of the Virgin Mary were all part of life. At university I studied archaeology and ancient history, and time and again I kept reading about the contact which different civilisations had with non-human intelligence.

I spent years devouring every text I could find on the paranormal and UFOlogy. When the children got a bit older, I decided to get actively involved and joined BUFORA in 1990. My ex-husband thought I was nuts, which is a common viewpoint, but most people I meet are fascinated by it. They might go away and say, "She's a bit strange", but if I've made them think, then I've succeeded in some way.

I do my best work at night. My brain kicks into gear after 8pm and I'll often work in my study until 2am. Sometimes I'll write reports all through the night and go to bed the next day after the children have gone out.

The main thing that keeps me going is the pursuit of truth, but I'll probably never find it. Maybe we're not supposed to know the truth about this yet. It's a field with thousands of questions, hardly any answers, and few people take it seriously. Maybe I'm more like Fox Mulder than Dana Scully in that respect. I'm always looking for that one elusive piece of evidence that will finally convince everybody that this is real.

MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER, Berks., England - June 12, 1998

# THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

IN REPLY to your article about a 'column of light' seen by Alex Goodlet and reported in the 29th May edition.

I am a UFO researcher and have an extensive database recording sightings from all over the world. However, my main interest lies in sightings in this country. I also research crop circles and paranormal events. I am not an 'investigator' and I do not usually interview witnesses, I just collate the information.

A Canadian friend who was visiting her parents in the Maidenhead area last year, reported strange helicopter activity near her house. This was after she had sighted and filmed coloured lights nearby. She also reported sighting similar lights in the vicinity of the 'helicopter'.

Also, last year there was a sighting near Lane End, again with these globes or balls of lights. I also had a strange encounter when on a skywatch at Winter Hill, and there were three other witnesses with me at the time. So, there would appear to be some kind of aerial activity in the

Maidenhead area. To get back to the report of the May 29 issue. The first thing that springs to mind was that Mr Goodlet was witnessing a laser light display, however, the time of day (7pm on an April evening) would appear to rule out this explanation. As Mr Goodlet states, it cannot have been the sun as this behind him at the time.

Some kind of ground light cannot be ruled out at this stage and it would be interesting to see what the Photographs show.

A close study of a map would also reveal if there was any likely source of a ground light, i.e. whether it came from the direction of the town or from the countryside.

The distance the beam was from Mr Goodlet is also crucial, as aircraft lights seen through clouds can create strange illusions. The refractive quality of rain clouds has been known to display very curious visual effects...nothing can be ruled out at this juncture.

There are many questions that need to be asked before possible answers can be found. Until a sat-

isfactory answer is found then this must be labelled as a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object). Once it is known what caused this effect, it becomes an IFO (Identified Flying Object).

Without further evidence or information, I'd not like to hazard as guess at what it was Mr Goodlet witnessed, yet it seems he witnessed an aerial phenomenon that would benefit from closer scrutiny.

If he cares to send me a copy of the photos, or scanned images, I will have them examined for him before returning them. If any of your readers have similar accounts, I would be interested to hear from them.

Many people see things they cannot explain and don't know how to contact with details...usually because they fear being ridiculed. I treat all my contacts with the strictest confidence.

STEVE JONES  
High Fields,  
Ascot.

<stevjon@vsnnet.co.uk>

**CITY OF SPARKS:** So much for all that excitement over a meteor seen passing over Cypress Bowl the other night. In Surrey, they were going: "Big deal!"

According to the UFO\*BC website, extra-terrestrial sightings are so common between Scott Road and King George Highway that the area has become known as the Surrey Corridor.

Website organizers say they're alarmed by the high number of recent sightings of triangular UFOs. The latest was on March 18.

A woman was visiting her boyfriend near the Pattullo Bridge. "He was half asleep and I was eagerly awaiting the beginning of Primetime," she reports. "My eye caught a bright light out the window which faces the bridge looking towards the Coquitlam area. It was three round bright white lights in the shape of a triangle with bluish rims around each. They were in a Stealth bomber shape... It paused for only a second and then shot off to the west and down, leaving a stream of bright light."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
March 25, 1998 CR: G. Conway





**Bob Sallee** Backward Glances

## The White River Monster lives on in legend

**J**immy Driftwood, who died the other day at 91, never doubted the story. The famed songwriter, founder of the Ozark Folk Center at Mountain View and expert on the folk history of North Arkansas, had heard his Uncle Levy and Uncle Theodore tell the tale many times.

Driftwood held his own theories about the legendary tale. Maybe he shared them with a prominent Newport man, whose identity has never been revealed. Call the mystery man Mr. A (for anonymous).

Mr. A was standing on the bank of the White River just south of Mountain View on June 17, 1971, watching the cool current drift by, when a huge column of water spouted skyward about 150 feet off shore. Churning violently, the foamy water roiled high into the air.

Dumbfounded and fascinated, Mr. A watched a gigantic creature resembling a prehistoric monster roll up and over and thrash about in the water. Its smooth gray skin seemed to be peeling all over.

Only part of the creature had broken the surface of the water, but Mr. A said the part he saw looked "as big as a railroad boxcar, very, very long" — as long as four pickup trucks, he estimated — "and maybe 6 feet across."

