

UFO

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MICHAEL
FITZGERALD

Tracy UFO rumor hits Web speed

A UFO crashed outside Tracy on Tuesday, according to a kerbillion people on the World Wide Web.

No — really. The biggest UFO Web sites are buzzing with the Tracy UFO crash. Media from San Francisco to Turlock are calling the sheriff here to get the facts. That there almost certainly was no Tracy UFO crash ("almost" because it's a little too hot to search the tall grass) in no way diminishes the news value of the Tracy UFO crash.

"Is there any reality to it?" asked Joe Weissman of Los Angeles, not the only person to see the news online and call the newsroom.

Weissman was responding to reports such as the one posted on UFOnetwork:

"UFOnetwork received a phone call at 1:45 AM Eastern on 8-5-98 of an alleged downed UFO in the area of Tracy, CA, USA. According to the caller this craft may have been shot down by 'Star Wars' technology lasers or weapons from Lawrence Livermore Labs ..."

The truth is out there. Way out.

Tracy Triangle

"The event happened at 9:45 PM Pacific," UFOnetwork continues. "The caller can't confirm if the UFO was shot down, but can confirm from a reliable eye-witness that a 'round, greenish-blue UFO' did go down and crash. As it was falling, a 'whitish piece broke off the top ...'"

OK, stop the music! What appears to have happened is this: The Associated Press reported Wednesday that "more than a dozen people" saw a "bluish-white light" streak over San Francisco Bay on Tuesday evening.

Reported the AP: "Radio station KCBS received about 15 calls at 9:45 p.m. moments after the

object was spotted whizzing over the bay before reportedly breaking into two or three pieces and disappearing from sight."

At the same time, an unnamed Tracy caller reported a UFO crash to an Idaho UFO Web site; the Webmaster reported it to UFO-network; from where it beamed at Web speed to other internationally trafficked Web sites.

A skeptic would say the Tracy caller heard the KCBS broadcast and, finding things boring in Tracy, perpetrated a hoax.

But maybe not. After all, three private planes have been downed in Tracy recently; area freeways do form a "Tracy Triangle."

As David slept

A dispatcher with the Tracy Police Department said no UFO sightings were reported Tuesday. Ditto the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, which has received calls from inquiring minds at such big media as KRON-TV and the San Jose Mercury News.

I asked Jeff Garberson, spokesman for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, if scientists had shot down a UFO using a "Star Wars"-type death ray.

"We did not," Garberson stated. Nevertheless, in the chat rooms of UFO Web sites, the Tracy UFO crash is the subject of feverish international debate. On UFO-network, "greypilot" argues that the Tracy UFO was no meteor.

"Anyone who has studied UFOs much knows that sometimes they will enter our atmosphere looking like a meteor. At times they will then be seen to stop in midair and sometimes divide into two or three units that then move three different directions ..."

Responds in-the-know Clyde Lewis: "A few insiders that have military connections are aware of a new test-flight experiment known as LASRE. This experiment uses the SR-71 and a strange white booster that shoots a bluish green flame ... What if this crashed? It would be reported and then immediately denied. Wouldn't it?"

One final twist. On Art Bell's nationally syndicated radio talk show Wednesday night, Bell asked to hear from alien abductors. He was contacted on-air by somebody who identified himself as an alien who had possessed the body of "a Stockton man named David." David, the alien explained, was unaware of this, having fallen asleep while watching the TV news.

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UINTAH BASIN STANDARD, Roosevelt, UT - Aug. 18, 1998

Paranormal effort takes a public turn Nevadan seeks Basin's input on UFOs

By Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writer

Two years ago, Terry and Gwen Sherman were trying to unload a 480-acre Uintah County cattle ranch they said was rife with UFO activity and other bizarre occurrences.

The National Institute for Discovery Science seeks answers about unusual aerial phenomena.

Millionaire philanthropist Robert T. Bigelow came to the rescue, buying the ranch and moving in a team of researchers and surveillance equipment.

Bigelow, 54, a Las Vegas native who amassed a fortune in real estate development, had for years funded private research projects on the far fringe of mainstream science.

The Sherman ranch was exactly what he was looking for: a secluded location with a history of phenomenal events where his nonprofit National Institute for Discovery Science could gather extraordinary data.

As a condition of the purchase, however, the Shermans agreed to keep quiet about what they reportedly had witnessed: the mutilated and disappearing cattle, UFOs the size of football fields, circular doorways that appeared in midair, and floating balls of light that allegedly incinerated the family dogs.

Bigelow and his staff also dodged media inquiries, saying public knowledge about their observations would be premature and not in keeping with established scientific methods. Even today, two years later, Bigelow will not discuss specific incidents that have occurred on the ranch and the surrounding area.

But the strange airborne activity and unusual animal deaths have continued, Bigelow confirmed in a lengthy, face-to-face chat with the Deseret News in the first interview he has granted to discuss his regional pursuit of aerial phenomena.

"We wouldn't be there just for the weather," he said.

When the impressive team of scientists Bigelow has assembled can say something definitive about what is going on in the skies around Fort Duchesne, Randlett and beyond, they will, Bigelow promised put it on the NIDS Web site at www.accessnv.com/nids.

"We know so little in terms of what the overall scope of these phenomena [are] all about that it's just embarrassing to try to make conclusions at this point," Bigelow said.

And it's still too early, he said, to determine whether the curious activity poses any threat to Uinta Basin residents.

Bigelow said the National Institute for Discovery Science needs the help of Uintah Basin ranchers and residents. He asks anyone who discovers an unusual animal death or spots an unidentified object in the sky to call NIDS at 1-888-433-6500. When an animal mutilation is reported, NIDS veterinarians can respond to perform a necropsy.

"It will cost him [the rancher] nothing to try to find out what happened to his animal," Bigelow said.

The recent interview in Las Vegas was an intriguing departure for Bigelow, a confident and articulate self-made man who has kept the lowest of low profiles over the years, prompting some paranormal researchers to suggest he has a hidden agenda or government connections.

Bigelow said he retained a private persona while conducting his own research into the UFO field primarily to protect his sources. But now, with NIDS sponsoring an international essay contest to pique the mainstream science community's interest in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, the time is right to assume a more public role — even if he doesn't allow his photograph to be taken.

As for the government, Bigelow said his staff has no evidence the government has any interest in the Sherman ranch or similar "hot spots" NIDS has investigated in New Mexico and Colorado.

People shouldn't be worried that he is part of a covert government group, Bigelow said, but instead should ask themselves why the government, politicians, religious institutions, educators, scientists and the media are not taking UFOs and the possible existence of extraterrestrials more seriously.

Bigelow, in fact, said one reason he spends more than a million dollars a year on NIDS research is to do what he feels the government and other institutions should be doing: preparing America and the rest of

the world for eventual ET contact. That revelation, if confirmed suddenly and dramatically, Bigelow believes, could have a devastating psychosocial impact on global civilization.

Bigelow's interest in the paranormal stems from his youth. At the time, Las Vegas was, by comparison, a sleepy little hamlet.

There wasn't much for locals to do in the 1950s except drive down the street for an ice-cream cone after dinner.

Off on one of those evening cruises, Bigelow's grandparents had a close encounter that not only had a profound impact on them, but, when he was told the story two years later, strongly affected their 10-year-old grandson.

"This ball of light that appeared to be in flames was coming right at them," Bigelow recalled. "They swerved the car off the road in a pretty dramatic way and kind of ducked, waiting for this impact and there was no impact. Instead, it made a 90-degree turn. It came right at them and went vrooom — it just went the opposite direction."

"It not only shook them up because they thought they were about to die, but then it gave them something to think about for weeks, months and years after." Ditto for their grandson.

Bigelow retained his curiosity about that event and other Vegas-area UFO sightings for three decades while building his real estate empire. In 1988, with money to burn, he began an intense, personal quest for an answer to the question: "Are we alone in the universe?"

That led to the formation of NIDS, established in '95 to investigate both aerial phenomena and another of his interests: the survival of consciousness after bodily death.

A year later, word of the Shermans' plight brought Bigelow to the Uintah Basin, where hundreds of UFO sightings have been cataloged by former Roosevelt schoolteacher Joseph "Junior" Hicks, beginning in the early '50s.

NIDS isn't likely to leave the area anytime soon, either — as long as research can be conducted without interference. Bigelow and Colm Kelleher, NIDS' deputy administrator, worry that too much publicity may attract undesirable attention.

TELEGRAPH, Alton, IL - Aug. 12, 1998

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scientific examination of UFOs needed

The recent recommendation by the Rockefeller-funded scientific review panel that UFOs are worthy of serious scientific investigation is welcome news.

As it stands now, the subject remains cloaked in government secrecy while being summarily dismissed by many academics without so much as a cursory glance at the evidence. The rest of us — kept out of the loop — are forced to glean what information we can through sensationalized media-fed tidbits presented as third-segment kicker items on the nightly news. The time for

serious investigation is long overdue.

Since the Condon Committee's whitewash of the UFO problem and the closing of the Air Force's "Project Blue Book" in 1969, there has been no official investigation into the phenomena. This, of course, hasn't made UFOs go away; it's only insured that government investigations are performed in secret, away from prying public eyes. But each of us has the right to know the facts, wherever those facts lead us.

Because there is no UFO constituency, politicians have felt free to characteriz-

UFO studies as a waste of taxpayers' money. While no study of UFOs is likely to get anyone re-elected, it is also true that no scientific inquiry is likely to pay bigger unforeseen dividends. That alone is reason enough for an open, sober, scientific investigation of UFOs to begin.

JEFF TARBELL
Alton

Spooky Sleuth

Brian Campbell is a detective hot on the trail of UFOs



Brian Campbell of Redding and his dog, Astro, relax in his home surrounded by objects that address his greatest interest: space aliens

R-S photos by Brad Garrison

■ Brian Campbell investigates stories of alien abductions, encounters with extra-terrestrials and other other-worldly phenomenon.

By Stasia Scarborough
R-S staff reporter

In Brian Campbell's Redding home there is a poster with a flying saucer and the caption "I believe." Campbell thinks you should, too.

The truth is out there and he's made it his business to find it. As a self-employed UFO investigator, he has taken on cases of spaceship sightings, alien abductions and other extra-terrestrial phenomenon in the north state.

And while he's not getting rich off his business, there are plenty of people who need his help, he said.

"There's a lot of things flying out there," he said, estimating he averages between 200 and 300 cases each year.

"We're visited (from outer space) all the time," he said.

Campbell, 38, said he's always been interested in the topic but his interest solidified when he saw a flying saucer eight years ago. Campbell and some friends were having a barbecue west of Redding when they thought they saw a helicopter, Campbell said.

But as it approached, "it was no helicopter," he said.

They tried to report to different agencies what they had seen. Finally, Campbell said he was told he saw a satellite burning as it entered the atmosphere — a story he doesn't believe.

And a UFO investigator was born.

So what's happening out there? Campbell said he knows of alien abductions, where seemingly at random citizens are taken for the purpose of medical/scientific experiments, Campbell said.

"I think we're one big experiment," he said.

And there are plenty of sightings.

"You'd be surprised how many have seen UFOs," Campbell said.

The Redding area is no exception. During the years he's been going out on calls, Campbell said he's seen some strange things.

There were cattle mutilations in the Igo-Ono and Red Bluff areas done with surgical precision and the animal was totally drained of blood — something that isn't possible with current technology, he suggested. "It's pretty curious," he said of those cases.

He's also gone on reports of spacecraft landings or crashes, and in some cases he's found "soil that won't hold water anymore." Lab reports can't say why, he said.

"We get some eerie feelings," Campbell said of his cases. And yes, he said he's been afraid. "I always go (on a case) with someone."

Campbell has been in the UFO business for about five years. His advertisement in several north state telephone books claims he investigates "sightings, encounters, abductions."

Yet he's found people are sometimes reluctant to come forward with what they've experienced.

"They want to talk privately," he said. "The government programs you to think you're crazy if you see one."

In fact, Campbell said he believes the government is actively dissuading people from believing in UFOs. That's part of a larger conspiracy.

Campbell said he believes the government has a secret alliance with the alien races. In exchange for allowing the abductions, the government receives technology for military use. If the public learns of alien sightings, the government denies what happened.

In the meantime, he believes the government is investigating extra-terrestrial events.

"They do, but they say they don't," Campbell said.

Well-known military investigations, such as Project Blue Book, were nothing more than "a disinformation campaign."

If that's the case, what happens to the information he obtains? Official agencies aren't interested, but there is a network of believers out there gathering information, he said.



From left, William Davis, Emil Johansen and Brian Campbell scan the night sky for signs of the possible UFO Davis and Johansen said they had seen the previous evening.

Locally, Campbell said the Redding Police Department turns to him to investigate UFO reports — but a spokesman with the police department disagreed.

Capt. Chuck Byard said UFO reports are "probably fairly unusual."

"I certainly don't think we get more than a couple a year," Byard said.

He denied they use Campbell's detective skills on those cases.

Campbell also said he refers people to a Redding hypnotist, Roger Gray, so they can regain their abduction memories.

Gray said he doesn't recall any referrals, but that over the 10 years of his practice he has had up to 20 people want to regain that abduction memory.

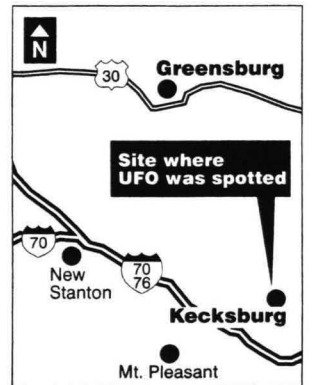
"Out of all of those, I considered one of those authentic," Gray said.

Reporter Stasia Scarborough can be reached at 225-8226 or at sscarb@rec-search.com by e-mail.



"It's been almost 33 years and we still don't have an answer," says Stan Gordon, who has studied the Kecksburg crash since the day it happened. He's sitting in his "command center" in his Greensburg home.

Matt Freed/Post-Gazette photos



Post-Gazette

the back of a military flatbed truck. Still others say they saw it being hauled to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Swirling with eerie music, subplots, mysteries and theories, the video builds to a well-orchestrated climax of two men claiming evidence that it was an extraterrestrial spacecraft. One even claims to have seen what appeared to be a deceased, lizard-skinned creature partially covered by a sheet inside a Wright-Patterson Air Force Base hangar.

Gordon comes to no conclusions, except that something definitely landed in Kecksburg at 4:45 p.m. on that day. While entertaining the possibility that the craft was American or Soviet, Gordon provides reasons why those explanations are lacking. He leaves the viewer with the definite sense that his research points squarely at something more profound.

"It's an intriguing story," he said in a recent interview. "It's been almost 33 years and we still don't have an answer. A lot of key witnesses have passed away, are up in age, or not in the best of health. This was the best way to have them tell their story themselves about what they experienced."

His video provides detailed history of the Kecksburg incident along with a long string of witnesses who provide theories, surprises and intrigue, yet leave the viewer yearning for some conclusion. With that in mind, Gordon asks viewers to petition members of Congress to schedule hearings to collect testimony and help solve the lingering mystery.

For years, debate has been escalating.

A 1991 article in The Pittsburgh Press described generally what happened, based on various witnesses' accounts that are included in greater detail in Gordon's video.

Dec. 9, 1965, was a dreary day in Westmoreland County — that is, until what was described as a roundish fireball appeared. It reportedly seared the gray sky at low altitude with a jet trail, then made S-turns and what appeared to be a controlled landing through the treetops into Kecksburg's woods.

The fireball was seen across the northeastern United States and was the subject of numerous newscasts that day.

Local residents headed toward the landing site. James Romansky and others trailed the object into the woods by observing the arc-welding flames and bluish sparklers evident through the trees after the landing.

The object was 12 feet long and 6 to 7 feet in diameter, and shaped like an acorn. It had a ring around the base, just like an acorn, that bore what Romansky described as backward letters, like a backward J or K. Some have described the lettering as resembling Egyptian hieroglyphics — lines, stars, circles and shapes. The craft had no doors or windows. The metal was seamless, with a dent, but bearing no rivets or welds.

The local men soon were chased away by U.S. military officials who announced that the landing site was off-limits to all civilians.

As the writer of the 1991 article, this reporter explored whether the spacecraft could have been the Soviet Venus probe known as Kosmos

(continued on page 4)

Kecksburg Files

UFO researcher's video explores several theories about 1965 crash in Westmoreland County

By David Templeton
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Since the uncertain events of Dec. 9, 1965, debate has raged, friendships have soured, rumors have waxed, theories have arisen and Internet stories have proliferated over what crash-landed that day in the rural village of Kecksburg, Westmoreland County.

The military insisted it was a meteorite that was never recovered.

UFO skeptics have held that, if not an outright hoax, it was surely something as explainable as the Soviet Venus probe, Kosmos 96, or an experimental American spacecraft that went flip-flop into Kecksburg's midsection only to be recovered by a quick and secretive military.

But UFO researchers, who say the Kecksburg incident is second only to the one at Roswell, N.M., in terms of drama and potential, have suggested with as much imagination as fact that it was alien visitors who chose Kecksburg as their Sea of Tranquility.

All of which has transformed the event that happened 33 years ago into one of America's most intriguing UFO mysteries.

The Kecksburg incident has served as fodder for episodes of "Unsolved Mysteries" and "Sightings" television broadcasts. The mock-up spacecraft built for the "Unsolved Mysteries" broadcast now sits atop the Kecksburg fire hall as the only lasting sign of the village's controversial claim to fame.

Now, Greensburg UFO researcher Stan Gordon, who has studied the Kecksburg crash since the day it happened, has produced a 92-minute documentary titled, "Kecksburg: The Untold Story," that provides eyewitness accounts and claims that surely will bolster debate.

As the cover says, "New Mexico has Roswell, but in Pennsylvania, it was Kecksburg."

The most persistent Kecksburg researcher, Gordon has long kept an open mind as to what may have landed, but always has been intrigued by possibilities of an extraterrestrial visit. He now adds to the literature, legend and litany with his video that provides not only overwhelming evidence that something acorn-shaped landed in Kecksburg's lap that day,



Sketch by Charles Hanna represents object that landed in Kecksburg on Dec. 9, 1965, thought by some to be a UFO.

but also new accounts that what landed was extraterrestrial.

Written and narrated by Gordon, 48, the video provides numerous eyewitness testimonials from people who saw the fireball cruise at rather low speeds and altitudes across the southwestern Pennsylvania sky, maneuver, complete some turns and finally put down in Kecksburg's woods, about 7 miles southeast of Greensburg.

Others who went rummaging through the woods that early evening say they saw an acorn-shaped spacecraft half buried in a gully. Many others, including news reporters, saw Kecksburg crawling with military personnel from the Air Force, Army and NASA that evening, while others saw a Volkswagen Beetle-sized craft removed under a tarpaulin on

96. The U.S. Space Command reported that Kosmos 96 crash-landed in Canada shortly after 3 a.m. — more than 12 hours before the Kecksburg crash at 4:45 p.m.

To this day, Kosmos 96 cannot be discounted as a possibility.

Kosmos 96 was shaped like an acorn and may have had the ability to maneuver to land on Venus. As a Venus probe, it also was equipped with state-of-the-art heat shield technology that could have allowed the craft to survive the long, heated ride through Earth's atmosphere before landing in Kecksburg.

But there are discrepancies. Eyewitnesses, including Romansky, insist the writing on the girth was not Russian. Others claim that while the right shape, it was not the right size, and did not bear the seams and rivets that characterized Soviet and U.S. spacecraft of that era.

In 1991, I obtained the ordinals from the Goddard Space Center for the flight of Kosmos 96. I had James Oberg, an expert on Soviet spacecraft who also is a UFO skeptic, review the ordinals to see if it could have been Kosmos 96. Oberg concluded that, based on the ordinals provided by the Goddard Space Center, it could not be Kosmos 96 — a point that, to Oberg's dismay, buoyed UFO advocates and has continued to be a hot topic on the Internet.

But Oberg amended his theories in an article published in September 1993 on the OMNI service on America Online. There, he suggested that the Kosmos 96 theory could account for U.S. Space Command's conclusions that it landed in Canada and also in Kecksburg.

Oberg says the failed Soviet probe "whose booster had blown up in parking orbit, would have been a wonderful UFO."

