

UFO

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SUNDAY ADVOCATE, Baton Rouge, LA - Oct. 18, 1998 CR: W. Theriot

Man claims aliens still watch 25 years after his abduction

By DONNA COLLINS
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — For 25 years, Charles Hickson has looked to the skies for the truth. And a return visit.

Hickson was catapulted into celebrity a quarter century ago when he said 5-foot tall, flesh-colored aliens floated him onto their ship for a head-to-toe probe.

On the night of Oct. 11, 1973, Hickson, then 42, and family friend Calvin Parker, then 18, were angling for flathead catfish off an old barge drydock at the abandoned Schaubeter's Shipyard, just south of the U.S. 90 drawbridge on the East Pascagoula River. About 8 p.m., just after dark, a ship like none the world had ever seen appeared in the skies overhead.

Hickson described it as bluish-gray, oblong and pulsing with a blue light.

Three aliens emerged from the ship and floated across the water toward the two men, he said. An ungracious host, Parker fainted.

An alien grabbed Hickson by his shoulder with its pincher claw and guided his floating body toward the opening of their ship. Hickson said he was paralyzed except for his eyes, which steadily scanned the interior of the ship seeking affirmation of its existence.

After the exam by the levitating eyeball-shaped probe, Hickson said he was floated back to the wharf where they had been fishing. Parker was still unconscious.

Hickson believes he was chosen because he has been tracked throughout his lifetime by these visitors from another world and the abduction 25 years ago was not his first or last encounter with the aliens.

Hickson and his family were traveling through Jones County on Mother's Day a year later.

"I haven't told many people about this," Hickson said. "We were late coming back that night ... there were lights started following up over there. Something was coming back through the woods. And finally it pulled around in front of the car and was coming down on the road."

"Blanche (his wife) was screaming and hollering. She just went berserk. It moved up and moved over to a field and crashed. We could see it clearly. I was trying to get out of the car to go to it. I figured that was my chance to meet the living beings before they crashed. Her and my youngest son wouldn't let me out of the car."

"She was screaming for him to start the car. The car had gone dead. She wanted him to start the car and let's get out of there. I was going back over there that night but she went berserk. I believe I would have had a chance to meet those beings if she hadn't of gone berserk on me. It was understandable though. The baby was crying."

Another time, Hickson said the family was gone from their Gautier

home, but neighbors spotted a craft hovering over the house on Carol Drive. Through regression hypnosis sessions, Hickson has learned he was first visited when he was a young boy and the visitors have "kept in touch" through the years.

Parker may have just been in the wrong place at the wrong time when he agreed to share bait with Hickson that night. "Calvin, he never did get over it," Hickson said. Parker could not be located for comment.

Hickson said he can understand how the experience changed Parker. Hickson said he didn't sleep for many nights and was afraid to go outside at night, especially alone. But now, he said, he welcomes the aliens and hopes they come to visit soon. "I wouldn't mind going to their world, because I believe if they carried me there, they would bring me back," he said.

Huckins goes on to say that he has been abducted numerous times since, and taken aboard a spaceship, where he underwent surgical operations, and was given knowledge of healing medicines, and techniques, which allow him to cure all ailments

The whole phenomenon is programming us to be more accepting,
—Bill Huckins

known to men. As a result of the operations, Huckins claims to have gained not only intelligence, but certain psychic abilities as well, and an increased sensitivity to nature.

Huckins has formed a support group for others in the area who believe they have been through an alien abduction, sometimes using hypno-

NEWS LETTER JOURNAL, Newcastle, WY - Oct. 1, 1998

Man says alien abductions common in Newcastle

Movies like *Independence Day* and the *X-Files* have made big money for their creators because people are fascinated with what is referred to as the UFO phenomenon. The pivotal scenes in the precursor to these contemporary blockbusters, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, took place on the northeastern plains of Wyoming, around Devil's Tower, so it should come as no surprise that there are those among us that believe, not only that aliens exist, but that they're active in this area.

Bill Huckins is the creator, and operator, of the Healing and Learning Center, east of Newcastle. Mr. Huckins claims to have been abducted by aliens several times himself, and keeps the center open to those who believe they may have experienced an alien encounter.

Huckins claims that his first abduction took place when he was only three years old. Ironically, he says the abduction took place near Devil's Tower, but feels the stories linking the Tower to alien activity are largely a creation of Hollywood.

therapy to help victims recall and learn to deal with a past encounter. He says he has worked with other hypnotherapists, from "Harvard all the way to Sacramento," and been to Denver several times to teach classes on the phenomenon.

Huckins says that he knows of at least ten other abductees right here in Newcastle, and that the victims represent all walks of life. He asserts that there is actually a positive correlation between intelligence and a belief in an alien existence.

"We're not going to prove to anyone that abductions exist. We just want to be visible to people that think they may have had experiences," said Huckins, referring to his support group, which meets every Saturday.

"It makes it easier for those who have had these experiences if they know they're not alone," according to Huckins.

Huckins said there is a certain amount of fear associated with the phenomenon, but believes that the aliens mean no harm, and may actually be interested in saving mankind from itself. He cautions that the gov-

ernment has a vested interest in keeping the existence of alien life a secret, but feels that the secret will be revealed soon enough.

"The whole phenomenon is programming us to be more accepting," said Huckins, who also believes that, "100 years from now we'll look at these times as real Dark Ages." He claims that aliens will eventually bring true enlightenment to the human race.

As the popular media has begun to exploit the possibility of life from other planets, the general populace has sought more and more information, and more people have become willing to accept the existence of aliens. Many of those who claim to have had encounters still wish to remain anonymous, but others, like Huckins, have come out in the open with their stories of encounters with the 'Visitors.'

Huckins' Healing Center will host a series of seminars and courses, entitled "Expanding Horizons," dealing with this phenomena and others, running the week of October 5 - 9. Huckins says that anybody interested is welcome to sign-up.

HERALD, Everett, WA - Oct. 15, 1998



UFOs Ignored?

The Tuesday announcement by national radio talk show host Art Bell that he was quitting indefinitely stunned loyal listeners, including many in the Northwest. Bell's show included UFO enthusiasts and conspiracy theorists as well as those who believe angels walk among us and people pushing alternative health solutions.

Among his frequent guests was Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. Davenport said Wednesday he's been flooded with phone calls wondering if he knows what happened to drive Bell off the air.

He doesn't know, but he said he's mystified by the lack of interest by mainstream media on UFO sightings.

Why all the media attention on Bell's resignation, Davenport asked, adding that just a few weeks ago, he received hundreds of telephone reports of

fireballs zooming over the Northwest at speeds of 100 to 200 miles per second. He couldn't interest any of the local papers in his reports, he said.

Late September reports posted on the Reporting Center's Web site show calls came in from local people who reported seeing green fireballs across the sky in Mukilteo, Bothell, Bayview and Everett.

You can check the reports at his Web site, <http://www.ufocenter.com>.

Traveling along the 'Haunted Highway'

Local thoroughfare noted as area for UFO sightings

By TODD HAGANS

Editor of The Eagle

While driving into Cherryville along Hwy. 150 several years ago, a Carolina Freight driver peered into the early morning sky and saw something out of the ordinary - an orange, dome-shaped object resembling the top of a typical water tower.

At nearly the same time, a Cherryville police officer working the night shift also sighted something mysterious hovering in the Cherryville sky.

An unidentified flying object perhaps? Well, as Ripleys says, 'believe it or not.'

But for UFO researcher George Fawcett, what those two men saw that early morning on August 23, 1993, just may have been a flying saucer. And by having two reports of an unusual sighting at nearly the same time, Fawcett said the two reports just reinforces the notion that something or someone unexplainable may be in our midst.

"That's probably the best information when someone on one side of town sees the same thing as did someone on the other side of town," said Fawcett, who has intensely researched UFO happenings for the past 54 years.

Fawcett said the 1993 unidentified sighting is just one of several incidents in the greater Cherryville area which he has researched over the years.

Coined as the 'Haunted Highway,' the stretch of Hwy. 150 from Lincolnton to Cherryville is noted as a mecca for UFO spottings, according to the UFO expert. These spottings include incidents where people have recorded sightings on video, and also chased the supposed flying object, which is the case involving the 1993 incident.

Other sightings include a supposed UFO landing in western Lincoln County in 1992, a sighting of UFO occupants or in common terms, aliens, in the Lincolnton area 25 years ago, and several filmed sightings in the Kings Mountain, Stanley, and Lake Norman areas since 1965.

And although no UFO sightings have been reported in the Cherryville area within the past five years, that does not mean that something may be lurking just beyond our backyards, according to Fawcett.

Known as an international UFO researcher, Fawcett has studied cases around the globe and he has the files to prove

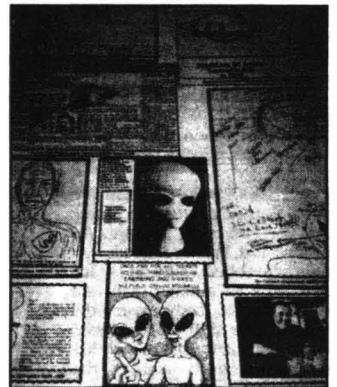


EXPLAINING THE UNEXPLAINABLE - In top photo, UFO researcher and expert George Fawcett shows one of his many charts which tell of the numerous UFO encounters Fawcett intensely studied over the past 54 years. In photo at bottom right, a close up view from one of the charts as to what visitors from outer space supposedly look like.

it. But as supernatural as the stories seem, Fawcett said that most of cases reporting UFO sightings can be logically explained. Weather balloons, meteors, and natural phenomena are just some of the logical reasons which dispel the mysterious hype surrounding UFOs.

The Lincolnton man first became interested in UFOs at the age of 15 after reading a 1944 newspaper clipping which described 'mysterious silver balls which floated in the air.'

"I was a skeptic at first for about eight years," he said. Fawcett said the article sparked his curiosity and ever since then, his unusual passion has led him to the establishment of five UFO research groups in the eastern United States, the compilation of tons of information into detailed reports and scholarly writings, and of course, numerous visits to the famous UFO Museum and Research



UFOs take off as the topic for 400 alien aficionados

By Christopher Hoffman
Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — Alien abductions, an alleged cover-up of extraterrestrial technology and a possible connection between the legendary "Big Foot" and space aliens.

Those were some of the lecture subjects at the 11th UFO Experience conference held over the weekend at the Holiday Inn. About 400 people attended the conference, according to organizers.

James Burr, 43, of Middletown, who sported a pin of a green, almond-eyed alien on his shirt, said he came because he's interested in the UFO phenomenon.

"I've never seen a UFO, but I believe there should be something out there," he said.

Doug Rogers of Newtown, who believes space aliens make crop circles, said he attended the conference to stay current on the latest research.

"Each one of us better drop in on what the experts are talking about, or we're going to fall behind," said Rogers, New England coordinator for the international Centre for Crop Circle Studies.

Staying on top of things didn't come cheap. Those who attended paid \$125 in advance or \$175 the day of the event for the entire conference or \$20 a lecture.

Darrel Sims, an "alien hunter" from Houston, Texas, held his audience rapt Sunday afternoon as he discussed what he said is evidence aliens are implanting items in people they abduct. Those items range from miniature cameras to small pieces of metal.

Sims, who said he once worked for the CIA, later displayed a case containing some items which had been removed by surgery.

"I don't know what an alien implant is (for)," Sims said. "All I know is somehow we find this stuff in people, and it doesn't make any sense."

Sims said he was abducted by aliens, whom he condemned as "cosmic skinheads," numerous times between the ages of 4 and 17.

"I don't have a positive view of being jerked out of my bed and having all sorts of things done to me," he said.

In an earlier presentation, Robert and Ryan Wood, father and son investigators from California, presented evidence of what they say is a government cover-up of alien technology, particularly propulsion know-how.

"That is the war crime I indict them (the U.S. government) for," Robert Wood said to applause from the audience.

Center in Roswell, New Mexico. He has even taught classes about UFOs at Gaston College.

Often called a walking UFO encyclopedia, Fawcett said he has researched some 1,200 cases, 600 in North and South Carolina alone. Fawcett is now in the process of writing his second book entitled, *UFOs and UFOsaunts in the Carolinas*, about sightings in the Tarheel and Palmetto states.

He is now researching an apparent sighting someone told him of that happened near Cherryville back in 1960.

Fawcett said that the general public is now more interested in UFO happenings rather than frightened of the possibility of mysterious occurrences.

He said this interest is evident in the 200,000 plus people who visited the museum in Roswell last year as well as the sales of UFO related materials such as books and various novelties.

Roswell is the mecca for UFO enthusiasts since some believe that a space craft crashed in the area back in 1947. Some believe

the real truth surrounding the Roswell incident was withheld from the public by the United States government. Today, Fawcett said that the top-secret government flies regarding UFO happenings are slowly being made public knowledge.

"Public awareness is at an all-time high," he said.

Fawcett said that North Carolina ranks fourth in the number of UFO-related reports and South Carolina ranks at 14.

But he said there are most likely cases that go unreported because people are reluctant to say they saw a flying saucer. But it is these somewhat weird reports from individuals that make research opportunities possible, said Fawcett.

And since the widening of Hwy. 150 is now complete, it just may be the prime spot for a UFO landing, Fawcett humorously said.

Editor's note - Do you have a UFO story you would like to share with George Fawcett? Then write him a letter telling him of your encounter. His address is 602 Battleground Rd., Lincolnton, NC 28092.

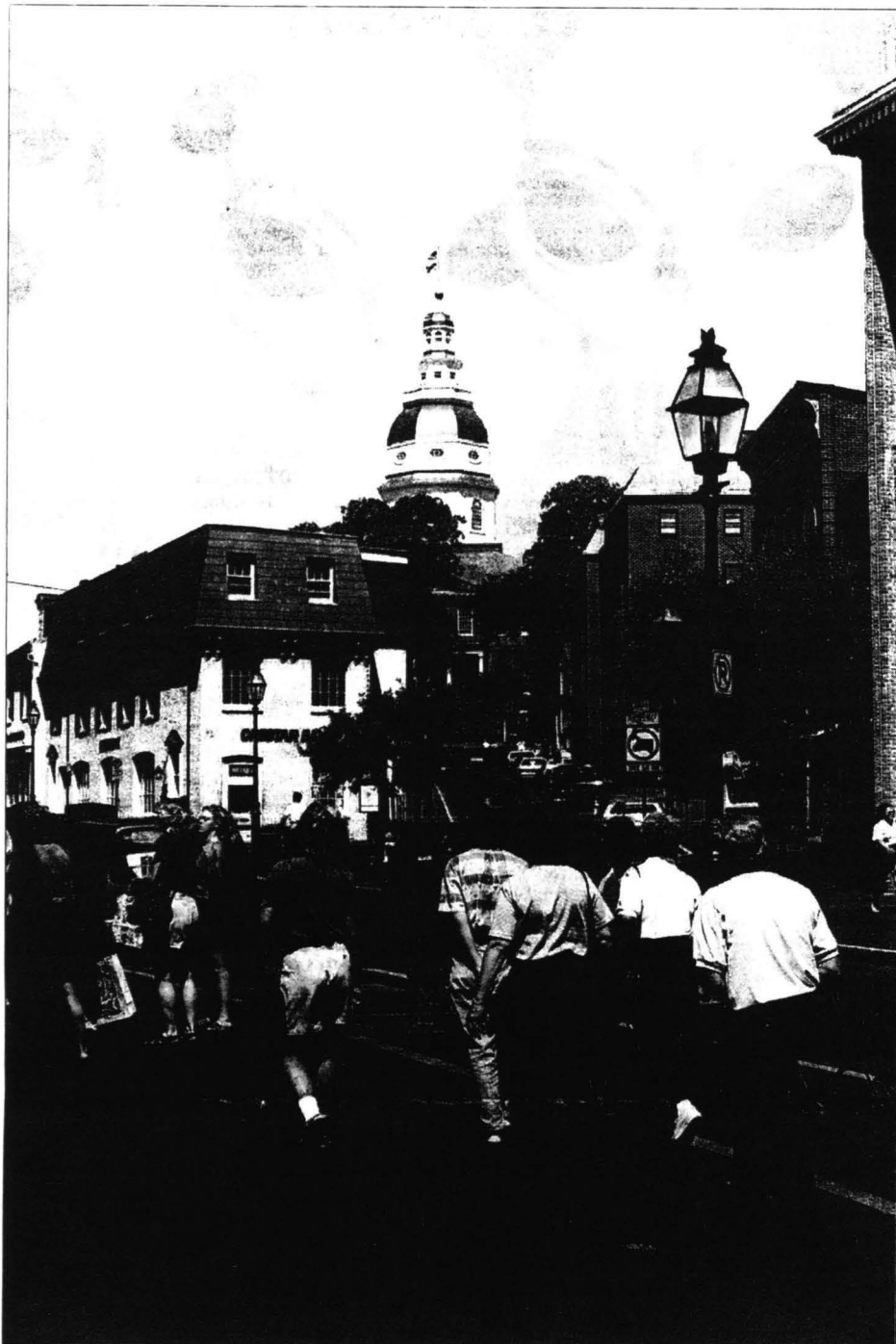


Photo illustration by David Trozzo — The Capital

ALIENS AMONG US!?

UFO class and upcoming workshop let locals decide for themselves

By MARY GRACE GALLAGHER
Staff Writer

Each night, driving her car through the familiar darkness on her way to her Riva home, Emily Peake keeps an eye out for a new light, or a bunch of lights, or possibly a bank of millions of blinking lights — who knows? When a plane goes by, too far away to make out its shape, she wonders, "Is that the UFO I've never seen?"

Much to her chagrin, the local historian has never happened upon any unsolved mysteries herself, unless you count the mail-order videos she buys and watches, or the four thick volumes of "ufology" she has studied over the years.

That's all it would take — one sighting, one low-flying saucer or blipping orb — to make a full-fledged believer out of Mrs. Peake and others like her. Some of them congregate weekly at the South County Senior Center, where Mrs. Peake is teaching a nine-week class called "Fact or Fiction" that promises to help students "explore the world of UFOs and discuss the unexplained."

Farther north in Arnold, another group will gather next weekend to attend an all-day workshop at Anne Arundel Community College called "Unsolved Mysteries: 'The Face-on-Mars' and the Real X-Files."

