

UFO

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Jim
Delmont



UFOs Interest UNO Scientist

Jack Kasher, professor of physics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will be featured tonight on a two-hour NBC-TV documentary on UFOs and UFO abductions airing at 7 p.m. "Confirmation" will feature author Whitley Streiber, whose latest book also is titled "Confirmation."

Then at midnight, both Kasher and Streiber will be guests on the Art Bell syndicated radio program, carried locally by KFAB.

Kasher has been interested in the UFO phenomenon for a long time and has been a serious investigator for about 12 years, he said. Kasher worked for NASA in the early '90s, doing solar research. He also did stints over a 15-year period at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and at other venues, working on aspects of electromagnetic pulse effects, microwave lasers and the effects of nuclear weapons on communication systems.

Kasher, who is Nebraska state director of MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network), is most widely known in UFO circles for his analysis of some dramatic space shuttle film from a cargo bay showing a bright object drifting downward and to the left. Suddenly, after a flash in the lower left corner of the film, the object shoots away in an opposite direction, and another object shoots in a straight line through the original position of the first object.

Kasher has conjectured that the first object was a UFO and the second object a "Star Wars" missile in the U.S. inventory.

Kasher was interviewed for more than four hours at NBC-TV studios in Los Angeles last July and expects to be featured in the first hour of the show.

Another guest on the program will be Dr. Roger Leir, a physician who has removed what some people think are alien implants.

"NBC is doing an objective view," said Kasher, "and they will include skeptics in the show, but just the fact that a network like NBC would devote prime time to this subject is a major step forward."

Kasher is not sure what UFOs are, but he thinks they represent a real phenomenon.

"I'm more inclined today to believe in them," he said. "I think at least some are physical visitors from other planetary systems, but others may be different — possibly visitors from other dimensions. After all, the churches believe in angels, and UFO reports go back thousands of years."

Kasher has seen a few odd things in the sky, including a black, silent triangle with lights on the edges and a few lights in the sky that made right-angle turns and other strange maneuvers. He has interviewed Omaha folks who have seen discs with lights perched silently above houses; one sighting was of a classic saucer at 132nd Street and West

A UFO sighting over the Atlantic

*New Albany man
filmed object from
airliner window
while returning
from Austria*

BY LISA ROBINSON
(570) 265-1635
The Daily/Sunday Review

NEW ALBANY — The camera lens jerks and slides away from where it has been focused on the engine of the plane.

Suddenly, all that is visible through the eye of the camera is the bright mid-morning sky and two layers of clouds several thousand feet below. Then, just as suddenly, a small, white square-shaped dot drifts into view from behind the lower layer of clouds and begins to rise.

The camera jerks again and when it refocuses, there are now three dots. There is also the edge of a window and it is now clear this footage is being shot out of an airplane window.

The camera pans to the left and the corner of the screen is taken up by a white rectangle against the background of the blue summer sky. The camera has caught an up-close view now, but it is still unclear what the hovering object is.

Many may say it sounds like the opening scene of an X-Files episode. One might imagine it is FBI Agent Fox Mulder holding that camera; that this image is somehow part of the twisted plot of the show.

But this isn't some Hollywood sci-fi thriller. It's real life footage shot by Alois Aeuer, of New Albany, on July 26, 1994, over the Atlantic Ocean. He recently decided to go public with his film. In addition to showing it to The Review, he plans on sending it to the TV show "Sightings."



Alois Aeuer points to what he describes as a UFO he filmed while flying home from Austria.

Aeuer says he doesn't know what the object is and he isn't prepared to say its proof that aliens exist; he simply wonders.

"I had seen ice bergs that day but these were not ice bergs," Aeuer said of the objects. "What I wondered was how did they split up so fast? There was one then all of the sudden there was more there."

Aeuer says he shot the footage about three and half hours from the coast of Massachusetts. He filmed his wristwatch with the time 11:21 a.m. on it and says he and his wife, Eileen, landed in New York at 2:30 p.m. He added that they were on their way back from a trip to Austria and the filming started as just a way to capture the excitement of the trip.

Aeuer said this sighting of what he believes was a UFO wasn't the first mysterious sighting for him.

According to Aeuer, not long

ago the hill above his house was illuminated by the light of a flying object; an object he says flew low and looked like a plane at first. Later, Aeuer said he was unsure of what the object was.

"It flew no more than 35 mph," Aeuer said. "It came over the mountain and it had six lights, three in the front and three in the back off-set from the other three."

Aeuer says the UFO traveled toward the tower on the hill, went over it and kept going. He added that the weirdest thing was there was no sound.

"The other funny part was I didn't tell anyone about it," Aeuer said. "I came inside and went to bed. The next morning I woke up and said to myself, what was that I saw last night? It was almost as if I had blocked it out of my mind until then or something."

After viewing Aeuer's tape of his encounter over the Atlantic, Towanda Airport Manager Carl Lafy said the object Aeuer filmed may look mysterious on the screen, but he believes there is a simple explanation to the mystery.

"I believe it is an oil rig platform," Lafy said as he watched the tape. "To really tell they should have it computer enhanced. If they did that they would be able to see the circles on the rig where the heli-port is."

Pilot Jerry Smith agreed with the identification of the rig.

"It seems to be a stationary object, it also seems to be on the ocean surface and it definitely doesn't have any aerodynamic shape to it," Smith said.

"I don't know what it is really," Lafy concluded, "but I do know it isn't a UFO."

ALIEN ENCOUNTER SESSION

Resident tells UFO stories on 'The Roseanne Show' today

By Rodney Tanaka, News-Press

GLENDALE — Is there intelligent life out there? If so, does it watch "The Roseanne Show"?

Aliens can get a glimpse of how humans perceive them at today on "The Roseanne Show," airing on KNBC-Channel 4. The show, which focuses on alien abductions, features Glendale resident Franklin Ruehl.

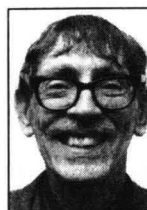
Ruehl, who says he holds a doctorate in nuclear physics, lectures and writes a column in the Sun tabloid about UFOs and the possible existence of extraterrestrial life. He hosted a show on the Sci-Fi Channel for two years and has appeared on "Jenny Jones" and other talk shows as well.

"Roseanne" producer Larry Ish said the show approaches alien abductions as a serious topic.

"We're not going to ridicule anybody — I thought we could

IF YOU WATCH

♦ **WHAT:** "The Roseanne Show."
♦ **WHEN:** 10 a.m. today.
♦ **WHERE:** KNBC-Channel 4.
♦ **WHY:** Glendale resident Franklin Ruehl gives his views on alien abductions and UFOs.



Franklin Ruehl gives his views on alien abductions and UFOs.

present that side and people can believe or discount it," Ish said. "Ruehl is a character. He comes across as intelligent but lighter than other people on the show."

During the show, which taped Feb. 1, Ruehl proposes a number of theories about possible alien

involvement on Earth. He extends the possibility that the asteroid that led to the extinction of dinosaurs may have been steered by aliens to a location that would cause maximum damage.

The demise of the dinosaurs led to the ascension of mammals. If not for the asteroid, upright "dinosaurs" might be the dominant species on Earth, Ruehl said.

A variety of life may exist on other planets, Ruehl said, from thinking plants to living minerals to two-headed dinosaurs.

Ruehl appears on the show with a man who claims to have been abducted by aliens.

"They have to be taken one story at a time, but he was very convincing," Ruehl said.

Possible reasons behind alien abductions, Ruehl said, are that aliens are using humans to repopulate their species, aliens are trying to enhance the human species or aliens are experimenting with humans like laboratory rats.

Watching *the* skies

Colorado abuzz with UFO sightings

By Joe Southern
The Daily Times-Call

LONGMONT — Something unusual in the morning sky west of Longmont caught John Kieren's eye.

His buddies saw it, too. For nearly 15 minutes they watched as a van-sized silver ball hovered and whizzed around the Longmont airport and then vanished over the Rocky Mountains.

"I've seen some strange things in the sky ... but whatever this was, it was not of this world," Kieren said.

The 28-year-old Longmont man was working for M V Enterprises on a project near Fifth Avenue and Lashley Street when he noticed the object around 9:45 a.m. on March 8. He and two partners watched it for about 15 to 20 minutes before it disappeared.

fore it disappeared.

"It definitely was not an airplane. There is no way it was an airplane," he said.

Kieren and his partners aren't the only ones to witness strange things in the skies above Longmont and surrounding communities. According to the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle, Colorado is abuzz with UFO sightings.

"You've had some doozies lately," said center director Peter Davenport.

According to postings on the center's Web site (www.ufocenter.com), a glowing red light streaked across the western sky above the Boulder foothills on Sept. 7. It was reported by someone identifying herself as a 51-year-old former assistant state attorney general.

On July 18, a triangle craft about 60 feet

in diameter was spotted west of Longmont. On Sept. 13, a Boulder man witnessed a cylindrical or boomerang-shaped craft fly over his head. On April 21, three teardrop-shaped objects flew in formation over Broomfield.

On March 23, 1997, in Nederland, a "group of celebrators of Vernal Equinox are visited by dimensional craft." The group reported a fly-by at tree-top level by "15 phantom craft that were shaped like origami birds."

Other sightings are listed in Lyons, Loveland and all over the Denver metro area.

"The San Luis Valley is one of the top

UFO spots in the country. It's a hot spot," said Michael Curta, 35, the Colorado state director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

He said sightings in the southern Colorado mountain valley are "almost a daily occurrence" which he feels can mostly be explained as experimental military aircraft.

"Just because it's a UFO doesn't mean it's an alien craft from out of this world," he said.

But not everything can be explained. One August evening about three or four years ago, someone videotaped a cigar-shaped craft about a half-mile long hovering about 80,000 feet in the air over Salida.

"We got 21 calls about it from all over the state," Curta said.

Davenport said an airport security guard in Longmont became frightened on Sept. 26 when a large fireball appeared to land nearby. He said two police cruisers were dispatched to investigate, but Longmont police have no record of the incident.

Curta — a former emergency medical technician who now works in the computer industry and lives in Aurora — said about 91 percent of all UFO sightings can be explained. Fewer than 1 percent are hoaxes.