Oberg acknowledges that the ordinals, which have been reviewed by a leading amateur satellite watcher who didn't want his name revealed, seemed to confirm the official Air Force account that Kosmos 96 crashed in Canada more

than 12 hours earlier than the Kecksburg crash. But Oberg checked the data further. The released tracking data, he said, couldn't be positively identified with specific pieces of the failed probe.

"It could have been jettisoned rocket stage of a large piece of space junk," he wrote. "The probe itself could have headed off toward Kecksburg."

Oberg proceeds to explain why the U.S. military would lie, or at least decide not to divulge everything it knew about the Kecksburg crash.

"In the 1960s, U.S. military intelligence agencies interested in enemy technology were eagerly collecting all the Soviet missile and space debris they could find. International law required that debris be returned to the country of origin. But hardware from Kosmos 96, with its special missile-warhead shielding, would have been too valuable to give back."

After all, he concluded, what better camouflage than to let people think the fallen object was not a Soviet probe, but a flying saucer?

"The Russians would never suspect, and the Air Force laboratories could examine the specimen at leisure. And if suspicion lingered, UFO buffs would be counted on to maintain the phony cover story, protecting the real truth."

For that reason, Oberg concluded, the Kecksburg scenario produced "delicious irony."

"A famous UFO case may actually involve a real U.S. government cover-up, but UFO buffs are on the wrong side. Instead of exposing the truth, they may be unwitting pawns in deception."

The other unexplored avenue to solve the Kecksburg mystery was to approach Soviet — now Russian — authorities to provide information on what truly happened to Kosmos 96. But in 1991, the Soviet Embassy would only speculate that anything that crash-landed in American turf was probably American technology that the U.S. was too embarrassed

to acknowledge.

That's similar to the response that Gordon got from the Russian government when he posed the same question.

In May, during an interview of Russian Cosmonaut Viktor P. Savinykh, who was visiting Waynesburg College and now serves as rector of Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography, I took the opportunity through an interpreter to ask him whether he could help solve the Kecksburg mystery. He, too, suggested rather emphatically, and with some laughter, that whatever plunged into Kecksburg surely was some faulty American technology.

But extraterrestrial claims cannot be entertained until the Kosmos 96 theory is put to rest.

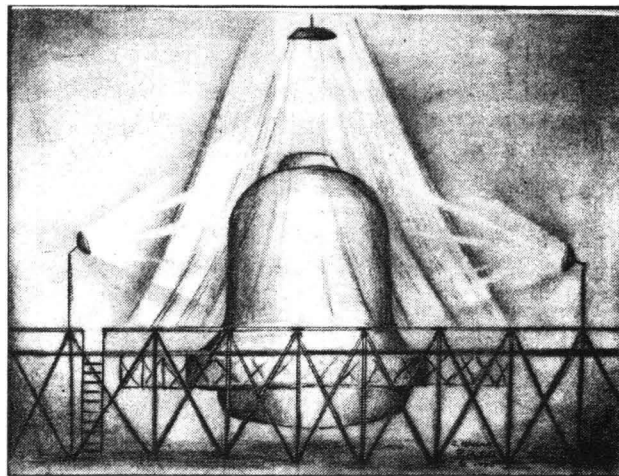
In 1962, the United States and Soviet Union forged a gentleman's agreement that any spacecraft that landed within the other's borders would be returned. However, the United States had fast-acting military units that traveled the globe at moment's notice to recover American and Soviet space hardware wherever it fell.

The Kecksburg crash occurred in the middle of the Cold War and the space race, and America was especially interested in heat-shield technology. So, if Kosmos 96 had landed in Kecksburg, there's no doubt that the U.S. military would have been interested in finding it.

Gordon's video provides plenty of evidence that the military would not have responded so quickly, and declared what could only be described as martial law in Kecksburg, if it was responding only to a meteorite.

Whether you adhere to theories of a hoax, Kosmos 96 or extraterrestrial spacecraft, Gordon's video provides a thorough account of the crash-landing, and the many explanations of what happened.

To obtain a copy of "Kecksburg: The Untold Story" call 888-UFO-VIEW (888-836-8439). The video costs \$29.95 plus \$5.95 for shipping and handling and state sales tax.



This sketch by Charles Hanna is of what some believe to be a UFO that landed in Kecksburg. Here, the object is supposedly in a hangar at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. UFO researcher Stan Gordon has produced a video, below, about the 1965 incident.



RESORTER ("SEASONS"), Houghton Lake, MI - Fall 1998 CR: C. Grusinski

Close Encounters of the Roscommon County Kind

By Glenn Schicker
As summer fades into autumn, days become shorter, with more hours available for one of humanity's oldest pastimes—gazing into the heavens. The vast array of celestial bodies we see there is mind-boggling, to say the least. But with images from movies like *The X-Files* and *Armageddon* in our minds, it can also be a bit scary.

I can remember my dad telling of a night in the early part of this century when he was driving a team of mules near the Cut River. A bright light, accompanied by a loud noise, appeared in the sky, frightening the mules to the extent that they "reared up on their hind legs," as Dad put it.

In those days, hardly anyone other than Jules Verne had envisioned that people—or any other living beings—could travel in space. But by the middle of this century, science fiction was a popular genre, and it was easy to imagine that unexplained sights in the sky could be the result of intelligent activity. The

Resorter has chronicled several instances of unexplained extraterrestrial activity: *July, 1947*

George E. Larkin writes in the Editor's Notebook, "Finally, after visiting practically every hamlet and city in the 48 states, the 'flying saucer' invaders from Mars have looked over the landing facilities of Roscommon County—but have yet placed no bids for potential fields. This writer was beginning to believe that this county's possibilities were being ignored, but evidently not, for this week's Roscommon Herald-News reports that one of Roscommon's residents, Colin Geister, saw a whole flock of 'em whizzing over that village one night this week." Unlike some reports from elsewhere in the country, "Colin didn't claim to have seen the little men sitting in front of the contraptions,

guiding them," Larkin wrote. "Well, I know it sounds fantastic, but if old Bagdad had its flying carpets, why can't America have its flying saucers, washtubs and pancakes?"

The next week, Larkin wrote that no one in the Houghton Lake area had "claimed to have seen the mysterious 'flying saucers.'" His explanation? "This would lead one to believe that the folks of this community don't imbibe as freely as those of other areas—or perhaps our local tavern keepers water their stock to a greater degree."

July, 1961

A Markey Township resident reports two sightings near her home on School Road. On July 8, she told State Police "there was a reddish glow in the sky, slightly above the tree top level." The UFO flew from east to west. Ten days later, the woman said a red-

dish-orange object the size of a beach ball "was near the ground, appeared to be bouncing along, then lifted up and left the area at a high rate of speed." Roscommon County Civil Defense Director Ray Angstman collected samples of a white powder found on grass at the scene.

December, 1974

A snowmobiler attempting to restart her stalled machine on Co. Rd. 104 near Lorna Lane in Gerrish Township sees "a large round object with red, white, yellow, blue and green lights rise out of the woods straight into the air. She said it shot off toward US-27, making no noise. A companion reportedly confirmed her story. A check of the area showed no evidence of the object. However, a neighbor...said her two dogs started acting strangely for no apparent reason at about the same time."

July, 1977

Roscommon Village Marshal Leroy Baker and Crawford County Sheriff's deputies investigate after four people report

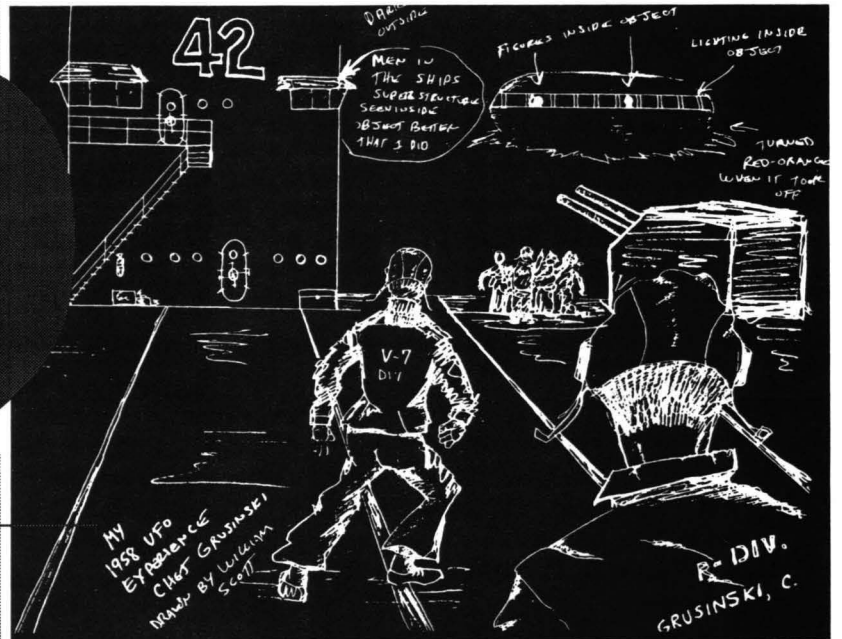
seeing a UFO in the Chase Bridge Road area, northeast of Roscommon. Baker and his deputy accompanied the subjects to the location, where all of them saw an object with four colored lights. "It remained stationary, except for occasional slight movement," [Baker] said. Later, several other similar objects appeared nearby, he added.

Crawford County deputies who came to the scene also saw the objects, according to Baker. They reported there were no National Guard helicopters in the area at the time.

Such encounters seem to have diminished in frequency here in the last couple of decades. Have aliens, as Larkin surmised, determined Roscommon County

an unsuitable site for an invasion? Perhaps they found out all they needed to know in their previous visits, biding their time until the right moment to descend where they would be least expected, far from urban areas and with plenty of undeveloped land on which to set up a base camp. Or were the UFO sightings, according to

Larkin's other theory, merely the result of too much to drink or some other form of hallucination?



An Artist's Rendering of Detroit Native Chet Grusinski's Possible UFO Sighting

Close Encounter: Area Autoworker Is 'Mr. UFO'

By Gerald Scott
Staff Writer

Most people join the Navy to see the world.

Chet Grusinski joined the U.S. Navy in 1957 and saw something out of this world. Grusinski, born in Hamtramck and raised in Detroit, was a 19-year-old fireman's apprentice serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1958 when he says he saw a UFO. The object hovered over the ship and gave him and two dozen crew mates on deck an up-close and personal look at it, he says.

He's been in search of the truth about that unusual night ever since.

Grusinski, now 58, works as an automatic screw machine operator at H&L Tool Co. on Dequindre Road in Madison

Heights. He previously worked at the Ford Wixom assembly plant, Ford Dearborn stamping plant and Chrysler Mound Round engine plant.

"I get teasing at work about it, but I don't mind it," said Grusinski, who has become one of the Detroit area's foremost self-taught UFO experts. "They write stuff on my locker, but that's all right. They put on my locker 'Roswell Lives Here,' 'X-Files,' 'The Truth is Out There,' 'Close Encounters' and then when I missed a day, they drew a crying alien face that says 'Chet, we miss you.'"

Grusinski has been researching UFOs, flying saucers and related phenomena

ever since that night in 1958, but over the last seven years, it has become his main outside hobby.

The study at his residence in Clinton Township is something of a UFO library, with all manner of books, photographs, letters, documents and related research spread about.

But all it takes to understand Grusinski's passion for the subject is to listen to the detailed account of his UFO sighting, which took place aboard the USS Roosevelt in the Caribbean, out of the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Grusinski became one of 3,000 crewmen aboard the ship after it was overhauled at the New York Navy Shipyard.

It sailed from New York to Cuba and out of Guantanamo Bay in July 1958, when the young sailor from Detroit wit-

nessed something extraordinary.

"We're out at sea, it was dark — 8 or 9 o'clock at night," he recalled. "We'd seen this little light following our ship."

"Then it came right at us. It came in close enough that I could see figures in there (inside the spacecraft)."

"By watching those figures,



CHET GRUSINSKI

the impression I got is that those were not human beings looking at us. I could see them that good. It was lit up inside of those windows, backlit, so I could see the silhouettes. The impression I got? They were not human," Grusinski said.

"I was kind of shocked because I wasn't ex-

pecting something like that. Then, while we were looking at it, it turned a red-orange color and took off ... in the meantime, they were screaming for the officer of the deck on the intercom to get up there on the double.

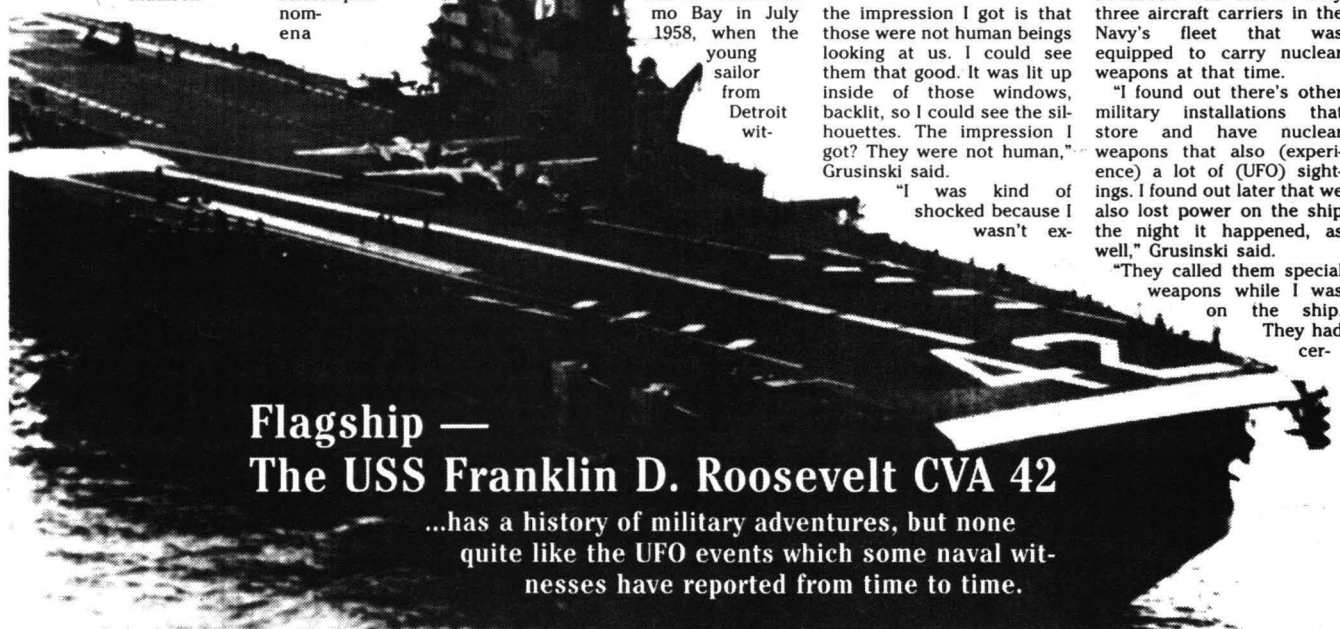
"It could've been a few minutes, or it might've been quite awhile — I've got no idea (how much time elapsed). But I could feel the heat on my face when it came up," he said. "It was cigar-shaped. It came up close to the island superstructure (on the carrier). Then it took off, and I went down below decks."

"The next day, I was drinking a lot of water. I felt like I was dehydrated," he said.

Grusinski's subsequent research into that night reveals some fascinating details, including the fact that the USS Roosevelt was one of only three aircraft carriers in the Navy's fleet that was equipped to carry nuclear weapons at that time.

"I found out there's other military installations that store and have nuclear weapons that also (experience) a lot of (UFO) sightings. I found out later that we also lost power on the ship the night it happened, as well," Grusinski said.

"They called them special weapons while I was on the ship. They had cer-



Flagship — The USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA 42

...has a history of military adventures, but none quite like the UFO events which some naval witnesses have reported from time to time.

(continued on page 6)

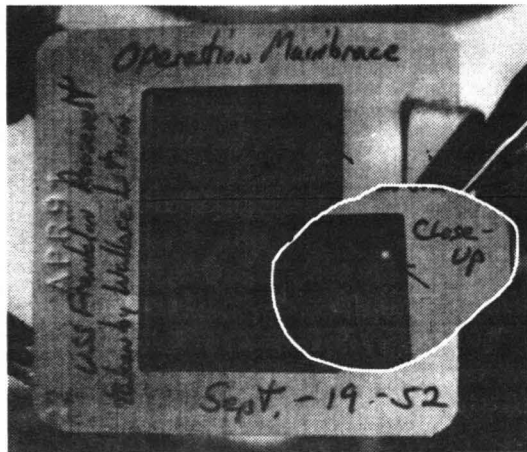
tain compartments down below where they had a Marine guard by the hatchway and they'd check your ID," he said. "When they had any kind of maneuvers, anything to do with the special weapons, they canvassed it off with a heavy tarp where you couldn't see what they were doing. Years later I found out that they were nuclear weapons," Grusinski said.

While Grusinski's Freedom of Information Act requests to the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency turned up negative, the Roosevelt's

the aircraft carrier Franklin Roosevelt during Operation Mainbrace (in the North Atlantic in 1952)," the document reads.

"The object was flying extremely fast behind the NATO fleet and witnesses obviously were numerous and competent in identifying them ... the same day, a number of sightings were made elsewhere in Europe."

Of his own UFO incident, Grusinski estimates that 25 of the 3,000 crewmen on the ship were on the flight deck at the time. So, much of his research has been spent contacting his old crew mates in



CHET GRUSINSKI, following his UFO sighting on the USS Roosevelt, uncovered a U.S. government document, including three photos, of a 1952 UFO incident on the same ship.

deck logs from that night have been mostly blacked out by military sensors. Plus, he ran across a separate U.S. government document with this interesting notation about a 1952 UFO incident, also involving the Roosevelt: "Three photographs of a flying disc were taken from

search of fellow eyewitnesses.

He even had one of his current co-workers, an artist, draw a detailed rendering of the 1958 UFO sighting. Grusinski is simultaneously working on a movie screenplay based on his experience. It's called "Out of the Sky."

NBC INTERVIEWING:

UFO Investigator Says Sightings On The Increase

Strange lights and flying objects in the sky.

It's happening everywhere and Bill Heft is the man with the information. Dixon director of Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) since 1952, Bill says over 4,000 people worldwide are now members and the organization continues to

grow daily.

"We have five websites, and a newly released book titled *UFO's And Lost Gold*," says Heft, who has just made an appearance on a television network in Toronto, Canada and recently has been contacted by NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries*.

Heft, formerly a U.S. Air Force

Jet aircraft mechanic who later worked for United Airlines, says reports of unidentified lights and flying objects are on the increase with the most active area in California at the moment. He won't venture to guess what people are seeing, but says they are most definitely *seeing something*.

"We have different objects which show up in different areas. In Illinois, the most common sighting is described as a three-cornered gray object."

"In California, it's green fire balls and red orbs which move very erratically, sometimes seen together and sometimes separately."

Heft says he has the report of five college students who saw the lights nightly for over a week, and these are "not just pin points or star size, they're grapefruit to moon size in appearance."

Do films or photos exist? Says Heft, "I have a person in southern Illinois who was in the backyard at night during a family barbecue. He happened to have his camcorder pointed upward and photographed a bright green light which became so brilliant it lit up the ground."

A well-known, longtime resident of Broadway in Rockford filed a police report describing a basketball shaped, green and glowing object near the Sports Core marina in Machesney Park over 25 years ago.

Winnebago County deputies have sometimes reported seeing unexplained lights in north Rockford over the years.

In the APRO archives, actual footage from a German Nazi party collection shows a saucer-shaped craft believed made by the Germans. Secret weapons developed for stealth warfare has long been offered as one possible explanation for unidentified sightings.

Currently capturing attention of APRO investigators in California is the movement of ground troops from or near Norton Air Force Base which is supposed to be closed, according to Heft.

A very creepy and often well-documented mystery is the mutilation of cattle which Heft says is also on the rise mostly in Arizona and Colorado. According to him, "These are surgically precise removals of eyes and internal organs from the cow, and all the blood is drained."

Mysterious crop circles, long reported in various parts of the world (sometimes admitted hoaxes) are also increasing. "We have outbreaks of crop circles overseas and some in Washington and Oregon," says the director.