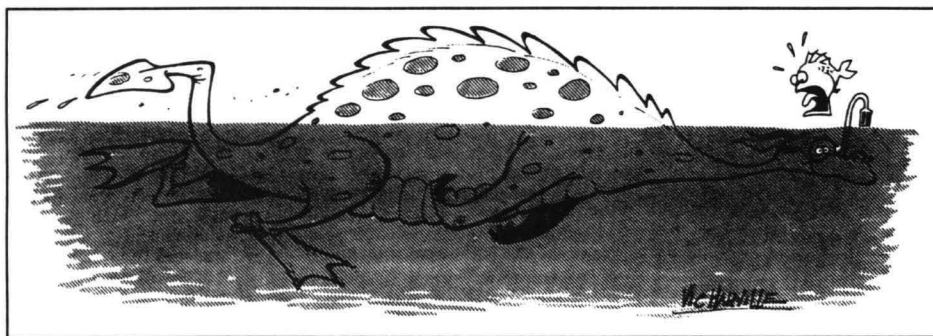
"I was so scared," the terrified man recounted. "When I saw that thing rise up out of the river, I didn't see his head, but I didn't have to. His body was enough to scare me bad."

The man told his story to the editor of the *Newport Daily Independent* after insisting that his name be kept confidential.

Mr. A's sighting of the so-called White River Monster was the first of many reported that summer, and the first since a cluster of reported sightings in 1937. Spates of similar sightings had been recorded in the 1800s, complete with eyewitness descriptions on sworn affidavits.

### SIMILAR SCARE

Ernest Denks, a commercial



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/VIC HARVILLE

fisherman, had a similar scare before Mr. A's. But he didn't tell anyone until after Mr. A's account was published.

While Denks was boating along the White River south of Newport one day, he saw the creature surface. "It looked like it came from the ocean," he said. "It was gray, real long, and had a long, pointy bone protruding from its forehead." He drew a picture and said the creature was "the darndest looking animal I've ever seen."

"I don't want anyone to think I'm a drinker," he added. "No, sir, I'm a God-fearing man and haven't touched liquor for 30 years."

Denks named the creature "The Eater" because "it looked as if it could eat anything, anywhere, any time."

He was lucky. "When I saw that thing, I didn't hang around. I just got the heck out of there," he said. "When I started to move away, it moved away in the opposite direction."

A couple of weeks later, three fishermen from Newport had a similar encounter, and one of them had the fortitude to snap a picture of the creature. That was June 29, 1971.

Cloyce Warren and a couple of fishing pals were watching their lines when a giant column of water erupted only 20 feet from their boat. "I didn't know what was happening," Warren said. "This giant form rose to the surface and began

moving in the middle of the river away from the boat. It was very long and gray-colored."

The creature was on the surface of the water for only a few seconds, Warren said. "We had taken a little Polaroid Swinger camera with us to take pictures of the fish we caught. I grabbed the camera and managed to snap a picture right before it submerged. It appeared to have a spiny backbone that stretched for 30 or more feet. It was hard to make out exactly what the front portion looked like, but it was awful large."

### THE ONLY PHOTO

Warren's picture — the only known photograph — was bought by the Newport newspaper. It later was printed in the *Arkansas Democrat* and the *Arkansas Gazette* along with Warren's interview.

Warren said the creature looked prehistoric and made no noise except for the violent splashing that stirred up bubbles and foam around its front portion. The picture also shows the water churning around what appears to be the creature's tail.

"I've never seen anything like what I saw yesterday," Warren recounted with a grimace, "I don't mind telling you I was scared to death."

In late July 1971, 66-year-old Ollie Ritcherson took 13-year-old Joey Dupree on a fishing and monster-hunting trip along the White

River, with no real expectation of anything unusual.

They had put in below Bateman Bend, where the monster had been reported by more than 100 people in 1937. Ritcherson decided to motor upstream toward Tow Head Island, where tracks believed to be the beast's had been found. The imprints had measured 17 inches long, 10 inches across and 4 inches deep. Ralph Henderson, the Jackson County sheriff, had made plaster casts of the prints. Neill Ward, a city policeman, had seen the tracks several years earlier.

Ritcherson and young Joey headed upstream against the current at half throttle and were keeping the boat close to shore when something suddenly came up under the boat and lifted it completely out of the water. The boat crashed back into the water and turned sideways, but the creature never surfaced.

"It wasn't a log or a floating obstruction," Ritcherson insisted, "but something very large and alive."

Four years earlier, Ritcherson recalled, a young man had motored up the river to near that same place with a group of other young men in another boat. He had headed toward Tow Head Island alone, but 20 minutes later, his boat had raced back down the river at full throttle and beached itself. "They never did find that

young man, and no one knows what happened up the river that day," said Ritcherson.

### CIVIL WAR LEGEND

As Jimmy Driftwood recalled, sightings of the White River Monster go way back. According to an Ozarks legend, a Civil War riverboat carrying gold was pursued and sunk by a river monster. "People used to hunt for the thing near Oil Trough," Driftwood noted.

Was the monster a manatee, the species of underwater mammal protected by the state of Florida? Driftwood said that manatees were known "to come upriver into this part of the country." He said the monster may have been a giant eel that returned in 40-year cycles to lay its eggs.