"About 8 percent go unexplained, and that's what we're interested in," he said.

Davenport said the vast majority of sightings are bright lights or shapes, such as disks, cylinders, triangles or teardrops. He said most move too quickly to be detected by Federal Aviation Administration radar.

Both Davenport and Curta are serious ufologists — people who study UFOs. They don't consider themselves spaced-out lunatics who have watched too much "Star Trek."

"We don't go out at night with laser beams pointed at the sky looking for UFOs," Curta said.

In fact, since taking over as NUFORC director in 1994, Davenport has become wary of public perception of ufology.

"You develop a healthy, healthy skepticism for members of the American public," he said.

NUFORC was started in 1974 in Seattle by Robert J. Gibble. He began with a telephone UFO reporting hot line, which he operated for 20 years. As he was ready to close shop, Davenport offered to take it over. The national headquarters is really an office set up in one of his bedrooms.

"I'm devoting not just my time to it ... I'm devoting my entire life to it. I have no other job," Davenport said.

He said he is a former Russian translator for the U.S. government. He also founded the biotech company Pan Labs International in 1983, is a former flight instructor and occasionally teaches at the University of Washington.

Both he and Curta say the majority of their colleagues are "degreed professionals" and include doctors, lawyers, engineers and the like among their ranks.

While NUFORC is primarily a reporting agency, MUFON is a volunteer group of trained UFO investigators. Both agencies are nonprofit organizations that are funded by their volunteers, members and occasional donations or grants.

MUFON was created as a scientific research organization in 1969. It has 110 members in Colorado, 30 to 35 of whom are trained investigators. There are many more detailed reports and photographs of sighting in Colorado on the MUFON Web site, www.mufon.com.

Curta said the Colorado MUFON chapter meets bi-monthly and will hold its next meeting at 1 p.m. March 27 at the American Legion hall, 16050 E. Dartmouth Ave. in Denver. At that meeting the group will premier its video "Profiles in Ufology," which it hopes to get aired on PBS.

People who want to report sightings can do so at each of the Web sites or by calling MUFON at 303-451-5992 or NUFORC at 206-722-3000.

Davenport said he is frustrated with the U.S. government for not coming clean with the public about UFOs. He is equally frustrated with the skepticism and ridicule he sees in the American media.

"It amazes us how something like that can happen and it doesn't get covered," he said.

Though neither Curta nor Davenport are experts in related phenomena such as alien abductions or cattle mutilations, both continue to hear enough stories to convince them that something strange is definitely going on out there.

"I have no idea where things come from, but I have a strong suspicion they're not coming from this planet," Davenport said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 9, 1999

UFO conference gives followers close encounters with like-minded

BY KELLY BRANT
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

EUREKA SPRINGS — Electromagnetic fields. Aliens. UFO healing. Crop circles.

Want to learn more? You can at the 11th Annual Ozark UFO Conference this weekend in Eureka Springs.

If you're looking for more information about UFOs, alien abductions and the like, this conference is the place to go.

"People attending the conference will find lots of information you can't find anywhere else, except on the Internet," said Lou Farish, the conference coordinator.

The conference will begin at 1 p.m. today and continue until noon Sunday and features nine speakers who are either experts in the field or have had UFO experiences of their own.

A schedule of speaker presentations will be available at the registration table.

Farish said he expects between 350-500 people to attend this year's conference.

"We had around 400 last year," he said.

Many people attend the conference out of curiosity and general interest in UFO phenomena, but others come just because they like Eureka Springs, Farish said.

"Curiosity is what it's all about," he said.

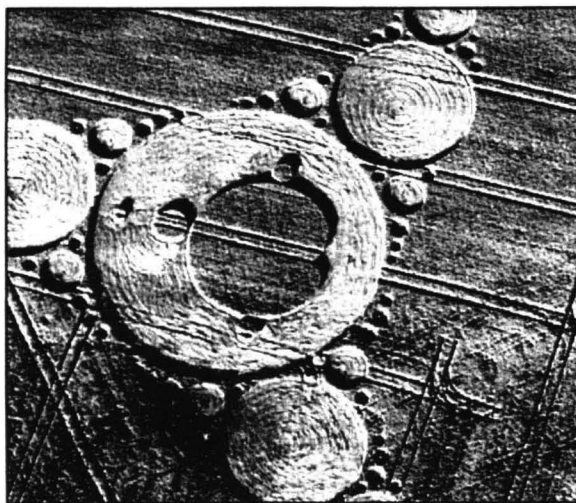
Saturday will feature a speakers' panel discussion around 7:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer session at 8:30 p.m.

Some of the speakers will also save time for questions at the end of their presentations as well, Farish said.

Booths will be set up in the vendor area where books, videos and T-shirts will be for sale.

"It's a good place for people who want to talk about their [UFO and alien phenomena] experiences with others," Farish said.

While there aren't any presen-



Mulder and Scully where are you? Several people already believe, and they'll gather this weekend for the Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs.

Conference
Ozark UFO Conference
1 p.m. today, 8 a.m. Saturday,
8:30 a.m. Sunday, Inn of the
Ozarks, U.S. 62 East, Eureka
Springs.
Admission: \$40.
(501) 354-2558

ters from Arkansas at this year's conference, Farish said, there has been UFO activity recently in Arkansas.

There was quite a bit of activity in November. The Mountain Home area had several sighting and activity was also reported in Hot Springs and West Memphis, Farish said. "We don't take ourselves seriously, but we do take the subject very seriously," Farish said.

The speakers will be:
■ James M. McCampbell, author of *UFOLOGY*. He'll speak on electromagnetic fields and UFO healings.
■ Ted Phillips will discuss cases

where UFOs have landed and left traces and present video footage of recent UFO activity in southern Missouri.

■ Antonio Hunceus, UFO columnist for *FATE* Magazine, will present news on UFO events in Russia.

■ Dr. Jack Kasher will report on a case involving abductions, physical evidence, crop circles, government harassment and more.

■ Linda Moulton Howe will give an annual update on all types of unexplained phenomena.

■ Barbara Lamb, a California abduction researcher, will present details of cases she has investigated.

■ Beverly Trout will discuss "alien confusion and alien mistakes."

■ Dr. J.A. Scarborough will report on a Mississippi case of a blind abductee who has taken anomalous photographs.

■ Wendelle Stevens will give a slide presentation of worldwide UFO photos

A Moment in (Recent) History

Rational explanations for UFOs....

Military aircraft, runway lights, secret projects, planets...

Part VIII

by Jon Baughman

A Saxton resident, known to this writer as both sober and honest, saw a UFO in the Spring of 1997 while driving on Route 26 toward Riddlesburg. It was about 10 a.m. and sunny (no clouds). As he descended Rhodes' Hill he spied a shiny object in the distant sky, very tiny, hovering above the mountain behind the barn on the Eugene Foor farm. Suddenly the object moved toward his vehicle at great speed. He watched as the object became very close and passed overhead, even leaning down in the seat to get a good look out the windshield. It suddenly changed direction and disappeared over the top of Tussey Mountain. He said he got a good look at the object and gave this description: disk shaped, metallic silver in color, and not a plane because it had no wings or tail, not a blimp, and not a meteor. The object made no sound. He described it as some type of craft but nothing he was familiar with. He was visibly shaken by the experience and does not want his name printed out of fear that he will be ridiculed.

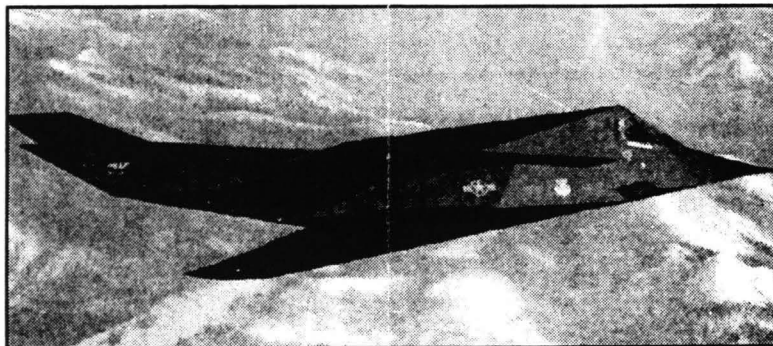
Some UFO stories appear to be authentic, like the one described above. Some are cases of mistaken identity -- the observer is actually seeing an airplane, distant runway lights, a meteor, or perhaps even a distant bright planet in the sky, such as Venus.

Some are obvious hoaxes, especially those involving photos or movie footage. People have been known to go to great lengths to get fake UFO pictures. They have modified hats or frisbees to look like spacecraft. One hoaxter put a model UFO on fishing line and swung it back and forth while he filmed it with mountains in the background. The pendulum-type motion was a dead giveaway that the film was fake.

Some film footage of strange lights in the sky have been created by lights attached to kites or other objects. One creative genius obtained Halloween light sticks, placed them in balloons, filled the balloons with helium and set the free. The resulting green lights flying at erratic patterns caused quite a stir.

UFO enthusiasts claim that those strange, symmetrical crop circles found mysteriously in England (and sometimes elsewhere) were caused by space travelers. But several years ago that idea was debunked by several men who admitted creating the circles and even showed the news media how they did it. This was probably one of the biggest and most creative hoaxes of modern times.

Many supposed UFO sightings are merely bright planets, especial-



F-117 Stealth Fighter -- modeled after a UFO?

ly Mars and Venus, which move very slowly across the sky. UFOs do not behave like this, they move at great speed, and are erratic, changing direction suddenly.

But the planets can "appear" to move, especially if you are driving in a car after dark, and normal visual reference points cannot be seen. My favorite story involves the Sheriff's deputies in a southern state who chased a UFO at high speeds several hundred miles but never got close to it. The reason? They were actually chasing the planet Venus. The planet only appeared to move as the police car moved.

Electrical engineer Philip J. Klass has done a great deal of research to debunk many UFO sightings. Klass said some sightings are merely "ball lightning" which sometimes appears around high voltage power lines.

Some UFOs appear on radar screens. But Klass states that localized areas of turbulence in the atmosphere, temperature inversions, flocks of birds, etc. can produce radar echoes.