There will always be hoaxes and false claims, acknowledges Heft, while adding that 75% of sightings are explainable. But that leaves 25% which aren't. And 4,000 people across the globe—German physicists, Swiss psychologists, Russian statisticians, reputable citizens of Greece, Yugoslavia and typical teenagers and adults in Dixon and Rockford—who describe similar objects in the skies.

Like the women who were driving one night along a familiar route winding near the river banks toward Byron. They each saw what they described as a bright cloud which enveloped their car. Later, the travelers arrived at their destination, and only then realized they were a whole hour later than they should have been under normal circumstances.

NORTHWEST HERALD, Crystal Lake, IL - Sept. 16, 1998

Off-Kilter

Notes from the world of weird

New book chronicles close encounters of stupid kind

Even extraterrestrials make mistakes. So says retired Air Force colonel Ed Benjamin in a new book

about close encounters of the stupid kind.

For example, a fighter pilot who was reportedly taken aboard a UFO and stripped for a medical examination

was later returned to Earth wearing a pair of tight-fitting women's panties instead of his own boxer shorts. (Note: According to Kenneth Starr's report, President Clinton once used a similar story to explain to Hillary how a pair of women's underwear got into the Oval Office).

In another case, idiot aliens supposedly returned two Arkansas abductees to the wrong cars.

Fortunately, the two men saw each other on the road, pulled over and switched back to the correct vehicles.



ROY RIVENBURG
OFF KILTER

LABOR NEWS, Rockford, IL - Sept. 18, 1998

Unforgettable Encounter

Police Officer Digs Up Roswell Mystery

Rockford Police Officer Royal MacKenzie won't soon forget "that something" he saw but could not explain.

Probably the most widely known incident in the accumulated lore of UFO buffs is the "crash coverup" which happened at Roswell, New Mexico during the first week of July, 1947.

While on vacation to visit relatives, Officer MacKenzie decided to visit the Roswell crash site after seeing highway billboards proclaiming the tourist attraction where a 150,000 tourists are expected this year. He said he drove a dirt road through a flat plain until he reached a farm house. A man approached saying, "Fifteen dollars."

MacKenzie asked, "For what?" He was told, "You wanna see the crash sight don't you?"

He forked over the cash. The farmer walked to the next car in a long string of vehicles to collect money. Puzzled, MacKenzie hollered, "Wait a minute, where's the crash site?"

The man pointed to an expanse of open pasture and said, "Over there."

With a shrug and a laugh, MacKenzie says that after all it had been many years and there really was nothing but shrubs and rocks to see. He drove back to the highway and stopped at a small, local cafe.

It was there that he found a few older local citizens who were willing to talk to him about what they had experienced during the mystery-shrouded event. They said that something definitely crashed that July night, and that government officials were completely secretive. According to their stories, many in the area were approached by agents and strongly warned not to talk about what they had seen.

While one elderly couple talked to MacKenzie, the wife turned to her husband and said, "Don't you think it's about time for someone to see it?"

Evidently he agreed because she left and returned with an extraordinary find at the time of the crash. MacKenzie described it as a piece of metal or metallic

substance. "But you could crumple it up in your hands like tin foil and it would spring back into its original shape," said the skeptical but mystified police officer.

According to a recent article by science and technology editor Jim Wilson of *Popular Mechanics*, ideas of what happened in Roswell range from a weather balloon crash to the "downright silly—Earth was being scouted for an intergalactic invasion."

Wilson states, "The latest official government explanation (there have been three so far) is that the recovered debris came from a Project Mogul balloon that was carrying instruments to detect Soviet nuclear tests."

In 1978 the question was raised that something more significant than a weather balloon might have crashed. Army intelligence officer Major Jesse A. Marcel, present at the crash site, (who was recorded as identifying the object as a "flying disc", according to Wilson) revealed a startling, undisclosed fact about the wispy-thin material recovered from the debris field. When placed near a match, the material would not burn!

This statement roused curious reporters who descended on Roswell and began coaxing a new generation of witnesses into a variety of tales, including I-beams with hieroglyphic-like

marks and death threats by government agents.

Wilson's own investigation uncovered records that the Germans were working on a flying disc craft just prior to the end of World War II, which would enable them to take off without runways needed for traditional aircraft, their own landing strips having been destroyed.

The U.S. Air Force acknowledges these German craft experiments. Interestingly, Bill Heft, Dixon president of the world wide Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization based in Dixon, Illinois, has come across the same or similar information.

A possibility suggested by Wilson is that Japanese engineers and pilots brought to work on a similar aircraft project could have been the dead "alien" bodies described by witnesses as recovered at the crash site.

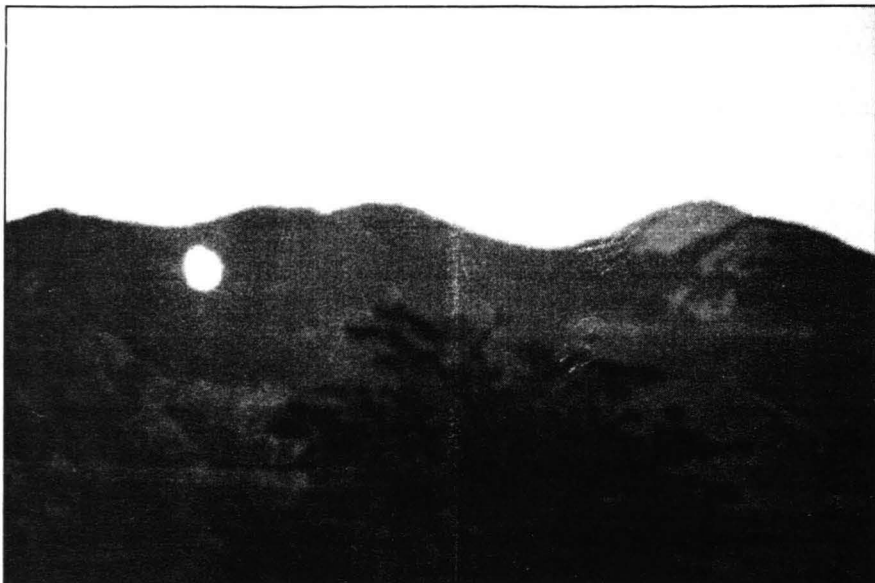
Fifty years after the crash, Roswell's mystery still arouses questions for which there seem to be no absolute answers. Investigators and curiosity seekers will continue to speculate.

Officer Royal MacKenzie still laughs at his fifteen-dollar visit to a sheep pasture a couple of years ago. But he won't forget the marvelous fragment of unknown metal which he touched with his own two hands.

He can't explain it.

Apparently, no one can.

Talk Back Forum



Rick Romancito

This image of an unidentified flying object over Taos was fabricated to illustrate the kinds of sightings frequently seen in the area.

Lunatic fringe or true believers: UFOs debated

Review by Mary Alden
for The Taos News

"UFOs: Science or Fiction?" was the subject of Talk Back's most recent forum. A panel of five "experts" on unidentified flying object sightings, including a token scientific voice of dissent in the form of neuroscientist Dr. Richard Bryant, were on hand for a lively discussion Friday (Aug. 28) at the Taos Institute of Arts, 108 Civic Plaza Drive.

The discussion was broadcast live from TIA on KRZA-FM 88.7 Alamosa-Taos Public Radio.

Officiating over a fully-packed room of humans and two "wall Martians," whom he described as looking "cunningly like blown-up balloons," was local gallery owner and art dealer Philip Bareiss, who served as an often tongue-in-cheek moderator for the discussion.

For instance, to make the point that UFOs are a topic of great interest in the local area, Bareiss opened the discussion by recalling his experience at the Taos Talking Picture Festival this past spring. "UFOs: Science or Fiction?" is a topic particularly relevant to Taos and the San Luis Valley

in southern Colorado," Bareiss said. "UFO sightings are commonplace here. To give our audience an idea of how people are involved in UFO phenomenon, I recall the screening of 'High Strange New Mexico' at the Taos Talking Picture Festival last spring. There was an audience of over 100 people to see the film. Before showing the film the film-makers took an impromptu call of the audience. When asked 'How many people have seen a UFO?' approximately 80 people raised their hand. When they asked 'How many of you have experienced an abduction by aliens?' more than a dozen raised their hands."

Bareiss then took a dramatic pause before adding "By the way, I did not raise my hand on either question."

Bareiss went on to quote from a prominent article published in the supermarket tabloid *The Weekly World News*, in which a centerfold headline blared "Space Alien Baby UFO Crash Survivor Is Alive and Well and Living At a Secret New Mexico Military Base." Bareiss conceded that such news stories are "not unusual for this nationally published magazine," and went on to

admit that the very idea of UFOs is often ridiculed by a suspicious mainstream, national media.

"Those who see UFOs or talk about them are considered to be on the idiot fringe of our society," he said. "Yet, the interest in UFOs goes way beyond southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico."

Putting the final spin in for his introduction, Bareiss informed the audience that presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton have all publicly commented on UFOs, with Carter and Reagan both individually claiming to have seen a UFO. Before introducing what he called a "remarkable panel of experts," Bareiss heartily intoned "Welcome to the idiot fringe."

The panel of experts, each of whom, with the exception of Bryant, claim to have had an actual or peripheral experience with UFO sightings, included "avid student of abduction" Seth Brown, Pilar-based sculptor and author of the in-progress book "Aliens Like Me," Duane Friedman, *The Taos News* compositor and writer Phaedra Greenwood, who has written numerous stories on cattle mutilations and UFO sightings and who is currently working on a book on cattle mutilations. Also on deck were Taos art dealer James Parsons, "a student of the Roswell incident" and the aforementioned Bryant, who acted as the proverbial straight man for the evening.

Each of the "pro-UFO" panelists regaled the audience with interesting tales of their own intimate experiences with UFOs. Accounts of experiences varied widely. Brown described with certainty "a streak of yellow light coming down over Taos Mountain," which then "reduced its speed from one-tenth of its original speed — about the speed of a shooting star — and then it started flying horizontally." Of other sightings he allowed "I couldn't be

Those who see UFOs or talk about them are considered to be on the idiot fringe of our society.'

— Philip Bareiss

absolutely certain, but of this one I was absolutely sure. I was completely sober at the time."

Parsons, who refreshed the audience's memory with the particulars of the Roswell sighting, also expressed his hope that the general public will become better educated on the subject of UFOs. "One of my main concerns for a long time is that so few people believe in UFOs — but I think that's changing," Parsons said. As he relayed the finer points of the Roswell incident Parsons added "what happened out there was absolutely true. There really is evidence of the Roswell crash, and it's good evidence."

Greenwood recounted a sighting she had in Michigan at the age of 17, in which "a round, red disk floated silently down behind some trees and then went out." Apparently with other spectators at the time, Greenwood recalled, "We had no idea what it was but we knew we had seen something unusual. Once you see something like that which can't be explained, it opens a lot of other questions in your mind."

Neuroscientist Bryant, "the panel skeptic" according to Bareiss, was the next to speak. "Except for all the Martians, he has never seen an alien or observed a UFO," Bareiss added by way of introduction.

Bryant admitted that he was "on this panel by default because there were very few scientists around who were willing to do it," adding, "The scientific community is not there to say that there is no such thing as a UFO, but rather that there really is no scientific evidence which supports that."

In the first rebuttal of the evening, Bryant called panelist Brown into check for drawing on the late night Art Bell Show as a credible, if not definitive, source for UFO information. "I'm sorry, but in the scientific community, the best work does not come out on late night talk shows. One of the reasons good scientists haven't dealt with this in perhaps the way we should is that there is this lunatic fringe that gives UFOs a bad name," Bryant said.

In perhaps the most animated series accounts of the evening, Friedman described encounters of "the first, second and third kind," which he claimed to have experienced both in New Mexico and in Colorado. He told of the eerie experience he had with several friends while fishing on Abiquiu Lake. Friedman described the UFO he saw as looking "like a pie tin. It came down in front of my truck and while it was hovering, I said 'it's not a hubcap to a jetliner, it's not a giant frisbee, it's a UFO.' We watched this thing land behind this hill," Friedman added. In a humorous stab at government officials' response to the sighting in Roswell, Friedman added "it wasn't a weather balloon, I don't think."

This edition of Talk Back was also recorded for broadcast on Taos Local Television, Channel 2. Check listings in this week's issue of *Tempo* for dates and times.

INDEX-TRIBUNE, Sonoma, CA - Sept. 4, 1998

UFO buzzes Agua Caliente

By Neal Ross
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Whatever Judy Serres saw early last Thursday morning, she wasn't alone.

The *Agua Caliente* resident had awakened at 5 a.m. to comfort her daughter "because she was scared," Serres said. Twenty-five minutes later, as Serres lay in bed looking out the east window of her second-story bedroom on Highway 12 near Cavedale Road, she saw a green, "jelly-bean-shaped" object, about the size of a "water-truck tank," traveling slowly toward the north.

"It looked like it had a round light on the front, and then a round light on the side, somewhat like a porthole," Serres said, adding that the thing was completely silent. "It didn't shine out, but was lit up ... I raced to the window and saw it quickly descend and go out of sight ... I wonder how it avoided hitting the power lines out here."

Serres' dogs started barking right after the three-second sighting, "but they bark all the time about stuff, so God only knows," she said. Serres called the Sonoma Police Department and county sheriff's substation an hour later to see if anyone else had reported it, but she left no message, and spokesmen from both agencies

said they hadn't heard anything about the matter.

Ron Oriti, planetarium director at Santa Rosa Junior College, said callers lit up the lines at Santa Rosa radio station KSRO. Oriti spoke on the air with two of the witnesses, but said he hadn't gotten enough clear reports to draw any firm conclusions.

"People described what sounded like a meteor, but your conclusions are only so strong as the evidence to support them," Oriti said, adding that meteorites with a high magnesium content could appear green as they burn up in Earth's atmosphere.

And although some UFO sightings turn out to be missile or satellite launchings, Oriti added that "usually when there's a launching, things go from down to up ... this seemed like it went from side to side."

Air Force officials only confirmed the mystery, saying no launches of any sort took place that day.

"I can only speak for Vandenberg, and we didn't have any," said Capt. Paula Hansen at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc.

"According to our people, we have normal operations within that timeframe," said Staff Sgt. Eric Grill at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield. "If you find out what it is, let us know," he added with a chuckle.

WAYNE CO. PRESS, Fairfield, IL - Sept. 3, 1998 Braden Reports Strange Light

Fairfield Police Officer Braden Willis, currently on leave after being involved in a serious car crash, reported to authorities Wednesday night seeing strange lights—possibly a UFO—in the Mt. Erie sky.

Willis was with a group of friends in the Pond Creek area who spotted the lights in the direction of Mt. Erie. They watched the lights for about an hour.

The police sergeant reported the sighting to the dispatcher at the Fairfield Police station. The Wayne County Sheriff's Dept. dispatched a squad car to check out Willis' report. They reported seeing no lights.

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



Memorial Day weekend has come and gone for another year. Shoreline Park was crowded as usual with boaters, skidoers and people enjoying the sun and water, not peaceful skywatching, but....

I received a call from Nancy Lawson in Birmingham, Alabama recently asking about sightings in the Panama City area. Although this is some distance from Pensacola and Gulf Breeze, she felt that I may have heard about some activity over there recently. It seems that May 12th - 15th was an active period for both UFO sightings and military exercises along the Gulf Coast. The perennial "is it a flare/is it a UFO" argument will run rife, however, I feel that what this witness is describing, and what the witnesses at Shoreline Park on May 12th described, was not flare activity. I reported the May 12th sighting in last week's Skywatch Diary, as the witnesses described it. I am giving the information here exactly as the witnesses described it, of a sighting that occurred at Seagrove on May 14th. I have no doubt that situations could occur where there is UFO and military activity on the same night. Maybe the military tries to cover up ufo activity this way, or maybe it's a who's watching who situation, I have no idea. Draw your own conclusions.

SEAGROVE SIGHTING

This sighting occurred on the evening of May 14, 1998 at the Beach, on the Gulf of Mexico at Seagrove, which is approximately half way between Fort Walton Beach and Panama City. Pat Trott, from Birmingham, Alabama and her friend Bonita had come to Seagrove for a vacation and were walking along the Beach around sunset. Pat is a trainee Field Investigator for MUFON. She says that the first part of the event occurred at approximately 7:35 p.m. The sun had set, but the sky was still light, no stars had appeared yet.

WHAT'S IN THE SKY?

Pat told me they were walking on the Beach, west, then turned around and started back the way they had come, when Bonita punched her in the arm and asked her, "What is that in the sky?" Pat said at first they thought it might have been a plane, but the way it was moving was definitely not like a plane. They thought perhaps it was one coming head-on toward them for a minute or two, but it never got any closer, and in fact maintained its position for over forty-five minutes in all. "Neither one of us had ever seen a plane or helicopter behave like this. It was moving to the left then to the right, and then up and then back down. It was oval shaped, and the only thing we could see in the whole sky. It was still too light for the stars to be out. It randomly showed red, white and green colors. A plane came by after we had watched the object for a few minutes, and we could clearly identify the plane, you could see the lights, the shape and hear the engine as it travelled a straight line. The other thing that was strange about the object, was that there were tiny pin points of white light that were going to it and away the whole time." Pat

describes the size of this object as being about half the size of an aspirin held at arm's length.

Pat and Bonita continued to watch this object from their position on the Beach when to the southeast of it a huge oval light came on. Pat states, "It just came on out of nowhere, blinked on, and it was yellowish white and a tad smaller than a full moon would appear to be at arm's length. There was no reflection from it on the water, and it stayed on for about forty-five seconds and then just snapped off again." Pat and

Bonita were by this time very excited, and sure that they were seeing some anomalous activity. They continued to scan the sky, keeping the original object in site at the same time. Looking straight up, Pat noticed something moving in the sky. By this time, there were some stars out and the sky was darkening. She thought this was possibly a satellite, moving directly overhead, until she noticed another similar point of light approaching it from the opposite direction. "They looked like they were going to hit each other," Pat told me,

"and in fact, they did come together in the sky, then just disappeared. There's no way satellites would do that." The object on the left Pat describes as being bigger, and the object on the right was brighter than the one on the left.

FOUR BLINKING LIGHTS

By now, Pat says it was dark and they had been watching the sky for about forty-five minutes. Suddenly, in the same place that the other bright white oval light had appeared, another, smaller bright light blinked on. It was followed by three others forming a horizontal row. All four just blinked on. They did not fall or change elevation in relationship with each other at all. Pat says "they all stayed there for a few seconds, then the one on the right, the first one that came on, suddenly zipped off to the right and blinked out. The other three then went out in the same order they had come on in, blinking off one at a time. They all had a definite shape, were not real bright, and had a kind

of hollow spot in the middle with points of light shining out from them like a child's drawing of what a star might be."

Just a quick note concerning an upcoming event at Area 51 in Nevada. My thanks to British researcher Matthew Williams for letting me know about this event which will take place on June 6, 1998, "The People's Rally at Area 51". It will take place at the restricted boundary line on Groom Lake Road in Lincoln County, Nevada. This will be the first such assembly of citizens at the base that "doesn't exist" officially, and will be a legal public assembly taking place on public land.

For more information on this check out <http://eagle-net.org/groomwatch/maps.htm>.

I can be contacted at bakerswd@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152.

Keep Looking Up!

DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - Sept. 13, 1998 CR: R. Reid

Close Encounters

People who report seeing UFOs say they are changed forever by the experience.

By ANGIE TOOLE
Daily News Staff Writer

The term "unidentified flying object" or UFO has taken on a depth of meaning far beyond a craft or object that can't be identified.

For witnesses of these strange phenomena, UFOs are a signal that the Earth is not the sole site of intelligent life in the universe.

A sighting can either be a life-altering event or just an odd incident that most people are afraid to talk about because of the ridicule they might endure.

Donald Ware of Fort Walton Beach, a retired Air Force pilot and mechanical and nuclear engineer, is a UFO investigator and on the board of the International UFO Congress.

Ware says he has observed alien vehicles nine times, starting with a famous sighting over Washington, D.C., on July 26, 1952.

"I was out walking after 11 p.m. in Arlington, Va., and I saw seven red-light type vessels wandering over Washington. I had read about sightings in the newspaper, and I saw them occur again," Ware said.