Whatever the monster was — or is — John Opitz, executive director of the Ozarks Regional Commission at the time, asked Rep. Wilbur D. Mills to enlist congressional support for a federal grant to search for and identify the monster. The Smithsonian Institution's Center for Short-Lived Phenomena set aside \$160,000 each year for the study of sudden and freak happenings, but there's no record that the grant was ever made. The monster's purported age may have disqualified the commission's application. There's nothing short-lived about this phenomenon, Opitz said.

But news of the White River Monster caught the attention of the CBS television network. A four-man crew from the network's Atlanta bureau filmed a special report from Newport that was aired on Walter Cronkite's evening news show.

If the creature is still alive, no one has seen it in 27 years — unless they've kept the sightings to themselves.

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

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WORLD SPECTATOR, Moosomin, Sask., Canada - June 8, 1998 CR: G. Conway

## Logical explanation for animal 'mutilations'

By Ed White (WPNS)

A mystery lay in Rick Alsager's elk pen.

A strong, healthy six-year-old bull elk was dead on the ground beside Alsager's house on his Maidstone, Sask., area farm.

There was no blood around the animal. It seemed physically perfect. Except its testicles and penis had been cleanly removed.

There were no other marks on the animal. And this, itself, was disturbing.

"It was done so neatly," said Alsager. "I can't imagine how I would have done it using the tools I have."

Alsager doesn't think predators could have eaten the genitals, because the cuts seem precise and there is no apparent cause of death. And he said the body is completely drained of blood.

He doesn't believe satanic cultists or other demented humans could have done it either, because many animal mutilations are reported every

year and no people are caught at it.

Alsager hauled the carcass to the bush so the coyotes could eat it, but the coyotes and scavenger birds have refused to touch it, and the body has been left for a week.

There's only one explanation: "Martians, maybe," he joked.

But others don't joke about the extraterrestrial connection. Some internet sites attribute livestock mutilations to UFOs that haunt Earth. Other sites suggest government agents from "black helicopters" might be connected.

Some veterinarians and RCMP officers have suggested human satanists may be mutilating cattle for their unspeakable demonic rituals.

### Plausible explanation

But other vets, including some at the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, have more mundane answers.

"They're basically scavenged,"

said Medicine Hat vet Marvin Genno. "You can prove it if they're properly examined."

Genno said he has never seen a case he would attribute to satanists, though he doesn't doubt that cultists have victimized cattle occasionally.

But generally he believes the animals die suddenly from internal causes, then bloat and are eaten by carrion beasts.

The reason the genitals are gone is that they are the softest tissues on the body's surface and would be "tasty morsels."

Often with female animals the internal pressure will push the vulva and uterus out, so it will appear the internal organs have been removed without cutting into the body.

The cuts are clean because of the bloating, which swells out the genitals, the tongue and the anus. If tugged, the organ flesh will tear away cleanly from the surrounding hide, vets say.

Genno said farmers may find it hard to believe that skin tears

away so neatly, and some vets may not fully accept it, but he has been examining animals when it actually occurs.

"I've seen them split," he said.

Many mutilation reports mention that no blood is found around the animals. For Genno, that's a dead giveaway that the animal was dead before the genitals were removed. If it was killed by the genital cut, there would be blood.

Genno said blood quickly clots in the body, so it can appear the animal has been drained.

He worries that farmers chalk up these deaths to unexplained causes and don't do anything about them.

But a sudden death in a young animal can point out a serious illness or disease, even anthrax. Farmers should have a vet examine sudden deaths to find the causes, he said.



**DAVE JEWETT**  
Ink

### Bigfoot strikes again

A new book for young readers manages to pull in all sorts of Northwest legends and exciting events.

Included are Bigfoot, the mythical woods creature, the danger of the Mount St. Helens volcano and even a tie-in concerning D.B. Cooper, the airliner hijacker who bailed out with extorted money and has never been tracked down.

The book is "Sasquatch" by Roland Smith, a fun adventure story to stretch out under a tree with and enjoy on a hot summer day.

*DAVE JEWETT's column appears here on Monday, Thursday and Friday. If you have an item of interest, call him at The Columbian, 699-6006, or drop him a line. You may also send e-mail to [dave.jewett@columbian.com](mailto:dave.jewett@columbian.com).*

## Australians puzzle over giant drawing

The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Police are investigating the origins of a massive drawing of what appears to be an Aboriginal hunter etched into a remote patch of desert in out-back Australia.

No one so far has claimed responsibility for the 2.5 mile-long figure carved into the dust near Finnis Springs in northern South Australia state.

Residents from the nearby township of Marree believe the figure was created using a plow, possibly drawn by a tractor, although there are no signs of a tractor's wheel marks.

From the air, the outline resembles an Aboriginal man holding a spear. The Australian newspaper reported Wednesday that it is five times the size of the largest human drawing at Nazca, Peru, where pictures of a monkey, lizard, a spider and other animals are believed to have been drawn by the Nazca Indians sometime in the years 300-600.

Local resident Ray Goss told the newspaper he and a group of friends found the ground etching after anonymous directions were faxed to the Marree hotel last week.

The state Aboriginal Affairs Department said Wednesday it had sent officials to investigate.

Policeman Paul Liersch said the drawing may be an attempt to create a tourist attraction, and ruled out speculation about any extraterrestrial involvement.

"I found toilet paper out there so, if it has been done from space, they're fairly much like us," Liersch said.