Notes Klass, "...honest and intelligent people, when exposed to an unfamiliar object or an unexpected event, often are inaccurate in describing what they thought they saw." He includes experienced pilots, flight crews and even astronauts among this group.

A case in point, often broadcast on the "Discover" channel or TLC is that of a strange light that was spotted moving at treetop level almost every night in the jungles of South America. The natives had little communication with the outside world, save for portable TVs powered by car batteries, so they were aware of the UFO craze. The word got out and eventually an American TV crew went to the region to investigate. They saw the bright object, alright. But further investigation revealed that it was caused by the landing lights on airplanes landing at a distant airport. The sighting was real but it had a perfectly reasonable explanation.

On the other hand, some sightings can't be explained. In the 1960s a group of 37 scientists under the direction of University of Colorado physicist Dr. Edward Condon, undertook a study of UFOs. Their report generally argued against visitors from outer space visiting earth.

But, was was pointed out by New

York Times science writer Walter Sullivan, who wrote the introduction to the report, "it did not hesitate to conclude that, on the basis of available evidence, some are difficult to explain by available means."

In fact, some sightings can be explained as real, but are most likely experimental or top-secret military aircraft.

Inside government circles there exists a "Black Budget," so-called because it is kept secret from the American public. It is buried (hidden) inside the military appropriations bill, and even very few congressmen are aware of many of the top-secret projects being developed. Among the research and development projects are experimental aircraft, exotic weapons systems, lasers, and, according to some sources, experiments with captured flying saucers.

How do we know that a "Black Budget" exists? Because occasionally someone at the Pentagon will accidentally list a secret project in the "public" portion of the budget being sent to Congress for approval.

Defense contractor Lockheed Corp. has been intimately involved in secret Black Budget projects for years, many of which are developed at the infamous "Skunk Works" in California, named after the Skunk Works in the Lil' Abner comic strip.

According to sources, both military and civilian aircraft fly over this section of Pennsylvania on a daily (nightly) basis. A major air corridor passes through northern Bedford and southern Blair and Huntingdon Counties.

A local pilot states that this is the air route from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh and also from other points west. He said jet passenger planes from Detroit headed for Harrisburg begin to descend over Altoona for the landing at Harrisburg.

The pilot added that military flights from New Jersey, including low-level flights, pass over this area. These include 4-engine transports like the C-130. Also tankers often refuel these planes, while in flight, over the area. I have personally watched refueling operations pass over my home at Dudley.

But the flights allegedly also

include top-secret experimental craft flying out of bases in Nevada and California.

It began with the the U-2 spy plane, which was developed in 1956-57 as a top secret project. Writes David Darlington in *The Dreamland Chronicles*, "After several months of training the pilots began making flights as far as the Allegheny Mountains and back. Such missions, which covered four thousand miles and lasted eight hours, were as demanding as if made in a Volkswagen at night during a hurricane." Reportedly the planes turned at Fort Indiantown Gap for the trip back west. This places top secret military flights over our region.

And one of the best known military aircraft today, the F-117 Stealth fighter, was only a few years ago a top secret, Black Budget project. And during its development, the mere appearance of the plane could scare people. Notes Darlington, "Members of the environmental group Greenpeace infiltrated the Nevada Test Site to disrupt a routine nuclear blast. While making their way through the mountains, they reportedly got a glimpse of an F-117, whose spectral countenance made the group's hair stand on end." Some sources claim that the F-117 is modeled on the design of a crashed flying saucer.

COUNTRY ROAD NEW WORLD



New Worlds: All That Is, UFO's & You, Too! ALIEN ABDUCTIONS CONTINUED

by **SUNNY S.
WOLF**

THIS COLUMN IS ABOUT LIFE — who we are, where we are, where we are going — and — where we came from. It will discuss a combination of studies that are all relative to life — science, philosophy, theology, anthropology.

There will be background information given and different points of view and perspectives — all on life. You, the reader, can draw your own conclusions.

The answer to the UFO mystery is not as simple as that of an alien invasion as many researchers believe.

It may seem amazing, but according to research done, one out of every fifty adult Americans may have had UFO abduction experiences. Although many people have come forward to discuss their experiences, seek hypnosis, and continue to share their experiences with others, there are still many people who are keeping their encounters to themselves. The stories are all very similar and the reasons for keeping them secret are similar — social position, employment, sanity.

Reports have been among NATO and government ranks about aliens and flying saucers including chapters on the theological implications of the phenomenon and concluded that the Earth had been visited for a very long time, at least several hundred years, by a variety of non-human entities, including some that were described as reptilian, with vertical pupils and lizard-like skin. These conclusions are explosive to release to the general public and governments of the world today still remain unwilling to deal with the subject openly.

It was only during the last 20 years or so that researchers began to take seriously the idea that alien life forms were actually a reality. Early reports of alien contact in the US and in other parts of the world came in the 1950s when people like George Adamski and Daniel Fry received national attention with their "sensational" stories of being invited aboard flying saucers by their space brothers who had given them a ride to Venus and who had imparted to them great wisdom. The space brothers were reported to be beautiful, blonde, blue-eyed, human-like beings who were here to save humankind from the dangers of nuclear radiation. These people became known as "contactees."

abductees. One of the beings who heads the team speaks for the others always telepathically. A being who is perceived as a doctor takes over aboard the craft. This being is nearly always taller than the others and is sensed to be male, although gender differences are not outwardly visible. Sometimes, there was the presence of a tall blonde — an extremely tall male with human features that include pale skin, longish blonde hair and blue, green or hazel eyes who stands nearby, but serves no function. In some cases, a "heavily wrinkled, old one" makes an appearance, but again, doesn't appear to have a function. Two other types reported in the study were insectoids or "praying mantis" types, which are described to have a thin, skeletal body and the face of a praying mantis, and the reptilian types, which are described as having powerful, muscled bodies, greenish or brownish, scaly skin, penetrating yellow "cat eyes" with vertically-slit pupils and four-fingered clawed hands with webbing between the fingers. Often these last two types are thought to be in leadership positions.

Among the procedures reported are the forced ingestion of a peculiar liq-

Another on-going story is that of Eduard "Billy" Meier, the one-armed Swiss contactee who sells copies of his UFO photos, films and spiritual teachings gained through his reported contact with beautiful, blonde-haired, blue-eyed human-looking Pleiadians. Among the many facets to this controversial case is *The Talmud of Jmmanuel*, a translation from Aramaic through German to English of material that Meier says involves the true teachings of



Jmmanuel, the man known more commonly as Jesus. Meier still refuses to identify the Greek home of the assassinated Lebanese priest, Isa Rashid, with whom he is said to have found the document, presumably in order to protect Rashid's family from harm.

uid, external brain scanning, internal probing of the brain with needles or drilling instruments, implantation of small objects in various parts of the body, and sampling of blood, tissue, bone marrow and bodily fluids. Forty percent reported enduring sexually-related intrusions — men experienced the removal of semen and women usually involved the removal of ova as well as the insertion of a very small object, thought to be an embryo into the womb, and then removal of a two-to-three month old fetus.

Abductees also experienced nonverbal communication in the form of visual images transmitted to them either telepathically or shown to them on a computer screen. These images are of other planets, star systems or extraterrestrial landscapes. Some other images were of Earth's past, from dinosaurs to early twentieth-century wars. There was also images of Earth's future — volcanoes erupting, nuclear power plants exploding, vast regions on fire, devastated rain forests and more.

Also shown were beings that were apparently half human and half alien, beings the abductees had helped to create. Some recognized their own hands as those of a gray entity, that their bodies felt slimmer. Since there were no mirrors, they couldn't tell what they

looked like. They remembered that the purpose of their being placed in an alien body was due to the fact that the ship was about to travel inter-dimensionally and a change to body with a different vibration was necessary. Some felt a strong connection with the aliens and even felt that they had a dual existence.

Some people have remembered through hypnosis, past existences as aliens and of an agreement they made in a previous life to incarnate into their present body in order to carry out their mission as an abductee. It appears that the aliens have an entirely different attitude toward physical bodies than do we. To them, physical bodies seem to be only uniforms to be put on when they have a need to enter the physical, three-dimensional world. The aliens' purpose was to "recycle souls." The aliens seem to be trying to convey the idea to their human subjects that humans are more than just flesh and blood — that they are spiritual beings with a far greater importance and power than they, themselves, imagine.

From the studies at hand, men and women are taken in equal numbers representing every race and religion as well as children. There is strong indications that abductees are not chosen at random from the population, but are

Although

Meier claims that the original text was destroyed, many of his followers and some researchers continue to believe that the document is genuine. It is similar to the Gospel of Matthew, but includes numerous heretical elements. Among these are the revelations that aliens and their ships account for the major events in Jesus' life, such as the virgin birth, the star of Bethlehem and his ascension into heaven. Additionally, it states that Jesus' belief in and teachings about reincarnation, rather than physical resurrection, was the central purpose of his role on Earth. Rather than being resurrected, Jesus is said to have survived the crucifixion and to have continued his ministry for several decades.

Many surviving traditions trace Jesus's presence and movements from Anatolia across to northern Indian and Kashmir. According to the *Talmud of Jmmanuel*, Jesus had children and eventually died a normal death and was buried in Srinagar, Kashmir. Experts have found several hundred points of textual criticism that indicate that the Gospel of Matthew was based upon the *Talmud of Jmmanuel* rather than vice versa.

No single organization or researcher has access to all the abduction research that has been and continues to be conducted throughout the world. Transcripts are being collected and data logged. Some of the similar data collected by researchers of the abductees include the appearance of the entities, behaviors and emotions displayed, reproductive and other procedures conducted, the presence of "hybrid" beings and other humans on board, physical effects discovered after the abduction, etc.

An "away team" of very short, whitish, grayish or bluish beings take the person from his home, car or other location. In some cases the beings passed through solid walls or objects as well as the human

preselected, even before birth and extends to the entire family.

Near death experiences and alien abductions have been found to be very close in nature as well. People having these experiences have all talked about their spiritual transformation and their heightened awareness and concern for the outcome of humanity's spiritual evolution and intense feelings of concern for the Earth and its rapidly depleting resources as well as receiving knowledge of a coming ecological apocalypse.