At first, he didn't take the sightings seriously.

"It took me two years to figure out those vehicles were controlled by a more advanced intelligence," Ware said. "But later, the two sets of appearances in a row made it clear to me that the appearance was deliberate, so the media could not ignore and the media could not cover up the sightings. It was a small step in making me aware of the alien presence."



He has been involved in many organizations dealing with the UFO phenomenon over the years, but broke with one inter-

national organization recently because the group varied so greatly from his philosophy by not including reincarnation in

the alien presence. "They are only studying the

(continued on page 9)

Daily News/CRAIG TERRY

(continued from page 8 -
DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton
Beach, FL - Sept. 13, 1998)

physical aspects of the universe," Ware said. "So, they are missing half of the picture."

In his study of comparative religions, Ware felt he had found answers in linking UFO phenomena, offering "a glimpse of a larger reality. UFOs can answer all the persistent mysteries of mankind."

"UFOs represent, in part, the angelic force associated with the second coming operation," Ware wrote in a brief of his philosophy. "As we approach the end of the millennium, the pace of human activity is increasing rapidly. This also seems to be true for the non-human activity in this part of the galaxy, whether we call them aliens, visitors, watchers, angels or archangels. We are in the process of joining a galactic society, both individually and collectively."

As a UFO investigator, Ware has been involved in reports of alien abductions, device implantation and cross-species breeding.

"People are not ready" for explanations of the alien presence, Ware said, citing government cover-ups and media skepticism.

Phil Obenauer of Santa Rosa Beach spotted a trio of lights in the sky in 1965, but what really convinced him that they might be UFOs was the "incredibly dumb, common answer" he got from the Navy: weather balloons.

No weather balloons would be equipped with orange lights that bright, or would move in a precise zigzag pattern while staying precisely in formation, Obenauer said.

Another convincing aspect of the sighting is that in the 30-odd years since it happened, and prior to the sighting, he has never seen any kind of UFO.

Obenauer, a retired environmental control officer, has spent

plenty of years looking at the sky during the day and night.

"I was also an avid waterfowl hunter, and I spent countless hours outdoors. I never saw anything like it again," he said.

He sighted the three lights in the night sky over the Atlantic in 1965 when he and a date were looking at the water at 1 a.m. Neither he nor his companion had been drinking, and were just enjoying the view when they spotted this unexplained phenomenon.

"I am not a UFO fanatic, but this was spooky, and it certainly wasn't a weather balloon," Obenauer said. "That's why I'm open to the possibility, though, that there might be UFOs, because we both actually witnessed it."

Obenauer still scans the sky, even on nights when he and his wife are listening to an outdoor concert at Seaside. He looks up at the beauty of cloud formations backlit by the moon, and wonders....

Eudora Courtney of Niceville wrote about a UFO she witnessed:

"It was between 1979-1981, we did not document the date of the sighting.

"We were spending a weekend with friends on our houseboat on Cumberland Lake near Monticello, Kentucky. Having finished dinner, we were sitting outside, enjoying that evening, when someone asked what was that object in the sky just above the tree line. It appeared to be a large, oval-shaped craft hovering silently. There was a row of lights: red, white, green and barely visible windows.

"We don't know how long the craft had been hovering in our area before we finally noticed it.

"Other boaters came out on the dock with cameras and binoculars and there were at least 20 people watching the object, which continued to hover as if it was observing us. Finally, after several long minutes, the object

shot straight up, darted from left to right, and disappeared from sight. We all stood there more than a little shocked, wondering exactly what we had just seen. It definitely was a UFO.

"None of us watching from the dock, including a Kentucky state trooper, ever reported the sighting. Probably this was more out of fear of ridicule or being embarrassed by the so-called experts on UFOs."

"Whatever I saw was unlike anything I had ever seen before or since. We definitely are not alone."

Pat Roberts of Fort Walton Beach reported sighting a UFO when she was a teen-ager.

"When I was in about seventh or eighth grade, we lived in Palms River, New Jersey, and for a science class, we had to go outside at night and we were supposed to be able to see barium rockets, to see the glow in sky," Roberts said.

Being a typical teen-ager, she was talking on the phone with a girlfriend, when the other girl reminded her about the assignment.

Roberts ran outside and "looked and looked, I was just staring up at the sky. This thing came so fast, and absolutely silently and hovered over a tree in our yard."

Roberts described it as a "series of lights, and it stayed for a few minutes, then it swished off to north."

Roberts ran into the house to her mother, who had seen the UFO from the kitchen window.

"Call the Air Force, call the police," Roberts recalled shouting at her mother, but her mother calmed her down, took the teen inside the house and "she had me draw what I saw."

Her mother went into another room to draw her own version, and then they compared sketches.

"We both saw the same thing," Roberts said.

A neighbor admitted to seeing

the craft as well, and contributed her own drawing.

None of the women ever reported the sighting.

Roberts knows the craft was a true UFO because "it came so fast, but without any noise."

Although Roberts still scans the sky from time to time, she has never seen another UFO.

"I look all the time. I know I've heard Gulf Breeze is a big area for that, but I've never gone over there to look for myself," Roberts said.

Roberts does remember another aspect of the sighting. Although the episode was exciting, at the time she had a lingering fear.

"I wouldn't sleep upstairs for a long time," Roberts said. "I slept on the couch."

Paul Donner of Navarre, a retired pilot and flight engineer, was on the bridge of an oil exploration and research ship on its way from Singapore to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, some 22 years ago when he spotted a UFO.

"We were going to evaluate the substructure of the Bering Sea at time. I just happened to go along to fix the satellite system," Donner said.

"Another ship was 12 miles off our left side," Donner explained. "Unexpectedly (we saw) a light from the other ship. I thought it was a flare or emergency beacon, so I put on my field glasses. I saw a well-defined flying object, and I had the object in my field for six seconds. It was the classic idea of flying saucer, including projections at the bottom of the thing. I estimated it was five miles away, traveling at 300 knots, 2,000 feet about surface of the sea.

"The strange but important part of this whole thing: I never really told anyone about this, but the object didn't emanate from the sky or return there. It simply came from the sea and returned there, in a well-determined arc," Donner said.

"For anyone who's interested, the water depth there is about

1,000 fathoms, or 6,000 feet. So, anything could go on below us, for all we know."

Evelyn Drowne of Destin saw a film of a UFO that she still wonders about.

"In the early 1960s, a retired master sergeant, whose first name was Harry, had a movie camera and was constantly recording pictures of parties," she said.

"On one of these occasions, I attended (a party) and was viewing the party (film). Near the end of the film, Harry leaned over and said 'Be sure to watch this carefully.'"

According to Drowne, when Harry finished by filming the sunset on the beach where the Holiday Inn is now located, "late in the afternoon, he just turned completely around."

When Harry got the film back, he spotted something he hadn't seen while he was filming: two flying saucers appearing from behind a cloud.

"He had no explanation, and all he said was he saw nothing when filming the film. This was all new to me. I had no idea what it was, if it had been faked or what it was," Drowne said. "The film was certainly real, and it was just on a regular screen."

Jackie Miller, of Fort Walton Beach, spotted a UFO on Dec. 17 or 18, 1997.

Miller looked into the sky over his front yard and saw a black, round object hanging motionlessly.

"This was the only thing I've ever seen, although I've read a bunch of stuff," Miller said.

He didn't think it could be a balloon, because the object changed colors from black to silver, and then when he looked away for a second and looked back it had disappeared.

Miller doesn't automatically assume that it was an alien craft, though.

"I know there's a lot of weird stuff on Eglin," Miller said.

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



We had some visitors at Shoreline Park this past week. Nick, from a small village near Peterborough, England was very excited to find himself actually at Shoreline Park. In the States on business, Nick, who is an avid ufo enthusiast, came right up and introduced himself to us. Of course, Nick, my husband and I had more to talk about than UFOs, since Nick hails from an area very close to where we lived in the U.K. I love it when visitors from the U.K. come to Shoreline Park, because I can get the latest news from the "old country". Nick also shared some interesting USO stories from over there.

As always, it is great to hear what is going on in ufology in another country and a shame that we have to rely on word of mouth, rather than being able to get this information from newspapers, etc. Nick spent two nights skywatching with us, but unfortunately did not have a sighting. He is very interested in the flying triangles, and we were able to tell him about Omar Fowler's OVNI from England and the Hudson Valley sightings here in the U.S.

Also visiting were a family from North Carolina, Rick and Marsha, and their daughter, Rick, a long time UFO enthusiast was also very pleased to be skywatching at Shoreline Park.

No sighting reports this week, so I will delve into our archive here and share a sighting from the Gulf Breeze area that has occurred in the past.

This report comes from The Pensacola Journal (the former name of the Pensacola News Journal) Okaloosa/West Florida Edition of Thursday, February 5, 1976, the morning edition.

"UFO No Pics in Sky - Just Camera Shy" by Weldon Grimsley, Ft. Walton Beach Bureau Chief, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE - What gives off a brilliant white light when viewed by the naked eye, but will not make an impression on sensitive photographic film? That question has Airman Renard Gie puzzled. "I don't really believe in UFOs (unidentified flying objects)," the airman said Wednesday, "but there definitely was something out there, and it wasn't a reflection!"

Airman Gie, 22, a native of Baton Rouge, LA, was called out of a sound sleep last Saturday morning to try and photograph a reported

UFO at Duke Field. He took at least forty exposures of the object, but in not one was the light evidenced in the negatives. Using a Nikon 35mm camera, Airman Gie, an experienced photographer, has no self-doubts about the lens setting and shutter speeds he used. In fact, some of his pictures revealed utility poles and wires — but no UFOs. For the Journal he used a felt tipped pen to draw in the general size, shape and position of the light as it should have appeared on the picture. But it's not there.

"Look, you're a photographer," he asked a newsman, "why would bright light of any kind not show up in the picture when other objects did?" He's a very puzzled young man. The airman said what he saw at Duke Field, not too high off the ground, was a "big bright object-a round light object. It would circle, move drastically to the right." He said to the naked eye there was one object, one brightly lighted object - though not so bright it hurt the eyes. Gie added that as he looked through the camera to focus on the UFO, he saw two objects, "but there was just one thing out there." The article continues - "The object, when seen by Gie, was over Duke Field. Other sources reportedly also saw it about

three miles east of the field. The airman said film was taken from a civilian photographer who was not authorized to take pictures in the area. That film also failed to show evidence of a UFO. Military spokesmen said the object was first reported by a sergeant. Another sergeant, David Taylor, said he was on duty at the range operations control center, "controlling air space," Saturday morning when he received a call from the Armament Development and Test Center command post instructing him to ask mission control to check their radar about the Duke Field report. Radar, he said, showed nothing. Taylor said he was told the UFO was an oblong object which gave off a blue and green light, and was about the size of a C130 aircraft. He said he was told it was about 3,000 feet off the ground.

Sgt. Samuel Hopkins, of base security, said Eglin was advised by Florida Highway Patrol Trooper S.R. Bevins early Wednesday morning of a possible UFO off Santa Rosa Island. Bevins said he wouldn't rule out the possibility what he saw was Venus, and Hopkins agreed. The trooper, from Gulf Breeze, said about 4:00 a.m. he was in the Navarre Beach area on Santa Rosa Island, toward the Air Force installations

there, when he spotted something about "five to six times larger than the brightest star visible at the time, and a lot brighter." He said to the naked eye, it appeared to be a bright white light with a red light on one side and green light on the other. However, he said, when viewed through binoculars it appeared the white light obscured the others. He said it was visible from about 4:00 a.m. until daylight began dawning, and also could be seen by his dispatcher, Robert Tartar, who was in Pensacola at the time. Hopkins said, however, he was inclined to believe it was a star. Bevins said the light seemed to move back and forth horizontally, would seem to hover, move a little and then stop. "There were no extreme movements," he said. Eglin's radar was trained on the light, but returned no signals."

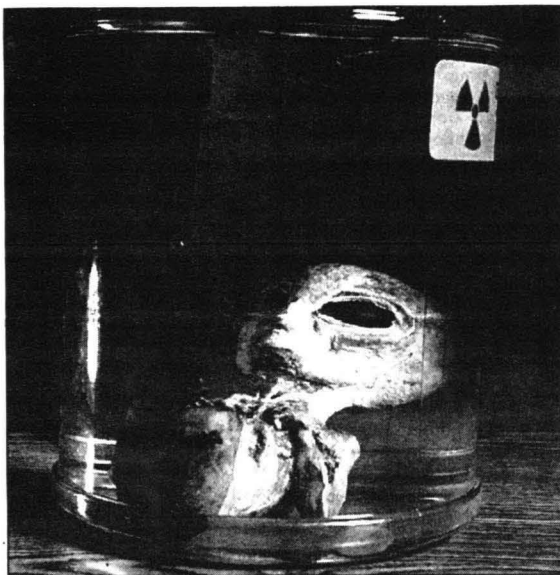
If anyone reading this has received or read an article about Gulf Breeze by Greg Wright in which my husband, Ken Baker, is extensively misquoted, I would like to offer you the opportunity of reading my husband's response and will forward a copy upon request.

I can be contacted by email at: bakerswd@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS

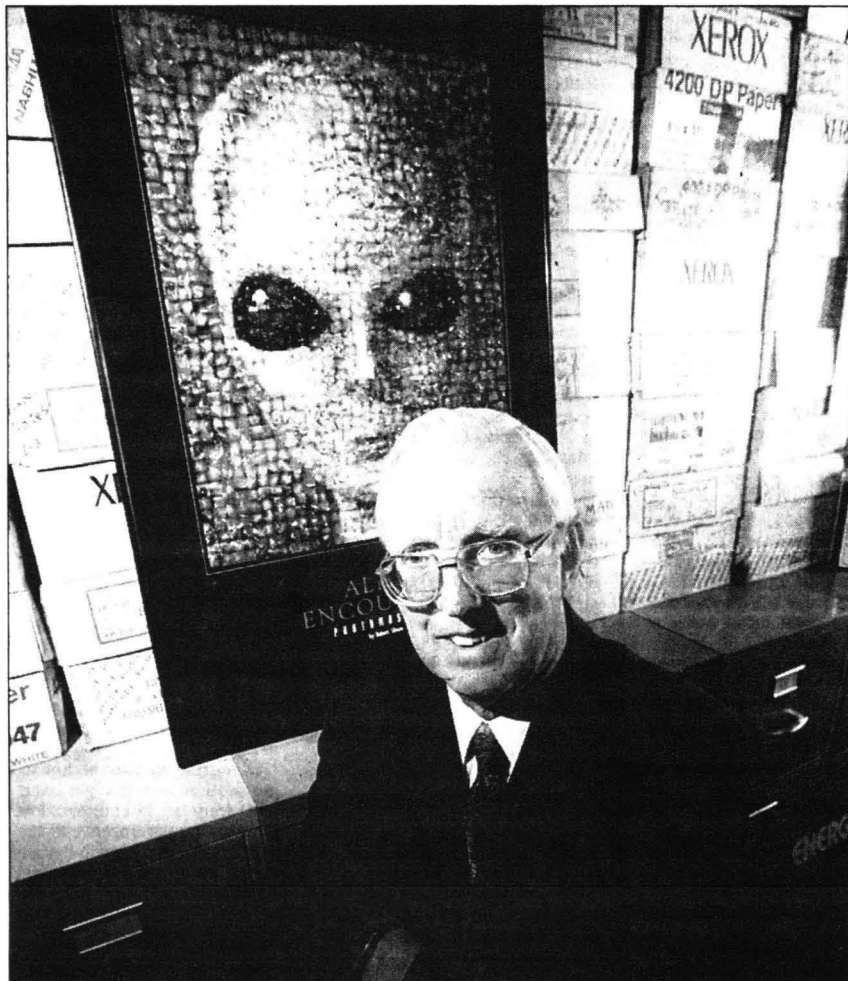
'You'd think that in the nation's space center there'd be no shortage of interest. ... But as soon as I mentioned my questions concerned a UFO sighting, scientists didn't want to talk to me.'

John Schuessler



Ben DeSoto / Chronicle

Right: Longtime Houston Aerospace engineer and "UFOlogist" John Schuessler settles into the office of his new home in Colorado. **Above:** A mock alien fetus in a jar of mock formaldehyde is among the holdings of the Mutual UFO Network museum in Seguin. **Below:** The museum also has a small assortment of UFO literature, including Schuessler's book on the Cash-Landrum UFO incident in Liberty County.



Kevin Higley / Special to the Chronicle

'UFOlogists' hope report spurs research funding

By TODD ACKERMAN
Houston Chronicle Science Writer

WHEN John Schuessler was investigating UFO reports in and around Houston, he always knew he could count on one thing.

He'd get little help from local scientists.

Needing answers about, say, the physiological effects of radiation or the physics of unusual occur-

rences, the longtime Clear Lake aerospace engineer would have to turn to experts in other cities.

"You'd think that in the nation's space center there'd be no shortage of interest," says Schuessler, who retired and moved to Colorado this summer. "But as soon as I mentioned my questions concerned a UFO sighting, scientists didn't want to talk to me."

Schuessler hopes that is about to change. This summer, in the first scientific review of UFO phe-

nomena since 1970, a panel of scientists concluded that some sightings are accompanied by physical evidence so strong they deserve scientific study.

The story made front-page headlines around the nation. To the intelligentsia, after all, UFOs have long been the stuff of tabloids and the lunatic fringe, liable to culminate in mass suicides like Heaven's Gate, better illuminated by *The X-Files* than serious scientists.

The 50-page report, funded by millionaire Laurance Rockefeller, stopped short of finding convincing evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence or even any violation of natural law. But it indicted the scientific community for a lack of scientific curiosity.

Citing cases that included burns to witnesses, radar detection of mysterious objects, strange lights appearing repeatedly in the skies over certain locales, aberrations



in the workings of automobiles, and radiation and other damage found in vegetation, it called on scientists to overcome their fear of ridicule associated with the topic and get funding to research such occurrences.

Funding is the rub, of course. Even a report by respected scientists isn't likely to make historically skeptical government agencies and foundations suddenly pour forth with major grants to study UFOs.

"But I think it'll crack the door open a bit," says Schuessler, who delivered testimony to the panel regarding UFOs he has investigated, including a famous 1980 case in Liberty County. "And, symbolically, it means a lot to the 'UFOlogy' community and to those people around the world whose experiences have been trivialized by science."

But if UFOlogists want practical results, they probably still have their work cut out for them. Alan Holt, a NASA manager at the Johnson Space Center who is sympathetic to their concerns, says the scientific community would need 10 times more data than the report presents before they would get interested.

UFO ridicule dates to the Korean War, when a CIA-sponsored study debunked then-prevalent UFO reports. In that authoritative era, its language was so harsh it had the effect of quieting the controversy — the media stopped asking questions, people be-

came afraid to report sightings.

There were (and still are) easy explanations for most sightings: Jupiter, Mars and Venus, comets, meteors, even the moon in its red-hued gibbous phase, space debris, experimental aircraft, model planes, fireworks, research balloons, kites. Others require more expertise: ball lightning, swamp gas, mirages, distant tornadoes, sunlight reflecting off flocks of birds and swarms of insects. Some, of course, are hoaxes.

But according to UFOlogists, about 5 percent of reported sightings involve none of those, and constitute some sort of unidentifiable phenomena. This summer's report says those cases merit more serious study.

The only investigation currently being done is typically by UFOlogists like Schuessler, volunteers who've made a hobby of researching the subject. They often are scientists, although the fact that their work isn't funded by grants actually taints them in the eyes of some colleagues. Skeptics, nicknamed debunkers by the UFOlogists, call them "mystery mongers."

"The implication of claims about those unidentifiable sightings is that if you spend a lot of time studying them you'll find something remarkable," says Joe Nickell, an editorial board member of the *Skeptical Inquirer*. "But more likely, they'll fall into one of the identifiable categories."

Nickell says he has no problem with open-minded scientific investigations into UFO sightings. But he questions the wisdom of putting money into research that will inevitably yield cases that are unidentifiable because there simply weren't enough witnesses or the kind of evidence to resolve the matter.

The world's biggest center of UFOlogy is the Mutual UFO Network, an international, grass-roots organization headquartered in Texas that dispatches its volunteers to investigate sightings, holds symposiums and publishes a quarterly journal.