Organized by Arnold psychologist Peter Resta, the conference will introduce a physicist from the Fund for UFO Research, a NASA consultant and a woman who claims the ultimate close encounter:

abduction by aliens.

Tapping into the popular science-fiction television show with its catchy title, Mr. Resta said he, like Mrs. Peake, is just waiting for a personal experience with extraterrestrials to turn him into a believer.

"People at work call me Moulder," Mr. Resta said, referring to one of the "X-Files" stars. "I am willing to be convinced."

If the truth about UFOs is out there somewhere, as "The X-Files" suggests, it is extremely well-guarded.

Tony Schlerf, owner of The Turning Wheel bookstore in Glen Burnie, believes that the government is covering up evidence of alien life. From sabotaging photographs of Mars to discrediting an alleged UFO sighting by Jimmy Carter, the government doesn't want Americans to know the truth, Mr. Schlerf says.

"No matter what anyone says, the government tries to make them look foolish," Mr. Schlerf said. The appearance of UFO stories on main-

stream programs like The Learning Channel's "Sightings," and the AACC seminar, however, not only boost book sales, but also offer some hope that evidence might soon be taken seriously.

"Until now, the problem is that UFOs attracted the lunatic fringe rather than scientific debate," Mr. Schlerf said.

Every lead that Mr. Resta and Mrs. Peake have uncovered in years of following their outlandish hobby has led them to believe in a government cover-up.

"They don't even carry these videos at Blockbuster. I have to order them from Reader's Digest or Publisher's Clearinghouse or the like," Mrs. Peake said of the videos she uses to accompany her class.

Likewise, Mr. Resta has gleaned much of his information on extraterrestrials from his involvement in the Fund for UFO Research, which occasionally refers alien abductees or "experiencers" to him for counseling.

"The big problem with this topic is the tongue-in-cheek approach everyone takes with it," said Mr. Resta, who teaches psychology and social work at Prince George's Community College and the University of Maryland. "Why can't we ap-

proach this in a different way? Why can't we look at it from a scientific perspective?"

Mr. Resta admits to capitalizing on the lighter side of America's ongoing alien obsession by marketing his conference as a Halloween event. The date also coincides with the 60th anniversary of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" broadcast, which set up the correlation between UFOs and Halloween, Mr. Resta said.

Yet the psychologist doesn't make light of the fact that several of his patients are deeply troubled by experiences they recall of having been probed or otherwise assaulted by small creatures sneaking in their bedroom windows.

Mr. Resta's interest in UFOs started in childhood and grew with him even as he finished undergraduate and doctoral programs.

Education has convinced Mr. Resta that more scientific inquiry is needed to learn the truth about UFOs, which is why one of his panelists, Vince DePetro, will be talking about his study of recent satellite photos taken of Mars.

"We have all this data and we have hundreds of different people claiming to have had sightings. Is every one hallucinating? Is every

one lying? That's pretty compelling to me," he said.

Though he doesn't keep his hobby a secret, Mr. Resta says he often waits to let colleagues know about his interest in extraterrestrials until after they know him as a serious professional.

"People have this knee-jerk reaction to UFOs," Mr. Resta said. "I say it's about time we at least consider the alternative hypothesis."

The alternative, of course, is that earthlings are not alone in the universe.

Big deal, said Shirley Miller, assistant director at the senior center, whose close encounter on the Brooklyn Bridge 23 years ago produced all the convincing she'll ever need.

"At the time we were just stunned," Mrs. Miller recalled. "There was this huge craft with lights on the bottom of it that went up and went down, sideways, doing all these really fast maneuvers."

The Brooklyn Bridge incident taught Mrs. Miller to always keep an open mind.

"There's something out there, that's for sure," she said. "They didn't land, thank goodness!"

South Louisiana ranks in UFO top ten

By **H. L. Arledge**

In 1998, Omni Magazine ranked the top 50 most significant UFO sightings in history. Among those listed were those unidentified flying objects over South Louisiana and Southern Mississippi in 1974, however UFOlogists have long known our area to be a favorite haunt for unexplained aircraft. Janet and Colin Bord, in their encyclopedia *Unexplained Mysteries of the 20th Century*, describe "ghost lights" that moved along the highways and treetops, dodging anyone that approached them. According to this husband and wife team, these sightings began in 1952 in Gonzales, Louisiana. The last sighting of these "ghost lights" were during the Dixie sightings of 1974.

The Omni top ten begins as follows:

1. "Hudson Valley," or the Westchester Wing, NY 1984
Thousands of reports, mostly nocturnal, of large, silent, hovering objects with series of rotating lights. Reports came from many highly credible individuals including meteorologists, news reporters, and police chiefs. "Planes in formation" theory still in contention; however, videos taken by area residents of both the object and a formation of planes shows distinct differences. Intermittent sightings to this day.

2. "Cash/Landrum", outside Houston, TX 1979 Two ladies and a 5-year-old boy report diamond-shaped object belching fire from beneath, surrounded by CH-47-style helicopters. Soon

after sighting, all three suffered strange maladies which were likened to radiation poisoning. Klass explains as hoax, saying that the witness' pre-sighting medical conditions were not released to him for examination.

3. "Roswell Incident," outside Corona, NM 1947 Object crashed in remote location on a large ranch in early July, 1947. Debris recovered by AAF, who issued hasty press release saying "Flying Disk" had been recovered. Press release retracted the next day, and press conference held at which it was revealed the object was, in fact, a Rawin sonde (a device used to calibrate radar). 30 years later, AF intelligence officer Maj. J. Marcel claimed that the object was "not of this earth", that the press conference was a sham. Interviews with over 150 witnesses reinforce anomalous nature of object.

4. "Army Helicopter", Mansfield, OH 1974 Four National Guardsman aboard Bell UH-1H chopper report sighting large nocturnal object on collision course. Pilot-in-Command Capt. Coyne puts chopper in descent mode. Object stops in front of chopper, then continues westward travel, after which Coyne discovers that chopper actually rose 2000 ft. Klass' explanation of a bolide is not supported by testimony, circumstances, or scientific principles.

5. "Bentwaters," Rendlesham Forest, UK 1979 Three separate sightings of anomalous lights near a NORAD base in the UK. Official report filed by deputy

base commander, who also taped the on-site investigation carried out by Air Police detachment. Occurrence produced many witnesses, some of whom swear a craft was sighted. Investigation hampered by conflicting testimony, Britain's Secrets Act, grandstanding by one less than credible witness, and possibly the "Control Group" -- A US Senator began looking into the affair, but abruptly halted and would not communicate further with UFO researchers.

6. "Washington Invasion," Washington, DC 1952 Several fast-moving objects appear on radarscopes at three separate installations, including Andrews AFB. Interceptors scrambled, but don't find anything. Same thing happens the next night, this time objects confirmed by ground observers. Largest peace-time press conference in government history called to explain to reporters that radar traces were caused by thermal inversions, despite absence of proper weather conditions on the nights in question.

7. "Great Falls Film", Great Falls, MN 1954 Little League baseball coach films two objects streaking across sky near an AFB. Original explanation was that objects were F-100s on approach to AFB, but photo-analysis shows objects to be travelling much too fast.

8. "Trent Photo", McMinnville, OR 1950 Actually two photos taken by farmer with Polaroid camera, depict classic domed saucer. Foreground objects pro-

vide good references for analysis, which shows object to be around 30 ft. diameter, and at least 1/4 mile distant. Shadows on foreground structure may be inconsistent with time of day provided by photographer; however, that is immaterial to analysis of the image's size and distance.

9. "Travis Walton," Snowflake, AZ 1974 Five woodcutters allegedly witness abduction of their comrade aboard UFO. Abductee reappears five days later, fails first lie detector, after which he and four other witnesses pass, one is inconclusive. Controversy surrounds suppression of first lie detector results.

10. "The Dixie Sightings," Pascagoula, MS 1974 During the Fall of 1974, UFO sightings abounded throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. Most notably were the sights in the Holden, Gonzales and Livingston, Louisiana areas and the Pascagoula abduction of a farmer and his son. ALL crafts described throughout the two states during this time match exactly.

NOTE: The Gulf Breeze Sightings in Florida, sightings in Alabama and Area 51 sightings follow closely behind number 10. In truth, each occurred after Omni's list debuted before these events occurred, but the magazine's readers felt these new events still are not more compelling than those listed here. It should be further noted that these recent sightings have received more attention only because of the lack of recent sightings in general.

RECORD-EAGLE, Traverse City, MI - Sept. 16, 1998

Keep an open mind, urges expert on UFOs, alien abductions

■ **Budd Hopkins speaks to large crowd at Milliken Auditorium**

By **PATRICK SULLIVAN**
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — Humans packed the Milliken Auditorium Tuesday night to hear a prominent UFO author speak of widespread alien abductions and show dozens of slides he said were proof that we are not alone.

"I know that this sounds totally off-the-wall, it did to me at the time, but when you see case after case ... you have to pay attention," said Budd Hopkins, a New York City artist-turned alien abduction

investigator.

Hopkins was speaking to a receptive audience. When he asked how many at the auditorium at Northwestern Michigan College that evening believed they have seen a UFO, about one-fifth raised their hands.

Hopkins spoke of an event he called the most significant in human history: A 1989 abduction of a woman in Manhattan witnessed by several people, including some police officers and an internationally prominent politician who he said he could not name.

After a slide show of photographs purporting to be alien spacecraft and several drawings of alien faces, Hopkins showed a video about the 1989 abduction,

Luke Misico, said he went into the lecture more skeptical than he was coming out.

"I really didn't believe in it so much, but he showed so much evidence," Misico said.

An area resident said she enjoyed the presentation and thought it was good for the students to be intellectually stimulated by the subject.

“

I'm probably a little more confident that there is a chance that there could be UFOs.

Justin Maylone
NMC student

which he claimed was significant because the aliens seemed to allow this abduction to be detected.

Hopkins told the audience he started out skeptical, but after witnessing a lens-shaped flying saucer in 1964, he became curi-

"It's very thought-provoking, which is one of the best challenges we can give the youth. It challenged me," said Sue Crampton.

Crampton's sister-in-law, Jeanne, said she attended because her daughter was interested. In fact, the two visited Roswell, N.M., last spring, where some UFO believers say the U.S. military covered up the discovery of an alien spacecraft.

"I think it's crazy to be closed-

ous. Years later, after a conversation with a store clerk who said he saw aliens in New York City, he wrote an article for The Village Voice that led to several books on UFOs, including "Intruders," which was turned into a mini-series on CBS.

"I ask you to look at this with an open mind," he told the audience.

At least some of the students attending seemed persuaded.

"I'm probably a little more confident that there is a chance that there could be UFOs," said Justin Maylone, who attended the lecture as a requirement through NMC Experience orientation.

Maylone's classmate,

minded about anything," she said.

One of the event's organizers, NMC student board member Angie Cotto-Nelson, said Hopkins was chosen as a speaker because UFO experts have proven popular in the past.

"People are just interested in this stuff," Cotto-Nelson said, adding that she also has a interest in the subject. She said she used to believe, and even started a web page about UFOs, but has become more skeptical recently.



UFO investigator Budd Hopkins talks to a full house Tuesday night at Northwestern Michigan College.

Inside 'Area 51' with some true believers

Dreamland: Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51, by Phil Patton, Villard, 336 pages, \$25.

Review

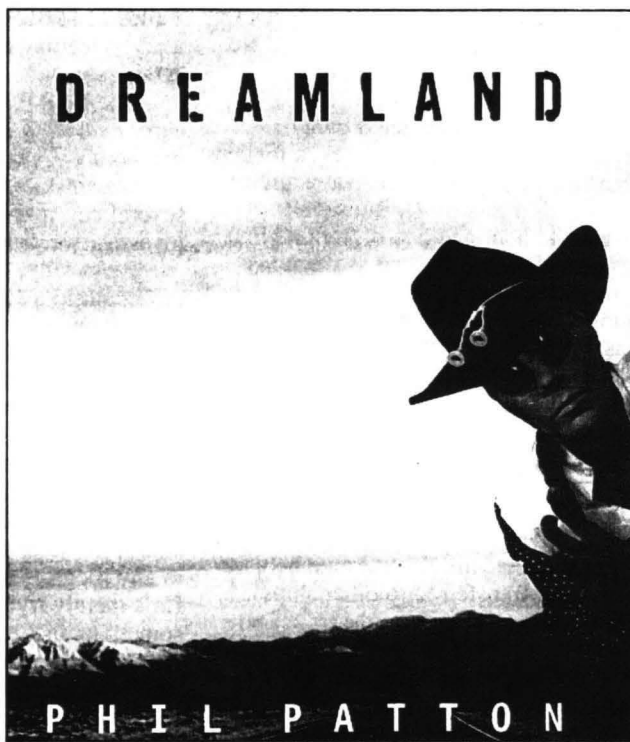
BY SCOTT HULER
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

You have an opinion. Everybody has an opinion about the strange lights that hover over Dreamland. Do you believe they are flying saucers, impounded by the government after a crash and reverse-engineered to fly (or even flown by aliens who have taken over the lab, as some believe)? Or are you convinced they are ultrasecret airplanes being developed by the military? Then again, they may just be flares. Every opinion has not only a proponent but an entire subculture.

In his fascinating new book, *Dreamland: Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51*, journalist Phil Patton explores these subcultures. He takes us on a road-trip survey of the secret plane watchers, the UFO believers and the government conspiracy followers who have turned a dead spot in the Nevada desert called Area 51—the government's highly secret Groom Lake development base, above which even Air Force fighter pilots are forbidden to fly—into a strange destination called Dreamland. He also takes us to Roswell, N.M.—you know, the place where aliens crashed in 1947.

In a departure from relentlessly chronological narrative nonfiction, Patton enters and exits different cultures chapter by chapter, each group or concept leading to the next. It's a kind of World Wide Web organization, nonlinear, but connected, which is how these subcultures work anyway.

You meet black-plane watchers, who worry less about extraterrestrials than the billions of "black budget" dollars the government spends on ultrasecret high-tech projects. With names like Psychospy, Trader and Agent X, they are like the secretive supergeeks who always save



Agent Mulder in "The X-Files." One night these guys, using night-vision goggles to watch the Area 51 guards watching them, toy with the guards.

"It was Radio Shack versus the Pentagon," Patton says, "and it was no contest." The watchers' crowning moment comes when they call a Domino's Pizza truck and have it deliver a pizza to the humvee the Navy Seals used to get into position to watch them: "The anchovies were the final insult."

On the UFO-believer (or "youfer") side, you meet Bob Lazar, who worked at a Los Alamos physics lab and claimed that he had attended Caltech and MIT and

eventually claimed to have worked for a secret government program trying to understand the propulsion system of a downed saucer. His story has predictable credibility gaps, yet he is able to take observers to viewing spots near Area 51 at specific times and show off inexplicably moving lights.

The watchers, naturally enough, investigate Lazar, as does the government. The watchers investigate the government; the government investigates the watchers. One youfer admits to being a government disinformation agent sent to infiltrate the UFO group and lead them away from the truth, then he disappears.

And on and on, until the spider web of connections becomes insupportable.

The search for answers unites those fascinated by Area 51. Trader, for example, is a software developer from Irvine. Patton notes that many of the conspiracy theorists and believers were engineers or programmers—people who like problems to have solutions: "They wanted the rest of the world to work that way. They wanted to find the code and debug it." Others are less intense, like the stockbroker Patton encounters near the Area 51 perimeter one day: "They say this is the place," he commented, dreamily. "I drove all the way from Tucson, just to see."

What starts out as a fun, "National Geographic Presents" about the culture of conspiracy nuts ends up as a kind of disoriented disquisition on the nature of secrecy. Then again, that's where Patton was heading all along:

"What happened to Dreamland was a parable about knowledge and secrecy, about assembling facts and bits of information into a pattern, about learning and speculation."

As cultural anthropology, the book profits from Patton's sure ear for language and his ability to connect different threads. Author of such books as *Made in U.S.A.: The Secret Histories of the Things that Made America* and *The Open Road* and a writer for *Esquire* and *Wired*, Patton continually finds the histories behind things we take for granted.

In *Dreamland's* peregrinations through the desert landscape, Patton imparts some great technohistory. In a chapter on the secret development of stealth technology, he manages to explain how radar works and how it was invented in the first place. He reminds you that the Internet was a direct result of secret Defense Department programs.

He even gives, in satisfying detail, the original 1947 story, out of Oregon, that resulted in the term "flying saucer." And he's willing to listen to his sources, to see the con-

nections they see, to try to experience their belief, their faith. The book takes on a sort of Pynchonian arc, starting out scattered, developing by the middle a sense that everything is connected, then starting to disassemble under the weight of Cold War secrecy, blind faith and suspicion.

By the end, *Dreamland* reads like a fever dream, with more and more outlandish connections starting to seem plausible. "Dreamland provided a strange yet appropriate time capsule of a half century of cold war and black secrecy," Patton says. The patterns he sought emerge, but those patterns have "formed a moiré of the weird," making it pretty hard to see anything clearly.

Patton's only conclusion, if you can call it a conclusion, is that "just as wilderness feeds and nurtures a society that is overcivilized, mystery nurtures a society that is overinformed." That final shrug makes *Dreamland* especially worthy.

We've had about every take on UFOs and secret planes: Government conspiracy, transdimensional greeting cards, world-domination strategy, swamp gas. And most authors adopt personae of either deluded omniscience or eye-rolling sarcasm.

Patton simply gathers information, lets it ferment, and then when he's got as much information as a book can hold, he organizes it and presents it. In this way, the book's html-style organization works well. There's no conclusion because, well, nobody can even agree on the most basic premises.

Secrecy, Patton argues, is a kind of societal kudzu. You plant it where you need it. Who would argue against the secrecy of, say, the Manhattan Project? But once planted, it starts spreading, and before long people are arguing about whether that was a dead tree or a telephone pole under there, and you've lost something.

Then again, maybe that's just what they want us to think.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 24, 1998

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



The government and UFOs....an often discussed subject. Cover Up? Conspiracy? Misinformation? For the most part, the consensus is that world governments do know more about sightings and abductions than they will admit. Have any world leaders addressed these issues, or had UFO encounters of their own? Yes, they have.