Several researchers detected an acceleration among the experiencers of a higher form of human evolution that led him to speculate that what he might be witnessing is the creation of a new species of humans. These "experiencers" now have properties and powers and beliefs that are beyond what the average human being possesses. This may be a process of evolution that is altering the nature of the human species to the extent that it will be a new species. Perhaps the aliens are midwifing our birth into the nonphysical world which is their origin. They may be an evolutionary step beyond us and emerging into our world as a result of actions on the nonphysical plane. . .

The results of this research — that we could be in the beginning stages of a major shift in levels of consciousness that will eventually lead to humanity's being able to live in two worlds at once — the physical and the imaginal — it may be something humanity is learning to do as a result of these encounters.

If you have an experience you'd like to tell us about and would like us to print, please write to me c/o Country Road Chronicles, RR2 Box 132, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328; or email me at cherokee@skylands.net. We will keep your identity confidential if you so desire.

mind-body problem

► When I tell people I've done UFO research, they react in many ways, most of them interested and sympathetic. But often they ask an irresistible question. Have I heard any crazy stories?

Of course I have. How about the guy who told me aliens put a chip in his head that made women flock to him? Even better, he said, the aliens told him to go out and use it... which, I have to say, I saw him doing, though I doubt that aliens were responsible.

And then there was the woman from the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), an organization that claims to be serious and responsible but also says it's made direct contact with aliens. Its members have gone out at night, they say, blinked searchlights

at the sky—and sure enough, the aliens blinked back! But when I asked if I could see this for myself, their spokeswoman turned me down, big-time. My mistake, apparently,

was asking to observe as a journalist. "Oh, no," the CSETI representative replied. "We've learned our lesson. We invited CBS, and they said it didn't happen."

Then she told me that the government was beaming harmful rays at her.

But amusing as all this is—I could tell crazy UFO tales all day long—it's not the crazy stories that matter. It's the sane ones. To understand the UFO phenomenon, you need to hear firsthand accounts, from reasonable people who aren't looking for publicity, like the woman in her twenties and the older married couple, who—in separate incidents—told me they saw something really huge pass overhead in silence, flying low, at treetop height, some years ago in the Hudson Valley (an area with many reports of such sightings).

All three people described what seemed like similar patterns of metallic piping on the bottom of what they say they saw. It's that last detail that makes these sightings more than usually impressive, though I'm not going to say that these people saw spaceships. How could I? How can any of us know for sure?

But unless they're lying, it seems that they saw something that doesn't sound much like a weather balloon, the planet Venus, or a plane, to name a few things often blamed for UFO reports. Nor does it seem like a group of ultralight aircraft flying in formation, the explanation most commonly suggested for the Hudson Valley sightings. It's true, of course, that people often make mistakes about what they think they see. But these people insist they saw real objects that darkened the sky and had a textured underside.

You'll also find sane reports from people who think they've been abducted by aliens. Budd Hopkins, a New York painter and sculptor who's America's most famous abduction researcher, at one point invited me to look through his unopened mail.

A very few letters came from evidently crazy people. ("The aliens visit me each Thursday.") But most were simple and sincere. These writers didn't claim to have been abducted. They did think, though, that something they couldn't explain was happening. Often they sounded terrified. For most of their lives, they wrote, they'd seen unexpected lights in their rooms at night, and beings by their beds. The beings didn't necessarily seem like aliens, but the letter writers were desperate for an explanation.

They also say their encounters left otherwise unexplained marks on their bodies. And when I've met them, I've sometimes found them saying they remember things they didn't dare to write about, like being driven by their parents to an isolated field where something like "a

merry-go-round with lights" was waiting for them. What they want to know—and they ask the question warily, skeptically, thinking that they're crazy just to write or type the words—is whether abductions *might* explain what they say has been happening.

Often, these abductees then get hypnotized, to recover further memories, and that's controversial. Most psychologists think hypnosis can't recover memory. But psychologists who write about abductions—and I've read just about all the papers on the subject ever published in psychology journals—make elementary mistakes. Few have ever spoken to an abductee, and yet they'll write that abductees are UFO enthusiasts (not true), who proclaim their abduction memories *only* after being hypnotized (also not true). The situation is far more complex than that, but whatever's going on, it's something nobody has yet explained.

Which brings me to the craziest—and saddest—thing I've seen in the world of UFOs, and that's the confusion surrounding the subject. Mainstream media print misinformation—not disinformation, not deliberate lies or cover-ups, but just shoddy, unchecked data, as if UFOs were beneath contempt, and no reporter need take them seriously enough to check historical facts. More seriously, one leading investigator of the Roswell crash, Kevin Randle, once told me that no one from the mainstream media had ever looked through his files to find out why he thinks the crash was of something alien. He let me do it, and what I

found was quite convincing, though lately the skeptics have the upper hand, because some leading Roswell witnesses have been caught in lies or exaggerations.

And within the field of UFO research, I've found a sad polarization. On one side, we have people blinking lights at aliens, and on the other, scientific skeptics who think they can explain even serious UFO reports but don't have a clue what they're talking about. The most astonishing example came from Donald Menzel, a Harvard astronomer who wrote three books debunking UFOs.

Menzel laughed at a report from an Anglican priest in New Guinea, who said he watched beings walking around, apparently working, in a hovering UFO for more than 20 minutes. Now, I'm not going to say this really happened; I don't have a clue. But Menzel suggested—with no evidence at all—that the priest suffered from astigmatism, and either didn't know it, or had forgotten to put on his glasses. What he saw, said Menzel, was Venus, distorted by astigmatism into an oval shape—and as for beings, those were the priest's own eyelashes!

I myself spent four hours arguing with Philip Klass, the most widely published current UFO skeptic, who raged that abductees make their claims only to get on TV. That's absurd. I've met dozens of them, and they fervently protect their privacy. Only one has ever let me print his name. So I had to ask: Which abductees had Klass met? "The ones who appear with me on television," he replied without a trace of irony.

I also talked about two airline pilots who made headlines back in 1948, reporting that they'd seen an unknown craft with windows swooping past their plane one night. This, Klass writes in his 1974 book, *UFOs Explained*, was "clearly" a meteor, so "clearly," in fact, that the case must be "removed for all time from the category of 'unidentifieds.'"

But how, I asked him, could he be so sure? That the pilots *could* have seen a meteor is obvious enough, since (as Klass points out) in other cases people did imagine windows, when all they saw were random lights. But even skeptics can't cite any meteor known to fall that night in 1948, so how can Klass be certain?

"Suppose something went wrong with your PC," he rumbled, chuckling, but not quite answering my question. "Would you suspect evil spirits, or would you call a technician?" Evidently UFOs were as improbable as ghosts to him, and as easily dismissable. But I kept probing, and finally he took a stand. "Since there is no proof that unknown craft are in the sky," he said, "I prefer a prosaic explanation." Or, in other words, since there *are* no UFOs, nobody could ever see one. File that under faith, not science.

After four years of UFO research, I'm left with only one firm conclusion. Despite years of *Star Trek*, the possibility of aliens—right here, now, on Earth among us—is so unsettling that many people, both skeptics and believers, can't talk sense about it. ■

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - April 12, 1999

UFO buffs listen to stories of abductions, crop circles

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUREKA SPRINGS — Leah Haley wants people to be open-minded when it comes to the notion of alien abductions.

And she wants the government to start telling the whole story about alien visitations.

Haley was among those attending the 11th annual Ozark UFO Conference over the weekend at the Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center.

Those interested could hear personal stories of alien abductees, watch film footage of purported UFOs in flight or hear witness accounts of UFO sightings. People could also buy supposed UFO photographs or choose from an array of books on government conspiracies or close encounters with aliens.

In addition to speakers tackling subjects such as crop circles, abductions, government cover-ups and other supposed evidence involving aliens, there were authors who claim to have personal knowledge involving medical tests conducted by alien abductors.

Haley was one of those authors.

In 1992 she wrote *Lost was the Key*, a personal account of her difficulties coming to terms with her continued abduction experi-

ences.

"I would like to see the U.S. government come clean and tell the American people the truth about aliens coming to Earth," she said. "There's plenty of evidence. Anybody who studies the subject long enough will come to that conclusion."

Some of the evidence is detailed in the hundreds of books she now sells as part of her business, Greenleaf Publications.

Haley says she has been abducted by aliens many times for medical tests.

She said that, in a typical experience, she would be abducted from her home, even at times from her stalled car, and taken aboard an alien craft where she would be subjected to a battery of tests. She recalls visions of her alien abductors, who appear small and gray with large eyes and only four fingers on each hand. She has never been harmed, and they always bring her home.

"I want to educate the public that at the very least they need to keep open minds about other life forms elsewhere. I also do it to help people like myself. There's a lot of comfort to know you're not alone," she said, echoing the weekend's theme.

ARGUS, Fremont, CA - March 3, 1999

Stockton couple reports encounter with UFO

By Ken McNeill
STAFF WRITER

The following may become classified information:

Witnesses driving on Interstate 580 between Livermore and Tracy on Monday night reported three brightly colored objects buzzing late-evening commuters.

"The first one kind of zinged off faster than a jet would be," a 27-year-old woman said.

The truth is out there.

A Stockton couple say they aren't sure what they saw hovering over the freeway but think it could have been something out of the "X-Files" television show about

aliens and UFOs.

The couple, who wished to remain unidentified, said they saw three bright lights flying in formation while driving up the pass about 7:30 p.m. Monday

As they got closer, another, "about the size of a Volkswagen," began to hover about 100 feet over the freeway, maneuvering in ways "against the laws of physics," the man reported.

It was like nothing they had ever seen before.

"I know it wasn't an airplane and I know it wasn't a helicopter," the wife said. "If anybody had told me, I would

have said they were nuts."

The object kept changing color, green, white, red and blue. It had no propeller, no tail, no markings and there was no air wash underneath it, the woman said.

"From the bottom, it looked like a plate," she said.

But officials in the area said they received no reports of flying German-made vehicles or any other type of unidentified flying object.