MUFON is also the home, in Seguin, of a UFO museum — an eccentric hodgepodge of alien toys and UFO books; of gift-shop knickknacks and scholarly displays of UFO sightings; of mugs, caps and T-shirts and laminated newspaper pages; of movie posters and debris from an authentic NASA rocket.

It is the biggest UFO museum east of Roswell, N.M.

MUFON's roughly 3,500 members include a wide range of experts and views — 217 have doctorates and 300 have master's degrees; some are almost as skeptical as Nickell in assessing likely explanations. Others, like MUFON Director Walt Andrus, are more flamboyant.

Andrus, whose home doormat reads "Welcome, UFOs and Crews,"

says the UFOs probably have an underwater Earth base and calls on the U.S. government to "quit lying and tell the truth about UFOs."

"Theology is a matter of belief, not UFOs," says Andrus. "The fact of the matter is, the evidence for UFOs is overwhelming. We're receiving visitations from someplace. These UFOs didn't originate here."

Such is the kind of discussion that makes the mainstream scientific community cringe. A sampling of scientists at the time expressed anxiety when this summer's report came out that a topic with such a high "giggle factor" might blur the lines between legitimate research and the "lunatic fringe."

Schuessler says he and others presenting UFO testimony to the report's authors initially picked up that same vibe, an "arm's-length" attitude that bespoke a kind of fear of being contaminated. But Schuessler says that went away, and a mood of true scientific discussion emerged as "the panel realized we weren't kooks."

Schuessler's testimony focused on the physiological effect on witnesses, particularly in the well-known Cash-Landrum case in Liberty County. The 1980 incident involved two women and one's 7-year-old grandson. Their alleged encounter with a UFO left them with permanent damage to the eyes; stomach pains, vomiting and diarrhea; skin scarring,

with loss of pigmentation; excessive hair loss; loss of appetite, energy and weight; fingernail shedding; increased susceptibility to disease; and cancer.

The incident — Schuessler has written a book on it — is one of a number of sightings that Schuessler says have made Texas a UFO center. Others include an 1897 airship crash near Fort Worth in which *The Dallas Morning News* reported that the recovered pilot's body was "not of this world," sightings of lights in the sky known as the Lubbock Lights and Marfa Lights, and a 1976 event near Tyler that Schuessler told the panel left the witnesses with the experience of "shock."

So what will the report accomplish? Nickell says it'll be a blip on the radar screen. And even its author, Stanford physicist Peter Sturrock, says he doesn't think scientists are going to jump into the field. But Schuessler is more hopeful.

"Scientists will happily do UFO research, just as they now do fruit fly research, if the money's there to pay for it," says Schuessler. "UFOlogy just needs some millionaires to endow them."

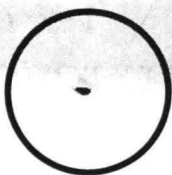


FOREIGN NEWS

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

THANET TIMES, Kent, England - July 28, 1998

IS THIS A UFO?



Couple capture dawn sighting on camera

A UFO in the sky above Kingsdown shocked two campers waiting for the sun to rise.

Martin Thompson and Janice Trinder saw the white glowing object appear from behind a cloud and move slowly across the sky before disappearing. It turned up again 20 minutes later in the same spot.

The pair are convinced it was too big to be a plane and it was definitely not a weather balloon.

Martin, a former soldier in the Territorial Army, was helping with a kids' camping trip at the international Scout camp in Kingsdown, organized by St. Christopher's Church, Newington.

He said: "I wasn't frightened, it was intriguing. Maybe if it had come towards me I would have been worried, but we just followed it as it moved from cloud to cloud."

"I've never seen anything like it - it was three times the size of a plane."

He had gone to the camp on Sunday, 19 July, to help during the day and had been asked to stay until morning because they were short-handed.

But without warm clothing, Martin woke up freezing at 3am and went out to join Janice by the camp fire and warm up.

"I worked out which way was east and we were staring at the sky waiting for the sun to come up when we saw it," he said.

"The clouds had gone red and the dark blue sky behind them made a dramatic scene."

"If we'd be looking in the other direction we would have missed it completely. It was a bright white object showing through the breaks in the clouds."

Janice grabbed her camera and took several pictures. She tried to wake the

Rev. Matthew Hughes, who was sleeping in one of the tents.

She said: "He wasn't too keen about getting up at 5am. I think he thought I was joking."

"The object was oval-shaped and completely illuminated. With a plane you just see spots of light at the front and back. This was nothing like that."

"I'm disappointed the pictures didn't come out better. I wanted hard proof. People tend to think you're mad or drunk if you start talking about UFOs."

"I don't know what it was, but I don't think there's any reason why we should be the only planet with life on it."

When the craft appeared the second time, a plane was flying straight towards it.

Report by GINA HAZARD

Martin said: "The object just flew straight up, leaving a thick white trail, like that left by a combustion engine."

"But the trails left by planes take an hour to fade. This was gone within 10 minutes."

"I've always had an open mind about these things. I believe ghosts could exist too, but I won't be certain until I've seen one."

"Now I'm certain about UFOs."

David Quickenden, chairman of the Margate-based UFO research group Astrasearch, has just come back from a weekend studying crop circles in Wiltshire. He said it was important to eliminate all other explanations before accepting the UFO theory.

"Some of these sightings can be explained as space debris, satellites, a meteorite shower, light reflections or indeed aircraft," he said.

"But I am always interested to hear from members of the public who have a sighting of an unexplained phenomenon."

contacted them after seeing the UFO shoot off in the direction of Kingswinford and Wollaston at high speed.

He said the craft was "very large" and had four white lights at each corner. It also had a bright white beam of light which shone onto buildings below.

West Midlands Police said they had received no reports about the strange shape. Anyone else who may have seen the object should call 0958 312115 or 01384 356690.

CHIPPENHAM NEWS, Trowbridge, England - July 10, 1998

UFO tails men for over 30 miles

UNEMPLOYED Barry Portsmouth claims he feared for his life when he encountered a UFO on a dark road.

Mr Portsmouth, 39, of Sheldon Road, Chippenham, was travelling on the A350 between Warminster and Westbury in the early hours of June 25, when he and a friend saw what they believe was a UFO.

Mr Portsmouth said: "There were bright lights in the sky above us and we lost track of time. One minute we were outside Warminster, but when we turned the corner we were in Westbury."

"The lights were in a circle and came towards us before they hovered above the car. As it got closer, I could see an orange doorway."

"We started worrying, and both had terrific headaches which we had never had before, and our eyes started watering and stinging. I have never seen anything like it before. I used to have doubts about UFOs but in this, seeing is believing," he said.

"We both feared for our lives and as soon as I saw the doorway, I thought that was it."

Mr Portsmouth said the UFO was not visible when they parked in Westbury. "But when we got back on to the dark roads, it was with us again. It followed us all the way to Chippenham, but as soon as we got into the town where there are street lights, it disappeared."

"The other strange thing about it, is that there was traffic coming in the opposite direction, and although we were both looking up at the lights for a long time, we did not crash into anything."

They returned the next night and again saw the UFO.

TIMES, London, England - Aug. 15, 1998

Reports of UFOs vanish mysteriously into space

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE little green men from outer space have packed their bags, fired up their flying saucers and headed home. Or perhaps we have just become a little less credulous.

Reported sightings of UFOs have fallen dramatically in Britain in the past year, according to the Ministry of Defence. In 1996, 609 people told the ministry that they had seen an unidentified flying object. Last year, the figure dropped to 425. In the first six months of this year only 88 people reported sightings.

Ministry officials differed from UFO experts yesterday in explaining the decline. A ministry spokesman suggested that Hollywood was to blame. The unusually high 1996 figures had, he said, been prompted by the film *Independence Day*, with its story of aliens trying to destroy Earth. This was compounded by *Men in Black*, last year's film about aliens living on our planet. Similarly high numbers occurred after *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in the

late 1970s, when sightings rocketed from 435 to 750.

The spokesman added that the Hale-Bopp comet and last year's 50th anniversary of an American pilot coining the term "flying saucer" had contributed to the figures. "There was a series of films and events in 1996 and 1997 which triggered off a spate of reports from the public," he said. "In contrast, this year we have had the World Cup."

His theory has a flaw: UFO sightings dropped from 600 to 250 after *ET* hit the screens in 1982. Nick Pope, a UFO expert and civil

servant who investigated sightings for the ministry between 1991 and 1994, was sceptical of the films theory: "The idea of a link is an attempt to try to trivialise the UFO project."

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said official reports of sightings had declined because the ministry decided last year to stop taking them in person over the telephone, installing an answering machine instead. This put people off making a report.

He claimed that the official figures represented only 10 per cent of UFO sightings, most of which went unreported because observers were afraid of being mocked. Many other reports, made to the police and airports, did not reach the ministry.

The official figures were given in a written parliamentary answer to Lord Hill-Norton, the 83-year-old former First Sea Lord and UFO aficionado. His only comment yesterday was that he did not think the number of sightings had dropped.



EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - July 10, 1998

Strange shape in sky

Brierley Hill-based UFO investigators are appealing for eyewitnesses after a strange shape was spotted in the skies over Stourbridge.

Investigation group Uform said two Stourbridge residents spotted the triangle-shaped object hovering above the town's Corbett Hospital in the early hours of June 26.

Spokesman Trevor Wylde said the witnesses, who wished to remain anonymous,

contacted them after seeing the UFO shoot off in the direction of Kingswinford and Wollaston at high speed.

He said the craft was "very large" and had four white lights at each corner. It also had a bright white beam of light which shone onto buildings below.

West Midlands Police said they had received no reports about the strange shape. Anyone else who may have seen the object should call 0958 312115 or 01384 356690.

ADVERTISER, Andover, England - Aug. 14, 1998

Close encounter or far fetched

A LUDGERSHALL woman believes she saw a UFO on Saturday afternoon while she was sitting in her back garden.

"It was very high in the sky and circular shaped with a slight sheen," said the woman, who does not wish to be identified.

"After four or five seconds it headed off at speed, much faster than a jet and left no trail."

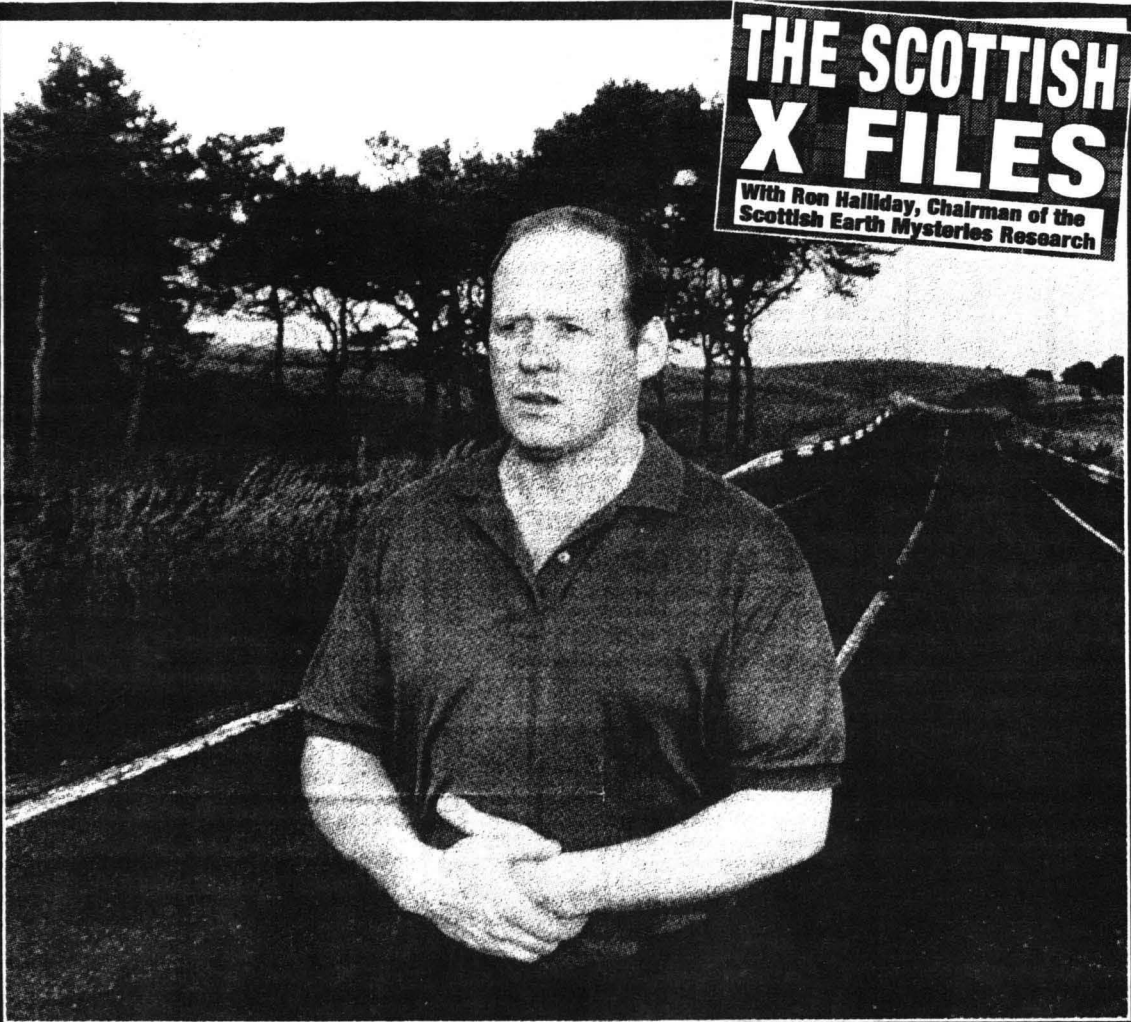
The woman called her husband

to look but it had disappeared by the time he focussed on the correct spot.

The UFO appeared at 3.10pm.

The woman says she would like to know what it was and whether any other people in the area saw it.

An MoD spokesman in London said he was prepared to 'run a trace' on the report to see if any more could be found out about the incident.



SKY HIGHWAY ... Garry Wood at the scene of his abduction on the A70 in West Lothian

SCOT HELD BY ALIEN CRAFT

ACALL by top scientists for an investigation into UFO phenomena hasn't impressed Scot Garry Wood.

He is also relaxed about sensationalist films like the forthcoming *X-files* blockbuster.

For Garry claims he has lived it all first hand - as an alien abductee.

Talking about the high-profile *X-files* movie, he said: "People like to see unusual things. It's just money making. I can't say it really bothers me."

"I don't think it changes people's attitude towards me. I am an abductee and saw something which really happened. There's no reason for me to lie."

As for official scientific inquiries, he told me: "I do believe that official bodies should take an interest. There's just too much evidence to ignore. There's definitely something out there and Western governments know all about it."

GARRY'S ordeal took place in August '92 on an evening that started innocently.

He explained: "The receiver on my satellite dish blew down, and I rang my friend Ian Phillips to see if he could help. Another friend

Bizarre car tale revealed

Colin Wright arrived just as I was getting ready to go. We set off around 10pm.

"We came to a bend in the road - the A70 in West Lothian - when Colin pointed to something above us."

"The object was floating 20 feet above the road. It was black in colour, shiny and about 35 to 40 feet across. It looked metallic."

"It wasn't making a noise but on seeing it I got really frightened. I thought, 'If I stop this car something will grab me'."

"I really felt as if my life was being threatened. I just wanted to get away. I accelerated under the object and I could see things hanging from it."

"A shimmering light came down the exact width of the road, and then I wasn't in the car."

"I remember thinking, 'Where's the car. Where's Colin?' I could see only blackness and thought I was dead. Then I was back in the car on the wrong side of the road with Colin screaming, 'Did you see it?'"

Garry remembers driving

at speeds of more than 90 mph to Ian's house and hammering on the door. Then the next shock. It was now 12.45am.

A journey which should have taken 45 minutes at most had inexplicably lasted three times as long.

For weeks, Garry suffered nightmares. One morning he found himself a mile from his house, half dressed and dazed.

Puzzled and worried, he tried to make sense of his encounter and why time was missing from his and Colin's lives.

HE decided to undergo hypnosis to try to discover what had taken place. A bizarre tale emerged.

Garry, of Gilmerton, Edinburgh, described the hidden memories that were brought back.

"I felt I was in my car and it was like being electrocuted, as if my muscles were being pulled in on me. I saw three small men coming towards the car. Then there was a taller entity, six to seven feet, translucent and a grey-white colour."

"It came close and said, 'I've got a life like yours, but different.' I think what it was trying to say was, 'I'm not a monster.'"

"There was also a brown coloured being with a heart shaped head and folds of skin about four feet in height. It looked ancient."

Garry also appears to have gone through some kind of medical exam.

"I saw two objects go away from my chest. At the same time the entities were looking at my left leg. I couldn't move at all during this time. There was an object right inside my ear making a humming noise."

During his ordeal, Garry had no sight of his friend Colin but he did see someone else.

"There was a naked female in her early 20s, with blonde hair. She was trying to cover herself up. Her eyes were red with crying."

Garry admits he has not fully got over his encounter, but is more settled in his mind. However, Garry does have a word of warning.

"I'm quite happy that UFOs are still a mystery. I am worried what might happen when we do meet these entities."

"World governments know what's going on, but they're only looking after their own interests."

"Sometimes change isn't a good thing. I would like there to be an answer, but I dread the day when it comes. We're the ones who'll cause the harm. Humans are warlike."

●Have you had an experience similar to Garry's. Write to *The Scottish X-Files*, The Saturday Times, 195 Albion Street, Glasgow G1 1QP.

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY, London, England - April 5, 1998



REX FONTAINE

I'VE BEEN thinking about aliens again. You recall, perhaps, my audience with Robert Temple - he of the *Sirius Mystery* and little men from outer space visiting an African tribe a long time ago - and now alien expert Colin Wilson has made his contribution to the debate in his new book *Alien Dawn*.

"It is a very confusing subject," he told me, from his home in Cornwall. "First of all you have the conspiracy theorists who believe the American and even British government know about aliens and are suppressing information - then you have the abductees."

"There are an enormous number of reports of alien abduction, and I think that the entities involved try to make the abductees' story sound unbelievable, they try to make it sound nutty." Mr Wilson accepts he himself might sound nutty from time to time. "After doing research into the subject I came to the conclusion that they don't want to be discovered."

Surely this is a curious proposition based on the number of people who now spot UFOs on a regular basis, and abductees who remember their experiences? "No, I think they have already been through what we are going through now, and look at us and want to move us on from the position we are in. We seem to have become stuck in our evolutionary development, caught in a cul-de-sac of evolution."

Mr Wilson believes aliens are keen to help us but aware that they shouldn't interfere for fear of destroying our civilisation, in the way that missionaries created problems. "I think they are trying to gradually make us aware of their existence, and that many may be among us in some hybrid form or as abductees who have been programmed or influenced to behave in certain ways."

Thankfully, Mr Wilson does not think they are here to cause us any harm. "At the moment I'm quite hopeful that we're not at the hands of fate or chance. When you start to realise that you start to feel a lot more cheerful for the future."

Pair want answers for close encounter



▲ Robert Hughes and Angela Wright who saw an unusual object in the sky over Spetchley.
Picture by John Pratt. 4015/11

Was anybody else out there?

IF special agent Mulder is right and the truth is out there, Angela Wright is keen to discover what it is.

The Droitwich woman claims she had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object as she and partner Robert Hughes drove near Worcester.

Now Angela, who says the UFO cut out the radio in her car, wants to know if anyone else saw strange lights in the sky.

The late-night encounter happened when Angela and Robert were driving towards Pershore on the old Worcester Road and saw a "huge machine in the sky" as they passed the Berkeley Arms.

"We were driving back from a friend's when we saw something with a huge row of lights either side and about the size of a house," said 53-year-old Angela.

"We watched it for around 30 seconds before it just disappeared.

"We weren't scared or shocked by it, just completely overwhelmed. The emotion was

by OWEN FAIRCLOUGH

Evening News

put on hold while we stared in awe.

"We just thought 'What the hell was that?' It didn't have the look or contours of a plane because you see dozens of them in the sky and recognise them immediately.

"We'd just like to know if anyone else travelling in the area saw anything."

Angela, a factory worker, explained that the radio cut out when the machine loomed into view around 30ft above them and came back on after it left.