URBAN TULSA WEEKLY, Tulsa, OK - Oct. 16/22, 1997 CR: D. Farris

### PROFILE

## X-Files Oklahoma

### To Get A Good Scare, There's No Place Like Home

BY JESSICA NEAL

**I**t was a dark and stormy night . . . Which must mean it's time for those bone-chilling stories that make you hide your head under the covers. For this All Hallow's Eve, why not take a glimpse into some of the bizarre true tales offered up by David A. Farris in his book *Mysterious Oklahoma: Eerie True Tales from the Sooner State*.

Farris has collected a swarm of somewhat scary tales to challenge the thoughts of even a hard-core skeptic.

Some of our favorites were those tales of spirits from the nether world haunting some of our historical treasures here in Tulsa.

Farris' ghostbusting investigations have led him to stories about the Gilcrease Museum and the Brady Theater.

Claim is the Gilcrease Museum is haunted by the ghost of the late philanthropist Thomas Gilcrease.

During an interview on the steps of Gilcrease's former home that now serves as the Tulsa Historical Society, Farris replays a lively tale he heard during the research of his book.

The story goes . . . there was a prowler in the building late one night. The police were called in to capture the crook, and along with them went a trusty canine cop to sniff the culprit out. But before this trained killer could get onto the trail, the poor pooch was struck by fear.

"He went up the first few steps, to where people have said they've seen the ghost," Farris says. "Then he just froze, cowered down, and wouldn't move."

Evidence of a ghost? Maybe. But we were looking for something a bit more solid.

Ken Busby, assistant to the director at the Philbrook, gave the confirmation.

"Yes, it's true," he says. "But haunted is not the right word. We're visited by his spirit."

Most of the sightings of the Gilcrease ghost happen at his former residence in the Tulsa Historical Society, but Busby says the infrequent incidents aren't scary. The ghost has been seen by a handful of employees. But he simply tips his hat and is on his way.

"I hate to put words in his mouth, but it's almost as if he's saying he's pleased with the way things are going (at the museum)," Busby says.



David Farris, author of *Mysterious Oklahoma: Eerie True Tales from the Sooner State*.

A confirmed tale, but hardly one to leave you cowering late into the night.

The story reported about the Brady is a bit more, well, theatrical.

According to Farris' account, the theater is haunted by the ghost of famed virtuoso Enrico Caruso. The tenor insisted on going for a ride to see the Oklahoma countryside and oil wells in an open-air buggy. He caught a cold, but still went on that night. Eventually, Caruso's illness turned to pneumonia then pleurisy. As a result of the illness was the tenor died. Since the Brady was one of the last places he played, it is rumored he haunts it.

We couldn't find any specific stories about Caruso and the Brady, but there are a few other strange incidents that have happened at the theater.

There are tales of strange cold spots. A few stories of mediums picking up vibrations in the building. One of the weirdest is the account of a seance played over the airwaves of a radio station. During the seance, the station called the theater to say the

orchestra was making too much noise and to have them stop, only to be told there was no orchestra and no music being played.

There are other tales of ghostly encounters in Oklahoma locales, but Farris' favorite stories that give him a scare have nothing to do with the dead, but rather the possibility of other life forms.

"Some of my favorite stories are about the land creatures and the creatures that no one can describe," he says. "I'm a camper and a hunter, and the idea of this type of encounter is so bizarre it's fascinating and very exciting."

Strange animals? In Oklahoma? What's out there?

Some of the stories, Farris relates come straight from the headlines of Oklahoma newspapers.

Some of those close to home involve the sighting of an African lion on the Will Rogers Turnpike in 1961 and the existence of a pride of creatures called Dog Creek Panthers in nearby Rogers County.

Although the strange animal stories are his favorite, for a scare, Farris considers the alien stories the most frightening.

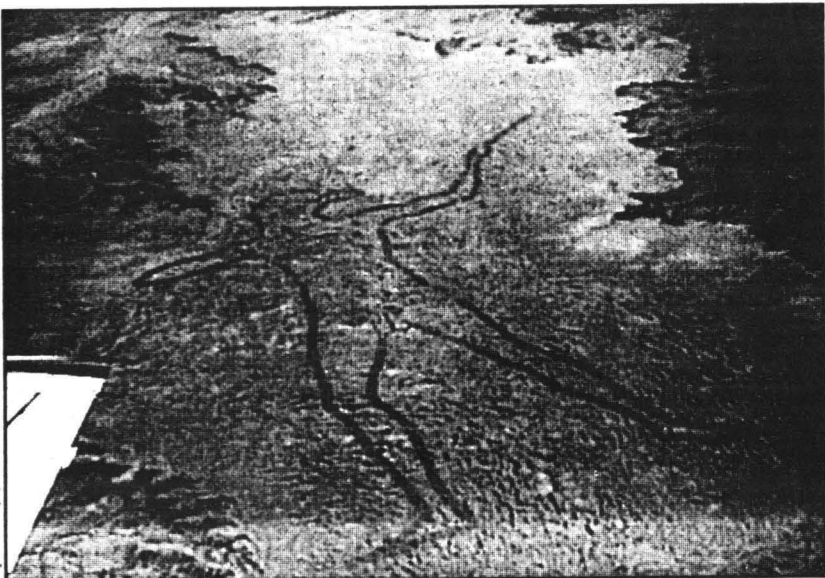
"The scariest stories are the alien abduction ones," he says. "They're the scariest because as unusual and impossible sounding as it is, there is some very good research that says at the very least, these people are suffering through something that's real. At the very least, we are dealing with a genuine mystery."