Among others, the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, had a UFO sighting while Governor of Georgia. A Washington Post article dated April 30, 1977 carried the story headlined "UFO Over Georgia? Jimmy Logged One".

The former President's sighting occurred in October 1969 during the presidential campaign when Mr. Carter was campaigning in Leary, Georgia. The campaigning then Governor of Georgia was about to make a speech to the Lions Club in Leary, when he and ten members of the Leary Lions Club watched a UFO for ten minutes before it disappeared. Carter described the UFO

"at one time as bright as the moon." He said it changed color and brightness. He stated it also changed in size from slightly larger than a planet to the "apparent size of the moon. It seemed to move toward us from a distance, stopped and moved partially away," Carter said. "It returned, then departed. It came close....maybe 30 to 1000 yards....then moved away. Carter states that the object was "bluish at first, then reddish." He said it was "luminous, not solid."

The former President is quoted as saying, "I am convinced that UFOs exist because I've seen one. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colors, and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for ten minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was. One thing's for sure, I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky. If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists."

Mr. Carter filed a written report with the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma and also with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in Kensington, Maryland. The NICAP

report shows the information on the witness as: Name: "Jimmy Carter", Address: "State Capitol, Atlanta", Occupation: "Governor". The date of the observation is shown as "October 69". The sighting details include that the sighting lasted between ten and twelve minutes, shortly after dark on a night when the stars were visible and there was no wind. The object appeared about thirty degrees above the horizon in the west, changed size, shape and color and sharply outlined and self-illuminated. Eleven witnesses in all saw the UFO.

Upon being elected 39th President, Jimmy Carter it appears, was as good as his word and did, indeed, endeavor to make available all the information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public.

A Washington Post article dated November 26, 1977, states the President had asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to look into reopening the government's probe of unidentified flying objects. NASA, however, was apparently not eager to do so without some solid evidence such as a "little green man," or at least a piece of metal from a UFO. "We're not anxious to do it because we're not

sure what we can do." Dave Williamson, NASA Assistant for Special Projects states: "It's my personal opinion that it's not wise to do research on something that is not a measurable phenomenon. Spending public money for such research is questionable. There is no measurable UFO evidence, such as a piece of metal, flesh or cloth. We don't even have any radio signals." Williamson states.

"A photograph is not a measurement...Give me one little green man—not theory or memory of one—and we can have a multi-million dollar program. It's a scientific dilemma. How do you prove something that doesn't exist? It's like the Loch Ness monster revisited. Everyone sees it, but there is no physical evidence." Williamson was at that time head of a group of technical experts that were making recommendations to NASA about what to do with the White House request that it should establish a UFO panel of inquiry. Such a panel would have taken over where the Air Force's Project Blue Book left off ten years prior. The Air Force's conclusion after a decade of study is now well known to most people interested in "UFO's" "In the absence of significant finds, continuation of the project is unwarranted." Hmmm....

So, we ask, what are the incumbent President Bill Clinton's thoughts on the subject of UFO's? Well, when he appointed Webb Hubbell to the Department of Justice, Mr. Clinton apparently gave

Hubbell a strong directive. In a quote from Hubbell's book "Friends in High Places", Hubbell states that finding out about UFOs was one of the top priorities Clinton gave him sending him over to a job as one of Attorney General Janet Reno's top deputies.

"Webb", Clinton had said, "If I put you over at Justice I want you to find the answer to two questions for me." Hubbell recounts, "One, who killed JFK. And two, are there UFOs." Hubbell states, "Clinton was dead serious. I looked into both, but wasn't satisfied with the answers I was getting. Upon his resignation from the Justice Department under a cloud of controversy, Hubbell stated that his failure to find out about JFK and UFOs was a "big regret." Perhaps someone should send Mr. Clinton copies of Jim Marrs books "Alien Agenda" and "Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy".

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

Looking for the truth about UFOs

There's a poster that sits in the back of a television soundstage that sums up exactly how I feel about a controversial subject.

A silver disk-shaped object is seen levitating above the treetops. The caption reads in bold letters, "I Want To Believe."

Anyone who's seen the popular television show "The X-Files" can probably recall the poster that decorates the cramped work station of FBI Special Agent Fox Mulder.

Mulder and his partner investigate the weird and wacky week after week, with many episodes based on reported paranormal cases. Despite his enthusiasm and zeal, Mulder usually comes up empty handed, with no solid proof of alien visitations.

I want to believe, too. The phenomenon of unidentified flying objects, as I've stated previously in this column, is a fascinating one.

UFOs have been spotted since ancient times on a global level. Despite countless testimonies from credible sources including astronauts, airline pilots, military personnel and law enforcement officials, the subject is still perceived as off-the-wall and crazy.

Anyone who sees a UFO is immediately labeled as a nutcase. Entertain the possibility of alien intelligence visiting this planet and you're considered even more off-the-wall! All this despite the fact we live in a galaxy with millions of stars capable of supporting life.



**JOHN
TOMMASINO**

I've never seen a UFO in my life but I've made a point over the last few years to absorb as much material on the subject as possible. I usually take a skeptical angle when I read about specific cases or listen to the testimony of witnesses. Some cases are blatant frauds while others are more intriguing.

Last week I was contacted by a Michigan resident, Chet Grusinski, a former crew member of the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Grusinski had read one of my previous articles on UFOs and wanted to share his story. In 1958, the USS FDR was on a shakedown cruise near Cuba when Grusinski and other crew members spotted a cigar-shaped object floating in midair for several minutes.

The object was so close to the carrier that crewmen could make out small portholes with figures staring back at them. Grusinski described the silhouettes as "not human".

After the incident, several members of the crew were transferred to other ships, Grusinski said.

Since then, Grusinski has spent years trying to uncover more about the incident and tackled mountains of red tape and government bureaucracy. Even under the Freedom of Information Act, requests to the U.S. Navy and the CIA for more information have been denied.

Grusinski reports that several witnesses were sworn to secrecy and advised not to talk about the incident for 20 years.

There are some other interesting facts. The 1958 sighting near Cuba was not the first time the USS F.D.R. encountered a UFO.

In 1952, the aircraft carrier took three

photographs of a flying disk in the English Channel. This incident was one of many similar sightings throughout Europe the same year, according to author Jacques Vallee in 1965. Vallee is considered the world's leading expert in the UFO phenomenon.

The USS F.D.R. was also authorized to carry nuclear weapons including the hydrogen bomb.

Grusinski's tale has been featured in several newspapers and the paranormal investigative program, "Sightings".

Personally, I don't know what to make of Grusinski's story except to chalk it up as another one of the hundreds of cases of unexplained UFO sightings.

But I can't think of a reason why someone would want to make a story like this up and expose themselves to the ridicule usually associated with UFOs. During my conversations with Grusinski, he's made no accusations of a global invasion from outer space and he hasn't jumped to any illogical or irrational conclusions. He's merely trying to uncover the truth of something that happened 40 years ago.

I've talked to several local residents who've reported UFO sightings and other unexplained encounters but don't want their stories to be told because of the stigma of the paranormal.

By looking at the testimonies of Grusinski and others, it's obvious that there is a phenomenon out there. But what's behind it? No one really knows.

The truth is out there and I intend to keep looking.

...

John Tommasino is a features writer and health editor for The Sentinel.

Alien researcher at workshop: 'We know they exist'

BY HUGO KUGIYA
Seattle Times staff reporter

The windows of the Flag Pavilion were covered with black cardboard, not out of fear of searchlights from black helicopters, or the peering eyes of agents in black suits and sunglasses.

The hangar-like room at Seattle Center was darkened in order to show slides and short films to about 150 people gathered to discuss extraterrestrial life. Not the possibility of it, but the reality of it.

"We know about mis-identification and hoaxes," said Terry Ti-

bando in her dreams all her life and who remains an invisible presence.

Tibando believes that in his lifetime, aliens will show themselves to humans and will live among us. He says they have not yet shown themselves because "we're not mature enough to deal with them in a mature manner."

"They see us as a maturing, interesting species," Tibando said. "But we've reacted to them with aggression. We scramble jets to shoot them down. So what they're doing now is quarantining us. It sounds like 'The X-Files' but it's not;

bando, member of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSEI), a network of believers, which sponsored yesterday's all-day workshop. "We've considered all the contrary arguments. We don't question the possibility. We know they exist."

The ideas put forth yesterday at the workshop — abductions, alien craft shot down by the military, alien technology stolen by the government, the desire of giant corporations to instill fear of an alien invasion — if remotely true would be the biggest news story of the millennium. Such assertions are confined mostly to

it goes way beyond that."

As with gods, whom worshipers do not see but believe in nonetheless, some faith is required here.

The aliens, Tibando said, have left us a trail of bread crumbs: geometric shapes burned into wheat fields, numerous sightings of spacecraft, individual encounters like Gilbert's.

Highly placed officials in the military and in industry know about our relationship with aliens, Tibando said.

Last June an international panel of reputable scientists concluded enough unexplained, physical evi-

late-night talk radio and plots of movies and television shows.

Given the weight of the message, much of what was heard yesterday in the Flag Pavilion sounded surprisingly down to earth. It resembled, in many ways, a religious revival.

Joy Gilbert, from Eugene, spoke yesterday of once visiting her grown daughter in Sisters, Ore., and being taken aboard an alien craft by doe-eyed escorts, who examined her in the glow of a brilliant blue light.

She spoke with passion of communicating with a kind, loving alien being, whom she realized had ap-

dence accompanying UFO sightings exists to warrant further investigation.

The study, led by Stanford University physicist Peter Sturrock, cited evidence such as burns to witnesses of UFO sightings and strange lights in the skies.

Close encounters of the skeptical kind

Like many other scientists, I have been accused by True Believers of ignoring the 'evidence' for UFOs.

Special to The Observer

Have you ever seen anything in the sky that you didn't recognize?"

This is one of the most common questions I get when I have the opportunity to show the stars to a group. There is usually a gleam in the questioner's eye, a reflection of the hope that there is something out there we are keeping secret. So, have I seen anything outside the usual?

Well, actually, yes. Thrice.

Like many other scientists, I've been accused by True Believers of ignoring the "evidence" for UFOs. However, the important difference between my sightings and theirs is not the sighting but the reaction. Skepticism instead of obsession. There is a difference between an open mind and one that accepts all theories equally. And, quoting Carl Sagan, "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

My first Encounter of the First Kind occurred as I was driving home from the observatory late one night. On a straight stretch of road I became aware of a beacon-like light extending up from the horizon about a third the way to the zenith. I slowed the van to a stop and turned off the headlights. Still there. I turned off all the lights and got out. Still there — a faint, narrow fan of light, slightly to the south of due west.

I kept it in my sight until I turned south, and picked it up again after resuming my westward travel toward Boone. It stayed off my port bow until lost in the glow of the town. I would sight it on two more occasions, always while alone (thus feeling some of the angst that UFO sighters experience!). My students would kid me about it and call it "Caton's Light."

What was it? I don't know, but I know what it wasn't likely to be: an alien spacecraft, Elvis' return, an angel making a landing. We must apply Occam's Razor — the criterion that says that we must accept the simplest explanation that will suffice. It may have been related to the *gegenschein*, a faint glow sometimes seen in the direction opposite the sun. Maybe a distant spotlight or the occasional aurora seen this far south.

It would be fun to figure it out and write it up for a journal article — but in "Skeptical Inquirer" rather than the "National Enquirer." Sadly, like UFOs, Caton's Light is difficult to study since it appeared randomly and not recently.

On the other hand, there are some phenomena that are repeat-

Daniel Caton



able enough to investigate. In our area there are the Brown Mountain Lights — mysterious luminaries seen from several vantage points around the Linville Gorge. A year ago I began an investigation of this phenomenon, allotting a small amount of time to the project. On the trips so far, I've only seen one light that was unexplainable — a soft, bluish horizontal beam clearly under the tree canopy in an area devoid of roads. My second Encounter.

What are these lights? Swamp gas at 3,000 feet? Probably not. Perhaps some kind of geological "Certs Effect" of stressed rocks (chew some of those wintergreen breath mints in front of a mirror tonight for a glimpse of some physics only recently explored!). Or some kind of electrostatic discharge, a bigger version of the flash seen when pulling your socks off in the dark on a dry winter night.

Further study may tell, but again, I don't think the Brown Mountain Lights are likely to be ET taking a parkway cruise.

The trouble with this kind of work is that it is difficult to do and brings few rewards. I would not bet tenure or promotions on such speculative research. Yet it is important, not only for whatever knowledge would be gained but to show that science does investigate the "paranormal."

The real downside is that after something is proved to be natural or nonsense it will in all likelihood still live on as a legend anyway. What is the point of research if the results are ignored? You simply can't have it both ways — if you want us to investigate, then you will need to accept our best conclusions until they are overturned. That's the game of science.

This is what drives us away from studying and debunking pseudoscience. At least in mainstream science my results will be (rightly) challenged by peers, and on the basis of logical reasoning — not mocked by those who are arguing from authority ("I say it works"), confusing correlations with causality, generalizing from anecdotes, ignoring the bulk of the evidence, and cutting themselves on Occam's Razor.

And my third Encounter? To be continued . . .

Observer columnist Daniel B. Caton is observatory director and astronomy professor at Appalachian State University. His column runs on the first Tuesday of every month. Write him at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608. E-mail: catondb@appstate.edu. His homepage on the Web is located at www.phys.appstate.edu/dbc.html

SKYWATCH DIARY

by **Carole Baker**



I had a conversation recently with an acquaintance concerning Dr. Dan Overlade. He is the hypnotherapist that was involved in the Ed Walters' case here in Gulf Breeze. We commented on the sadness of his death from liver cancer. This conversation led me to think some this week about the abduction phenomenon, and the hypnotic regression in general. I did some research in our home library and found some interesting reports.

Dr. Overlade was a psychologist in practice in Pensacola. He quickly became an advocate of hypnotic regression for abductees. In its tribute to Dr. Overlade, the Mutual UFO Network's Journal #261, January 1990 (Copyright MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin TX 78115) states "In only one year, he established himself as a leading authority in the UFO field among the professionals engaged in working with abductees." The tribute also states, "Considering the impact that he has made in elevating hypnotherapy as a vital tool for professional clinicians in ufology in such a short time, Dan Overlade's talent in going to be sorely missed." So we can see that with his work here in the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze area, Dr. Overlade was on the cutting edge of the use of hypnotic regression in working with abductees. He addressed the local chapter of the MUFON here in Pensacola on Tuesday, June 13, 1989. The event was written up in the Sentinel Newspaper on June 15, 1989. Dr. Overlade addressed in this talk how careful the therapist must be in wording their questions to the hypnotized witness to avoid overly positive answers "....he pointed out that witnesses to an automobile accident can be expected to give more affirmative responses to the question, 'Did you see the broken headlight?' than to the question, 'Did you see a broken headlight?'" Still, fewer reports of broken headlights would be given to the direction, "Tell me everything you remember about the car."

Ultimately, the real contribution that hypnotic regression can make to the solving of the UFO puzzle is not going to be found in the fact that a great many different hypnotherapists are getting highly similar stories from hundreds of people. It will be

because the hypnotic regressions turn up leads for investigation that could hope to lead to physical evidence, just as in forensic investigations.

Of course, one cannot think about abduction research without the name John Mack, Ph.D. coming to mind. Dr. Mack, renowned Harvard professor, heads the PEER Institute in Boston and published his book "Abduction" in 1994. Dr. Mack says about abduction experiences in an interview with Richard Cutting in 1994, "I am continually struck by how near the surface these experiences are. There's a lot of talk in the hypnosis literature about hypnotizability. The term hardly applies in abduction work. In my experience, the abduction experiences are so near the surface, so pressing to be communicated, that sometimes the person just lies back and the experiences begin to be relived right away... I want to stress this because the idea that you somehow elicit this through hypnosis is really false. It hardly requires it."

So, what does one of the grandfathers of modern day psychology have to say about UFO's and abductions? Well, Dr. Carl Jung, who studied under Sigmund Freud, passed away before the abduction phenomena became well known. However, in a N.Y. Times article dated 30 July 1958, Dr. Jung, who was eighty-three years old at the time and living in Switzerland, had this to say about UFO's. "I can only say for certain that the things (UFO's) are not a mere rumor, something has been seen. A purely psychological explanation is ruled out." Dr. Jung states in an interview for APRO that year, that he had studied reports of UFO's since 1944 and he says they "show signs of intelligent guidance by quasi-human beings." Dr. Jung also said, "What astonishes me is that the American Air Force, despite all the information in its so-called fear of creating panic seems to work systematically to do that very thing. It has never yet published an authentic and certain account of the facts." Wonder what the esteemed Dr. Jung would have made of the abduction phenomena if he had lived long enough to be aware of it?

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

Keep Looking Up!

UFO???

Trio claims to have seen 'gold' object

By **BRUCE ROBERTS**
Bulletin Staff Writer

Frank Caruso and his friends saw something besides the 300-plus buzzards they were looking for near Valley Airport Tuesday afternoon.

Caruso told *The Bulletin* he and friends Jim Bradley and Jim Fishwick saw what they call a "gold-like object" in the northern sky along the White River around 5:10 p.m., Tuesday. The three men were watching a large number of buzzards roost when the object appeared in the distance behind the birds.

"It was too far away to tell what shape it was," Caruso said, adding it slowed down and had a trail of gold-looking vapors behind it that dissipated quickly. He said the object was in the sky for at least two minutes.

"I've worked with gold and silver before," he said, "and it wasn't really either color — it's hard to explain exactly what color it was, but it was sort of gold-ish."

The Bulletin contacted Baxter County Sheriff's officials and Mountain Home Police personnel, who said they had not received any reports of the object.

But Caruso contends he saw something, and his friends, who call themselves "non-believers" corroborate his claim.

"I don't know," Caruso said. "Maybe I should invest in a camcorder."