"I get calls like that all the time at night," said a Livermore airport employee, who wished to remain anonymous. "There was nothing crazy going on

around the airport that we're aware of."

The husband, a 31-year-old auto parts salesman, said a lot of people saw the object, which caused traffic to slow to 40 mph. Several cars pulled to the side of the road, including a police car.

Mark Blair, state section director for the Mutual UFO Network for Alameda County, said he has investigated similar sightings in that area that were explainable.

"One thing to bear in mind is there are giant power lines that go up the Altamont Pass and they have those visibility beacons," Blair said. "They can look pretty spooky if you don't know what your looking for."

Plans for UFO Encounter '99 include new attractions

ANDREW POERTNER
RECORD STAFF WRITER

nighttime parade July 1 and on July 2 the trade show will begin and run through July 5, which will also be the beginning of what Johnson said he hopes will become one of the UFO Encounter's primary attractions: a film festival.

UFO Encounter '99 will be adding some new attractions as well as bringing back some old favorites as it takes the first step of a three-year plan to recreate itself into a festival based as much on science as it has been on the 1947 Roswell Incident in past years.

Roswell Tourism Director Johnny Johnson said this year's UFO Encounter is going to be a lot different from the previous four, including its duration, which will run from July 1-18.

The festival will begin with a

show the films at the Roswell Con-

vention and Civic Center, the Inter-

national UFO Museum and Research Center and local theaters. To go along with the movies, Johnson said he hopes to attract the performers, creators and staff members from the movies to Roswell

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"Attached to the film festival and documentaries, we want to have an educational program showing you how to make computer generated imagery."

Johnny Johnson
Roswell Tourism Director

to talk about their experiences in making the films. He also wants 1999 to mark the beginning of the festival's solicitation of amateur films.

"I don't think you can have one of these things without celebrities," Johnson

hopes to have computer graphic designers on hand to provide guidance for aspiring special effects experts.

"Attached to the film festival and documentaries, we want to have an educational program showing you how to make computer generated imagery," Johnson said. "It is a hot item for today's amateurs and it's not going to go away."

Johnson said he doesn't expect a large response this year since film festivals typically get off to a slow start. This year's event is designed to be a starting place, he said, and

will lead to larger audiences as the film festival develops a reputation.

The plan, he added, is to have a successful event ready for 2001, at which time the city can draw on the "2001: A Space Odyssey" concept.

Another proposed attraction is allowing people to interact with some of the most high tech gadgetry in the country. Johnson said he is hoping to reach an arrangement with Techno Robotics in Carlsbad to set up terminals in Roswell where people can create their own space rovers.

Participants will use the computers to control robotic equipment in California which will construct vehicles the people can then control over communications lines. Johnson said the program even includes a fabricated two-second delay in the time the directions are given and when the vehicle responds to the command.

While the signal is received almost instantaneously, the delay helps recreate the experience controllers would experience in sending commands to a vehicle on another planet.

"Many people agree that there probably wasn't a spacecraft (involved in the Roswell Incident), but Roswell has become the focus of the whole issue," Johnson said. "We have the name recognition, now we need to get the science of it to come here. That puts us into the education business, but it's fun education."

Johnson said events will even be held prior to the festival to get it off to a solid start. Organizers are working on a contest in which participants get to design their very own alien life form.

While still in the early stages, Johnson said entries should be made at least five feet tall and 30 inches across. About 10 winners will be selected and their aliens will be placed in the Roswell Convention and Civic Center as well as at local businesses.

Guidelines for the contest will be available around Feb. 15 and the completed extraterrestrials will be due by May 1, Johnson said.

REPUBLICAN, Anthony, KS - Feb. 10, 1999

UFO's Or Not, Several Residents Mystified By Separate Sightings

Several local residents report they are baffled by unexplainable sights in the air around Anthony last week. All reports to *The Anthony Republican* include similar descriptions of a large central light with red, blue and green lights around it between 11 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 2 and 9 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 3.

"At first I thought it was an airliner going down," reports Chaparral Teacher Robert Dills. "It looked like it was about 1,000 yards away." Dills saw the object southwest of Chaparral at 6:45 a.m. last Wednesday.

An Anthony businessman reported his first sighting to 911 dispatchers around 11 p.m. that Tuesday. He said the object was low in the sky south of Anthony and appeared to be almost stationary, or hovering, for more than an hour. Anthony police officers studied it with binoculars and declared it was an airliner flying directly toward Anthony from the south. Wednesday evening, the same man saw a similar light high in the eastern sky. As he would watch, he said, the object seemed to change from oval to round.

CHS Student Ryan Hoopes reports seeing a light west of his rural home six miles east and one south of Anthony. He called a fellow student five miles south of Anthony who said he could see the object straight north of his home.

A McConnell AFB spokesmen said only refueling operations are done from there and no experimental aircraft are stationed there. Anthony balloonist Herb Wilcox insists he hasn't been flying lately---and never at night. FAA personnel had not issued a report on the sightings by press time. Anyone else with sighting reports are urged to contact J.W. Stout at *The Anthony Republican* 842-5129 or, in the case of ongoing sightings, at his home regardless of the hour, 842-3037.

CITY PAPER, Philadelphia,
PA - March 5, 1999

hotseats

By Patrick Rapa

Where: Hotline desk, UFO Reporting Service, Philmont, PA
When: Noon-2 p.m., Sun., Feb. 28

Set-ups, crank calls, they go with the territory," says Tom Carey, who's been running the UFO hotline out of his Philmont, PA, home for over three years. He figures about 90 percent of the calls have nothing to do with actual UFO sightings — just pranks or the curious who come across his listing in the white pages (UFO Reporting Service, 215-947-4740). And most of the UFO-related calls are the unreliable, unexciting "lights-in-the-sky" variety.

The UFO Reporting Center is a pretty simple set-up: a small den-type room with a swivel chair and a desk with a computer, a phone, an answering machine, a tape recorder and a caller ID box.

While I'm there, Carey makes some return calls to people who left messages over the weekend. The first is a mostly sane-sounding woman who says she observed a bizarre light while looking out the window of her suburban Pennsylvania home around midnight just two days ago. The UFO changed colors and crept west while she and her kids watched.

Carey asks some questions, slowly eliminating planes, planets and other non-phenomena. Nervous but apparently sincere, the woman describes a beam of light coming down from the object. Her son called the police, who saw the UFO, too, but weren't eager to investigate it. Carey's not surprised by the police's nothing-to-see-here attitude and tells the woman the officers probably didn't even report the sighting.

The object took an hour to move out of the woman's view — remarkably long for this sort of thing. Plenty of time for her or anyone else to grab a rifle and try to shoot it down.

"I'm a nuts-and-bolts type investigator," says Carey, who often uses scientific resources, like the planetarium, to work on a case. He finds the so-called "abduction stories" compelling, but they're only investigable through subjective means: memory, hypnosis, things he can't put his fingers on.

He makes another call, this time to an enthusiastic man who also claims to have seen a light with a beam over King of Prussia, while driving to work a couple weeks ago. The guy, like Carey, is a MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) member, which means he saw precisely the sort of thing he was looking for. Carey tapes all his calls so he can review them and take notes.

He's got an impressive catalog of stuff, including a strange but typically blurry videotape of a Philadelphia UFO sighting. It shows a pulsating light moving left to right while a young camera operator gasps "Oh my God," and fumblingly maladjusts the zoom. Carey sent a copy off to MUFON HQ for analysis.

Behind his chair are stacks of boxes filled with his Roswell notes. Carey, who earns his money as a financial consultant at Cigna, is working on what he hopes will be the definitive book on the much-disputed 1947 spacecraft crash. If there is proof to be found, he says, it's at the end of the government's Roswell paper trail. He's been to New Mexico 10 times, but the witnesses are all "dead or dying," and Carey fears time is running out before the truth is no longer out there.

(pat@citypaper.net)

Local group has experience dealing with the unusual

By Pete Bishop

STAFF WRITER



Warren L. Leader/Tribune-Review
Pat Madden Sullivan founded Experienter Support of Pittsburgh.

you're in league with the devil," which she insisted she isn't.

Still, the Monroeville resident "did literally drive around the country trying to find experts to help me understand what was going on."

Because not everyone who claims to be in the same boat has that luxury, Sullivan founded and remains the mainspring of Experienter Support of Pittsburgh, the acronym for which is the appropriate ESP.

Experienters "have nobody to talk to" about their paranormal adventures, said Sullivan, who has a doctorate in consciousness from The Union Institute, Cincinnati. "And sometimes they weren't even sure if they believed it themselves, it was so strange. It was easier to pretend it didn't happen."

Negative reactions such as those many experiencers reported are common to all people who think or behave differently because some people "define themselves in terms of what they're not."

They say they've seen UFOs and encountered extraterrestrials. They say they've dealt with "light beings," or what other people might call angels, and spoken to deceased relatives.

But when many "experienters," which is their term for themselves, have related these occurrences to nonexperienters, they've often been told they'd been hallucinating or were flat-out crazy.

They've been told they'd simply had a dyspepsia-induced nightmare a la Scrooge's dismissal of Marley's ghost as possibly being "an undigested bit of beef" or "a fragment of an underdone potato."

They've been accused of concocting tall tales to get undeserved attention and told, perhaps not in so many words, they must have been drunk or on drugs.

Pat Madden Sullivan never got ridiculed "because I was careful about who I talked to" about her "unusual experiences. Some people think

and "often need someone to look down on to make themselves feel higher," said Dr. William Kraft, a professor of psychology at Carlow College, Oakland.

"And it can happen on a more normal level" as well, he continued, such as to children who don't wear "in" clothes to school "or artists or poets who have a different vision. You're going to get flak."

The "worst thing" an outsider "can do is to isolate yourself. That can create problems in and of itself," he said.

In that light, ESP is "not only good but necessary" for the experiencers, as long as it's not "fostering a distortion of reality. If it helps them live a healthier life, it's good."

Sullivan started ESP in March 1995 and held two meetings a month and later one a month in her home. She now schedules meetings roughly every six weeks, alter-

nating between informal sessions for her core group of eight to 10 and open-to-the-public meetings in a larger setting, ideally with a guest speaker.