Farris has been overwhelmed with the success of the book and the interest it has sparked — it's already in its third printing. Whenever the author goes to book signings or makes appearances, he's inundated with true-life tales from Oklahomans all over the state.

"There is going to have to be a second edition of the book," Farris says. "A second book has got to come out because there is so much more information."

Farris has other projects on his list of to-dos that he would like to write about also. He currently is working on a fictional western that is set in Oklahoma. His research for this book has inspired him to try his hand at a non-fictional book about Oklahoman outlaws.

Farris will be on hand to sign copies of his book and talk to Tulsans about their strange tales from 7-8pm Oct. 29 at Borders Books and Music, 2740 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St.



Associated Press

**A 2.5-mile-long** outline of an Aboriginal man has mysteriously appeared in the desert near Finnis Springs in northern South Australia state. No one has claimed responsibility for the drawing.



# Looking for UFO's and anomalies? Welcome to the most "Mysterious Valley"

by Christopher O'Brien

Without question the San Luis Valley has amassed an impressive history of documented unexplained phenomenal events. Perhaps no other region in North America has the variety and intensity of reported explained occurrences that range from Native American myths and legends, UFO sightings, strange fantastical creatures, unusual livestock deaths, to secret military flight activity. Granted, many of these reports have mundane explanations, but not all. Something strange and wonderful is still occurring here in the world's largest alpine valley.

Since the late 1960s, paranormal investigators have journeyed here in an attempt to uncover the many secrets contained in this remote locale, 7600 feet above sea level; but these paradoxes endure and continue to baffle visitors and residents alike. Like quicksilver, these fleeting anomalies ebb and flow through the San Luis Valley with no discernable pattern and most often prove extremely difficult, if not impossible, to predict.

If you've arrived hoping to witness one of our many celebrated mysterious events, you're probably wondering "where should I go to see something?" Rest assured there are ways to greatly increase your chances of experiencing one of our many anomalies.

The San Luis Valley map that follows will give the casual visitor an idea where most of our activity has been reported in the 1990s. There are several points to remember: Our activity seems to occur most frequently during the middle of the week. In descending order: Wednesday, Tuesday, Thursday, Monday, Friday, Sunday and Saturday nights, between 9:30 p.m., and 11:30 p.m., are your most likely times to witness a UFO. A very general rule of thumb is, if the object comes in low from the east; from over the Sangres de Cristo Mountains and the La Veta Military (Low Level Flight) Operations Area, chances are it is a military craft. If it arrives from the north, west or south, it may be something worth watching closely.

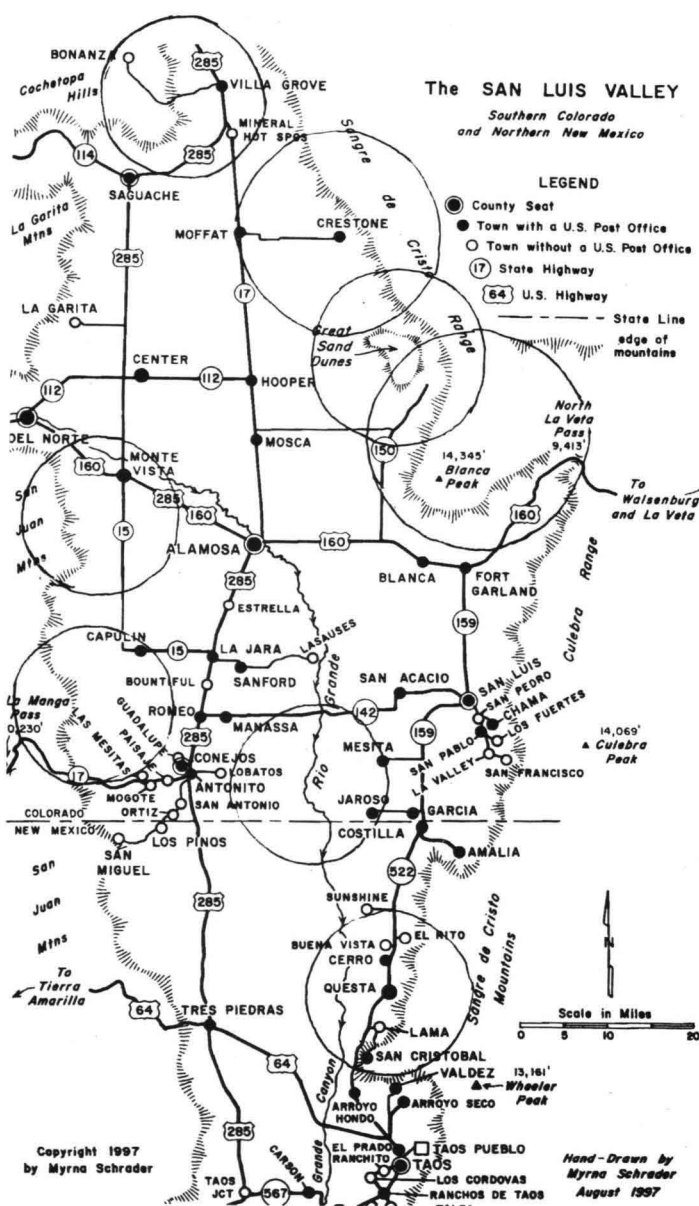
A word of advice: few night skies can rival the glorious display of stars and galaxies as seen here and the visitor should remember the night sky, a mile and a half above sea level, can be deceiving. Planets can appear larger than normal; especially near the horizon, and some shooting stars seem

close enough to touch. Temperature inversions can make mundane ground lights dance up into the sky, or leap across the ground toward the observer.