"Reaching for Reality"

Alien Abduction Encounters

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON will present guest speaker Constance Clear on Sunday, November 15th from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for nonmembers. Ms. Clear is a licensed, psychotherapist from San Antonio, Texas. She has master's degrees in Clinical Psychology and Social Work, and has been in private practice for twenty-two years. She and her husband operate three corporations in Texas, offering psychological services to individuals, couples, and families; support groups for families who have lost newborns, and eight group homes for adults limited by mental retardation and learning disabilities.

In 1992, Constance became involved with the alien abduction phenomena when a group of San Antonio residents sought her help with their abduction experiences. Their experiences, and those of others who came later, resulted in "the most challenging, disturbing, and transforming experience of my twenty-nine year career as a psychotherapist" and resulted in "the shock of having my world view radically altered." In 1996 she founded "The Friday Night Group," a monthly support group for experiences of alien abduction.

Constance is now in the process of publishing her first book, **Reaching for Reality**, based on the alien abduction experiences of seven of her clients. This book is packed with incredible stories and seventy-seven drawings derived from her clients' experiences. This book will also form the core of her presentation to us on November 8th. Constance is an exceptional public speaker and has, in addition, performed Stand Up Comedy for a number of regional and national conferences. So we hope you can join us on November 8th for a program that will be both educational and entertaining.

If you are interested in attending this and/or future meetings of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON, we would be glad to add your name to our free mail list for meeting notices. Call our hot line (850) 429-0216 or e-mail us at <http://www.GulfBreezeUFOs.com>.

For additional information, please call Art Hufford at (850) 438-5863.

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation in the State of Florida. Its purposes include the investigation of UFOs and related subjects and the education of the public regarding these phenomena.

'UFO' mystery continues

By **BRUCE ROBERTS**
Bulletin Staff Writer

Exactly what's going on in the sky near Valley Airport adjacent to the White River is yet to be determined, but three men's alleged sighting of a UFO Tuesday afternoon is being compiled with at least one other strange sighting in that area the day before.

Frank Caruso first reported seeing a "gold-like" object in the northern sky shortly after 5 p.m., Tuesday while he and two friends were watching buzzards roost in the trees. Caruso, whose claim was corroborated by friends Jim Fishwick and Jim Bradley, said the object appeared to have a "gold vapor trail" behind it that "dissipated

quickly." He said the UFO was in the sky for about 2-3 minutes.

Another man who lives near Valley Airport, who wished to remain anonymous, told *The Bulletin* Wednesday that he saw two "powerful lights" in the same general area at the top of a mountain Monday night.

"I know it wasn't a car or truck," the man said. "It was too bright, and, besides, there's no way a vehicle can get to the top of that mountain — the forest is too dense, and there are no roads."

The man said he "doesn't believe in aliens" and has never seen a UFO, but he was sure of the lights, which he said stayed in one place for about 25 minutes.

Early the next morning at around 3 a.m., the man's dogs woke him, "raising hell."

"They never bark," he said. "Unless there's somebody at the door. I didn't see anybody, so I told them to shut up, and I went back to bed."

The strange sightings has sparked the interest of a local chemist who is an investigator for MUFON (Mutual UFO Net-

work), a worldwide organization based in Texas.

Christine Lippert, a full-time chemist for Baxter Healthcare, said she is interested in the sightings because her organization documents such events and offers information from other sightings and strange occurrences.

"This is the first sightings that I've heard in the area since I became involved with the network," Lippert said. "But there were numerous UFO sightings in Searcy County in the early 1990s." In fact, she said there were so many sightings during a two-week period in Searcy County, that the sheriff became concerned. Baxter County lawmen say they have not received any reports of UFO sightings, and officials here have not expressed interest to pursue any of the claims.

"They usually happen in flaps," said Lippert, who is asking people who see or may have seen an unidentified flying object to call her at 445-5720. "I just want people to know there is a reporting station for UFO sightings here."

Besides the numerous alleged sightings in Searcy County, Lippert said there have been a number of other sightings in Boone County — in and around Harrison — more recently.

"It's interesting," Lippert said. "I want people to know that I'm not going to think they're crazy, and they can remain anonymous if they like."



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

Aliens exist – just ask the man on the moon

THERE are no little green men on the moon. Edgar Mitchell knows this because in 1971 he became the sixth man to walk on it. He is positive, however, that aliens have landed on Earth.

Sharing the podium at a conference in Connecticut yesterday with "alien abductees" and others who claim to have had contact with unidentified flying objects (UFOs), the former Nasa astronaut intensified his campaign to persuade Washington to acknowledge life beyond our skies.

Mitchell argues that life is almost certain to exist on any other planet with a supportive environment. Some physicists, he points out, now believe it is possible to travel faster than light, even if humble earthlings have yet to achieve it.

He is 90% certain that many of the thousands of UFOs recorded since the 1940s belonged to visitors from another planet. Although some have been delusions and others natural phenomena, too many remain unexplained, he said. "This suggests there are humanoids manning craft which have characteristics not in the arsenal of any nation on

by Tom Rhodes
New York

earth that we know of. That is very alarming," he said.

It was a startling departure for a scientist who, up to now, has been wary of appearing with ufologists widely regarded as cranks.

"Until recently I was very cautious about such conferences," Mitchell, 68, admitted before the opening of an annual convention entitled the UFO Experience. "But now I believe there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to warrant a scientific understanding in this area."

Mitchell, who holds a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, does not fit easily into the ranks of the UFO fanatics. Although he acts as a consultant to The X Files, the cult television series, he is scornful of "disinformation" about aliens and flying saucers that emanates from the Internet and marginal UFO organisations in America.

"The notion that there are structures on Mars or the moon is bonkers," Mitchell said. "I can certainly attest to the latter



The truth is out there: Mulder and Scully of the X Files

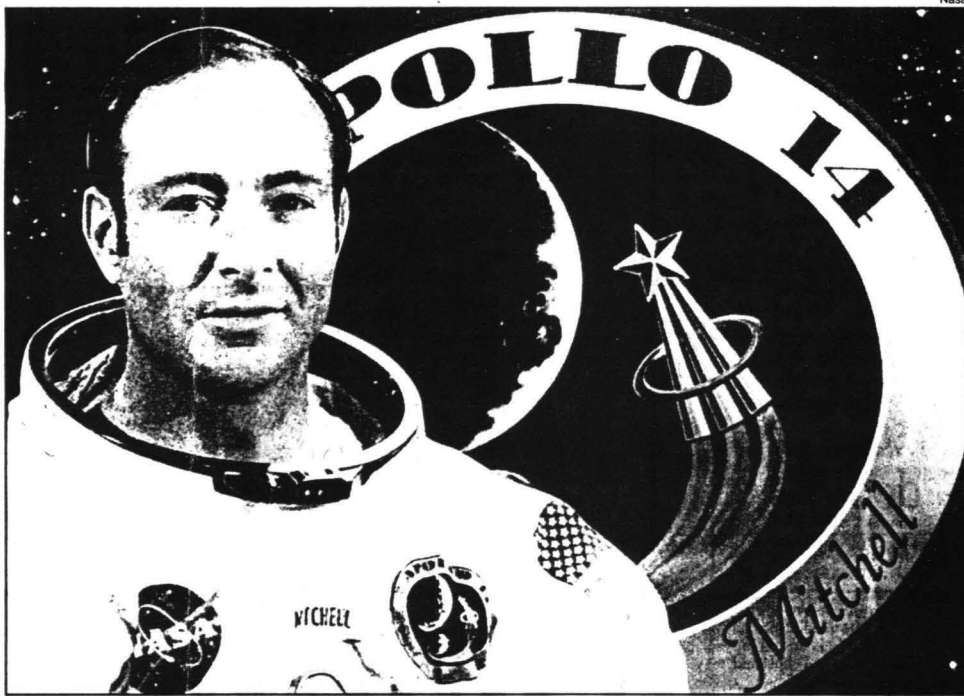
— I've been there. We saw no structures at the landing site and none was reflected in my helmet, as has been alleged."

Mitchell bases his credo on established cosmology — in which he became closely involved after gazing at his tiny, distant planet from the command module of Apollo 14. He felt "an overwhelming sense of universal connectedness and perceived the universe as in some way conscious".

In the early 1970s, after leaving Nasa, he founded the Institute of Noetic Sciences in

California. Dedicated to the study of psychic and spiritual phenomena, it subjected luminaries such as Uri Geller, the Israeli spoon bender, to scientific scrutiny.

Mitchell says his research — including conversations with people who have worked in intelligence agencies and military groups — has convinced him that the American government has covered up the truth about UFOs for 50 years. He is trying to persuade Congress to grant his sources immunity to tell "the real story" of events



Lending credence: former astronaut Edgar Mitchell supports claims that the truth about UFOs has been covered up

such as the so-called Roswell incident — the alleged crash of a flying saucer in New Mexico in 1947.

"Many of these folks were under high-security clearances, they took oaths and they feel they cannot talk without some form of immunity," Mitchell said. "It takes a brave person to

come out on something like this."

A poll by Time magazine last year suggested that 22% of the population share Mitchell's conviction that other planets have been in contact with humans; 17% said intelligent life had abducted humans to experiment on them.

The high level of interest has encouraged other speakers at this weekend's conference. They include Robert Wood, a retired aerospace engineer from California, who claims to have new evidence of the existence of MJ12, a clandestine military unit trained in recovery and disposal of aliens and their craft.

The true believers could hardly conceal their delight at the former astronaut's endorsement. Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, the largest organisation of its kind in America, said: "There's no doubt in my mind that Ed Mitchell gives us all credibility."

NEWS, Cheltenham, England - June 18, 1998

Seen, at last

UFO hunter Robin Cole has had a close encounter after more than 20 years of sky-watching.

Mr Cole, of Battledown Approach, Cheltenham, was in Spain when saw a strange emerald green hexagon hovering over the Mediterranean sea.

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

The father-of-three is a member of the Cheltenham-based UFO research group Circular Forum and has checked out dozens of strange sightings in the skies above Britain.

He has found a rational explanation for most. But not this time.

Mr Cole and members of the local Javea UFO Research Discussion Group checked air traffic and military movements but came up with no rational explanation.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Sept. 4, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Mysterious crop circles draw crowds to B.C. town

CANADIAN PRESS

VANDERHOOF — Speculation about visitors from outer space has brought many more earthly visitors to this small northern town.

Since the airport owner discovered mysterious circles in a local oat crop last weekend, he estimates 500 to 600 people a day have come to see.

"It's non-stop," said Brent Miskuski.

There are 10 crop circles imprinted in a ripe oat field just off the airport runway, some up to 30 metres wide.

Chad Deetken, who researches unexplained phenomena, said Wednesday that the local formations are one of the first authenticated crop circles in British Columbia.

Deetken — who is from Vancouver but works for the privately funded National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas — viewed the formations from the air and ground. He took pictures and is gathering 200 samples to be sent for analysis in a Michigan laboratory.

"I've been looking for a long time," he said, adding formations on the Prairies are more common.

Laboratory tests using microscopes and electrical current should be able to tell whether the circles are authentic or a hoax, he said.

Hoaxes account for about 10 per cent of such formations, Deetken said.

The crop circles have also caught the attention of the worldwide Mutual UFO Network.

Michael Strainic, the organization's Canadian director in Vancouver, is trying to get copies of pictures to add to their collection.

There was a report of a crop circle in grass near Dawson Creek in 1990, he said.

CORNISH GUARDIAN, Bodmin, England - June 11, 1998

Never mind the bite, just look at that light!

FOUR startled fishermen lost all interest in a bite when their attention was drawn skywards by a mysterious bright light.

About nine o'clock on Saturday night as they fished from Pendower Beach on the Roseland Peninsula, the men spotted a light they described

as a mixture of silver, yellow and white.

Dave Gillham of the Cornwall UFO Research Group, said: "They told me the light was travelling from the South West towards them. When the light was above them it stopped and was at a height of between 500-1,000 feet.

"A few moments later the light made off to Nare Head. Again it stopped briefly, made a 90 degree turn and disappeared into cloud.

"It was then seen travelling back towards the Falmouth area along the south coast."

Dave said the fishermen, who he considered credible

witnesses, judged the light to be travelling only slowly and that it was being controlled. There was a constant rather than a flashing light.

He added: "It was still light and there were no stars out. At first I thought it might have been a satellite but satellites don't come to a halt. Anyway, the fishermen have seen satel-

lities before and this was different.

"They said there were lights in the area from other fishermen on the rocks and more witnesses might have seen the airborne light."

Dave, of Truro, can be contacted on 01872 276381.

UFO BUZZES THE MURRAY

EAST KILBRIDE NEWS, Lanarkshire, England - May 27, 1998

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Aug. 19, 1998

Man sheds microlight on UFO mystery

A BRIGHOUSE man has shed new light on unidentified flying objects that baffled people across the north of England.

Experts have hailed events on February 2 as the most significant UFO appearance in Yorkshire and Lancashire for more than 10 years.

Hundreds of people reported seeing two lights travelling from Manchester towards Leeds between 5 pm and 6 pm.

Now, Mr Tony Clarke, of Waterloo Road, Brighouse, thinks he knows what happened.

"They were definitely microlights," he said, "I was watching them that night. I came in and got my binoculars and watched them over Waterloo Road. I could see the outline of them."

His wife Mary and his daughter Nichola, aged 26, had also seen the objects and reached the same conclusion.

Mr Clarke first saw the objects at about 5.40 pm. They were flying at a steady speed and at a low altitude. Slowly, they made their way right over Mr Clarke's house and it became increasingly clear to him what they were.

"I would have said they were not much above 400 or 500 feet, the same sort of height as the police helicopter flies.

"You could see the shape of them, you could here the hum of the engines, two separate engines."

Mr Graham Birdsall, editor of "UFO magazine", said Mr Clarke's conclusions were not consistent with the overwhelming majority of the evidence he had

By CHRIS BUNTING

collected on the incident.

"We are not going to the other extreme and saying these lights are a visitation from our friends on Alpha Centauri or anything," he said. "But there are an awful lot of people who saw things that don't fit with this version."

He said Mr Clarke's timings did not fit in with the timetable he had put together. According to other witnesses, the lights had already travelled past the Brighouse area and into Leeds by 5.30 pm.

Four former RAF personnel had seen two lights travel directly above them in Gomersal, Bradford, and said they had seen no framework or structure attached to them. They had heard no sound.

Witnesses on a Leeds building watched the objects fly above them and yet, even in the bright lights of the city, did not identify them as microlights.

Computer analysis of video images of the UFOs showed none of the characteristics one would expect in aircraft lights and radar pictures showed no trace of the objects. Air traffic controllers said radar would usually detect microlights.

Finally, five or six witnesses had seen the lights separate at about 5.45 pm and travel at very high speed to different points on the horizon. This was not consistent with microlight flight.

Report by Susie Kelly

A SET of twins from the Murray have become the latest residents to witness a UFO zooming across the night skies.

William Clark (19) froze on the spot as a black triangular shaped flew over his house in Owen Avenue.

He stared at his twin brother Patrick in disbelief as the strange aircraft hovered above the town.

Council worker William said: "I was so shocked and decided to contact the *News* to see if anyone else had seen the same."

The incident unfolded last week as the brothers stood on the doorstep of their house in Owen Avenue.

William said: "The time was 12.30am. At first I saw the dark triangular object and it was a fair distance away."

"A bright white light was attached to the front of it and it started to get closer but there was no noise. It was silent."

"In the beginning the object was a mile away but then it flew past my house."

The eye-witness account is the latest in a catalogue of close encounters which have buzzed East Kilbride since January.

Pancake-shaped flying saucers, "intensely black aircrafts" and wierd sonic booms have been sighted by dozens of residents.

The bizarre incidents have transformed East Kilbride into the new UFO capital of Scotland.

One eye witness this week made renewed calls for a full-scale Government investigation.

David Cornes (59, who was visited by a UFO expert in his home, said: "I know I saw something in the sky that night through my kitchen window. Something should be done about these sightings."

Holland-based UFO group, UASR, called on witnesses to write to MP Adam Ingram in the hope of obtaining a Government explanation.

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST, Swansea, Wales - July 2, 1998

UFO probe claim dismissed by RAF

THE Ministry of Defence has side-stepped claims that a West Wales RAF base plays a secret role probing UFOs.

Gower MP Martin Caton has been pressing the Government over activities at the base at Brawdy, Pembrokeshire, in a series of Commons questions.

He quizzed the MoD over whether RAF Brawdy was used to investigate unidentified flying objects.

The MP also asked whether it still used an underwater sound surveil-

By FRANCIS ELLIOTT

lance system set up to listen for hostile submarines.

Suspensions about the base have surfaced as an international panel of scientists called for a full-scale investigation into sightings.

Ten leading experts from America, France and Germany have criticised scientists for paying too little interest in UFOs despite scores of mysterious incidents.

A massive disc reported in the

skies above Paris by the crew of a military aircraft four years ago is among sightings which deserve further inquiry, said the panel led by Dr David Sturrock, of Stanford University, California.

But yesterday MoD minister said British forces only investigated UFOs if they feared a military threat.

MP John Sellar said: "Unless a report reveals evidence of a potential threat from an external military source no attempt is made to determine the precise nature of what might have been seen."

He added that the Pembrokeshire base had been handed from the RAF to the Army two years ago but failed to say whether it had ever investigated UFO sightings.

Today Mr Caton played down his interest in the extra-terrestrial, saying he had asked the Commons questions on Brawdy for a constituent.

"I personally think it's very unlikely and it is not something I have a great understanding of or interest in."

"But I have to admit one of my favourite films is *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*."