"I'd just like to know if anyone else saw this," she said.

An RAF spokesman said the skies were constantly monitored for any hostile bodies but no unusual activity had been reported on Monday, July 20, when Angela spotted the strange lights.

"If it was an alien invasion, we would be the first to know about it," he said.

UFO's threat rejected by MoD

The sighting of an unidentified aircraft that flew over RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, in 1993 was not judged to be of defence significance, a defence minister said.

Defence Procurement Minister Lord Gilbert told a former Chief of the Defence Staff in the Lords that the Ministry of Defence had "only limited" interest in unidentified flying objects.

He said in a Lords written reply to Admiral Lord Hill-Norton (Ind) last night: "The MoD's interest in reports of 'unidentified flying objects' is limited to establishing whether Britain's airspace has been penetrated by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity and whether reporting procedures are adequate for this purpose.

Declining

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of each reported incident."

Lord Gilbert, a former Dudley MP, also disclosed that the number of UFO reports has been declining in recent years — from 609 in 1996, to 425 last year, to just 88 in the first six months of this year.

Lord Hill-Norton, who was Defence Chief in the early 1970s, asked the minister about the sighting of an unidentified craft that flew over two RAF bases in the West Midlands — Cosford and Shawbury — on March 31, 1993.

Lord Gilbert said the MoD is aware of the sighting from two military personnel, but no firm conclusions were drawn.

The events were not judged to be of defence significance.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - July 16, 1998

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST, Swansea, Wales - July 24, 1998

Truth was there on kids' UFO sighting

SIR, — As a UFO researcher, I was especially interested to read the letter of P Marchant's (Postbox, July 21).

His comments concerned a group UFO sighting that occurred on February 14, 1977 at Broad Haven Primary School, West Wales.

On this date 14 boys and a girl, observed one dome shaped, silver object that was resting on the ground adjacent to their school field and reported the incident to their head teacher Ralph Llewellyn, who instantly

separated the children and had them draw what they saw. Their diagrams matched and Mr Llewellyn concluded that the children were genuine and sincere in their claims.

From personal investigation for a research paper entitled South Wales and the UFO Enigma, I have come to the same conclusion.

I can assure the reader that the children's claims were the same and have remained the same. I have spoken with many of the witnesses and con-

sider them to be sincere and credible people.

Only two years ago, all of them were reunited for a radio programme on which each witness confirmed their sincerity and the factual basis of the story.

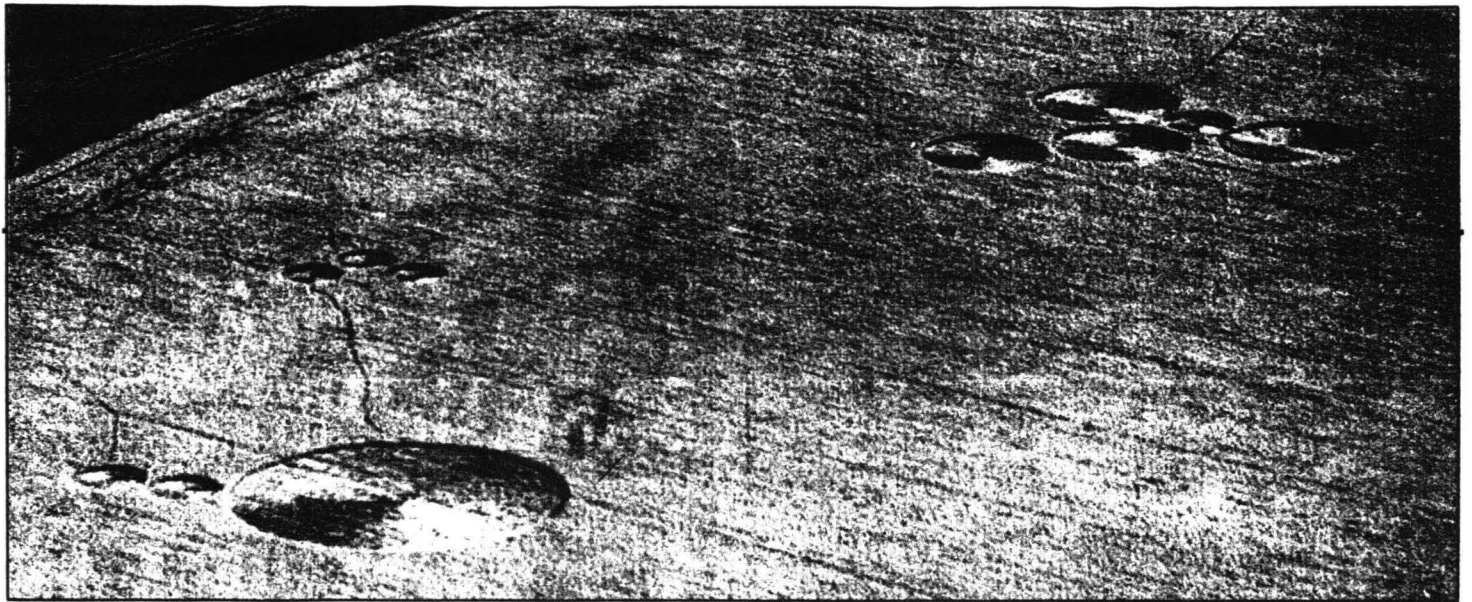
The incident at the school occurred in an area known as the Broad Haven Triangle, a hot spot, or window for UFO sightings, that lies between Swansea, Broad Haven and Mid-Wales.

RAF Brawdy is located not far from Broad Haven and were asked at the time as to whether their radar had detected the object at the school.

Unconvincingly, Brawdy claimed that their radar was not functional at the time and could not, therefore, confirm the validity of the children's story.

Neil Spring

Northway Court
Bishopston
Swansea



Seen from the air the 11 crop circles appear in bold relief against a backdrop of ripe oats with Northside Road at the upper left. JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

Under the living skies

Free Press photographer John McKenzie was above the oat fields of the Vanderhoof airport Monday to have a look at the "crop circles" found there last week. This is what he saw.

As we trudge through the field of grain, bits of H.G. Wells' and Arthur C. Clarke's fiction nip at the edges of objective, rational thought.

My guide suggests we walk single file to avoid damage to the site and from a few paces ahead he assures me that any trails leading to the site were made by the curious after the discovery.

We've been told what lies in the field of ripe oats just off the end of the runway at the Vanderhoof airport. The term, in the pop culture vernacular, is "crop circles."

But is it a rare meteorological phenomenon, a cunning prank, or

evidence of extraterrestrial visitors?

As we enter the first circle it's instantly clear. This is the result of a wilful act. Someone or something chose to do this. Then, just as quickly the thought comes that it could be a dust devil, a small scale twister or a funnel cloud.

As my mind mulls over those two opposite possibilities, the orderliness and precision of the "structure" become apparent. The circle, in 18-inch tall plants, is roughly 30 feet in diameter and as perfectly circular as anything cut into a field of grain could be.

The individual stocks are bent

over, not cut or broken, at ground level and all lie in the same direction. "Circular swirl" is a fairly accurate if not complete description of the pattern, which appears to begin at the middle and work outward.

There are 11 circles in this field, all discovered on August 28 in the mid-afternoon by charter pilot Eric Stiers. The biggest is 100 feet in diameter and the smallest 20 feet. There are some in groups and others off on their own giving an overall random effect which betrays the precision.

Guide Brett Miskuski, owner of Vanderhoof Flying Services, points out a detail which catches his eye. There is a spot where two medium-sized circles nearly come together. So nearly in fact that only 10 stocks of grain remain standing between

the two. But those stocks are completely unharmed. As delicate as they are, and as exposed to whatever force swathed the circles, it appears the intent was to leave them standing, and they are.

A further curiosity with these two nearly adjoining circles is that the swirls go in opposite directions. In the eastern one, the bigger of the two, the swirl goes clockwise. In the western circle the swirl is counterclockwise. The result of this is that the stocks where the circles are closest together have fallen in the same direction — north.

From the air, surveying the circles from Mr. Miskuski's Cessna, the precision of the circles is brought into sharp focus. And the pattern, while at first abstract, has a geometric order in places and a definite artistic appeal and beauty. It is

a clean, graphic design sharing some elements with modern signs and logos.

Leaving the site more questions nag. Why leave so soon? Why not return and spend more time in the circles? The questions are unavoidable. Perhaps further examination would reveal clues. Or, if you waited long enough they might return. Even if it is the pranksters from down the road or....

While stopped at a red light at Highway 16 and Doman Boulevard, I notice a pickup with Saskatchewan plates. It features several stocks of ripe wheat with the slogan "Land of living skies".

Spooky.

Editor's note: Expert opinion on "crop circles" is difficult to come by, but we will have more on the Vanderhoof circles on Sunday.

New evidence on Calderdale UFO

By CHRIS BUNTING

NEW evidence about a UFO seen above Halifax on February 2 will be discussed at a conference next month.

Hundreds of people across Yorkshire and Lancashire reported seeing two lights travelling from Manchester towards Leeds that evening.

Now, UFO experts have obtained camcorder film footage of the unidentified lights and secured unprecedented co-operation from air traffic controllers in trying to get to the bottom of the incident.

The international conference,

hosted by the University of Leeds between September 11 and 13, will be the first chance for the new evidence to be publically aired.

Conference organiser and editor of UFO magazine Mr Graham Birdsall said the event was bound to be popular.

Guest speakers from Mexico, the U.S., and Sri Lanka were among the attractions, but the discussions of February incident would be a major draw.

"I would say that the events that transpired on that day in February were without any shadow of a doubt the biggest incident in these

parts since 1984, when there was a similar incident involving just one bright light," he said.

Hundreds of people had reported seeing the lights travelling at about 45 mph and at 1,000 feet along the M62 corridor from Manchester to Leeds.

The first sighting had been in Manchester at about 5 pm, but within the next hour the lights were also seen in Halifax, Cleckheaton, Gildersome, Bradford, and Leeds.

Finally, at about 5.45 pm, a wit-

ness in North Leeds saw the two lights separate. Both accelerated, as one travelled North and the other sped to the East, and in seconds they had disappeared over the horizon.

Mr Birstall said a camcorder buff, Mr Ken Field, had taken footage of the lights in Kippax, Leeds, and a screening was planned at September's conference.

Mr Andy Rackham, senior air traffic supervisor at Leeds and Bradford International airport, had extended unprecedented co-operation in the subsequent inves-

tigation of the incident and had also agreed to address the conference.

"We've looked at the explanations. Leeds Bradford airport maintain that absolutely no way were these military aircraft. If it was covert craft you would hardly expect them to be going across such a crowded area at a peak time.

"Microlights don't usually have lights and they are not allowed to fly at night and they would not be able to go as fast as the witness in Leeds saw them travel," Mr Birstall said.

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Aug. 18, 1998

COUNTY TIMES, Welshpool, Wales - June 12, 1998

UFOs spotted near Llani

EXCLUSIVE by BARRY HANCOCK

STRANGE and unusual shaped aircraft have been spotted in the skies near Llanidloes.

Three triangular shaped objects were spotted by a Newtown man and his girlfriend, on Wednesday night last week.

They were travelling on the road between Newtown and Llanidloes at the time.

Mr Paul Best, who reported the sighting to the *County Times*, takes up the story:

"I saw three triangular-shaped planes, which were below the clouds, sometime after half past 10 in the evening."

"They were perfect triangles, with a round shape underneath. I got out of the car to watch them and for seven or eight minutes they were stationary, they weren't even hovering it

was like they were just stuck in the air. Then they started moving very, very slowly, before shooting off very quickly."

Mr Best said they were like no other aircraft he has seen and were not like pictures he has seen of the triangular shaped Stealth Bomber.

"They weren't flying saucers. I didn't have any sense of them being extra terrestrial or anything like that. I thought they were just really weird looking planes."

The RAF say they were not aware of any special exercises taking place in the Llanidloes area on the night Mr Best spotted the aircraft.

Community relations officer Mr Brian Sidebotham said: "There

was no unusual flying, no special exercise on, or foreign aircraft or anything like that in the area."

Concerned

"Sometimes the lights on any aircraft can cause unusual effects and I do know that sometimes laser light shows have been known to cause people to see something that they have never seen before."

He added that if anyone was concerned about unusual sightings of aircraft they should contact the RAF.

Mr Sidebotham said he had received no other reports of the sighting. The police also said they had received no reports about unusual aircraft.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH, Haverfordwest, Wales - June 10, 1998

Was 'silver rocket' sighting a UFO?

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS came to Haverfordwest last week after an innocent shopping trip offered a unusual sighting.

Mr and Mrs Jeff Kirkhouse, of Croft Cottage, Canaston, near Narberth, were shopping at Safeway, Haverfordwest, and while Janet Kirkhouse went shopping Jeff waited in the supermarket car park.

"At about 5 pm to 5.30 pm last Monday (June 1st) there weren't many people in the car park and I happened to look up in the direction of Prendergast."

"I was watching a passenger plane when sudden-

ly it veered to the right for some reason. I then saw a silver object, which looked like a rocket, going south right across its path."

"At first I thought it had come off the back of the aircraft and I read the story in the *Western Telegraph* about the wing panel falling off Concorde so I thought it was that, but the times didn't match up."

"It was going very fast, as one minute it was there and then it disappeared and I don't think it was a military aircraft as their jets go over here every day. "When I told my wife

and son they thought it might be a UFO and I've certainly never seen anything like it before."

"The only other people I know who would have seen the object were a couple next to me in a caravanette and they drove off before I could ask them."

"I certainly believe in UFOs as I don't think we are the only ones out there."

Calls were made by the *Western Telegraph* to the RAF, Withybush Airfield, Cardiff Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority, but none had any report of the incident.

Flattened grain rekindles crop circle debate

By Michael Raine
Saskatoon newsroom

CONQUEST, Sask. — On a prairie plateau, with only the red gables of a few barns to bear witness, nine crop circles were formed in fields near here about three weeks ago.

Who or what made them, and why, are the subjects of speculation similar to that surrounding most crop circle discoveries. Natural causes, pranksters or UFOs?

"If they landed here, they must have been moving in a counter-clockwise rotation. That's the way the crop is flattened. If that is what happened," said Emmy Amy of Conquest, as she walked around a crop circle.

She was touring the circles with her husband Lyle. The pair farm nearby and said they have never seen anything like this.

Crop circle discussions are rife with "ifs" and "supposes" floating around the central Saskatchewan communities of Conquest and Dinsmore.

Linda Mann and husband Ken were swathing a spring wheat crop on a rolling field near their farm when they found the circles. Linda had just brought supper to Ken and they were riding in the swather cab when they found the flattened crop.

The Manns reported their find and soon heard that members of the Dinsmore, Sask., Hutterite colony had also found circles in a durum field four kilometres west.

"The Manns have three circles and we have six here," said John Hofer, a colony poultry producer, as he toed the largest of the circles with the edge of his black boot.

"They are the same style, so I expect they're from the same source, whatever that is. We don't really understand how they got here but there is lots of speculation around the colony."

Hofer wouldn't normally be found wandering through a freshly harvested field when there is farm work to be done. But the phenomena have drawn not only the 100

members of the colony to see for themselves, but hundreds of other onlookers from surrounding communities and further afield.

"We had a guy from Alberta drive in. He took some pictures, took some samples of the grain and such and left again," said Linda. "We've had calls from Vancouver (and) talked to a lady from the States. They get more of them down there, I guess."

The crop is mashed in a circular pattern, bent over at the ground. The circles range in size, some just over a metre and a half and others up to 14.5 metres in diameter.

Many show a tail resembling the international women's symbol, with a cross extending from the circle. The crosses, in both the colony's field and Mann's crop, point in a south-southwest direction and are of even size, independent of the circle's diameter.

The crops have been harvested but the circles remain, below the level of the stubble. The grain remains in the flattened stalks, unharmed.

"There is a doughnut over there, a ring within a ring, both mashed down in the same direction," said Paul Waldner, who was visiting the site from the Kyle, Sask., Hutterite colony. "If there wasn't so much detail and those tails, I just say it was a whirlwind or a small tornado touching down. Something must have made this intentionally."

Added Ken Mann: "There was a big meteor shower the night we figure they were made. Maybe it has something to do with that."

Neighbors speculate the circles could be the result of "magnetism." "There are power lines just over the hill and microwave and cell phone towers not too far away. It could be energy from the earth, like they say is at Stonehenge," said Ken.

Bill Hurd was the local provincial agricultural representative until his recent retirement and said the circles are new to the area.

"I was the ag rep out here for 21 years and if anybody would have had them before this, I'm sure I



WP photos by Michael Raine

The Conquest, Sask., crop circles have attracted many curious visitors. This man, who lives in the area, was out for a Sunday drive with his family when they stopped to look at the circles. He is examining the cross that extends from several of the circles.

"There was a big meteor shower the night we figure they were made. Maybe it has something to do with that."

— Ken Mann, Conquest, Sask., farmer

would have heard about it," he said.

Linda has her post-harvest work cut out for her because she has volunteered to take soil samples in the circles for the Vancouver-based Circles Phenomenon Research of Canada.

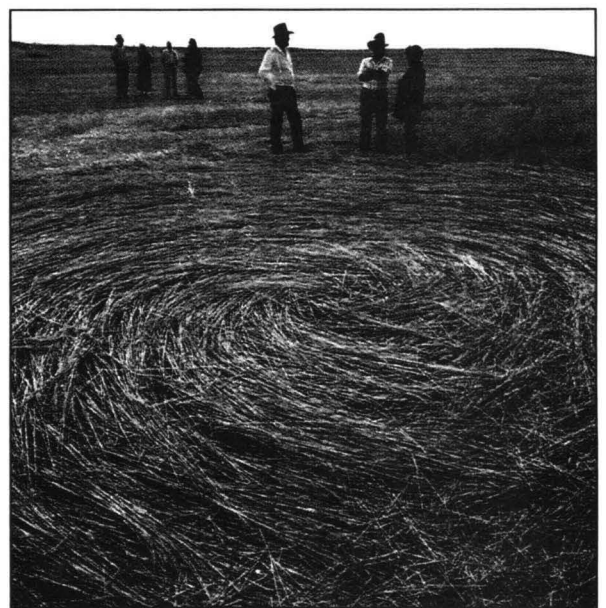
A representative of that group says circles are found every August as farmers begin harvest.

A long line of parked vehicles stretched down a field road even two weeks after the circles were found.

"I think this is great. People are having a lot of fun with this," said Ken. "I wish some of the guys wouldn't drive their trucks on the circles though. They'll end up messing them up. Otherwise people could enjoy them all fall and what would be wrong with that?"

John Hofer said the colony member who swathed their field didn't think the circles were unusual at first and it wasn't until he heard about the Manns' circles that the colony decided to report the findings.

"In the end I guess it is just pretty entertaining and it gets people thinking and talking, and there's nothing wrong with that," said Hofer.



Linda Mann, right, talks to Paul Waldner of the Kyle, Sask., Hutterite colony and John Hofer of the Dinsmore colony. In the background, Ken Mann, right, talks to neighbors Emmy and Lyle Amy and Mary and Bill Hurd.

EXMOUTH JOURNAL, Devon, England - June 25, 1998

Mystery Yettington 'crop circle' alerts UFO experts

By Geoff Naish

UFO experts were yesterday investigating the origin of mystery "crop circles" that have appeared in a field of winter barley near Yettington.

The circles of flattened barley, which are about 25m in diameter, were discovered early yesterday morning by Bicton College farm manager Don Causley. He spotted them in a field owned by the college alongside the narrow road leading from Brick Cross, Otterton, to Yettington village.

"They are clearly visible from the road. There is a huge circle of flattened corn and then a circle of standing corn and another circle of flattened corn around the outside," said Mr Causley.

OPEN MIND

Nigel Wright, *The Journal's* strange phenomenon research expert, when told of the appearance said that he was keeping an open mind on the cause of the circles but would be examining them as soon as possible.

He added: "It is very interesting as this coincides with a period of intense UFO activity over Woodbury Common over the past two weeks."

Mr Causley was not keeping such an



THE 'crop circle'.

open mind on the likely cause of the circles - pointing out that the field is very close to the college and the agricultural students have finished their exams and are currently waiting for the official prize presentations ceremony on Friday.