She said meeting attendance has ranged from six to 20.

A Monroeville Public Library staff member said "there seemed to be a lot" of people at ESP's Jan. 23 meeting there, which featured guest speaker Jim Beichler, a physicist from Ohio.

Sullivan, who is retired from the Pittsburgh Public Schools, where she taught art and photography, said her experiences include UFO sightings, visions of future events and memories of previous lives both on Earth and elsewhere with "other races besides humans."

Through ESP, she's "been able to confirm a lot of my experiences because other people are telling me similar stories. I've also created large networks and friends and resources all over the United States so that if I have to ask questions, I have someone to write or call or check on the Internet or visit."

Like Sullivan, longtime ESP participants Jean and Bob, who both spoke on the condition their last names not be published, are cautious about disclosing their experiences.

Jean said she's had a number of encounters with ETs, beginning in 1995 and "most in my own home" in Upper St. Clair, "generally at night when I'm in bed." She added she thinks she's been subjected, with her tacit consent, to what seemed to be medical tests but that the ETs never have mistreated or harmed her.

She said she's discussed those incidents with a few friends and family members who "have been very patient and listened to me. I don't know what they're thinking. I don't get any feedback from them. I think my husband believes me."

However, she's "curtailed the conversation" when the subjects of UFOs and ETs have arisen in social settings and "people have rolled their eyes" when she's "casually mentioned things about my beliefs. I know when to keep my mouth shut."

Bob said he's been "in contact with what I believe to be extraterrestrial aliens since I was child in the '50s and have seen with my own eyes UFOs several times," mostly in Penn Hills, where he lives.

He said he's encountered several "species from other worlds," one of which "comes from a star system not far away," looks "very much like us" and can "visit on Earth without being noticed. They can and do come among us."

Bob said he "kind of felt alienated from the human race because so much was happening I couldn't talk to anybody about." Fearing derision, he largely has kept his experiences to himself and stays mum unless someone else broaches the subject and seems at least nonjudgmental if not accepting.

ESP has helped him "by confirming that there are other people who are having experiences like mine and similar contacts and who are ordinary people and don't seem to be crazy. Everybody's very accepting of one another."

Jean said ESP "absolutely" has been beneficial to her.

"It's been very supportive to share" stories and "get feedback about what" other attendees "think is going on."

Although not intimidating experiencers are loony or lying and neither debating nor trying to debunk them, Kraft said it isn't a symptom of a serious mental problem if such events didn't occur, yet the experiencers believe they did.

"If you believe it and it helps you live a healthier life and you don't impose it on others, it may help you to manage better," he said. "It gives you a sense of control and meaning in life."



FOREIGN NEWS

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

CORNISH GUARDIAN, Bodmin, England - Nov. 26, 1998

Councillor reveals 30-year secret of a 'close encounter' We're sure we saw a UFO over clay area!



Joan and Roy Vincent at the site of their "close encounter".

Picture: Mary Neale

by IAN SHEPHERD

A 33-YEAR silence was broken this week when a leading figure in Cornwall spoke publicly about a close encounter with what she and her husband firmly believe was a flying saucer.

Joan Vincent, chairman of the County Planning Committee for nine years until last May and now a long-serving County and Restormel Borough Councillor, revealed that she and her husband Roy had observed the mystery craft late at night during 1965 in a then rural area between St Dennis and Carthew.

Both remain convinced that what they saw, in considerable detail, was from another world.

The matter remained "virtually a family secret" over the years because the couple feared that they would be ridiculed if they told their story.

"But it is now a much less taboo subject because of the number of such sightings," said Mrs Vincent. "There is now no reason for it to remain a secret."

She said that late one night in 1965, she and her husband Roy were driving past the hamlet of Karslake, deep in the china clay country, on their way home to Stenalees.

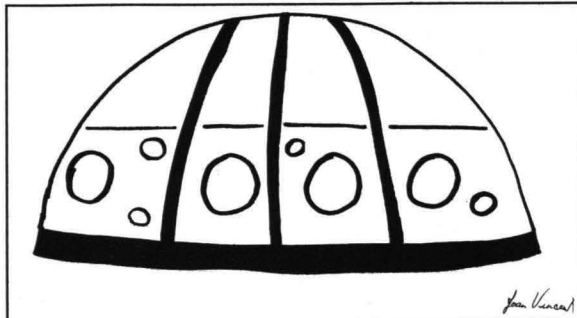
"We knew that students at Fowey College used to spend night-time vigils at what is now Caerloggas Downs and that they had reported seeing flying saucers there several times," said Mrs Vincent.

"We stopped to have a look at the sky ourselves. We had been sitting in the car for about 15 minutes when suddenly it was as if a light had been switched on outside. One minute it was dark, the next we could see for miles over the surrounding countryside. The light was brilliant and it was constant, not like lightning.

"About 50 yards away, in a field behind a hedge, we could see where it appeared to be coming from. It was a large, dome-shaped object that looked as if it were made of glass.

"Because of the hedge, we could not see all of its lower section closer to the ground, so neither of us knew if it was hovering or resting on the grass.

"We could see inside the dome, where the



Mrs Vincent's drawing of the unidentified object.

light was coming from. There were big cabinets with dials on them. Below the dome, where the object was solid and a grey-green colour, there were portholes.

"We later estimated that what we could see must have been about 50 to 70 feet across and between 30 and 40 feet high, although we couldn't see the base because of the hedge.

"After about 30 seconds, I said to Roy, my husband 'My God, let's get out of here,' because I was quite shocked. We drove off and went straight home.

"As soon as we arrived, we agreed to go into separate rooms and draw what we had seen. When we compared the drawings they were virtually identical.

"We never told anyone apart from my mother and later my son, David, who was aged four at the time.

"My husband was an absolute sceptic about such things as flying saucers but we now both know that there really is something out there. We are glad we saw what we did together, because I don't think either of us would have believed the story if we hadn't been there."

The couple returned to the scene the following day but could find no clues to the sighting.

The field where Mr and Mrs Vincent saw the craft ceased to exist years ago when it became a spoil tip for nearby clay workings. And the road where they had stopped their car, prior to the strange encounter, has also been re-routed.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - Jan. 2, 1999

UFO encounters and other strange happenings

Fiona Pitt-Kethley retains her scepticism amid accounts of alien visitations and extraterrestrial life

THERE may not be much in the way of extraterrestrial life out there, but there is certainly plenty in the bookshelves. I hope I will never need Ann Druffel's *How to Defend Yourself against Alien Abduction* (Piatkus, £8.99 pbk). It sounds about as attractive as *Do-It-Yourself Plastic Surgery*. Michael White, formerly one of the Thompson Twins, takes a more scientific look at the subject in *Life Out There: the Truth of — and Search for — Extraterrestrial Life* (Little, Brown, £16.99). He addresses such questions as "What is life?" (not as easy to answer as it sounds) and tries to work out what sort of life, if any, could survive and evolve in other parts of the universe.

Hilary Evans's lavishly illustrated *From Other Worlds: the Truth behind Aliens, Abductions, UFOs and the Paranormal* (Carlton, £14.99) sets alien visits in a historical and literary perspective that includes God talking to Moses, as well as the interaction of the mortals and Olympians

in *The Iliad*. It is a pity that modern encounters do not trigger such great literature.

In *Alien Abductions* (Blandford, £15.99), Peter Brooksmith goes into the pros and cons (mainly cons) of hypnosis, which is often used to test the truth of abductees' accounts. In an experiment, creative students who memorised a typical abduction scenario could reveal this under hypnosis as convincingly as those who really believed it had happened to them. There are also support groups for abductees which encourage revelations: "I'll show you the kind of sex I had on board the UFO if you show me the kind of sex you had."

"The presence of a human face on Mars suggests Martians must have visited Earth," writes Herbie Brennan, the author of *Martian Genesis: the Extraterrestrial Origins of the Human Race* (Piatkus, £16.99). Somewhere between his having the typescript accepted and his book being published, NASA produced photographs

that went a long way to disprove many of his theories. He tries to address this problem in his Epilogue. I fear it is more a case of egg on the face of the author and his publisher than any face on Mars.

I have to be extremely careful how I review anything published under the auspices of the *Fortean Times*. A couple of years ago I misspelt millennium in a title it produced, and received an abusive letter from one of the editors. *Weird World 1999* (John Brown, £8.99), edited by Mark Pilkington and Joe McNall, is a compilation of all the usual oddities, ranging from UFOs down to the woman who returned a box of cotton wool buds to the supermarket claiming that there were only 99 instead of 100 and that coming back a day early for her next supply

would ruin her busy schedule. Now why did no alien have the decency to abduct her?

Jenny Randles has made a corner in books on the paranormal. Her most recent offerings are *Something in the Air* (Robert Hale, £16.99), which tells of more than 100 sensational UFO encounters with aircraft and concentrates on trying to explain odd crashes and sightings; and *Truly Weird: Real-Life Cases of the Paranormal* (Collins & Brown, £9.99 pbk).

The latter covers a wide range of phenomena. One of the most interesting chapters concerns near-death experiences. I was fascinated to learn that a neurophysiologist who works in the Maudsley Hospital has had a number of symbols placed out of sight on the ceilings of

various emergency rooms around Britain. None of the medical staff knows what they are. The experiment is to test the claims of patients who have reported leaving their bodies and hovering over their own operations. Apparently the results to date have been promising.

In *The Pool of Memory: the Autobiography of an Unwilling Intuitive* (Newleaf, £14.99) Michal Levin chronicles the visions that led her into a career as a spiritual healer. She was beset with chronic tiredness and other symptoms and went from doctor to doctor, as well as to alternative therapists, before anyone diagnosed a form of brain tumour. She was unable to heal herself, but made a good recovery after a tricky operation. It would be easy to hold Levin's brain tumour responsible for triggering poetic visions of Jesus and Buddha, a sacred snake, and so on; but she points out that other patients with the same disease suffered only physical symptoms.

The Astrology File: Scientific Proof of the Link

Between Star Signs and Human Behaviour (Orion, £12.99), by Gunter Sachs, tests the claims of astrology in relation to sun signs. He used Swiss birth records to examine a number of topics such as marriage and choice of profession. His detailed statistics do seem to prove that some signs are better at some things than others. As a Scorpio I should be good at football (I certainly have the legs for it). It is nice to know also that I am unlikely to die from cirrhosis, however hard I try.