REDDITCH STANDARD,

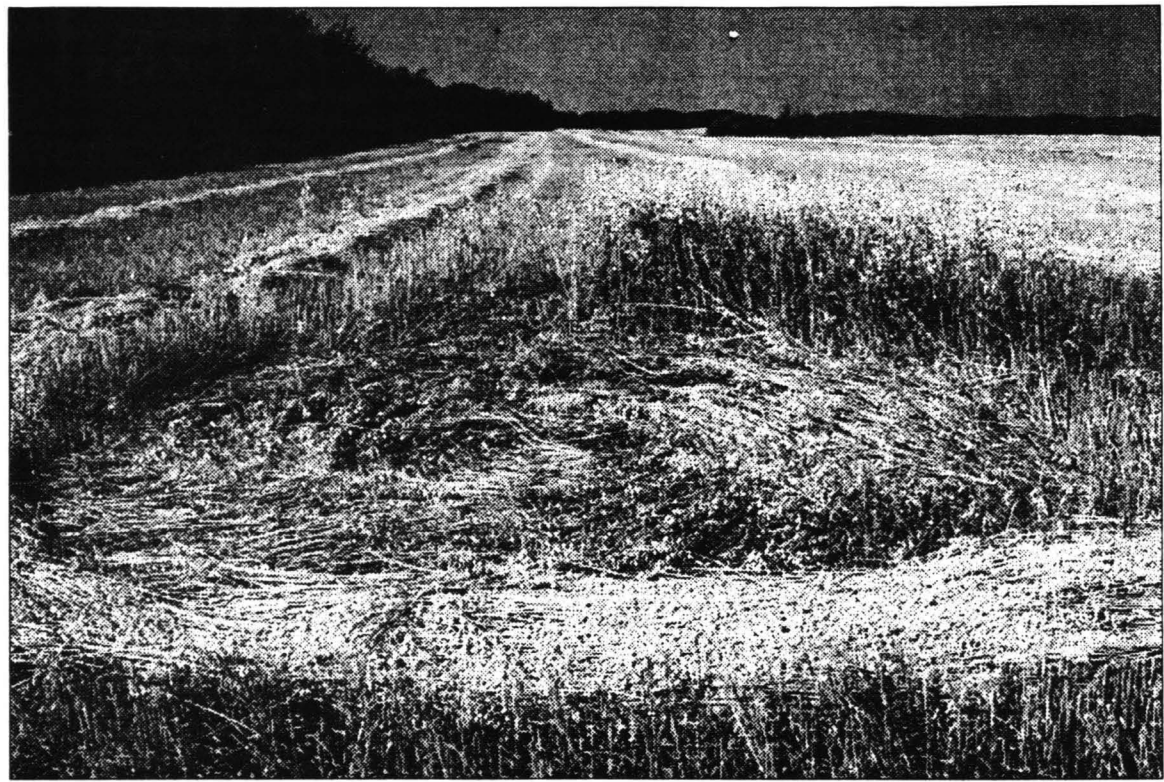
Worcester, England - Aug. 21, 1998

Redditch UFO sighters are not alone

AS PART of our on-going research into the UFO phenomenon, we would like to hear from a lady who reported seeing a 'fish tailed' UFO over Batchley, Redditch in 1996, as this definitive shape has, on occasions, fitted into other reports received from the Tamworth and Cheltenham areas.

We have researched into many different aspects of this phenomenon and are always willing to provide to those that are interested, advice founded over the last four years of in-depth research, or an up-to-date report of UFO activity in the Redditch area. (All postage returned)

John Hanson and Mrs Dawn
Holloway
PO Box 6371
Birmingham B48 7RW



Another crop circle

This small crop circle appeared on a farm north of Wapella on Saturday, Sept. 5. The crop was flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

SPECTATOR, Whitewood, Saskatchewan, Canada - Aug. 21, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Crop circle appears in valley barley field

You've heard about them, you've wondered about them, you might have even seen them before. If not though, here is your chance. A "Crop Circle" has come to Whitewood.

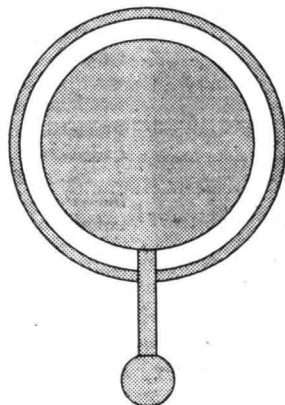
Over the years, these crop circles have been reported throughout the world, and within the past couple of years, these reports have been getting closer to our area starting with the discovery of two circles near Rocanville last year.

However, a crop circle appeared in a field north of Whitewood in the Qu'Appelle Valley, just off Highway #9 last

- Work of aliens or humans?

weekend.

Situated in a field of barley, the circle con-



Shaded area indicates packed down barley

sists of a flattened down circle which is sur-

rounded by a ring. Coming from the circle on the north side is a straight line leading to another, smaller circle.

A trail has been packed down to the circle from the countless visitors and onlookers who have come to study the mysterious circles, but no explanation has yet been discovered as of press time.

Over the years people have speculated that these mysterious markings in the fields are the work of visitors from a distant planet. Experts have even commented that they are made from a strange force of nature. Others just believe some people just had too much time on their hands during the night.

Whatever, or whoever, created these circles are the only ones that can answer this mystery.

Crop circle appears

By Terri Eger

Another crop circle has appeared in a local field.

Last Saturday, John Sippola was swathing a crop of oats when he came across the circle on his land 12 miles north of Wapella.

"We've never seen anything like it or had any on our land before," said his wife Charlene.

The circle measured 11 feet in diameter and was flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

"We've seen where the wind has flattened the crops before but not like this," she said.

"This was right flat to the ground and all went in the same direction," said Sippola.

The farmers think the circle was probably formed some time last week, but they have no explanation for it.

"It's something unusual," she said.

"It makes you think."

This smaller circle comes three weeks after a set of circles were found in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Highway 9.

'They are coming back, I think we have been visited by us - our own people'

Is the truth out there?



IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? UFO enthusiast Steve Jones. Ref:66766/20

EVERYONE knows someone who has seen an Unidentified Flying Object.

Shortly after we arrived at UFO enthusiast Steve Jones' house in High Fields, Sunningdale, on Monday evening, the photographer began relating a story about an uncle whose car had been dogged by a strange light while driving with some friends in New Zealand.

Steve, who has compiled an extensive database of UFO sightings dating from 10,000 BC (ancient Chinese archives make reference to a race of people called the Drago who came from the skies) to the present day, said it could have been the planet Venus - which, to those unfamiliar with the night sky, appears exceptionally bright and is often mistaken for a UFO.

Whatever the explanation for sightings, whether rational or more elusive, there is certainly no shortage of oddly-behaving lights in the heavens to baffle and bemuse us.

We had come to see Steve to get his opinion on two photographs of a 'pivoting column of light', taken by a Maidenhead man from his back garden.

SIGHTINGS

Although he could offer no immediate explanation, Steve said the Maidenhead area was experiencing a high number of sightings at the moment.

Other UFO incidents include a bright red light beside the main dual carriageway to High Wycombe, seen from Winter Hill in Cookham Dean - at first thought to be a fog light or a breakdown vehicle, it faded and reappeared in several different locations away from the road - two balls of light streaking over

By Andrew White

a house in Maidenhead shortly after a helicopter carrying a 'large net' had been seen nearby, three golden balls in Lane End, and a disc-like craft with lights flying over the treetops of Windsor Great Park.

Steve, 47, has been fascinated by UFO reports since he was a teenager, when he devoured the books of legendary UFO theorist Von Daniken. Perhaps a little surprisingly, he is not big on the 'little green men' explanation.

"I'm not an alien freak. I look for an explanation. You've got to go through any rational explanation. What's left is a UFO," he said.

"I think people's perception now is that anything in the sky is a UFO, because of programmes like the X-Files and Dark Skies. People are tending to look up and imagine what they see is a UFO. I think a lot of them are aircraft being tested, that become classified as UFOs because they're a different shape."

Steve, who works for a company monitoring newspaper and TV ads, also researches crop circles and the paranormal, and has collected thousands of newspaper and magazine reports of UFO sightings in the three years since he started his database. He also collects photographs and video footage.

He believes the kind of UFO sightings people are reporting now are nothing new.

"These sightings have been going on since the year dot. People started seeing little green men in the 40s, but in mythology there are stories of goblins and angels," explained Steve.

Steve has ideas of his own about the UFOs we can't explain.

"One of my theories is that they come from a parallel dimension - mainly because of the way they appear and disappear - unless they've found some way of travelling faster than light."

"One idea is that you can think yourself somewhere and then be there. But nobody has got anything to substantiate these theories."

The theory he is particularly keen on - one you may find a little difficult to swallow - is partly informed by his interest in primitive cultures.

"If you look back to native American culture, they have theories about the 'star people' who were their ancestors, and it says in their culture that they are coming back. I think we have been visited by us - our own people."

ADVANCED

Steve believes the human race as it is now may be the result of genetic experimentation by technologically advanced Earth predecessors. Space travellers from Alpha Centauri seem boring by comparison.

At the moment we are in the middle of a 'flap', or an active UFO period, with a more than average number of sightings.

Whether these sightings are 'real', or as the millennium creeps ever closer, the product of fevered imaginations desperate for a sign that we are not alone in the universe, is a matter for the individual to decide.

But when you're stuck on a lonely New Zealand Road or on Winter Hill, anything seems possible.

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - Sept. 2, 1998 CR: G. Conway

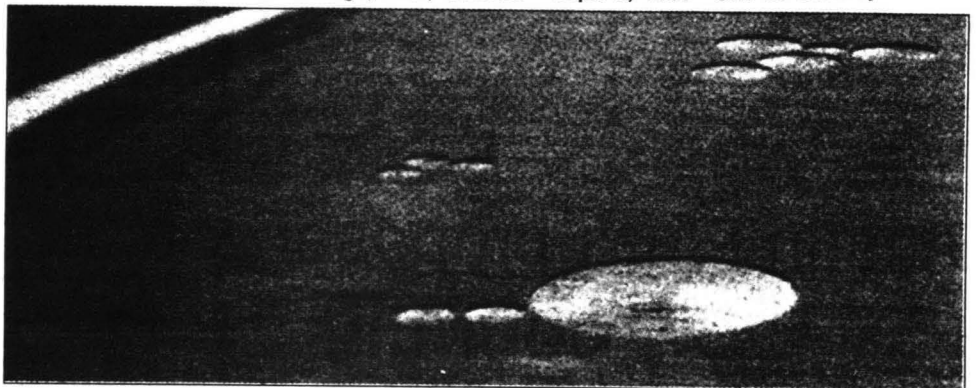


Photo courtesy of Brent Miskuski/Special to The Citizen

MYSTERY CIRCLES — Here's a look at the mysterious crop circles near the Vanderhoof Airport. The photo was taken Monday and supplied by Brent Miskuski of Vanderhoof Flying Service. A researcher from Vancouver was expected to arrive in Vancouver today to study the circles. "Up until now, they haven't found an earthly explanation for it," said Miskuski.

CARIBOO OBSERVER, Quesnel, B.C., Canada - Sept. 16, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Researcher says Vanderhoof crop circles are a message

By ROGER KNOX

Special to The Observer

CHAD DEETKEN and his wife, Gwen, packed their bags and were heading north from their Vancouver home just 90 minutes after they heard on the radio that crop circles had been discovered in Vanderhoof.

It's all part of Deetken's role as a field researcher with the National Institute of Discovery Sciences (NIDS), a Las Vegas-based group that employs three full-time scientists and four field researchers, including Deetken, who is the only one based in Canada.

"We only deal with phenomenon with physical traces that can be tested," Deetken, 53, said in an interview from the field in Vanderhoof where the crop circles appeared recently. "This is exciting because it's the first time we can substantiate crop circles reported in B.C."



Chad Deetken examines the mysterious crop circles.

Deetken has seen about 150 different crop circle formations since he joined NIDS in 1990.

"I'd been watching Unsolved Mysteries and they had a story about the crop circles in England, and I found it fascinating," he said. "I got on with NIDS and four months later, I saw the first circles to appear in Canada, which were in northern Saskatchewan. The majority of circles are

found in England, Holland, Germany, and now Canada.

Deetken was trying to find good samples in some of the 11 circles which had not been badly trampled by curious local on-lookers.

He took samples of the oat stocks, along with samples of the seeds and heads and then shipped them off to a laboratory in Michigan. The results of the tests, which will include looking at the germination of the samples, should be known in a couple of months.

As someone who has seen so many crop circles, Deetken has his own theory about how the ones in Vanderhoof were formed.

"My personal theory is that they are formed by some kind of intelligence," he said. "I'm not sure if it's terrestrial or whether it is extraterrestrial. Something is trying to get our attention. The circles appear to be leading up to

something. We see more and more of them every year. We haven't deciphered the language, written or mathematical. It just seems like something is tapping us on the shoulder and saying, "Hey, you're not the only ones out here."

Deetken said the Vanderhoof circles were not formed by an act of nature.

"These weren't created by a whirlwind," he said. "Everyone's got their own theories. It might have been a hoax, but hoaxes are such a low percentage."

Farmers' fields are chosen for circle formations, Deetken said, because they are an easy and consistent medium.

"It's 100 per cent guaranteed that the circles will be seen in a crop field," he said.



CATH: 'Object filled the sky'

OI JIM LAD IT'S A UFO!

A UFO has been seen above the house where Scots writer Robert Louis Stevenson penned his greatest work, Treasure Island.

Frances Holley, 39, says she saw a bright white object soar over Stevenson Cottage at Braemar near the Queen's Balmoral Estate.

"It was flying right above the cottage," she said. "There was no noise and it was quite high."

And Cath Bagan, 49, said: "The object was giving out fabulous bright colours—greens, reds and purples."

"It filled the sky and appeared diamond-shaped."

But at least no one was kidnapped by aliens...

● Have YOU seen a UFO? We'd love to hear your story. Call us any day from 10am to 6pm on 0141 420 5254. Don't worry about the cost—we'll call you back.

Revealed — secrets of Britain's Men in Black

By PETER ALLEN

IN the comedy film, soberly-suited Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones erased the memories of people who had encountered aliens.

But real Men in Black do exist in Britain — and they are hushing up serious UFO sightings, a conference heard yesterday.

Governments since World War II have tried to ensure that reports of extra-terrestrials are withheld from the public for 'national security reasons', researchers claimed.

Author Nick Redfern said sinister investigators had been knocking on doors for years making sure people kept quiet about their alien experiences.

"The truth is a bit closer to home than we previously thought and it is up to us to uncover it," he told the conference in Hertford.

Specialist military groups, including the RAF's Provost and Security Services, had tracked down civilians who had experienced close encounters, he said. The authorities were happy to let 'dotty' sightings be reported, but those by credible witnesses were invariably hushed up.

"It's easy to laugh at the thought of Men in Black travelling around the country investigating these sightings but there is little doubt that they exist," said Mr Redfern, author of the bestseller *A Covert Agenda* and one of the most respected UFO researchers in Britain. "The Government has its own high-level agenda on this matter, and all the work is being done in the utmost secrecy," he told the audience of around 300.

"It may be that some of the sightings are of new military aircraft being developed and that is one of the main reasons for the secrecy, but that does not make it entirely justified."

Mr Redfern produced a Government document recently made public which describes how 16-year-old Anne Henson saw a star-like object shooting out red and green flames above her home near Taunton, Devon, in August 1962.

She reported it to the authorities. Mr Redfern said: "Within a few hours a big, black car had pulled up outside her house and a man dressed entirely in black interviewed her at length. These sightings are often relegated

to myth but in this instance the authorities were taking matters very seriously. Anne was overawed by what happened and she was told to keep quiet. It is only recently that she has had the courage to speak."

The document about Miss Henson's sighting was made public under the Thirty Year Rule, but much of the work which is being done will be

kept secret for much longer. The Directorate of Scientific Intelligence investigates radar sightings by RAF personnel.

In September 1952 Flight Lieutenant John Kilburn saw a glistening object 'swinging in a pendular motion' above his West Yorkshire base.

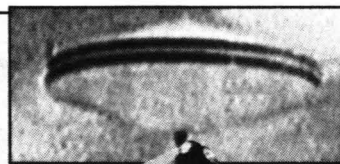
When RAF jets took off to intercept it, the UFO disappeared at an incredible speed. Mr Redfern said: "There is no

doubt that there is a major cover-up." Michael Hesemann, Germany's leading UFO researcher, showed videos of a craft circling Mexico City last August and 'the best sightings' in the U.S. this decade.

Conference organiser Tony Spurrier said there were 40 UFO reports in Hertfordshire alone in 1995.

He asked: "What else is happening in the world?"

Fiction or fact? Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as the Men in Black



Out of this world: Pictures of UFOs shown to yesterday's conference



EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England
Aug. 21, 1998

Unusual sighting

IN response to your 'Mystified by object' letter dated August 17, I can confirm that I too noticed an unusual object in the sky during the evening of August 12th.

Appearing cylindrical in shape and green in colour, it moved in an easterly direction over Normanton before disappearing from view.

A Jackson,
Whiston Street,
Derby.

SUTTON COLDFIELD OBSERVER, England - June 26, 1998

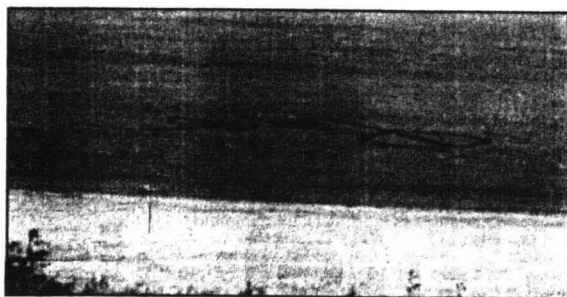
Ex-policeman hunts for UFO help

A former Midlands policeman who swapped studying criminal activity for UFO research is appealing for local help in compiling a book about 'X-File'-type phenomena.

by
Julie Cooper

John Hanson, of Redditch, claims he has travelled the length of the country investigating unexplained UFO encounters, and plans to write an informed publication about his findings.

And he claims sightings of unusual



Flashback to the unexplained crop circles which appeared on land close to Witley Hill Road in June last year. (S97/9806)

'X-File' crop circle activity spotted in Witley Hill Road in June last year, could also be included in his research.

Now Mr Hanson, who has made numerous appearances on BBC radio stations to talk of his work, is keen to hear from anyone who may have a mysterious story to tell.

"Before I left the force five years

ago, I was very sceptical about it all.

"But since I became involved in UFO activity and have been in the right place at the right time, I'm now a big believer."

Mr Hanson now dedicates his life to carrying out his investigations and agrees with critics that it has become an 'obsession'.