Picture: Glyn Lomas (Ref: 653215)

He added: "It seems obvious to me that it is a student prank. I certainly haven't seen any little green men around yet and, as my son pointed out, the circles have appeared on a sloping field, facing the road - why didn't the Martians land on the flat bit above it?"

WESTMINSTER & CITY MAIL, England - July 10, 1998

Maybe we're not alone

I HAVE to confess that I've never seen a UFO in London. I've seen one in Wiltshire, one in Tunisia and one in Florida, but never one over Sloane Square.

But I do believe that there are enough sightings, with enough evidence, to suggest that there is something going on that we don't understand.

Last week I spoke with Peter Sturrock in London, and felt less foolish. His report, published by the Society for Scientific Exploration, has investigated 50 years of UFO claims and reckons that those of us who believe in UFOs are not mad. He said: "Even if you accept explanations for most UFO sightings, there are still 10 per cent that are beyond any scientific reason. We don't know why people from other planets may have come here; we have no evidence of any extra-terrestrial intelligence at work; but we do accept that hundreds of experiences have no dismissable reason." Spoken like a proper scientist.

Let me tell you what I saw in Tunisia. I was on a camel, on a tourists' evening jamboree, deep into the desert. A bright light came zooming across the sky. It stopped, turned and came towards us. It was saucer-shaped, lights flashed around the rim. It hovered and then took off, like the proverbial bat out of hell. Seven of us saw it and it was before dinner, so all that we were feeling was sunburnt, not drunk.

In the sombre decor of a Westminster Club, Peter Sturrock said (after I'd told him of that trivial experience): "Just from Amazonia alone, I could tell you of 500 sightings like that." Next morning, at the latest briefing from Alastair Campbell, his political spin-doctoring seemed even more irrelevant to our lives.

Television

Michael Walsh

ACCORDING to the first in a new series of *Everyman* (BBC 1, 31 May), 70 per cent of American citizens believe in UFOs, and of those, half believe in alien abduction. In Canada there is a two-hour phone-in programme on Radio 1290 CJBK called *The Xzone*, in which abductees and their adherents are weekly invited to share their experiences. There is even an alien-abductee support group which believes that, alien-wise, we earthlings are the flora and fauna at the bottom of the aquarium.

Aletta, married for 19 years, described what happened during her regular encounters. These take place when she is in bed. Aliens materialise, cart her off to a spaceship, give her a physical examination to ensure she has arrived undamaged, and then pass on apocalyptic visions of what the future will be like unless we all do something about it: the similarity with certain manifestations of Our Lady at Medjugorje or Garabandal was unnerving.

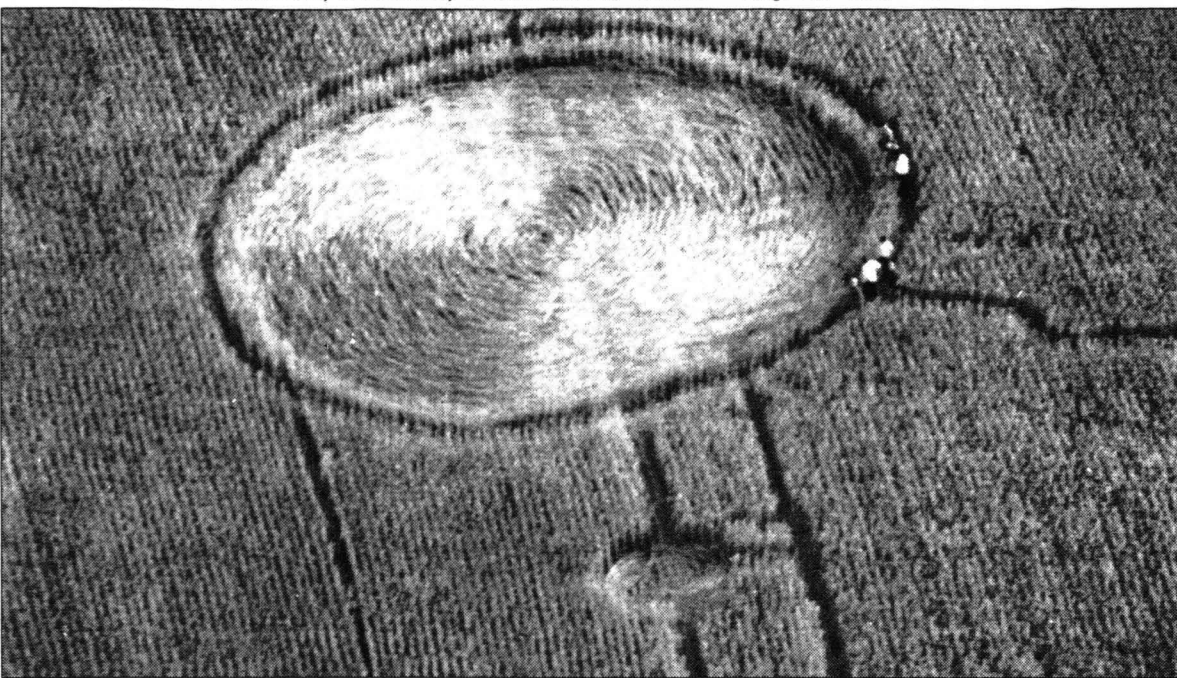
The aliens, however, went one further. They removed ova from Aletta - others insisted it had happened to them too - even though she had no recollection of it, and bred hybrid alien-human babies. Aletta recalled being given her child to nurse. They make sure pregnancy and birth are painless. Karrin reassured us. She says she is now out of the closet as an abductee, and is depressed at the thought of what is happening to the world despite the aliens' best efforts to save us.

Religious language was inescapable. It was perhaps not so surprising, then, that Michael Persinger, professor of neuroscience at Canada's Laurentian University, put alien abduction and mystical experience on the same footing. Such experiences, he insisted, can be reproduced in a laboratory, and both sorts can be attributed to quirky conditions of the brain. It was a breathtaking bout of reductionism which, if I understand it correctly, would lead one to suppose that Americans, more given than most to belief in UFOs and alien abduction, have quirkier brains than the rest of humanity.

Still, the reductionism had its advocates, not least the Revd Dr Barry Downing, who appeared to believe that it was a blast from a UFO's engines which divided the Red Sea, and listed St Paul on the road to Damascus as the world's most eminent abductee. Spiritual experiences, said a psychiatrist who specialises in the trauma of alien abduction, were put down to God in a believing age; in a scientific one they are attributed to beings from other worlds.

It was therefore an unintended convenience to viewers that Channel 4 had devoted an evening to science fiction (30 May). The *Real X-Files* revealed that the American intelligence services, on discovering that the Soviets were training psychics as secret agents - telepathy presumably being simpler than dead-letter boxes - had established a programme based first at the Stanford Research Institute, expanded later to Fort Meade. Intelligence gathering by means of psychics, you will be relieved to hear, was not the only means of keeping track of the enemy, but, as one retired American general put it, no intelligence service was going to pass up any potential source.

Remote viewing was the technique favoured by the United States, using those gifted with what one can only call distant sight, to look at locations simply on the basis of map co-ordinates. Later on they thought of developing spoon-bending techniques to destroy tanks, but it never caught on. One of the more expert remote viewers kept tabs on Colonel Gaddafi. One viewer, Ed Dames, got bored with military targets and started looking, remotely, for the location of Noah's Ark. He now runs his own agency. General Stubblebine, once in charge, got far too involved and had to be retired. He subsequently married a psychiatrist who is, you will not be surprised to learn, an alien abductee.



Crop circles in Qu'Appelle Valley

These crop circles appeared in the Qu'Appelle Valley next to Highway 9 on Aug. 15. This photo was taken

from an airplane on Tuesday afternoon, when a few local people were checking out the circles.

Crop circles leave farmer wondering

By Terri Eger

In recent years, crop circle phenomena have drawn attention from around the world.

Last week attention turned to a formation found in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Randy Flick of Esterhazy was on his way to Round Lake after work on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 15 when he saw the circles in a field east of Highway 9.

"He looked at them from the road and came and got me to have a look," said his wife Sherry.

"There weren't any tracks leading into it or away from it."

The circles were located in a mature field of durum wheat owned by George Bergstrom.

An oval-shaped area of crop measuring about 72 feet across was flattened.

A two-foot ring of standing crop circled that area, with another two-foot crop of flattened crop around that.

A nine foot path led from the large circle to a smaller circle measuring 12 feet across.

Bergstrom noticed the circles in his field Sunday morning. He has never had anything like this appear in his field before, and had never seen crop circles before last week.

"I have no idea what caused them," he said. "It's probably some hooligans doing a practical joke."

The farmer examined the area after the circles appeared and didn't think any crop had been taken.

He thought perhaps someone had used a stick with a string attached to form the circle like a compass, but found no mark in the centre of the circle. "And the circle isn't perfect, it's a little oblong," he said.

The flattened crop was not broken or cut. "It was just laid over (in a counter-clockwise direction)," he said.

The farmer doesn't think that the circles could have been formed by natural means. "It couldn't be wind, because there's an

abrupt edge plus an extra ring around the large circle," he said.

Bergstrom would like someone to tell him who or what made the designs in his crop. "Someone or something went to a lot of effort to do this," he said.

Daniel Clairmont of Gerald has been studying crop circles for a number of years, but has some questions about the latest crop circle.

"I'm skeptical," he said. "It happened on a Friday night and it's very close to the road."

Clairmont was involved in taking samples of the soil and crop when circles were found near Rocanville two years ago.

"I thought those were real at the time, but now I wonder if they were or not."

Because many people are aware of Clairmont's interest in the subject, he feels someone may be trying to trick him.

"(The crop circles) are getting closer to me all the time," he said. "I think it might just be someone yanking my chain."

TIMES, London, England - Aug 29 1998

Vatican man puts faith in ET and his friends

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS exist and there is no conflict between a belief in aliens and the Christian faith, a Vatican theologian close to the Pope says.

Father Corrado Balducci, of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, claims in a book about alien abductions to be published next week, that it is wrong to assert that reports of encounters with aliens are not credible.

"It is reasonable to believe and affirm that extra-terrestrials exist," he

says. "Their existence can no longer be denied, for there is too much evidence for the existence of extra-terrestrials and flying saucers."

Father Balducci says that clues such as the existence of flying saucers indicate that extra-terrestrials are further evolved than humans. In an interview to be published as the appendix to *Confirmation*, Father Balducci says that even if extra-terrestrials were discovered who were superior to humans, it would not call into question the teachings of Christianity.

He refers to a passage in the New

Testament where St Paul refers to Christ as the king of the universe, not just the king of the world. "This means that everything in the universe, including extra-terrestrials and UFOs are reconcilable with God."

Father Balducci, a renowned exorcist and expert on demonology, has written two books on the Devil. Listed in the Vatican directory as "priest of honour" since 1964, he is an official member of the papal household or family.

Father Balducci says his first question to an alien would be what their concept of God was. But he goes on to

say: "It is very important to lend credence to the eye-witness accounts, but we must be very careful to ensure that they are authentic. I have also heard of people who have claimed to have had contacts, but who unfortunately were not mentally sound."

A spokesman for the Catholic Media Office in London said last night: "The fundamental creation message relates to humans here on earth. If aliens were shown to exist, this would not cast doubt on the veracity of the Gospel. But we would have to ask whether the Christian atonement was applicable to them."

STANDARD, Terrace, B.C., Canada - Aug 5, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Highway UFO sightings probed

This is a case for Mulder and Scully - the truth is out there. Actually, it's a provincial UFO organization that wants to hear from anybody who has seen anything unusual between here and Prince Rupert.

The curiosity of UFO B.C. comes from what a Terrace woman says she saw. She told UFO B.C. of "a huge object, square on top with something like legs protruding from the bottom of it" 20 minutes east of Prince Rupert on Highway 16 West June 4 at 12:20 a.m.

Graham Conway, president of UFO B.C., a non-profit society that records sightings in B.C. and investigates them to make the public aware of this phenomenon, will not reveal the name of the woman.

UFO B.C.'s records also show that on April 21, 1976,

Terrace RCMP Constable Bill Toffan sighted an unidentified flying object while on the same stretch of highway (approximately 60 miles east of Prince Rupert.)

According to a press release in 1976, when Toffan got closer to the flying vehicle, he was struck by a blinding flash.

He was so startled, he nearly lost control of his patrol car. But when he got out of the car to investigate, he found nothing. Officers the next day couldn't find anything to identify what Toffan saw either.

Due to the close proximity of both sightings, UFO B.C. is interested in other sightings in this area.

If anyone has witnessed anything unusual in the area call the UFO B.C. hotline 878-6511 or e-mail the group at <http://www.ufobc.org>



Has science solved the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle?

BY MICHAEL HANLON

EVERYTHING from freak weather to aliens has been blamed for the mysterious graveyard of ships, planes and human lives known as the Bermuda Triangle.

But last week a British scientist came up with a new explanation: giant bubbles.

Geologist Dr Ben Clennell claims that methane gas released from beneath the ocean floor could be the answer to a riddle that has been allowing lurid imaginations to run riot for decades.

The key to his theory is the discovery of one of the most bizarre substances found anywhere on Earth.

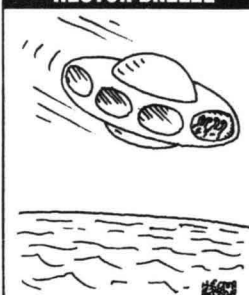
Gas hydrates are crystalline mixtures of water ice and methane found buried under ocean sediments around the continental shelves.

But Dr Clennell of Leeds University says that submarine landslides could expose the hydrates, allowing them to rise to the surface in potato-sized lumps which feel warm to the touch and fizzle and pop as the gas is released.

He told the British Association Festival of Science in Cardiff that if large quantities of hydrates are disturbed, there could be catastrophic release of methane.

This would lower the density of the seawater and "make any

HECTOR BREEZE



"I don't know if you believe in the occult but we're flying over the Bermuda Triangle"

ship floating above sink like a stone". Once released into the atmosphere, the highly inflammable gas might also pose a deadly threat to aircraft, whose hot engines could ignite it.

It sounds as good an explanation as any for one of the first - and most famous - of all the disasters which are said to have claimed more than 1,000 lives within the Atlantic triangle bounded by Florida, Puerto Rico and Bermuda.

In 1945, five US Navy bombers on a routine training flight just north of Bermuda simply vanished. Since then, many more aircraft and several ships, some as large as 20,000 tons, have dis-

appeared without trace, leading to much speculation about what exactly is going on.

Dr Clennell says the methane bubble theory is backed up by the fact that large quantities of hydrates are found within the triangle, off the coast of the Carolinas.

But more important than solving the Bermuda Triangle mystery, Dr Clennell says that the hydrates could solve the world's energy crisis.

"This is potentially a huge energy source," he said. "We estimate that there is twice as much of this stuff across the ocean floors as the total fossil fuel reserves of the Earth."

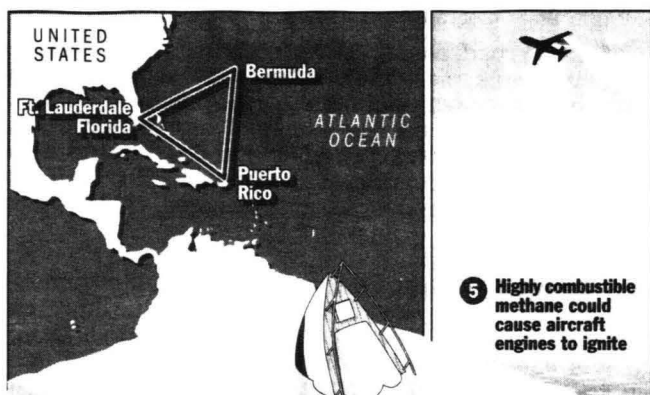
When the UK's gas and oil runs out in the 21st century, Scotland could experience a new energy boom as there is a massive deposit of gas hydrates off the Shetlands.

Gas hydrate is formed from bacterial action in deep ocean sediments. Methane produced by the bacteria combines with water at great pressure and forms the lumps of "fizzy ice".

If it sounds like the sort of thing that might go down big at a children's party, you'd be right - Dr Clennell has tried it.

"The culinary experience is quite exciting," he said. "It fizzes and pops in your mouth. But please don't try this at home. Some gas hydrates contain hydrogen sulphide, which is five times as poisonous as cyanide."

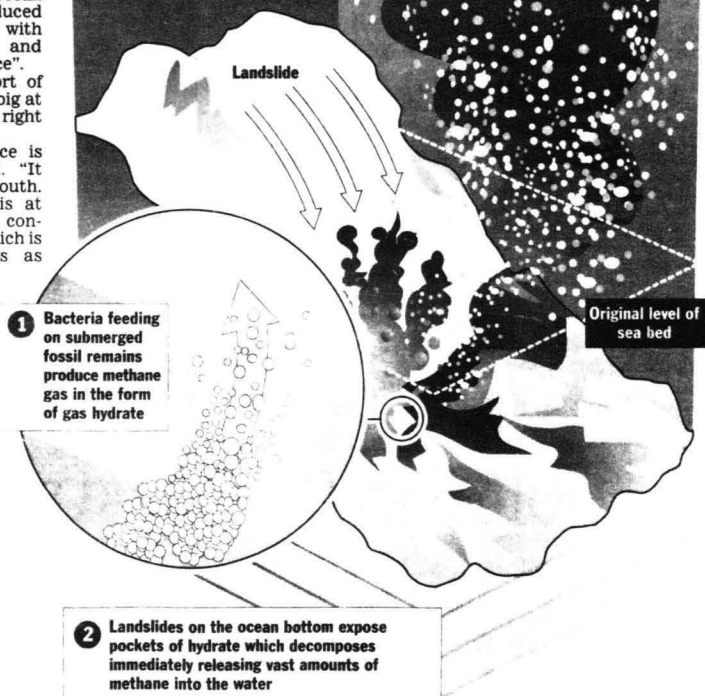
BUBBLES THAT COULD SINK A SHIP



5 Highly combustible methane could cause aircraft engines to ignite

4 Fall in pressure dramatically reduces water buoyancy causing any unfortunate vessels to sink

3 The spiralling rush of gas lowers water pressure



RIDDLE GOES BACK TO COLUMBUS'S DAY

THE facts concerning the Bermuda Triangle are undeniable: in the past 100 years, more than 20 planes and 50 ships have gone to their doom in the region. The earliest indication of mystery came in the log of Christopher Columbus. In 1492, he reported a "glowing flame of fire" and "glowing streaks of white in the surface" a day before he reached America. Although the term "Bermuda Triangle" was first coined only in 1964, the modern fascination with the area dates back to the

disappearance of five US Navy bombers on a training mission in 1945. No wreckage of any of the planes was ever discovered. This and later, similar disappearances of ships and aircraft in the region, led to the belief in strange forces. Sceptics say the losses are no more than would be expected in an area of half a million square miles affected by unpredictable currents and weather. The lack of wreckage is not so strange when you remember that the Triangle includes the deepest point

of the Atlantic, the 30,100 ft Puerto Rico trench. Some believe the source of the problem is a crashed UFO with anti-gravity technology. But the latest discovery has some echoes in another fanciful notion. This says that the centre of the Triangle marks the lost city of Atlantis, which gained its power from energy crystals. According to the theorists, these still emit dangerous rays. The discovery of the crystalline hydrates will only confirm what they have been saying for ages.



Dolittle syndrome

Yakety yak? Animals may talk back

By LARRY BINGHAM
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Hit the road, Dr. Dolittle. An investigative reporter contends in a new book that any human can communicate with animals. All it takes is telepathy.

Arthur Myers, a former assistant city editor at The Washington Post, interviewed 50 "animal communicators" for "Communicating With Animals: The Spiritual Connection Between People and Animals" (\$14.95, Contemporary).

The 50 say they can converse with elephants, llamas, horses, dogs, cats, pigs, squirrels, fish, dolphins, whales, seals, geese, goats, parakeets, sparrows, blue jays, butterflies, rodents and slugs — "the most sensuous beings I've ever connected with," one said.

"I know it's a little out there, but it's true," said the 80-year-old Myers, the author of several books.

He reluctantly admits that his only proof is assumption. But how would YOU confirm that an incontinent terrier had a cleaning fetish?