The most oft reported anomalous lights are small red silent orbs that travel fairly close to the ground, and fireballs that streak across our sky. These fireballs range from small whitish-blue orbs, to mid-sized orange ones, to very large green colored glittering balls of light. These fireballs have been reported here for hundreds of years and have been the focus of much myth and mystery.

If you plan to skywatch at night, remember to dress warm, for our nights can be very cold. Ideally you should have binoculars or a spotting scope, a camera, or video camera and a star chart. Report any witnessed unexplained events to me Christopher O'Brien at (719) 256-4128. Good luck and good hunting!

(In 1989, Christopher O'Brien moved to the San Luis Valley, in South-central Colorado and began a private investigation of unusual documented events in the SLV which resulted in his first book for St. Martin's Press titled, *The Mysterious Valley*. (Sept 1996), now in its third printing. His second book, *Enter the Valley*, continues his compelling investigation into the documented UFO reports, unusual animal deaths, Native American legends, cryptozoology, secret military activity and the folklore in the world's largest alpine valley. Christopher is Chief Investigator for Skywatch International and Chief Investigator and board member with Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS). Myrna Schrader's hand-drawn maps are available. Contact her at P.O. Box 1138, Westcliffe, CO 81252.)



Circles indicate areas of high UFO sighting activity

THIS WEEK, Kamloops, B.C., Canada - March 15, 1998 CR: G. Conway

## Cat killings begin again

by DALE STEEVES  
This Week Staff

Another rash of cat killings could be threatening Kamloops pets. Two feline carcasses have been found in the past two weeks.

City bylaw service supervisor Bruce MacIver is warning cat owners to not allow their pets to roam after two brutal killings.

"Keep the cats inside, especially right now. It started last year at this time and it looks like it's starting up again."

On Feb. 27, the back half of a cat was found near Schubert Drive on the North Shore. The front half of the cat has not been found. "It's

quite similar to those of last year," says MacIver.

On March 4, a cat was found wrapped in a blanket and burned to death in the same area.

"We don't know if the cat

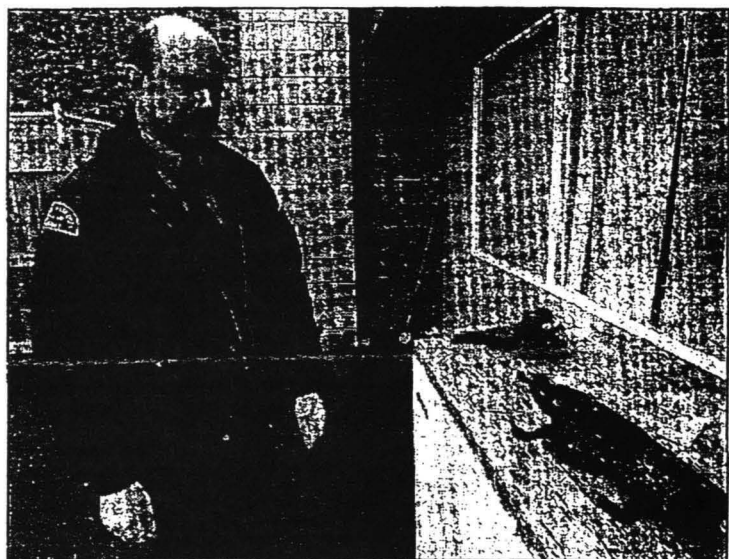
was dead or alive when it happened."

In 1997, 17 cats and one dog were found slain in the Kamloops area.

Kamloops RCMP were unable to locate any suspects.

MacIver says the killings started in April last year and fears there may be more.

"We've had a few people call and ask if we picked up their cat and if it's been mutilated."



City bylaw service supervisor Bruce MacIver examines the two latest victims of the North Shore cat killings.

Joan Payton/CTV

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK

July 19, 1998 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

## FISH MYSTERY

Chinese scientists are baffled by the discovery of a fish swimming happily in a remote pit located where aquatic life was believed not to be able to survive.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that Chen Yiyu, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, discovered the fish in a water pit near the Number 4 Tazhong Oil Field in the remote Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Workers had carved out the pit with bulldozers during a highway construction project, and ground water eventually filled the hole. The black, fresh-water fish has adapted to the slightly saline water in the pit. Chen has ruled out the possibility that the fish was brought to the desert by people working there. It is being taken to Beijing for further examination.

Earthweek, a roundup of natural occurrences, is compiled by Steve Newman and distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

# More monster tales: 'We know what we saw'

"**C**all Mary at ..." said the voice on the answering machine. "I want to tell you what the monster looks like." She had read eyewitness accounts of the so-called White River monster in Backward Glances a couple of weeks back, and the tone of her voice got her an immediate response.

Getting straight to the point, Mary Jo Skinner of Jacksonville said she had seen the creature up close — in the glare of a boat's spotlight — and eagerly recounted the details. But the creature she described was different than the one other witnesses had seen.

Wasting no time on idle chitchat, she admitted: "We were all scared to death."