Last night

with CHRIS EVANS



EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton,
England - July 31, 1998

THERE was a time when TV documentaries about UFOs consisted of fuzzy home movies of vaguely disc-shaped objects garnered by off-duty policemen and drowsy aeroplane passengers. Then a procession of experts — air force bigwigs, astronomers and Raymond Baxter — would debunk them all and tell you there was no cause for alarm. They were just hubcaps, swamp gas, weather balloons, satellites, funny reflections and the planet Venus. Aliens from another world? The very idea. Stuff and nonsense!

Then along came The X-Files and UFO documentaries began to change. Documentaries like *Dreamland* (Central), for instance. Nothing to do with electric blankets. *Dreamland* was a slickly produced investigation of the Area 51 story much beloved by ufologists and regularly cited by no less an authority than Fox Mulder himself. For the uninitiated, it's an American air force base somewhere in the Nevada Desert whose existence is officially denied. The story goes that the remains of the UFO that's supposed to have crashed in Roswell in 1947 were taken there, along with the bodies of the alien pilots. Furthermore, that American scientists have "back-engineered" the wreckage and are now building and flying their own UFOs.

The programme's principal witness was Bob Lazar. He claims he worked in Area 51 and actually got to see inside one of the flying saucers stored there, one of which sported an American flag (no bumper stickers). The seats were small and there were no sharp edges anywhere in the craft, suggesting a race of short beings who graze easily.

But as anyone who's ever watched The X-Files will know, nothing is ever that straightforward. No sooner had Lazar told his story than a series of experts showed up to denounce him as an attention-seeking fraud or, as author Timothy Good called him, a "conduit" through which the military releases only what it wants us to know.

Another conduit revealed that the saucer-building programme is being masterminded by a grey alien called J-Rod and that there may be thousands of the little devils at work in Area 51. Raymond Baxter would never have bought that.

My suspicion about the whole UFO story is that if you announced the aliens' arrival on News at Ten nobody would bat an eyelid, so punch-drunk are we from claims, counter-claims, conspiracy theories and Independence Day.

Or maybe that's just what the authorities want. Hmmm...

But his background in the police force has helped him learn to analyse his findings and eliminate logical explanations for unusual sightings like strange flying objects, blinding light and strange debris.

Evidence

"I have a need to find answers. The Ministry of Defence stance is that UFOs do not exist, but there has been a lot of unusual evidence to suggest otherwise."

Erdington UFO researcher, William

Beale, praised Mr Hanson's efforts and hoped to contribute to the book with his own experiences.

"If after you have investigated the logical, such as looking at flight patterns, both civil and military, hot air balloons and anything else, you have to look at the illogical," he added.

Anyone with a keen interest in the subject can get in touch with either John Hanson on 0961 388 578 or William Beale on 0121 350 6639 for further information.

THINK-TANK RECOMMENDS PROBE INTO UNEXPLAINED SIGHTINGS

Science takes a serious look at UFOs

FOR those who believe in UFOs, it is the moment they have been waiting for - well, almost.

A panel of scientists has declared that the idea of aliens from outer space should be given serious consideration.

This may not sound like a ringing endorsement for the conspiracy theorists - and it certainly doesn't suggest that our back lawns are in imminent danger of being invaded by little green men.

But for those who have steadfastly believed in the existence of alien life, it is the best news they have had in 30 years of learned pronouncements by a hitherto highly-sceptical scientific community.

No wonder, then, that the recommendations by nine eminent scientists from America and Europe were yesterday being hailed as a "victory" by UFO enthusiasts.

Mike Dash, the publisher of *Fortean Times*, said: "This will hold out hope for all those people who believe in alien spacecraft."

However, even Mr Dash admit-



by **CHARLES OULTON**

Science Correspondent

ted: "It's too early to say that we are about to receive a visit from people living in outer space."

What the scientists did say, though, is that the theory of UFO phenomena cannot be dismissed out of hand, and that more serious study should be carried out.

They even acknowledge that there appears to be a genuine medical risk with a number of people reporting radiation burns, which doctors were urged to take seriously. The team, led by Peter Sturrock, professor of applied physics at Stanford University, reviewed evidence presented by eight investigators of UFO reports from the last 50 years.

Over a period of four days last autumn, the investigators told the scientists about incidents which all involved some form of physical evidence. This included "sightings"

captured on photographs and radar screens, interference with vehicles and aircraft equipment, injuries to vegetation and physiological effects to human witnesses.

Announcing its verdict yesterday, the team found that some of the reported incidents may have been caused by rare natural phenomena, such as electrical activity high above thunderstorms, or radar ducting - in other words, the trapping and conducting of radar waves by atmospheric channels.

However the panel, with all the caution of X-Files investigators Mulder and Scully, found that some of the phenomena was not so easy to explain.

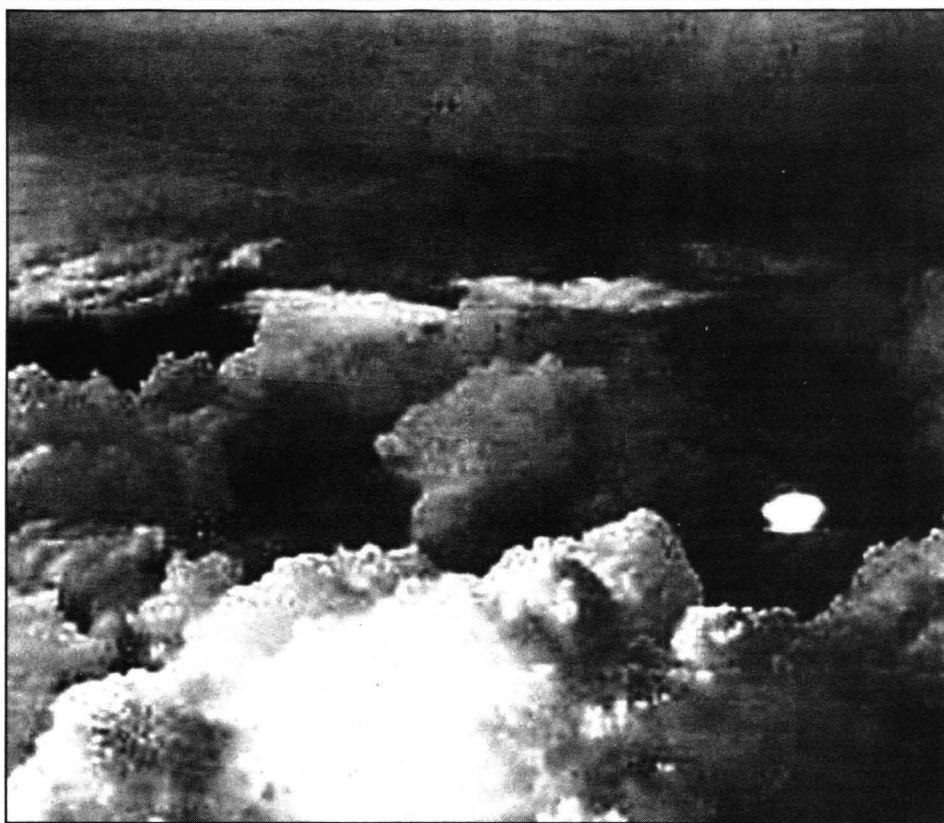
Members agreed that further analysis of the evidence presented to the panel was unlikely to shed more light on the causes underlying the report. But, crucially, they

felt this was because most current UFO investigations lacked the necessary scientific rigour. What was needed, the panel concluded, was a more serious approach to analysing new data, in order to produce useful information and advance our understanding of the UFO debate.

The study is considerably more upbeat about the existence of UFOs than a similar one in 1968.

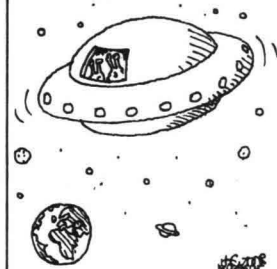
In that report, Dr Edward Condon, director of the Colorado Project, concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby".

Two years later another study, by the American Institute of Aeronautics, recommended only "a continuing, moderate level of research effort".



PIE IN THE SKY? A panel of experts delighted UFO believers yesterday by calling for serious research

HECTOR BREEZE



"Somehow it's no fun, going about in an IDENTIFIED Flying Object"

THREE TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED THAT LEFT THE EXPERTS STUMPED WHEN THEY

ONE of the most intriguing items of evidence examined by the panel was a holiday photograph taken on Vancouver Island in Canada on October 8, 1981. The colour film shows a daytime view of a mountain with evergreen trees at the base and a white cloud near the top. However, a silver oval-shaped object stands out against the blue sky.

Investigator Richard Haines spent four days with the woman who took the photograph, examining the site where it was taken, and examining all possible ways in which the photograph could have been doctored.

He even carried out tests to discover whether the woman or a member of her family had photographed a toy Frisbee. The picture defied analysis, although the scientists still question why the woman and her family failed to spot the object with the naked eye.



ANOTHER "sighting" was a gigantic disc which flashed up on an aircraft's radar screen as it flew 50 miles south-east of Paris at more than 10,000 feet on January 28, 1994. The object was spotted by a steward in the cockpit, and this was confirmed by the captain and co-pilot.

The three witnesses suddenly lost sight of it when the edges appeared to go out of focus and the object disappeared.

The crew obtained radar information from military air traffic control which confirmed detecting the disc for 50 seconds. The object had a diameter of about 1,000 yards and was about 100 yards thick. It was first tracked at a speed of 110 knots.

SET OUT TO FIND THE TRUTH

AMONG the most bizarre cases investigated by the nine-strong panel of scientists was the story of security guard Luis Delgado.

He told them that at about 3.50 on the morning of March 20, 1992, he was checking doors at office buildings in Haines City, Florida.

At one point, he drove his patrol car along 30th Street and saw a green light in his rear view mirror.

Seconds later, the interior of his car was illuminated with a

greenish glow and a long, thin object began hovering up and down in front of the vehicle several times.

Delgado called the police for help, telling them: "Something has been following my vehicle."

When the object moved in front of his car for the third time, Delgado pulled off the road in a panic.

When he did so, the car's engine, lights and radio stopped working for no apparent reason.

The object, which hovered 10ft off the

ground, was about 15ft long with a 3ft high centre.

It was a "strange green colour" and the colour seemed to "flow over the surface."

As Delgado pulled up, the object appeared to shine a bright white light into the interior of his car.

He noticed the air around him had chilled and he could see his own icy breath.

Shortly afterwards, the object sped off, moving low over the ground.

It disappeared in just a few seconds.

Mel's anguish over 'unexplained' events

by Vivien Mason

ARE the skies above Barnoldswick acting as a window for extraterrestrial visitors.....or is the answer closer to home?

This is a profound question on an emotive subject, but is also something to which Barnoldswick man Mel Ford, of Chatford Lodge, Ben Lane, wants answers.

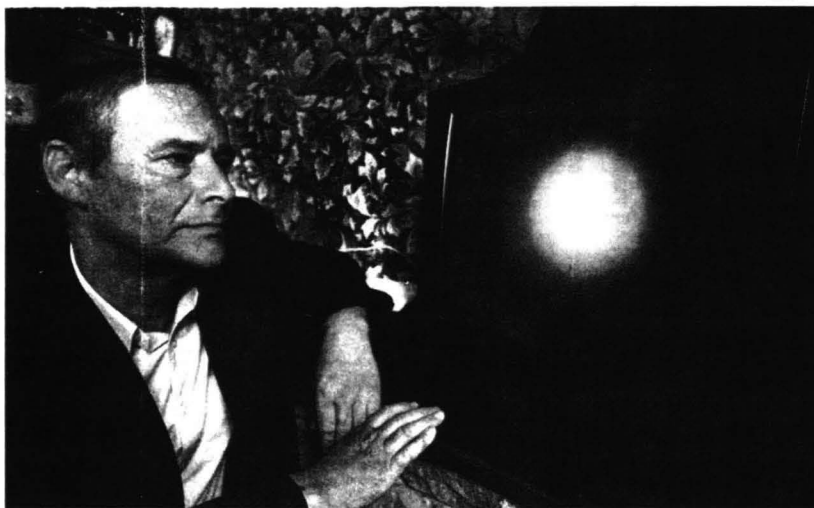
Mr Ford, a builder, his wife, Helen, and their son, John, have all witnessed incidents to which they have no real explanation.

"It has been going on for many years now," explained Mr Ford. It began when we were living on Wellington Street in the town. My wife and son both experienced what they can only describe as nocturnal paranormal events.

"I will be the first to admit that I thought they were crackers. I had neither felt nor seen anything and just dismissed it as rubbish.

"It wasn't until about three years after we moved to the bungalow I built in 1989 on Ben Lane that I began to experience these same things," he added.

"It began with balls of light appearing in the night sky across the fields to the front of my house. There is an underground reservoir between two hills, and these objects, which are silent, can appear and disappear in a matter



Concerned: Mel examines video footage of the balls of light which he has witnessed 22/4088/19

of seconds. Even when the curtains were drawn across I would instinctively know they were there and felt as though they were watching me. I even bought a camcorder to be able to film them. I have a lot of footage which has and is being analysed by Dr Green at Bradford University.

"There have been incidents when dead mice laid perfectly neatly at the back door have been found, unmarked apart from a small hole in between their eyes."

So concerned about these events were Mr and Mrs Ford that they contacted Donald Cooper, president of SERIUS, a Skipton-based

extraterrestrial research organisation who explains: "I didn't know at the time when I was contacted by Mr Ford that I had actually gone to school with him. I remember him as a sensible, ordinary sort of person and I feel very concerned about the experiences he has had which have left him at

near breaking-point.

"Mr Ford has not only seen craft in the area close to his house near the underground reservoir, which is a powerful source of energy, but he has also experienced what he can only describe as three to four foot 'beings' in his house which have the ability to paralyse him," continued Mr Cooper.

"He is not totally sure what these visitors are trying to do but each time he is put into a state of paralysis, usually at night while he is preparing to go to sleep.

"On one occasion he felt some pain in the side of his head and discovered a bead-like shiny object which was partially embedded in his scalp. He gave me this object which I sent away for analysis and the results were that it was made up of eight elements, seven of which the scientists could identify, the eighth was totally unknown to them," Mr Cooper explained.

Mr Cooper, an ex-RAF officer, has studied this type of phenomena for many years and feels the cause lies as much with military involvement both nationally and internationally, as it does with alien forces.

"There are many intelligence organisations throughout the world of which the ordinary man cannot begin to comprehend.

"The truth, as they say, is out there and yet UFOlogists come up against closed doors at every turn. It's not until a past member of these groups leaks something to the media that we get to hear about things, but even then they are quickly hushed up one way or another. The technology we have at our disposal is phenomenal and far more sophisticated than we are led to believe. During my time in the RAF I was aware of whole sections devoted to scanning the skies and seas for UFO activity," claims Mr Cooper. "Files were kept, secretly of course, and secret meetings arranged between the many Heads of State."

Mr Cooper has compiled a 50 page dossier taken from research he has undertaken which links intelligence organisations to UFO activity. "It is about time ordinary people demand more openness with regard to the UFO phenomenon," he added. "Technology could fall into the wrong hands and we could be left with a one-world government, with one army and one police force.

Mr Ford feels it is about time the public know about the things he has experienced and hopes people will come forward and be counted. Lots of people have already approached him after hearing of the incidents and Mr Cooper has records of hundreds of sightings in the Barnoldswick area. "Surely," says Mr Ford, "all these people cannot be wrong."

If anyone wishes to get in touch with Mr Ford his telephone number is 01282 812707.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS, Norwich, England - July 27, 1998

Did airman die chasing UFO?

CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT,
South Park Road,
Wimbledon.

I was asked the other day what I remembered - I was then a cub reporter in Lincolnshire - of the first positioning of American aircraft in the United Kingdom after the end of world war two on July 15-17, 1948, when two squadrons of B-29 Super-fortress bombers totalling 60 aircraft flew into East Anglia.

The force, consisting of B-29s from the second and 28th Bomb Groups, USAF, was distributed between RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, RAF Marham, Norfolk and RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

It was when I was looking at long-forgotten notes, which had been carefully criss-crossed with other information over 50 years, that I came on evidence that Capt L Blanchard, the figure (right) in the photograph wearing his squadron jacket patch, of Minnesota, may have lost his life in later years chasing a UFO in a fighter in America.

I wonder if someone could confirm this strange story?

The other officer in the photograph (left) was Capt E G Cassidy, of Texas, who like Capt



FLYING MYSTERY: Did Capt L Blanchard (right) lose his life in pursuit of an unidentified object?

Blanchard, was a world war two veteran.

While very serious things were at stake at the time, I believe my main story from RAF Scampton, which I visited on July 18, 1948, was the fact that one of the servicing team, while attending to an engine during the Greenland stop-over, left his wristwatch on a cawling hook - and it ticked all the way to Lincolnshire.

COMMUNITY REVIEW, Spy Hill, Saskatchewan, Canada - Sept. 21, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Crop circle found in Spy Hill area

Another crop circle has been discovered, this time in the Qu'Appelle Valley, southeast of Spy Hill and just a short distance from the PCS Rocanville mine.

"I don't know what to think of it," comments Joe DeCorby who discovered the crop circle while swathing a wheat field a short distance from his valley home recently.

The crop circle measures about 24 feet across. The wheat stalks inside it have been bent over very close to the ground and are lying in a tightly woven, counter-clockwise pattern.

The thing that Joe and his wife Inez can't understand is how anything could make such a clean impression. Stalks a frac-

tion of an inch outside of the circle stand straight and unharmed.

Because the wheat field was ripe Joe says he would have easily seen any signs that someone or something had moved through the field to get to the circle site before he found it. He totally discounts the idea that the circle is a man-made hoax. Whatever happened, it was very precise, says Joe. It came down, created the circle and then disappeared straight back into the sky.

It also happened very recently. Comparing the wheat kernels taken from stalks inside and outside the circle showed they were at the same stage of development.

In order to maintain the site,

Joe, after notifying other members of his family so they could see it firsthand, swathed around the circle, leaving a small band of unaffected wheat standing.

Joe hesitates to speculate on what might have created the circle but he notes that unexplained occurrences are not uncommon for that area. A couple of years

ago crop circles were found near Rocanville and this past summer others were discovered in the Tantallon area.