His talkative subjects say that animals chatter in many forms. Some are downright verbose. Others transmit emotions and pictures. It's up to an intuitive listener to interpret the extrasensory dialogue.

Myers tackles the most-often-asked questions:

Are some animals poets? Certainly. Birds, cats and horses seem to be most prolific.

Can telepathy find lost animals? It has before.

Communicators contend that they have healed wounded spirits (a Great Dane suffering from sexual discrimination) and broken hearts (a racehorse longing for his security blanket — an old feed pail) and even physical ailments (a constipated pooch).

If you're salivating to try this at home, some communicators offer one-day workshops for an average of \$75. But Myers found a few things in common.

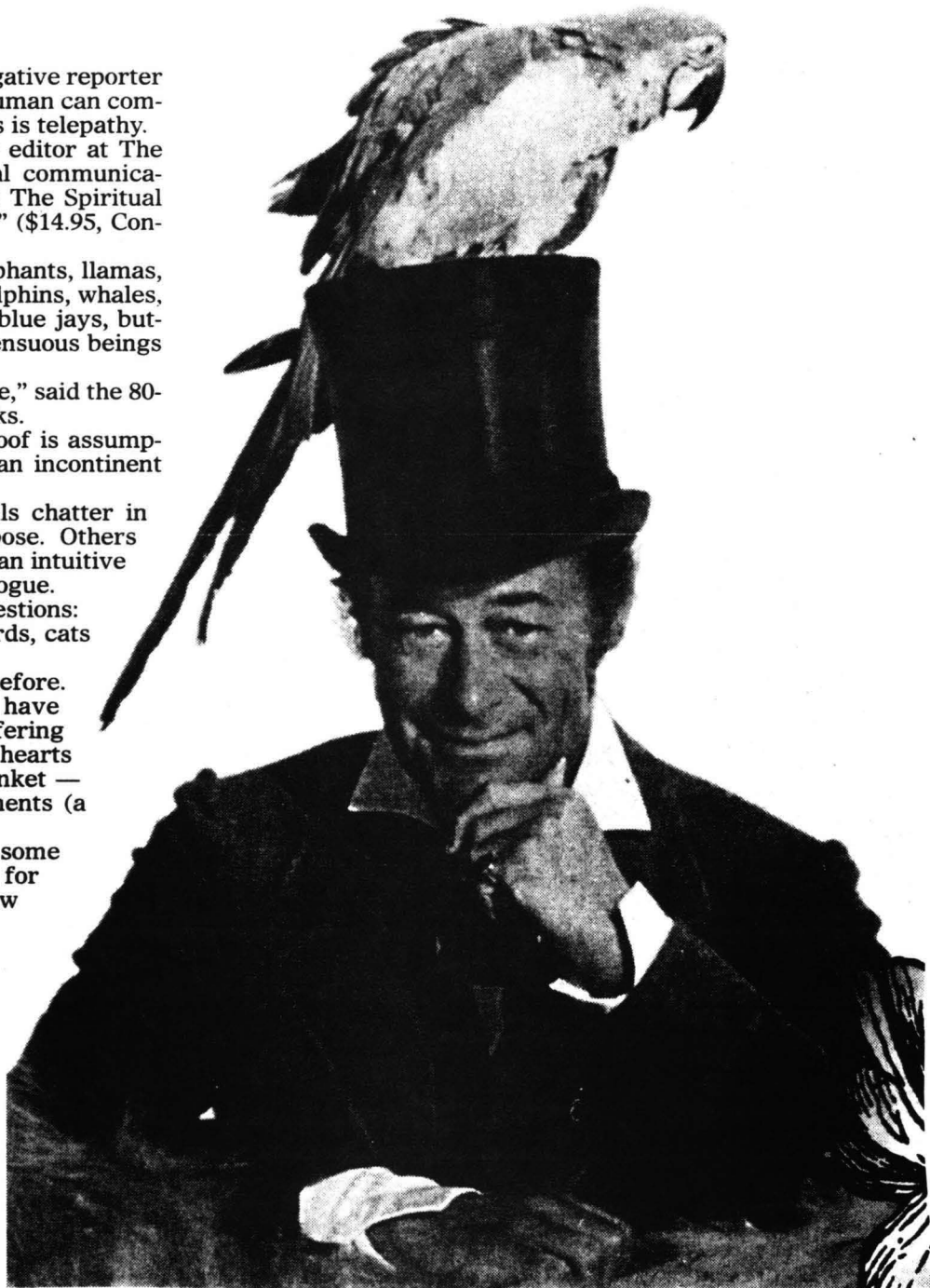
First, you must suspend your disbelief.

Second, open your heart and feel the love.

Third, listen.

Start with easy questions, such as "Do you like your food?" Graduate to hard ones — "Can you believe I'm standing here talking to you, squirrel?"

Suspend your disbelief. That's the hardest part.



HERALD-STANDARD, Uniontown, PA - Sept. 29, 1998 CR: S. Gordon

Mysterious boom

Officials fail to find source of explosive sound

By CHRISTINE HAINES
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

BROWNSVILLE — Theories abound about the cause of a ground-shaking boom heard in the area Sunday evening.

The explosion-like noise was reported around 8:30 p.m. to various dispatch centers, police departments and fire departments.

As of Monday evening, there were no reports of damage or injury or any clear idea of what caused the boom or where exactly it was located.

"It was some type of explosion that shook several houses," said Fayette 911 dispatch supervisor Jodie Copeland. "It covered from

Labelle clear to the Smock area."

Brownsville police were on patrol when they heard the blast. According to their report, it came just seconds after a sound described as a launching noise.

They thought the blast came from either the area of Water Street or across the river in West Brownsville. They were told by South Brownsville fire chief Woody Nicholson that the sound came from near that fire station.

Firefighters in West Brownsville were called out to investigate a flash from behind 50 Main St., although residents of that house said they didn't see anything.

A detachment of firefighters walked along the railroad tracks to

look for evidence of an explosion, but didn't find anything.

West Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Todd King theorized that the boom was caused by an airplane.

"I figured it was some type of jet coming through the valley," said King.

"If it had been an explosion, we would have found a hole in the ground or something. If it had been a propane tank, there would have been a fire," he added.

King said no evidence of an explosion in his territory.

Washington County 911 logged four calls about the noise, with the calls coming from Roscoe and California.



Murky mystery: strange shapes on a snapshot taken beside the monster's lake at Östersund in Sweden



Hunt for Nessie moves to Sweden

BRITAIN'S leading authority on the Loch Ness Monster has been called in to help a small town in Sweden to track down its own version of Nessie.

Adrian Shine was invited to Östersund by the local council to launch the search for a creature thought to have lurked in the icy depths of the town's Great Lake for the past 700 years.

After initial underwater scans with a sophisticated camera developed for Loch Ness expeditions, Mr Shine was cautiously optimistic about solving the mystery of the Storsjöödjuret, nicknamed Storsie.

With an international symposium on lake monsters organised in Östersund next year, tourist boards in the mountainous region are keeping their fingers crossed. The success of the Loch Ness Project, founded and run by Mr Shine, in attracting visitors to Inverness and the surrounding countryside has not gone unnoticed. As the citizens of Öster-

by PHILIP JACOBSON
in Östersund

sund are quick to remind visitors, Storsie has a longer and more credible pedigree than its Scottish counterpart. Their monster features in myths and legends that stretch back 700 years.

There have also been 200 documented sightings of the Great Lake Monster, the most recent in 1992. Among the 400 witnesses who have testified to dramatic encounters are a pilot, an MP and a professional diver.

Östersund, which has a population of about 40,000, treats its monster with respect. There are no reports that it has ever harmed anyone. Fishermen will not hear a word against Storsie, despite the occasional unexplained holes torn in nets.

The Society of Friends of the Great Lake Monster formally protects its interests. A campaign in 1986 made it illegal "to kill, injure or capture" the crea-

ture or its offspring. The Storsjöödjuret wing of Östersund's museum contains bound copies of every reported sighting, together with a variety of illustrations. Early models of the monster depict it as a giant sea serpent or dragon with a long tail. Some observers described its head as like that of a horse. Others swore that it resembled a dog.

Most accounts estimated that it was at least nine feet long and could summon a remarkable turn of speed through the water. In 1894, some local notables devised an enormous iron trap whose jaws were baited with whole pigs or calves in an attempt to catch the monster. Nothing emerged from the deep.

A Norwegian whaler was hired by one of Östersund's richest women to drill holes in the two-foot thick ice that covers the Great Lake in winter and entice the monster to the surface with a lantern. After four weeks he gave up because of the cold. Mr Shine

is understandably reluctant to predict what his expedition may discover. Unlike Loch Ness, the bed of the 280 square mile Great Lake has never been surveyed. Mr Shine thinks that if Storsie exists it is likely to be a marine creature because the water in the Great Lake is always too cold to sustain reptiles and mammals could not survive under the winter ice. The lake has an abundance of fish for a predator, unlike Loch Ness.

One of the more detailed contemporary descriptions of a close encounter beneath the Great Lake comes from a diver, Karl Arne Karlsson, who was working on a section of pipeline. His diving lamp lit up a huge gaping mouth with a darting tongue.

Mr Shine would not rule out that the creature is a variation of the giant European catfish. This exceedingly ugly species is known to reach a formidable size.

Östersund's public information officer, Kennet Christiansson, has been to the Loch Ness Centre — "I've never been so cold, even in the Swedish winter" — and has seen how well T-shirts, mugs, models and mementoes sell. "I think it's important to retain a healthy balance between legend and scientific knowledge," Mr Christiansson said, happily weighing up the fat dossier of press cuttings produced by Mr Shine's visit.

He is aware that many monster sightings are in August, which coincides with the local custom of consuming pungent pickled herrings that have been maturing for 12 months. Draughts of fiery aquavit are required to wash them down. "Perhaps it's just a happy coincidence," said a straight-faced Mr Christiansson.



Monster warning: Kennet Christiansson and Adrian Shine check for signs of 'Storsie' in the Swedish lake



To mark our centennial, The Province is looking back at the past century. Here's what was making news on this day throughout our first 100 years.

— by Chuck Davis

JULY 31, 1911

■ SAY THEY SAW MIRAGE: "Officers on board the Vancouver tug Bermuda, which arrived yesterday at Tacoma from Vancouver, reported having witnessed a wonderful mirage while crossing the Strait of Fuca [sic] Wednesday afternoon. During the mysterious phenomenon, which lasted nearly two hours, the Olympic mountain range was mirrored in the heavens while several vessels that appeared in the picture seemed to float in the clouds like so many aeroplanes.

"The horizon seemed scarcely a mile away," said one of the officers, "and the mountains seemed to hang from the clouds."

Sceptics and believers beware journal of the odd

Carol Major looks into the strange world of the Fortean Times and finds its staff insist the magazine has 'no tub to thump'



Hidden gems

Watch out if you are paranoid. The fortians are out to get you.

The scourge of sceptics and believers alike, it is a little known fact that fortians have their feet firmly on the ground.

The Fortean Times, which disseminates fortian thought, is a feast of the fascinating. Its 37,000 devoted readers are an eclectic lot, ranging from weather forecasters and university researchers to rock stars. According to Bob Rickard, who edits the title with Paul Sieveking, the magazine "has no tub to thump". Its brief is to probe the whys and wherefores of the weird, unmasking the hoaxes but letting the inexplicable float freely. It communicates for-

tean concepts to the broad audience attracted since its metamorphosis from the subscription-only newsletter founded by Mr Rickard in 1973 to the full-colour glossy of today.

Charles Fort, an American who died in 1932 after devoting his life to the study of odd phenomena, is, of course, first among fortians. It is on his works that classic fortian theory rests and his *Collected Books* form the basis of fortian theology. "He was anti-dogma, as interested in why people would believe a thing as in the thing itself," says Mr Rickard.

Curiosity is the watchword of the true fortian, and the Fortean Times "seeks to make people wonder at the phenomenon of the universe, at the mystery of the world, whether it's in people's heads or outside".

Contrary to popular belief, the magazine's contributors



neither dismiss nor give credence to every incidence of the odd.

Whether it is crop circles, UFOs, manifestations, cults, strange deaths, stranger creatures, venerable old ghosts and brand-new waxies (people who believe governments are using technology to spy on and manipulate them), anything is "grist to the fortian mill", says associate publisher John Innes.

An account of the haunted hard disc comes complete with detailed historical and scientific research.

But there is much merry debunking: an article about a rock supposedly crash-landing from outer space is headlined "Boulderdash"; an account of the miraculous by-products of two Cambodian cows specifies the sum one woman paid for a bucket of "bullshit".

Some oddities are just

plain fun: the toxic sludge mutant that turned up in a waste chemical pit at General Motors; the flying saucer that allegedly buzzed the home of Michael Howard, former Conservative home secretary, just before the general election in a clear case of illegal aliens' revenge.

In the best fortian tradition, Mr Rickard acknowledges that much hocus pocus is culture specific. Visions of the Virgin Mary almost all occur among Catholics, and only rural Americans are abducted by aliens with such alarming frequency.

"It's of no consequence to a fortian whether crop circles are made by aliens," he says.

"We are just as interested in why societies pick up beliefs."

So as pre-millennial tension mounts, what fears lurk in the late-20th century mind? The Fortean Times's own equity chart, the *Weirdness Index*, provides an annual "barometer of the bizarre".

Figures for 1997 show reports of conspiracies up, fuelled in part by the death in the summer of Diana, Princess of Wales.

UFO sightings also showed a healthy rise, helped by the summer's 50th anniversary of the Roswell "flying saucer crash", while miracles continued to multiply, with holy aubergines and tomatoes contributing to growth.

Ineptitude and stupidity saw an unhealthy increase, but swarmings remained stable and poltergeists crashed.

The Fortean Times is a sinisterly seductive read. So convincing is some of the evidence, and so cunningly presented, that even the most sceptical readers may find themselves looking uneasily at the neighbour's satellite dish or trembling imperceptibly while accessing their hard disc.

Perhaps it is the Fortean Times itself that is the true master of mind control.

This is the third in a daily series

SUNDAY OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - March 29, 1998

Sasquatch hunters might try salmon instead

I received an announcement last week from a local group, heading into the Coast Mountain Range "wilderness" in search of Sasquatch.

They say they're going to lure it with a specially blended bait (didn't ask, didn't want to know) and shoot it with a specially tipped dart that extracts a tiny bit of flesh (or something).

They plan to biopsy Sasquatch — run the DNA, take photos and prove to the world the existence of the legendary creature.

The state and federal government ought to give this group a call and ask it to expend its investigative energies on finding out instead what happened to our salmon runs.

My bet is, the group has as good a chance of finding that out as any government agency.

Thousands — no, millions — of salmon can't just disappear within a generation.

And, unlike Sasquatch, this puzzle starts with an actual sighting.

In the past, real salmon have been seen by real people — people with good reputations and no reason to bend the truth to apply for grants, put kids through college, or grab headlines (or votes).

So, where will the Sasquatch hunters look? Do any of us know enough to search intelligently? Or, more fairly, to react faster than the runs dwindle?

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge that keeps Portland's waterfront economy alive throws river sand into a pile at the mouth of the Columbia.

Within less than a chinook salmon's lifetime, a fish-eating bird discovers its man-made dream home — nest sites sitting next to a dinner platter full of baby salmon.

Preliminary research shows this bird, the Caspian tern, and others such as cormorants may eat up to 40 percent of all Columbia and Snake river juvenile salmon, within five miles of their last stretch to the sea.

Yes, you read that right. Somewhere between possible and probable, nearly half of all juvenile salmon that make it through dam turbines, sloshing rides on trucks and barges, warm water and upriver predators still die before they get a chance to live.

State and federal agencies promise to study the situation further.

Meanwhile, a group of citizens in a north Oregon coastal bay muscle their way into a federal permit to haze fish-eating birds and build one of the coast's best runs of salmon



— up until the end of February, anyway — and wondered what all the fuss is about.

The run was so high, the bag limit was doubled.

Those steelhead included barged and trucked fish. They most certainly had to come back across all of the dams.

A wild-steelhead hatchery program on the Siletz River is working so well in the face of El Niño that it's starting to look like the old days down there, with trailers backed up out onto the highway from the launch at Moonshine Park.

Oregon is considering listing as endangered a lower Columbia coho population the federal government believes no longer exists.

Sigh...

The Sasquatch team, of course, will also have to explore ocean conditions, seals and sea lions, chemical runoff, rivers of mud and the riparian wilderness.

and steelhead during a wrenching downturn on surrounding drainages.

Northeast Oregon anglers caught four steelhead a day from the Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers

But at least they know what they're looking for.

■ THEY STILL MIGHT COME: Remember the duck pond in the city? The one threatened by a housing proposal last month?

Well, a Clackamas County land-use hearings officer denied the subdivision application. But as Brent Hunsberger in *The Oregonian's* Metro South Bureau reported, the future for the pond's hundreds of wintering ducks is still not resolved.

The pond's neighbors, who successfully fought development, say they're interested in purchasing the land.

The developer points out the wide gap between interest and having enough money. No figures were discussed, but apparently the \$127,000 given to the local park district by Metro isn't enough.

Neighborhood bake sales, garage sales and barbecues are struggling just to pay \$4,000 in legal fees.

Hunsberger reports that representatives of Metro's Greenspaces program, which manages a \$135.6 million bond measure for open space, didn't seem interested in this particular swamp, perhaps the only one in the area with that many wild ducks.

I guess they prefer domestic ducks that would eat their bread without a lot of squawking.

So, there the pond sits until the developer's next attempt to build — this was the third — when everything will once again boil back to the surface.

Hmmm. I wonder if there are any Sasquatch tracks in there?

Bill Monroe's column appears Sunday. He can be reached at 221-8231, by fax at 221-8168, or by mail at 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland 97201. Hear his *Inside Line* outdoor report on category 9010.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH
Oct. 5, 1998 CR: R. Keifer

Mutilated goats spark fears of cult activity

THOMPSON, Ohio (AP) — Some Geauga County residents are expressing concern that the mutilation of two dead goats may be an indication of cult activity. But a law-enforcement official said he needs more evidence.

"Until somebody can prove that this is satanic stuff, it's not satanic stuff," Thompson Township Police Chief Robert Fowler said.

One goat was found dead with its horn cleanly cut off and a square of skin cut from its neck.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Sept. 29, 1998

Brownsville officials bewildered over blast

By The Tribune-Review

Ron Barry's ears were ringing Sunday night after a sudden explosion near the Fayette County town of Brownsville, but as of Monday night nobody knew if anything had actually gone up in smoke.

"We have seven phone lines here, and for an hour straight they all rang off the hook," Barry said. Calls came from as far as 14 miles away.

Barry, the Brownsville ambulance service director, said he heard a low rumbling for about five seconds and then a massive explosion around 8:30 p.m. Sunday at the dispatch center.

The National Weather Service reported thunderstorms were passing over the county at the time, but Barry said he had never heard a thunderclap that severe.

Meteorologist Ray Visneski joked that a meteor may have crashed to Earth.

"Are there hundreds of trees down?" Visneski asked. When told no, he said, "OK, then we can rule out the meteor."

Brownsville police searched the area Sunday night and yesterday but found no evidence of a blast. No injuries were reported, but Barry said dispatchers had received unconfirmed reports of broken windows.

Police were stumped yesterday and had no new information about the possible blast that some say shook buildings for miles. Fayette County 911 said they hadn't heard anything but hearsay about the explosion and state police at Uniontown had not been asked to help investigate.

"We don't know if somebody got hold of some explosives," Barry said. "There are a lot of abandoned coal mines around here."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

CR: S. Gordon

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Aug. 21, 1998 CR: G. Conway



— by Chuck Davis

AUGUST 21, 1924

In late August 1924, the planet Mars was closer to Earth than it would be for a hundred years. That lent exciting credence to our Page 1 story: "Mysterious signals picked up at Point Grey wireless station during the past few weeks culminated this morning in a recognized group of sounds which led the operators to believe that Mars has succeeded in establishing communication

with the Earth. Four distinct groups of four dashes came in over the ether at 7:12 a.m., when Mr. W.T. Burford was on duty. These dashes were not in any known code but started on a low note, gradually ascending and concluding with a 'zipp.' The signals were not sent by spark nor continuous wave and the theory that Mars has at last managed to 'get through' is gaining support."