In 1966, Skinner and two of her cousins — Vernon Tucker and his sister, Dorothy Day — had camped on the bank of a White River lake. Just after dark, she recalled, the three of them set out in Tucker's boat to run a trotline he had strung earlier. Tucker used a spotlight to guide them through the dark water.

As the boat cut through the darkness something in the light up ahead caught Tucker's eye. Skinner remembers that Tucker's first impression was that somebody had fallen into the water and might need help. He revved up the engine and steered the boat toward the object.

"When we got up close, that thing raised its head out of the water," Skinner recalled, "and Vernon yelled, 'Oh, my God! What is it?'"

Skinner's vivid memory of the creature hasn't faded: "It looked like it had a monkey's head, only bigger. It was gray and hairy-looking, maybe 8 feet long, and had what looked like long arms. Whatever it was, the thing flipped over in the water and headed back the other way. We all saw it. Its tail was like a mermaid's — but real wide. It was hairy and gray looking."

"We were all scared bad, and Vernon said, 'Don't say anything about it back at camp because they'll think we're all crazy.'"

Tucker had gone to West Texas in the early 1950s to work in the oil fields and was back in Arkansas on vacation when their families went on the camping trip. He was in Arkansas last week for his sister's funeral.

## Bob Sallee

Backward  
Glances



He didn't seem as eager as his cousin to talk about their experience on the river that night, but he said the thing did have "a monkey-looking head."

To him, the creature seemed brownish in color, "but it was hard to tell because of the darkness and the glare of the light. I thought it was a body. It wasn't splashing or anything, but when it moved it came up on top of the water. It looked like it had scales or something — about 7 feet long, I'd guess, with long flippers or something. The bottom part didn't look like the front part did. It kinda flipped over and was gone. When it took off, its tail came up on top of the water and it was wide."

Tucker said he didn't see the creature as hairy. Its body looked slick to him. "Truth is," he confided, "I was wondering if my little ski rig could outrun it, it moved so fast. But it went the other way and never offered to hurt us. I can tell you one thing, I ain't going back. It doesn't really scare you, it just takes your breath, and you're ready to move quickly. It sort of put you in shock for a minute or two."

Skinner says the three of them talked about that night for years: "Just seeing that thing was something you don't forget."

Two years ago, a man and woman were browsing at her yard sale when the subject turned to fishing, the White River, and, well, the creature.

"I was telling them about what we saw that night when the woman interrupted. 'You saw it, too?' she asked." Skinner said the couple had seen the same creature because they described it just as she recalled. They hadn't told many people about their experience, Skinner said, for fear that people might think they had taken leave of their senses. "But we know what we saw."

Bob Sallee's *Backward Glances* appears Tuesdays and Thursdays in *Style*. He has been a reporter, writer and editor for the *Arkansas Democrat* and the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* since 1960. You can e-mail him at: [bob\\_sallee@adg.ardemgaz.com](mailto:bob_sallee@adg.ardemgaz.com)

MISSISSIPPI MUD/by Wm. Stage

# THE MONSTER SQUAD

Louisiana, Mo., is a sleepy Mississippi River town about 25 miles southeast of Hannibal, but 26 years ago this month the town gained national attention as documented reports of a wild-and-woolly man-creature — the Midwest's answer to Bigfoot — began to surface. The press jocularly dubbed the elusive and rank-smelling critter "Momo," for "Missouri Monster."



The first sighting was on the afternoon of July 11, 1972. The Harrison boys — Terry, 8, and Walley, 5 — were playing near their home at the base of Marzolf Hill, a ridge that runs the length of the town. At some point, Terry felt an unease. He glanced up and saw something staring at him. It was big and hulking and ominous. Its face was obscured by a mat of long hair. Terry screamed. In the house, 15-year-old sister Doris, hearing their screams, ran to the window. "It was right by the trees," she would later tell reporters, "6 or 7 feet tall, black and hairy. It stood like a man, but it didn't look like one to me."

Now, this was 1972, and, true, there were hirsute hippies roaming the forests. And at times there would be seen lumbering through town some scruffy barge hand who might prompt a double-take, but it seemed this was a new species. Both Terry and Doris said the creature seemed to have no neck, and it was carrying under its arm what looked like a dead dog flecked with blood.

Edgar Harrison came home from work and found no monster, but near the tree where his excited children said the thing had stood he found faint footprints in the dust and black hairs stuck to some twigs. Harrison tried to reassure them that what they had seen was probably a hobo who by now was long gone from the area.

Harrison was a deacon in the Pentecostal church, and that Friday, July 14, there was a prayer meeting at his home. Later, as the group socialized on the porch, they heard a series of growls and shrieks coming from the water reservoir atop Marzolf Hill. The harrowing sound got louder and louder as it drew nearer. The neighbors, too, came out to see what manner of beast was making such a racket. One of them yelled, "Here it comes!" In a panic they one and all fled, away from the awful screams. According to the *Louisiana Press-Journal*, by the time police arrived on the scene, all was quiet once more.

Others began seeing Momo. About 5 the next morning, Louisiana resident Pat Howard saw a manlike creature cross the road near Marzolf Hill. He described it only as a "dark object" running like a man. On the river road that runs northward out of town, Ellis Minor, then 63, sat alone in front of his cabin. Around 10 p.m., his bird dog began to growl. Minor got his big flashlight and shined it out toward the road. "It was standing there," Minor told a UPI reporter. "I couldn't see its eyes or face — it had hair down 'bout to its hindparts. As soon as I threw the light on it, it whirled and

took off thataway."