Ron van der Meer's *The Pop-Up Zodiac Treasury* (Tango, £9.99) is aimed at those who already believe in astrology. It has a sun in gold cardboard embedded in its hexagonal cover, and looks so like a chocolate box that my two-year-old commandeered it as soon as it came into the house. He thinks the pop-up lion under Leo is the best thing since Beatrix Potter. I would recommend this for any two-year-old, but I am not entirely sure that there is enough substance in it to hold older readers' long.

MYSTERY ■ Researcher claims to have new facts to dispel the myths

Author plans to take lid off UFO 'cover-up'

By **SIMON STEVENS**

It was a close encounter which has gone down in East Anglian folklore – but exactly what happened remains something of a mystery.

The time was late December, 1980; the place, Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge, in deepest Suffolk.

A strange object was spotted among the trees which took off as it was approached. A few days later, mysterious lights were seen in the sky.

Since then, the UFO sightings have spawned numerous theories, media speculation and books investigating the encounter.

In true X Files style, governments on both sides of the Atlantic remained tight-lipped, revealing nothing definite except that the incidents were not a threat to the defence of Britain.

Now, the author of a new account claims her book will "piece together" the puzzle of what happened before, during and after the Rendlesham Forest incidents to reveal "one of the biggest cover-ups of modern times".

But exactly what the book will say remains as much of an enigma as the mystery itself.

**AUTHOR: Georgina Bruni.**

Even its title has yet to be unveiled.

Georgina Bruni, a London-based PR/publicist, has secured a book deal with publisher Sidgwick and Jackson after conducting two years of research into the Rendlesham Forest incidents.

Ms Bruni, 47, told the EDP that the book – due to be published in the year 2000 – will contain information which has never been published before as well as interviews with witnesses who, up until now, have never come forward.

She says it will also expose one of the "biggest cover-ups of modern times".

She describes herself as a researcher of the unexplained and has spent her spare time over the past couple of years tracking down more than 50 people, including military personnel in the US, both directly and indirectly involved in the case.

"There is so much involved in the case that has never been published before and it will all be in the book.

"It's a very interesting case and the reason I wanted to investigate it was to ensure it doesn't get buried away. It was a historic event."

She added: "I think it's one of the most important UFO mysteries ever. There has not been anything like this in Britain."

Exactly what the book will say – and who will be blamed for the cover-up – remains under wraps due to an agreement between author and publisher.

But Ms Bruni says the book will dispel the myths, address the disinformation campaigns and challenge the sceptics – and create a strong reaction on both sides of the Atlantic.

She was, however, prepared to reveal that she will be visiting Rendlesham Forest in January for a late-night walk with the aim of disproving a theory suggesting that the mysterious lights seen at the time were caused by Orford Ness lighthouse.

"I am just doing it for my peace of mind. I know from my research that it was nothing to do with the lighthouse. It was just something thrown in by the sceptics," she said.

She will be accompanied on her late-night recce by top female bodyguard Jacqueline Davis, who is one of her clients.

"She is the perfect person to take with me. You never know who might come out of the trees in the middle of winter!" said Ms Bruni.

▼ RIDDLE OF RENDLESHAM FOREST

The Rendlesham Forest UFO mystery has produced many theories and explanations over the last 18 years.

It all began about 3am on December 27, 1980, when bright lights were seen outside the east gate of the Woodbridge air base.

According to reports from Col Charles Halt, who was deputy commander at both Woodbridge and nearby Bentwaters, a patrol entered the forest and saw what appeared to be a highly luminous object, triangular in shape, about 9ft wide and 6ft tall.

As the patrol approached, the UFO moved away through the forest then apparently took off and disappeared. An hour later it was spotted again on the perimeter of the base.

It left behind depressions in the ground and broken tree branches. Three nights later, there were more strange happenings. A red sun-like light was seen which moved and pulsed before breaking into separate white objects which disappeared. Three star-like objects were then seen which moved across the sky displaying red, green and blue lights; the last to disappear beamed down a stream of light from time to time. One theory suggests a link with secret projects being conducted at the nearby Orford Ness research site; another says the lights were caused by the beam from a lighthouse. Other explanations include the break-up of a Soviet space satellite and a forced landing by an experimental aircraft.

New book exposes a 'UFO cover-up'

AN author claims that her investigation of the world famous UFO sighting near Woodbridge will expose a "cover-up" by the authorities to mislead the public.

Georgina Bruni has spent thousands of pounds travelling the world to meet vital new witnesses to the sighting of an unidentified flying object close to RAF Woodbridge.

She has spent 30 months on her research which includes interviews with more than 50 people and her book will be published next year to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the sightings.

Ms Bruni has secured a major deal with a well known publisher, Sedgewick and Jackson, and the book will be published in hard and paperback.

The author, who works in public relations in London, has poured cold water over theories that American servicemen were deceived by the light from the Orford Ness lighthouse and thought they had seen a UFO.

by **RICHARD SMITH**

The sightings were made over two consecutive nights after Christmas, 1980 and Ms Bruni is preparing to come to Rendlesham Forest to prove that what they witnessed could not have been the lighthouse.

She will arrive in Suffolk next week and will walk the woods with a bodyguard after midnight to examine the beam from the lighthouse, a few miles away.

'I will prove that it was not the lighthouse. For the first time since 1980 the puzzle of what actually took place, before, during and after the incidents, has been pieced together to reveal one of the biggest cover-ups of modern times.

'The book will dispel the myths, address the disinformation campaigns, present new witnesses and challenge the sceptics,' she said.

Ms Bruni is standing by the confidential contract between author and publisher which prevents her from revealing details about the book's content.

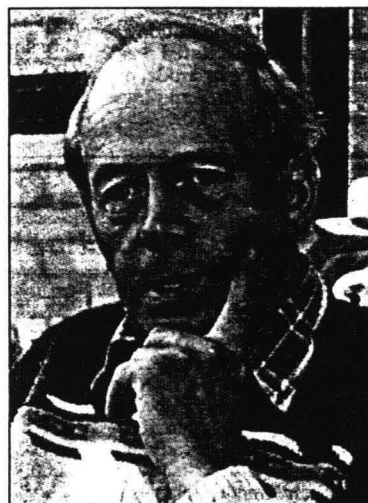
The book will spark renewed interest about the controversy over the sightings by American servicemen who, at the time, were involved in the front line defence of the country during the Cold War.

There are numerous theories about the UFO and it still remains one of the great unsolved mysteries in the world which divides the sceptics from the believers.

Former policeman David King, of Stennett's Close, Trimley St Mary, who was called to investigate a suspicious object on December 26, 1980, broke his silence last year to claim that the Americans were fooled by the lighthouse light.

Newly released documents last year show that an American security patrol called off a one-hour chase of the UFO after they realised it was the lighthouse.

But Larry Warren, a former security guard, has written a book claiming that he witnessed an alien spacecraft and its occupants land in the forest near the east gate of RAF Woodbridge.



CALLED TO INVESTIGATE: Former Pc David King thought the UFO was a lighthouse beam

REPORTER, Gravesend, England - Oct. 29, 1998

Experts knock 'UFO' sighting

BY **JENNY MacKENZIE**

IT is back to the drawing board for architect Jeremy Isherwood, after hearing experts' response to his video recording of what he suspected was a UFO.

At midnight on October 12, Jeremy, 44, of Chalky Bank, Gravesend, saw a bright light in the sky that he said was about a quarter of the size of the moon. He said it appeared to be travelling at "massive speed."

He filmed the object and subsequently made enquiries to see if anyone else had seen it. He got a mixed bag of reactions.

Experts have said that what he saw could have been the planet Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system.

Post-graduate astronomy student Simon Dye, working with the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh and specialising in cosmology, said: "The position that he describes, about 45 degrees from the horizon and south to south-south-west, matches the position of Jupiter, which is very active at present.

"But Jupiter is only a point of light, and even allowing for the magnification which can occur with camcorders, this does not explain the size of the object."

Space science advisor with the London-based Royal Astronomical Society, Peter Bond, said Jupiter is the brightest object in the night sky at the moment, but emphasised that, being five times further than the earth from the sun, it should really only be



MIXED REACTIONS: Architect Jeremy Isherwood had plenty of response to his sighting.

Photo by Jenny MacKenzie.

a point of light to the naked eye. "I don't believe in UFO's," he said.

"The nearest star is more than four light years away, and even if we could travel at the speed of light, which we can't, then it would take four years to get there.

"It would take a human lifetime to travel from a star to the earth. That's an awful lot of sandwiches. And then you would have to get back again."

But someone else who saw a dazzling light the same size as that seen by Jeremy Isherwood, the following night, was a man at the opposite end of the country, whose story appeared in the local paper.

Richard Vaughan, 44, a sales manager from a village near Aberdeen, told the *Reporter* "Because of our clear skies here, I

have seen the Northern Lights, Haley's Comet and many shooting comets, but what I saw on Tuesday was nothing like anything I have seen before.

"A bright round disc moved very slowly, with absolutely no noise, and as a plane approached, it disappeared. The Civil Aviation Authority said that a satellite would not move and the RAF said that they had no aircraft in the area."

Sherrie-lee Cowell of Gatwick Road, Gravesend rang the *Reporter* after reading the story of Jeremy and his UFO. She said: "I have seen exactly the same thing and videoed it on the evening of September 27.

"It was a really bright light in the sky which appeared to be going backwards and forwards. It was too big to be a star."

Police open their X-files on UFO encounters

A GROUP of retired and serving police officers are risking ridicule by coming forward to tell all about their alleged encounters with UFOs.

More than 20 officers have responded to an advertisement in *Police Review* inviting them to recount their close encounters of the third kind. These include stories of alien abduction and gigantic blocks of light hovering above their squad cars.

At least two former officers claim to have photographic evidence of their meetings with extra-terrestrials.

Their extraordinary stories are to be collected in a new book *Policing the UFO*, to include interviews with at least 20 former and serving police officers and as many as 200 recorded incidents involving police from around the world. Many of the examples from the second category will be taken from previously unreleased Ministry of Defence papers.