As well Joe recalls an incident which occurred a few years ago. It being a hot summer evening he was sleeping outside when he heard a strong blast of wind passing nearby. He couldn't see

anything but could distinctly hear a loud wind-like noise that seemed to pause and then move off in the direction of Rocanville. The next morning revealed nothing unusual.

"To this day I still don't know what that was." As for the crop circle he plans to leave it. "It sure was surprising."

As scientists reveal probe into UFOs a Scots expert tells them..

I've been saying it for years... there IS something out there

FOR decades witnesses have been ridiculed and investigators dismissed as "cranks" - but now life beyond earth is finally being taken seriously.

The news that an international panel of scientists has called for a full scale independent investigation into the UFO phenomenon is to be welcomed - and it is long overdue.

It is more than 32 years since the last major independent study into UFOs was undertaken - but now more scientists appear prepared to ditch their scepticism and take up the challenge.

As someone outside the scientific community, but who has been investigating unexplained phenomena for over 20 years, it is the validation we have been seeking.

In Scotland alone there have been many thousands of reports, while places like Bonnybridge have gone on to achieve world status as UFO hot spots.

But despite first-hand descriptions of close encounters, still the doubts and the doubters remain. It can't be denied that wit-

By RON HALLIDAY

nesses to strange objects in the sky have misidentified everyday objects.

Planes seen at a strange angle can appear to take on an unusual shape and landing lights viewed at a distance may appear to hover when, in fact, they are moving slowly.

Even Venus - bright and apparently travelling through the cold night air - may well seem like that "spaceship" phenomenon you've read about in the papers.

UFO investigators in general agree that as many as 96 per cent of all mystery sightings can be explained as witnesses simply getting things wrong. But no me-

teorite shower or satellite disintegrating in the atmosphere can account for every sighting, particularly those where the witness has been close up to a strange craft or even claimed to encounter alien entities.

In October 1992, Pat MacLeod was driving through Duddingston in Edinburgh at 10am when she saw a bright light in the sky.

The object approached ground level and to her astonishment she saw hovering over the road in front of her a large sphere with a rim round the middle.

"It looked like a model of the planet Saturn", she later told investigators. To Pat it was as real and solid as a double-decker bus.



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE: UFO investigator Ron Halliday is convinced that mankind is not alone in the universe

It is true that if there is an extra-terrestrial source for these objects then they appear to come in all shapes and sizes, from traditional disc-shapes and pyramids to even a flying railway carriage skimming over the Forth Bridge.

In November 1983 a witness in Glasgow, Tom For-

these encounters are more bizarre than any science fiction writer could imagine.

Now scientists at California's Stanford University seem to agree.

And their interest follows only a couple of years after the European Union voted to take a closer look at unidentified objects.

But some would say that governments the world over have been secretly monitoring UFOs for years.

Reports of captured spacecraft and examination of alien bodies may appear outlandish, but military interest in UFOs is frighteningly real.

The Ministry of Defence has an office in London dealing specifically with UFO reports - many of which are destined never to appear in the newspapers.

It's alleged that alien spacecraft have been tested at the vast but remote NATO base at Machrihanish.

And Tornados were scrambled to intercept a reported strange object how-

ering over Edinburgh Airport in 1996 - an incident still shrouded in secrecy.

In Scotland, there are several dozen people who will come forward to give an account of direct contact with ETs. Individuals who will claim that they have met, in pleasant and unpleasant circumstances,

over 20 years on. To those with no direct experience, credulity may be stretched to the limit, but there can be no doubting the sincerity of the people involved.

To those who would put it all at the door of imagination I would say: look at the stars. Are we truly alone?

In the last hundred years our technology has advanced at an unbelievable speed. Who knows what apparently insurmountable problems will be conquered in the 21st century.

Think of the vast expanse of the universe. Common sense tells us there must be habitable planets out there - to think otherwise would be nothing less than arrogance or ignorance.

At last members of the scientific community appear prepared to sit up and recognise what we have been saying for years.

Let's hope the real investigation of the UFO enigma can now begin.

● Ron Halliday is chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research

'A UFO like a buffet car sailed over his head'

rest, watched in amazement as an oblong shaped UFO, which he described as like a "Pullman buffet car" sailed less than 20 feet over his head.

To sceptics these stories appear ridiculous - too far-fetched to be believable.

But if witnesses were inventing their stories, wouldn't they make them sound more like an incident out of Star Trek?

In fact, in most cases

'Military interest in UFOs is frighteningly real'

beings from another planet. In 1992 Gary Wood was travelling on the A70 in the Lothians and was lifted out of his car and taken on board a strange craft where he was medically examined.

Terrified to this day, he certainly doesn't regard his encounter as a joke.

Karen McIntyre still has nightmares about the small entities she met as a child in a Tayside wood



COVER-UP: Many believe the US military performed autopsies on aliens at Roswell



Bob Sallee Backward Glances

Biologists are trying to solve White River mystery

For 120 years or longer, eyewitnesses have variously told of a monster that rises periodically out of the murky 60-foot depths of the White River at Newport and thrashes about on the surface. No sightings have been in the news since the early 1970s, but more recent encounters may have gone unreported. People tend to keep inexplicable experiences to themselves.

Nevertheless, this enigmatic creature — or creatures — has piqued the interest of research fishery biologists at the Waterways Experiment Station of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Vicksburg, Miss.

Jan Jeffrey Hoover and Jack Killgore are studying White River fishes. They are collecting information on local fauna, including data about the monster.

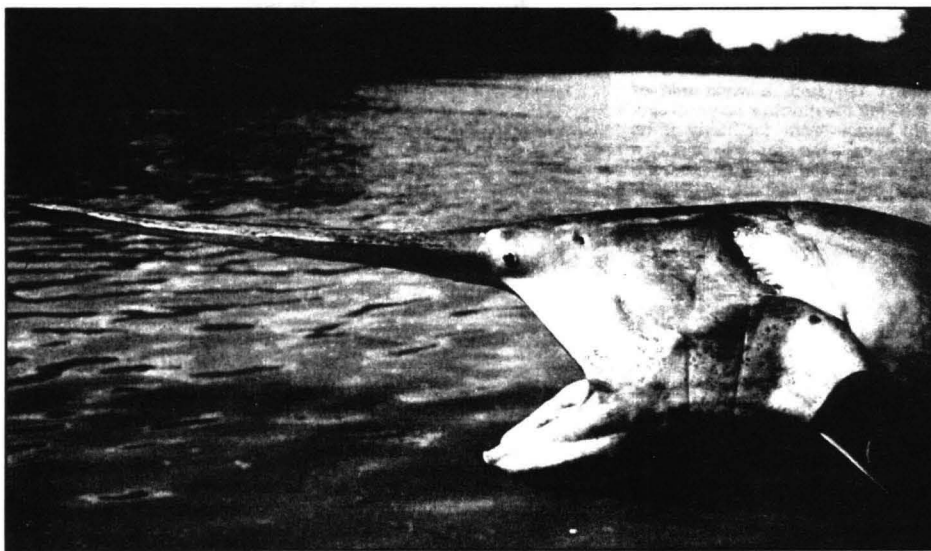
Hoover suggests some possibilities concerning the creature, though its elusiveness continues to confound an identification — like efforts to identify the fabled monster of Loch Ness and its cousin in Loch Morar in Scotland and the 12-foot snakelike creature 3 feet wide that prowls Lake Elsinore near Riverside, Calif., not to overlook the monster with a snakelike head and three humps on its back in Lake Champlain.

In *Alien Animals*, Janet and Colin Bord report that three women at a hotel with a view overlooking Lake Champlain saw the three-humped monster dubbed "The Champ" gliding past in plain view. Seeking an independent witness, they summoned the bartender. He took one swift, incredulous look, shook his head and firmly declared, "I'll never say I saw it."

Several witnesses who saw the White River monster in 1966 reacted the same way.

Tales of the monster in the White River abound — from American Indian and pioneer legend to the Civil War. This creature from the deep was sighted numerous times in the 1890s. More than a hundred people saw the beast churning and thrashing in the river in the late 1930s, and others saw it in 1966 and 1971.

An elderly woman whose mother lived on the levee of the river 80 years ago recalls hearing stories



JAN HOOVER

This Mississippi paddlefish may be a relative of what's known hereabouts as the White River monster.

about the monster splashing in the river late at night.

In 1937, Bramlett Bateman, a plantation owner, swore in an affidavit that he first saw the monster from a distance of about 375 feet. Only part of the creature was visible, he said. He couldn't see a head or tail, but he insisted that the part he saw was about 12 feet long and 5 feet wide. Bateman said he saw the creature on several other occasions moving up and down the river.

PROFIT MOTIVE

An enterprising sort of fellow, Bateman fenced off part of his land, put up a gate, charged a quarter for the privilege of crossing his land to the river bank and sold sandwiches and soft drinks to curious sightseers. The crowd stopped coming when the monster failed to reappear.

In a 1971 newspaper article, an unnamed businessman in Newport reported seeing the monster from about 150 yards away. As big as a boxcar and unnerving, he said, about 25 to 30 feet long and 6 feet across, gray with scaleless skin that peeled all over. But he never saw

the creature's head.

Several fishermen gave a similar description a few weeks later, but they noted that the beast had a spiny backbone with a bonelike horn on its head.

That same year, Ernest Denks, a commercial fisherman, said the monster surfaced near his boat. "It looked like it came from the ocean. It was gray, real long, and had a pointy bone protruding from its forehead. ... It looked as if it could eat anything, anywhere, any time."

But the monster encountered in the summer of 1966 by Mary Skinner, Dorothy Day and Vernon Tucker, who were running trot lines in the dark, seems altogether different.

QUITE A SIGHT

Using a spotlight to guide the boat through the darkness, the three were startled by the sight of a creature 8 to 10 feet long lying motionless in the water. As the boat neared, the monster raised its head, flipped over and headed in the opposite direction. "We all saw it," Skinner said. "It had a tail like a mermaid's — real wide and big — a long body ... real hairy and

gray-looking" with long arm-like flippers and a head shaped like a monkey's.

A creature of the same description was seen that same summer by a couple who were fishing. They didn't mention the incident for years.

In August 1980, a fish later determined to be a young bull shark was found dead on the riverbank by a youngster picking up shells. A freshwater shark native to Brazil, the bull shark grows to a length of about 6 or 7 feet. Soon after the discovery, another dead bull shark was found a short distance downriver.

At the experiment station at Vicksburg, Hoover suggests that Denks' monster could have been a paddlefish or sturgeon, or even a group of either fish if size was excluded as a factor.

"Paddlefish are very sharklike, nearly scaleless, gray, with a rostrum that can be pointy if the animal recovered from a head injury. We are studying rostrum shape and have found that the paddle gets shorter, straighter and narrower as the fish grows, hence, it

would look like a horn on a very large [fish]."

As for Denks' impression that the monster could eat anything, Hoover adds, "Paddlefish have a huge trapdoor-like mouth that looks capable of accommodating very large objects, but in reality is necessary for filtering huge volumes of water for plankton upon which they feed."

The foaming of the water and the apparent size of the monster, Hoover adds, may be attributed to the basking of a large number of paddlefish — a common behavior — and limited visibility in the turbid water of the river. "Spiny backbones seen by other observers may represent the dorsal bony scutes of sturgeon — hacklebacks — which also have a pointed, albeit less pronounced, snout." In addition, Hoover says, "Sturgeon are less likely to surface than paddlefish, but sick, injured, stressed or dying fish may do so."

Paddlefish and sturgeon are so distinctive that they should be instantly recognized, says Hoover, but because they inhabit swift water and may not take baited hooks, they're not frequently seen by fishermen. And identification at a distance is often difficult, even for experts.

Some skeptics have labeled reports of the White River monster a hoax, but Dr. Roy Mackal, a cryptozoologist, suggests that the monster may be an elephant seal. A giant among seals, the elephant seal is found primarily along the coasts of California and Mexico. A wandering elephant seal, he wrote, could have found itself in the mouth of the Mississippi River and followed the river, finally appearing in the White River, which is a large branch of the Mississippi.

Whatever the creature is, perhaps other witnesses have sighted the monster during the past 27 years without reporting what they saw.

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

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HERALD, Bellingham, WA - Sept. 27, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Strange big black cats cause confusion

WILDLIFE: The animals are always gone when officials arrive, leaving no tracks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVENPORT, Wash. — Overgrown alley cats? Mutant cougars? Weird-looking dogs? Pet panthers that got loose?

Those are some of the theories being considered amid more than a half-dozen reports of large black cats lurking near Lincoln Memorial Hospital.

The two most recent sightings were Thursday, said Curt Wood, state game officer for Lincoln County.

"What we're hoping is that somebody will get a picture of one of them so we can figure out what we're dealing with," Wood said.

Initially, the reports were the butt of jokes, like one about doctors at the hospital testing experimental

drugs. But the game agent and Police Chief Charlie Varain know some of the witnesses personally and believe too many of the reports are credible to be dismissed out of hand.

"I guess somebody is seeing something," Varain said, "but what is it?"

Karen Lyle, a fourth-grade teacher at Davenport Elementary, said she saw a big cat about 150 feet away in a brushy field shortly after dawn Thursday. Through binoculars out her back window, it resembled some of the exotic cats a private zoo brought to the school several years ago, she said.

She said the animal stood 2 to 3 feet at the shoulders with a tail about 3 feet long and acted like a cat, rubbing its face on a rock and prowling as though hunting.

"It looked like a bobcat-lynx-cross kind of a face," she said. "It had an extremely long tail."

In the first report, on a sunny day about 2½ weeks ago, Tim Honey said he saw two black cougar-like

cats in the weeds behind the hospital on the outskirts of this Eastern Washington wheat-farming town.

One was about 3 feet tall, stood on a rock about 100 feet away and ran "lightning fast," exhibiting neither the movements nor face of a dog, Honey said.

Cougars, which are native to the region, rarely have dark rather than tawny fur, Wood said.

"It would be a miracle to have two black cougars," he said. "I would tend to lean toward the exotic-pet theory."

The creatures are always gone by the time Varain and Wood show up, leaving no tracks to follow. Moreover, the weather has been too warm for any scent to last long enough to bring in tracking dogs.

"Things don't really make sense," Wood said. "If it was a large predator like that, we should be seeing dead animals, carcasses and missing pets and things like that."

COURIER, Inverness, Scotland - June 2, 1998

Sighting kicks off Nessie 'season'

AN annual event regarded by some cynical observers as the unofficial start of the tourist season was marked on Saturday — the year's first sighting of Nessie.

It was reported on Saturday morning by a woman from Wiltshire who made her sighting of a "large black object rising about 10 feet out of the water just beneath Urquhart Castle" at 8.55am. The woman, who asked not to be identified, claimed she'd been able to see the object for a full two minutes before it disappeared.

Inverness-based Official

Loch Ness Monster Fan Club president Gary Campbell said it had been the first proper sighting of the year. A previous visitor reported seeing the wake apparently caused by a large, unidentified object. He said the report was similar to many classic "head and neck" sightings of Nessie over the years.

Gary, whose last recorded sighting dates back to August of last year, said it wasn't unusual to have long periods without any activity.

"In the early eighties there were long periods of time with no sightings, so whilst there was a lot of activity in 1996 and 1997, it is not unusual for her to disappear for months at a time."

CR: M. Fraser

Monstrous obsession consumes S.C. seaman

By J.R. MOEHRINGER
Los Angeles Times

HARDEEVILLE, S.C. — Dan Taylor wakes up two hours before dawn and stares at the dark, thinking about the monster.

He brews a pot of coffee and wakes Margaret, his wife of 22 years, and together they sit by the window, watching the sun rise and talking about the monster.

Just after dawn, he starts the long drive, past the joggers and golfers, past the fireworks stands and video poker parlors, past all the symbols and signs of easy fun and instant gratification along the S.C. coastline, until he reaches the industrial park, where he'll spend the day sweating and panting and chasing the monster.

Given half an afternoon, Taylor will have you believing this is the

good life, that it's normal, even noble, for a 58-year-old man with a weak heart and a white beard to spend his days building a submarine with which to hunt the Loch Ness monster. Like the monster itself, Taylor's easier to believe in if you've actually seen him.

He might seem more ludicrous if he didn't look like every epic seafarer in lore and history, with a dash of Ernest Hemingway, to recall "The Old Man and the Sea." He might seem more comic if he didn't tell such a vivid tale of meeting the monster 30 years ago. He might seem foolhardy if he didn't have the money to finance a submarine, the know-how to build one and the respect of several esteemed scientists and researchers.



Dan Taylor does some welding inside his submarine. He sold his house to help finance his quest to find the Loch Ness monster.

But Taylor doesn't care how he seems. He doesn't care if people point and giggle, which they usually do, when he stops in for lunch at the Cripple Crab. He doesn't care that Margaret's girlfriends tease her about being married to the Monster Hunter. He doesn't care, never will care, because his mission crowds out much of the sensible world. Taylor's world consists of seven seas and three strong-willed women. There's Margaret, of course. His mother, Justine. And his monster, Nessie.

He loves Margaret. He loves his mother. But something in him needs that monster.

'Unfinished business'

Nessie became Taylor's goal in 1969, and the idea never let him go.

It was several years after he left the Navy, where he'd served mainly on submarines, taking part in the blockade of Cuba and assorted top-secret war games.



In a submarine that he's building, Dan Taylor will be searching for the monster. He plans to return to Loch Ness next June when weather conditions are right.

ERIK LESSER/Los Angeles Times

He knew submarines like the back of his permanently tanned hand, knew the sea as few men do, from the inside out. With such rare expertise, he landed a job with University of Chicago biologist Roy Mackal, who was getting up an expedition to Scotland's notorious Loch Ness — that 23-mile-long, 1-mile-wide, 700-foot-deep strip of fresh water where for roughly 65 years a great sea serpent has been fleetingly, though never definitively, glimpsed.

Together, Taylor and Mackal ventured forth to find that inhabitant once and for all, their quest sponsored by the World Book Encyclopedia. With them they brought a small fiberglass submarine that Taylor built in his free time, and amid terrific fanfare, Taylor submerged.

The mission was doomed, however, by poor visibility and bad luck. Loch Ness is so thick with mud and peat, which rush into it constantly from surrounding hills, that Taylor couldn't see more than a few feet out his portholes. Also, the submarine was slow and hard to maneuver, which almost spelled disaster when its propeller got tangled in a nest of cables abandoned on the lake's floor.