On July 19, Louisiana police chief Shelby Ward organized a 20-man posse to search Marzolf Hill. Spread out with walkie-talkies, they combed the ridge from end to end. On one of the paths they saw that an old dump had been recently disturbed, rubbish dug up and strewn about. They also discovered two disinterred dog graves with bones scattered about. It was getting weirder and weirder.

The Harrison home had become a staging area for Momo seekers. Edgar took Richard Crowe from Chicago's *Irish Times* up on Marzolf Hill. Crowe would write, "As we walked up the path, we found a set of tracks. They looked like large human footprints. Even with the heel impression incomplete, it measured 10 inches long and five inches wide. There had been no rain for 10 days and we estimated that more than 200 pounds of pressure would have been necessary to make prints in the hard soil."

The intrepid party then located "a vacant shack that might serve as a sleeping place for the monster. A pile of leaves and debris in one corner may have been its bed or nest." They prowled around the shack for awhile, "then we smelled an overwhelming stench that only can be described as resembling rotten flesh or foul stagnant water. 'That's him boys,' announced Harrison. 'He's around here somewhere.'" But, again, nothing came of it.

Reporters weren't the only outside investigators converging on the town. Hayden Hewes and Daniel Garcia of the International Unidentified Flying Object Bureau in Oklahoma City arrived and camped out in

**At some point, Terry felt an unease. He glanced up and saw something staring at him. It was big and hulking and ominous. Its face was obscured by a mat of long hair.**

Harrison's backyard. They collected statements from witnesses and made plaster casts of the two tracks on Marzolf Hill. Hewes theorized that the monster was a "giant, hairy biped" left by a UFO. He said the descriptions matched some 300 other sightings he had collected, including two the previous year from Washington and the Florida Everglades.

Meanwhile, there were Momo sightings up and down the Mississippi, from St. Charles County to Hannibal. A DJ on a country-music station in nearby Bowling Green recorded a song, "Momo the Missouri Monster," and that did more to fuel the legend than anything else. For several years after the scare, the town of Louisiana held Momo Days, with the residents walking around wearing wigs with the tresses in front. But the bottom line is he's still out there, spooking horses, stealing dogs — just for a snack, mind you — and still smelling as funky as the river itself.

## UFOs in Greenbrae? Sea serpents in Las Gallinas Creek?

A review of our files turns up these stories reported by Marin citizens.

■ April 1957: Southern Marin residents claim they saw "fish-shaped" rainbow cloud.

■ November 1957: Residents of San Rafael and Kent Woodlands report seeing strange egg-shaped UFO previously reported in New Mexico and Nebraska.

■ Nov. 8, 1957: San Rafael architect Ray T. Olson spots "two glowing objects streaking across the sky from east to west."

■ August 1960: Eight callers to Hamilton Air Force Base report "strange objects in the sky" including a "football-shaped thing with a white crescent light on top."

■ Aug. 23, 1960: 100 Marin YMCA campers see mysterious flying lights while camping in Santa Cruz mountains.

■ Sept. 20, 1960: Five Greenbrae boys "described by one of the parents as serious-minded and not inclined to flights of fancy" report gleaming, oval-shaped object.

■ Sept. 30, 1960: San Rafael nurse reports strange white light that flies over Marin every night.

■ July 31, 1961: Mrs. Dorothy Wixson of Mill Valley reports a "rocket" that headed toward San Francisco, then looped back and seemed to come directly toward her home.

■ 1964: 10-foot sea serpent spotted in Las Gallinas Creek by an East Bay teacher and his engineer fishing buddy. Later sighted by a Belvedere dentist and his wife. "I have no doubt that what we saw was an unknown species that is rarely seen," remarks one observer.

■ June 21, 1966: Two Mill Valley teens, Stephen and Lau-

rie Fletcher, see a "yellowish light" moving from west to south. According to their reports, "It moved slowly and appeared to be bouncing."

■ June 24, 1966: Kathleen Burgoyne of Mill Valley reports a "meteor-like object which moved slowly and sputtered" before disappearing into the western sky.

■ 1969: 8-foot snake-like creature with a luminous tail spotted in Las Gallinas Creek — from a back porch on Vendola Drive.

■ 1975: Musician/composer Joseph Speck of San Rafael reports seeing Big Foot in Samuel P. Taylor Park. Speck says the beast was the size of a horse and made a "weird neighing kind of sound."

■ June 26, 1977: Four people call sheriff's department to report "strange light in the sky" described as hovering.

■ Aug. 20, 1979: Two flying objects photographed over east peak of Mount Tamalpais.

■ January 1980: Greenbrae man reports seeing UFOs in V-shaped formation "bright, white and cylindrical."

■ February 1981: Corte Madera couple reports huge flying saucer. It returns in September. "I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it will return," said Lori Morgan.

■ 1982: San Anselmo resident Jane Fletcher and two companions sight fiery objects hovering above the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

■ 1983: Road crew sees sea monster off of Shoreline Highway south of Stinson Beach. Story is picked up by Paul Harvey and network news. Local bar offers sea monster drink. Sea monster T-shirts are hot item.

— Richard Politio