"It was a little dangerous," Mackal says. "I thought, uh oh, all we need is to lose somebody."

On one of his last futile runs around the loch, Taylor was hovering at 250 feet, shining his lights into the murky water, when the submarine began to turn, unnaturally, like the second hand of a clock being pushed backward by a finger.

"I could tell the boat was turning," he says. "I don't even think it dawned on me that it was here. Until I got up."

That brief encounter — so haunting, so tantalizing — preoccupied him for the next 30 years, possessed him through careers as restaurateur and entrepreneur, builder and carpenter, repairman and inventor. "It's unfinished business is what it is," he says. "Someone gave me this assignment, and I failed. Now I'm going to fix it."

A brush with death

He used to say he could see the blueprint for the submarine in the back of his mind. Then, three years ago, everything in the back of his mind shifted forward, the result of a stroke, a heart attack and an epiphany.

He'd always assumed there would be plenty of time to find Nessie, because he always assumed he'd live to be 84. Every man in the Taylor clan, going back to the Civil War, lived to be 84. Not a year older, not a year younger. But when he found himself in the hospital at 55 years old, Taylor realized not only that he might die before his time, which would be sad, but that he might

His mission crowds out much of the sensible world. Dan Taylor's world consists of seven seas and three strong-willed women. There's Margaret, of course. His mother, Justine. And his monster, Nessie.

die before finding his monster, which would be tragic.

So he willed himself to get better, sold his house and moved himself and Margaret into his mother's place on Hilton Head Island. He sank \$80,000 from the sale of the house into acetylene torches and wire grinders and soldering guns and steel, lots of steel, then rented this airless workshop an hour down the road.

True believers

Because the sightings at Loch Ness seem to have begun in the 1930s, that would seem to be when something slithered into the loch from the ocean, says Lisa Wolfinger, a producer for the PBS series "Nova." Wolfinger and a film crew went to Loch Ness last year to make a documentary, due to air next fall. Before going, she counted herself among the majority of people who don't believe in any monster, a group that grew after 1994, when the best-known photograph of the monster, one of the most famous photographs of the 20th century, was revealed to be a hoax.

But after interviewing many eyewitnesses and examining the data, Wolfinger came away converted. "There's something big in there," she says. "Undoubtedly."

Next June, when the weather conditions are just right and Taylor makes his triumphal return to Loch Ness, Mackal and Wolfinger will be rooting for him, as will Robert Rines, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology-trained physicist renowned for inventing radar devices used in everything from warfare to surgery — and a dedicated Nessie hunter himself.

"We need all the (Dans) we can get," Rines says.

In 1972 and 1975, Rines used ultrasound and cameras with powerful strobe flashes to obtain the best evidence yet of something big and sleek swimming around Loch Ness, an exotic creature with horns on its head, fins on its sides and a back like an upturned boat. Rines agrees with Mackal that what he saw was probably no monster, but a missing link, if not a Zeuglodon, perhaps an ancient reptile called a plesiosaur, thought by most sci-

entists to be extinct for 65 million years. He bases such an opinion on more than fuzzy photos and radar charts.

"It happened June 23, 1972," he says. "My late wife, Carol, and a former wing commander in the RAF, Basil Cary, we watched this big back move out against the currents, from the bay into the main part of the loch, then turn round and come back and submerge right in front of us, I'd say about 1,000 feet away. It looked just like the back of an elephant."

Ever since that day, Rines has been an unwavering believer. He's not sure the animals are still alive, particularly since the number of sightings has fallen off in recent years, but he hopes Taylor can at least find a skeleton.

As for Taylor himself, Rines considers him a fellow traveler, another adventurer who sees that dark body of water for what it is — the repository of something primal and thrilling.

"I have a very strong conviction," Rines says, "that at one time there were things in there that shouldn't have been alive."

BLUE RAINS

A shower of "blue rain," which alarmed residents of the northern Argentine town of Perogoria in September, was caused by ash from forest fires in neighboring Bolivia and Brazil, according to government scientists. Ashes from huge fires in those countries blew over the region and mixed with the rain to give it a blue tint. Baffled local residents collected samples of the strange rain when it fell, and later handed them over to the government for analysis. A health ministry official found ash in the rain and after studying meteorological records, linked it to the fires.

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

Calf found mutilated

CONCONULLY — A dead calf was found mutilated on Mineral Hill Road in Conconully on Aug. 17.

A pair of women were herding cattle from one range to another when they came across the dead calf.

The investigation determined the animal's throat was cut, the hide partially removed and the sex organs was removed by either a knife or a small animal, according to Okanogan County Undersheriff Mike Murray.

The incident is still under investigation and a motive has yet to be determined since no meat was removed from the calf.

If you have any information, you can call the sheriff's office at 422-7200 or 1-800 572-6604.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Nov. 1, 1998

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

OKANAGAN VALLEY GAZETTE-TRIBUNE, Oroville, WA - Aug. 27, 1998

Ghostly light haunts lonely stretches of Missouri highway

By JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

On those moonless Missouri nights, when it gets darker than dark, things can get pretty spooky along a rugged stretch of road.

That's when the Spooklight is likely to make its appearance.

On some nights, it might rise slowly out of nowhere to illuminate a broad swath of farmland near Hornet, Mo. On others, it might simply waltz up East Highway 50 from Oklahoma, dancing across the gravel road that doubles as the state line.

Or it could just run straight at you, vanishing at the last second. Then it might reappear a heartbeat later, sneaking up from behind to rise around your shoulders.

Whatever it is, just about everyone to be found along this stretch of rolling hills and farms has a Spooklight story to tell.

"It's kind of a legend around here, and it's been forever that people have gone out to look for it," said Suzanne J. Wilson, a local writer. "I've only seen it in the distance ... but I've seen it."

Noel Grisham, who lives a mile or so off Spooklight Road, thinks maybe he's seen it too. But he's more skeptical. "It could be a flashlight, for all I know," he said.

"But when the weather's nice, and you're sitting out in the yard at night, you'll get five or 10 people a week pulling up hollering at you," Grisham said. "They'll holler, 'Is this where the Spooklight is? We want to see Spooklight.'"

"I don't really know what it is, and I hope they never find out. It would spoil the mystery," said Joe Smith, president of the Bank of Quapaw, across the state line in Oklahoma.

Having spent all of his 74 years here, Smith is a Spooklight authority of sorts. So he knows that each fall, when the Halloween jack-o'-lanterns start adorning doorsteps, the Spooklight calls will roll in.

June Smith is the senior reference librarian at the Joplin Public Library, 20 miles away. Like so many others, she has her own Spooklight theory.

"I've always figured it was an accumulation of gases, and you saw it when the time was right," she said. "Nobody has ever really figured out the reason for it. ... During World War II, the Army Corps of Engineers even had people down here looking."

It was around that time that Mrs. Smith was transformed from skeptic to believer. She was getting ready to return home with her 2-year-old

daughter and friends after a fruitless night of Spooklight watching.

"We had two carloads down there, and we hadn't seen anything," she said. "And I thought, well, I don't believe it anyway. And then here it came down the road."

"It looked the size of a basketball, and as it came toward you, it got larger. By the time it got to the second car it almost exploded. It was the size of the second car."

John W. Northrip, a profes-

sor of physics and astronomy at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, doesn't believe it at all.

Over three years in the early 1970s, Northrip and some of his students employed lasers, walkie-talkies and other gadgets to unravel the mystery.

He says his investigators proved that rising heat from surrounding hills was carrying light from a nearby highway and giving Spooklight its appearance, making it dance and hover.

He simply discounts stories that Spooklight existed 100 years ago. "I come from the Ozarks," Northrip said, "so I'm used to the idea that where there is a phenomenon like this, that stories have a tendency to grow like this."

But he doesn't denounce all of the Spooklight legend.

"For those who have had it come up and had it sit right on the fender of their car," Northrip said, "I don't know. There is no scientific explanation for that kind of thing."

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

Startling Figure In Cloud

Truly astonishing is the clearly defined figure in photo at right. After seeing the wispy "angel" suggested by cloud formations, which appeared on our front page photo a few weeks ago, readers began calling to say they had similar photos and sightings.

Story of the photograph (neatly written on a piece of paper folded and kept inside the frame) is that a Joplin, Missouri woman, Elsie J. Watson, snapped it while vacationing in Tulsa, Oklahoma during June of 1976. She and her husband were taking pictures of an approaching black, funnel cloud. When their film was developed, they were amazed to find this image.

The photo somehow ended up in a Rockford woman's home, who kept it by her bed until the day of her death. At that time, it was claimed by a granddaughter.



People of the night are wondering: What happened to Art Bell?

ERIK LACITIS

Seattle Times staff columnist



Paul Kay, 37, of Lynnwood, a mechanic and a musician, has his theory about what happened to Art Bell. "I don't want to sound too far-fetched," he tells me.

Far-fetched? We are talking about Art Bell here, where the paranormal and supernatural found a home.

It made him one of the most listened-to radio personalities in America.

The night people in this country are worried, all of those with the graveyard jobs, all of those with insomnia, all of those for whom Art Bell was that rather formal voice on the radio, coming from the high Nevada desert, bringing them the news nobody else would. Bell was proud that his show wasn't focused on Bill and Monica or politics.

Who's going to tell the night people about the latest UFO sightings, the alien implant photos, the Third Secret of Fatima, the Crop Circle Connector, the Chupacabra monster images, the Area 51 mysteries of that secret Air Force base and the true meaning of the Mayan calendar?

The night people worry about what possible threat had caused Art Bell to quit his show. All he told his listeners was, "... a threatening terrible event occurred to my family, which I could not tell you about ..."

Boom. That was it.

The country's highest-rated radio talk-show host was gone, his phone disconnected from the double-wide mobile home in Pahrum, Nev., from which he broadcast. The local sheriff did visit and said that Bell was unharmed.

Was it all a prank? The night people don't believe that.

"What can we do? Art has been my friend in the dark of night, every night, for three years now. I don't know what I'll do without his program ..."

That's a woman named Vicki, posting her message at the Web site www.artbell.com, which boasted more than 22.7 million "hits" this year.

The calls this week just kept coming to the receptionist for KOMO Radio, which airs the show here. What happened to Art? the listeners asked. As I write this piece, with its deadline earlier this week, the answer is that no, nobody knows.

Bell, 53, had become a gold mine for the industry. From 10 p.m. until 3 a.m., he ruled the airwaves in 400 stations nationwide. In city after city, his "Coast to Coast A.M." beat out the rock stations, the "serious" talk shows, the sports jocks. Every week, something like 8 million to 10 million people tuned in. In Seattle, his show clobbered the competition, after midnight generating nearly three times the ratings of the closest competitor.

The mainstream press never paid much attention to Art Bell. I doubt there was an op-ed writer who had ever listened to the show. How could you take seriously a talk-show host whose callers expounded, "What we're thinking of as aliens, Art, they're extra-dimensional beings that an earlier precursor of the space program made contact with ..."

A few years ago, a taxi driver first told me about Art Bell. Driving at night, flipping through the radio stations, he came upon the show. Bell was never judgmental about his callers or guests. A face on Mars? A time traveler? Psychic predictions? Fine, tell us all about it. Even if you didn't believe it, you listened to hear what new, amazing tale would be told.

Paul Kay began listening to Art Bell in 1994. "It was like a friendly voice, a dad with an open mind," he tells me.

Now that voice on the radio is gone.

"I don't want to sound too far-fetched," Kay says, "but what's weird is that he always talked about government conspiracies and stuff, about high-tech secret stuff. I wondered if some of those secret organizations really do exist, and that Art was bringing up too many things on the air, and they told him to shut down or else."

If only there were a radio show where Paul could talk to those millions of other night people.

But Art Bell quit. For a good many of your fellow Americans, whose nights now will have a huge void, that's the most important news of the year.

Erik Lacitis' column runs Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. His phone number is 206-464-2237. His e-mail address is: elac-new@seattimes.com

Mysterious stone markings elude experts

After nearly a century, a group of symbols carved in the cavity of a large, flat stone remains a mystery. And so does the peculiar rock that came from the bottom of the Cadron Creek branch near Rose Bud. These symbols have long fascinated the curious. Some of them have deciphered the markings as keys to an Indian treasure trove, or maybe a prehistoric post office, but many of the people directly involved are long gone.

These ancient etchings were deliberately concealed inside the odd rock. One of the symbols is an arrow about a foot long, but pointing in which direction before the stone was pried from the creek bottom? Other markings mentioned in old documents include the outline of two moccasins, a turkey foot and three Xs.

Gus Philbeck spent most of his life digging and searching the surrounding landscape in vain after reading a 1945 article in the *Arkansas Gazette* about an Indian legend of hidden gold and silver.

A neighboring farmer, "Uncle Roe" Burlison, discovered the strange rock around the turn of the century while hauling stones from the creek for a home improvement project to please his missus, "Aunt Emma." One branch of the Cadron cut through Burlison's land. Smooth, flat stones from the creek bed made solid and attractive steps for his front porch and around the foundation of their home place.

While prying stones from the slick of the creek bottom with a crowbar and shovel, Burlison noticed an unusual flat rock that extended under the creek bank. After digging away several feet of embankment, he removed the slab and noticed an oval-shaped lid imbedded in the larger stone 3 feet long and 2 feet wide. Burlison pried the lid out of the larger stone — a perfect fit — and discovered a cavity 1½ inches deep. Inside were the chiseled etchings. He replaced the lid and hauled the stones and displayed them in his front yard. Sightseers marveled at them for years — till Burlison gave them to Philbeck.

Convinced that the symbols would someday lead to buried treasure, Philbeck had bought 80 acres of land adjoining the Burlisons soon after the rocks

Bob Sallee

Backward
Glances



were discovered and began prying up rocks around the creek searching for more clues to pinpoint a cache of treasure. But Burlison couldn't remember exactly where he had found the rock, and had failed to note the direction the arrow pointed.

Some of the markings have eroded over the years, like the pair of moccasins Virginia Hicks Lytle wrote about in an undated article titled *A Rock Depository*.

Meanwhile, a couple of professors from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville heard about the odd rocks with the symbols. A delegation visited Philbeck and convinced him to donate them to the university. They took the lid with them when they left and said they'd send a truck to haul the base with the carvings to Fayetteville.

DETOURED

The university never got the base. Joel S. Gifford, a longtime friend of Philbeck's, stopped by one day, and when Philbeck told him about the visit by the professors, "I was disappointed and told him so. I talked him into giving the base part to me," Gifford wrote. So he trucked it home and put it on display in the chicken yard, where it lay for many years. Gifford wrote an article about the strange stone for the White County Historical Society in 1981.

Philbeck, a North Carolina native, was a young man when he settled in Rose Bud in 1907, according to a newspaper article written by Joe Wirges of the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1955. In his quest for treasure, Wirges wrote, Philbeck became a hermit and lived for years in a one-room log house with a lean-to attached, cooking his meals over an open fireplace. Philbeck married several times over the years, Philbeck confided to Wirges, but none of his wives cared for the simplicity of his lifestyle.

Philbeck's search for hidden treasure was also motivated by a 1945 article he had read in the

Gazette about a Spanish priest who claimed that an Indian tribe had mined gold and silver along the Cadron Creek. Another tribe moved in on them, so the priest's letter goes, and the Indians buried their wealth and fled after sealing off their mines. Philbeck piled tons of rock upon the creek bank along his property searching for the mines. He found any number of unusual flat rocks, even a cave, but he found no gold or silver.

He once dug a blue slab of rock from the creek bank that others described as a perfect plank 22 feet long, 23 inches wide and exactly 1½ inches thick from one end to the other. "Gus went into such a high state of excitement," Gifford wrote, "because he was sure that was where the gold was buried. He got his crowbar and began prying it up. It gave way and he finally turned it over, but in his excitement, he broke it into numerous pieces, spoiling the original oddity."

A PRACTICAL USE

Philbeck didn't find any gold under the rock, and Gifford salvaged the largest broken piece, squared off the broken end, and used the stone as a mantel over his fireplace.

For many years, the stone with the strange markings lay exposed to the elements in Gifford's chicken yard. In the tornado that swept through Rose Bud in December 1982, trees were blown down and debris fell onto the stone and broke it into several pieces.

The Giffords later agreed to donate the stone for display with other historical relics at Pioneer Village, at the White County fairgrounds.

Then in 1987, the stone was moved there with the help of Cloie and Leister Presley, Gifford and W.E. "Bill" Leach. Leach put the broken pieces of the stone back together like a jigsaw puzzle and it's now under a tool shed at the museum.

But the markings remain a mystery.

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

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California man says he saw Bigfoot

HAYFORK, Calif. (AP) — A 9-foot-tall, yellow-eyed beast making bloodcurdling screams turned a group of campers as shaky as the marshmallows they were roasting when they decided the creature must be the legendary Bigfoot.

Tim Ford, 22, told California Department of Fish and Game officials Thursday that he's con-

vinced he saw the elusive man-beast, who he claims left tracks 6 inches wide and 20 inches long in remote Hayfork, about 200 miles north of San Francisco.

"You could see his arms hanging way past his knees," Harmon told the Redding Record Searchlight. "It was scary."

The Redding man said he was on a camping and hunting trip near Mud Springs, south of Hayfork last weekend when his friend, 28-year-old James Harmon of Reno, Nev., heard a loud rustling in the bushes as they roasted marshmallows.

When he got his flashlight to investigate the noise, Ford said he spotted an enormous, furry

creature standing about 50 yards away on the other side of a creek.

Ford and Harmon, who were traveling with five others, said none of them had been drinking or taking drugs.

They said the creature stayed a distance from the campsite most of the night, but was near enough that they could hear its screams.

Eerie screams are often reported along with sightings of Bigfoot. Reports of the creature, also known as Yeti, Yayoo, Skunk Ape or Sasquatch, trickle in from the forests of the Northwest, the foothills of Ohio and the swamplands of Florida.

Paul Wertz, a Fish and Game spokesman in Redding, said that

Bigfoot sightings are not unheard of in Trinity County but that the agency probably wouldn't investigate the sighting.