The book's author, Irene Bott, has chosen to concentrate on

BY JASON BENNETTO

police officers because of their relative position of trust in society. "They are less likely to be written off as cranks, loonies or anoraks," she explained.

Others may, however, think they are boldly going beyond the call of duty and risking ridicule and professional suicide.

For this reason, many officers appear to have waited until they have left the police service before speaking out, although others who contacted the researchers feel so strongly about what they have witnessed that they are prepared to be named.

The reported encounters include:
■ An officer who claims to have been abducted and medically examined by aliens in the 1980s. The former officer, who has yet to give the full details of his case, is said to have been out driving when he experienced disturbances to his vehicle followed by memory loss. He later recalled, via hypnosis, being

taken aboard a space craft and examined by aliens.

■ A police officer says he took five photographs of a UFO while on duty in the West Midlands in the 1980s, but that the MoD confiscated them.

■ A policeman and woman were out on patrol in the countryside and saw lights and a cylindrical object in the sky.

■ An officer who saw a disc shaped object hovering 20ft above the road.

■ A police officer who, in the 1970s while on duty, saw a wedge-shaped object in the sky that was about four storeys high and 50ft long.

■ Declassified MoD papers from the 1950s to the 1970s that report investigations into reported sightings by police officers and incidents at military bases. The files name police officers involved and allegedly include accounts of helicopters being sent after UFOs.

There have also been several reports from officers in Sussex — one as recently as last month — an area

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Nov. 16, 1998

Another UFO sighting?

I was interested to read the letter from David Rose in which he says he saw a UFO on Sunday, October 18, because I saw one on the same day at the same time.

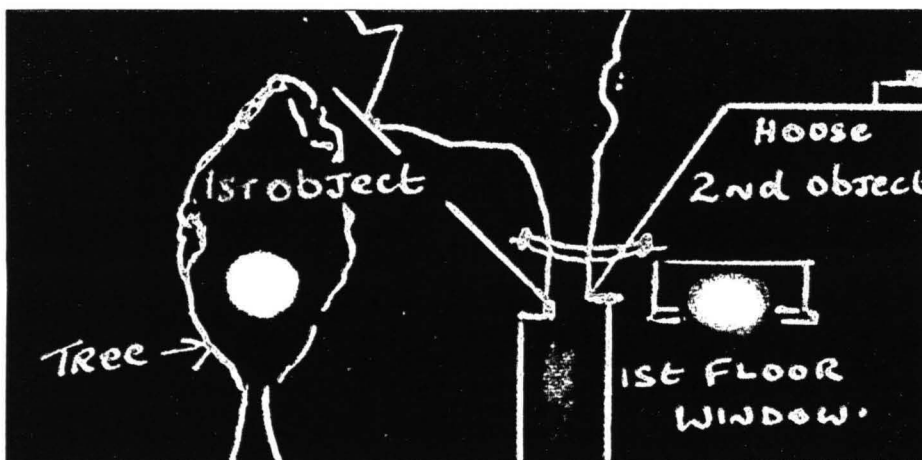
I was travelling with my dad from Sheffield to Wolverhampton on the M1 at about 1.30pm. We both noticed a strange object in the sky directly in front of us. It was like a large rectangular mirror, and it seemed motionless.

Even though we were travelling at 70mph, we didn't seem to get any closer to the object and its size seemed unaltered.

I would guess that it was somewhere over north Leicestershire, but it was difficult to be certain. After about 15 minutes we lost sight of the object.

It was a very bright sunny day and my dad thinks that it may have been some sort of reflection, but I'm not so sure.

Jobey Bayliss,
aged 12,
Nottingham.



Flying squad: former police officer John Hanson (right) and part of the video he claims shows a UFO near his home

ANDREW FOX

which is considered a fruitful zone for UFO sightings.

While the majority of the police officers who have been in contact are retired, some are serving and include an Inspector.

Ms Bott said: "In a court of law the person who is most believed is usually a policeman. Also, these people are out day and night observing things around them so they are excellent witnesses."

"A UFO is simply an unidentified flying object, it's not little green men."

"Many officers do not want to talk about it openly while they are

still serving because they can kiss their promotion chances goodbye."

So far she has been in touch with about 20 serving and former officers — two serving officers contacted her a couple of weeks ago and claim to have seen UFOs in the past month.

Nick Redfern, an author of several books on UFOs, who is assisting Ms Bott with her project, added: "These people are willing to fly in the face of potential ridicule, which shows how strongly they feel about what they have witnessed — these are strong, credible witnesses."

One of those to come forward

was former Pc John Hanson. His encounter with a UFO took place on the evening of 14 June 1995.

Mr Hanson, 52, who retired from the West Midlands police force in 1994, after 27 years service, was at his home near Redditch, Worcestershire, when he looked out of his bedroom window.

"I saw a silver pear-shaped ball of light hovering over a tree," he recalled. "It was about 40ft off the ground, and about 20ft long and 5ft wide."

"Immediately opposite was a red cigar-shaped object, about 30ft tall."

"The pear ball suddenly moved and there was a piece cut out of it like a wedge of cheese. It then changed into the shape of a jelly bean and jumped onto the cigar shaped object. The two objects then fused together, produced a rippling light and were gone."

He said the whole episode lasted about five minutes and took place at 10.35pm, and that a similar sighting took place 20 miles away on the same night.

"I am not talking about flying saucers or space men, but an unidentified object — some form of energy source," he added.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Nov. 13, 1998

Mother-to-be Toni sees the light — twice

A mother-to-be said she almost went into labour when she saw mysterious flashing lights in the sky over Tipton — twice in the same night. Toni Jordan, 17, said she was at her step-

father's home in Hill Street at 7.40pm on Wednesday when she saw a multi-coloured glow in the sky.

She ran outside with her mother to get a closer look and the pair watched amazed as the flying object staged mid air aerobatics before it flew away.

And she says she was still in shock when she glimpsed the coin-shaped object again flying low as she drove to her Sandy Lane home through the Dudley Port area.

The stunned teenager who is five months pregnant said: "I was that scared I almost went into labour."

"The first time I ran outside with my mum to get a closer look."

"It was a 50p shaped thing with red, blue and yellow flashing lights."

"It was just hovering over the houses for a short time then it just seemed to take off."

She says she later saw the same object as her mother drove her home half an hour later: "I was looking at the

sky as I was in the car seeing if there was anything there."

"I couldn't believe it when I saw it again. I wanted to stop the car and get someone else and get them to check it to make sure I wasn't seeing things," she added.

The unemployed teenager said she paid little attention to UFOs before, but she now believed in them.

A police spokesman said no reports of extra terrestrial activity were reported over Tipton on that night.

UFO hunter at MoD 'kidnapped by aliens'

THE Ministry of Defence official who once headed investigations into unidentified flying objects believes he was abducted by aliens. Nick Pope, who ran the ministry's top secret Airstaff Secretariat office during the early 1990s, believes that he, his girlfriend and their car were abducted from a deserted toll road in Florida.

He has described how he was lifted aboard an alien spacecraft and then wandered around its corridors — without, however, meeting any aliens. It was following this in-

cident that he applied for the job heading the defence ministry department which collects all reported sightings of UFOs and related phenomena. He did not, however, enter details of his experience on the files since he was uncertain exactly what had happened to him and because he was worried he would be labelled a crank.

Pope is still employed by the ministry, but a routine transfer in 1994 means he now works for the finance policy department as a higher executive officer.

He has alluded to the incident in his bestselling book *The Uninvited*, which claimed to expose the phenomenon of alien abductions. But only now has it emerged that one of the detailed descriptions was based on his own experience rather than on that of someone called Peter.

This weekend, Pope refused to confirm or deny the claim that he was the "Peter" in the book. He said he was unable to speak because he had since broken up with his girlfriend

and did not want to involve her. According to the book, the incident happened while "Peter and Jenny" were travelling along a Florida turnpike. Suddenly, they realised they were no longer on the same road and had jumped several miles closer to their destination, even though no time seemed to have elapsed.

He described the experience as the "strangest" event in his life. In the book he went on to explain that he only recovered his memory of what happened when, some time later, he underwent hypnosis. He then "recalled" how he and his girlfriend had been lifted from the ground in their car and how he had then walked on air into a metallic corridor in what seemed to be some sort of spacecraft. Shortly after, the experience ended with him returning to his car with "no

by Mark Macaskill

immediate recollection" of what had happened. The book makes it clear that he accepts that such recollections are not 100% reliable and he cannot say for certain that he was actually abducted. He says, however, that he believes it is highly likely. The book adds: "If the event occurred as Peter remembers then he was taken without consent and subjected to some truly bizarre experience."

His latest revelation will come as a further surprise for the ministry, where officials were amazed when he announced that his time collating their "X files" had convinced him that Earth was being visited by aliens. They were sufficiently relaxed about his claims, however, to allow him to publish his first book, *Open Skies*, *Closed Minds* in 1995. Its success illustrates the huge interest generated by the subject of aliens visiting Earth, with hundreds of people claiming to have been abducted by travellers from space. Jenny Randles, the former

out there."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - March 5, 1999

Town ties mud cure to UFOs

Peruvian muck holds a powerful mystique

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHILCA, Peru — Marco and Eru-dita Alva plunged into a pond called "The Twin Maker" and started slopping on ink-black mud from head to toe. They were trying to solve their fertility problem.

Over at the "The Miracle Maker" pond, Zoila Bejar rubbed slick mud reeking of sulfur all over her body in hopes that it would ease chronic back pain.

A lot of ailing Peruvians are turning up in Chilca, a dusty, desert town on the Pacific coast 40 miles southeast of Lima. They come to wallow in the mud of three small ponds thought to have healing powers.

But there is a twist to the mud baths here — locals say their purported miraculous powers are brought by alien space ships.

"Lots of people claim to have seen UFOs and strange lights in the night sky over Chilca. People here believe in UFOs," said Mayor Numa Rueda.

Visitors to Chilca are greeted by a sign proclaiming the town as "The Preferred Site for Interplanetary Ships and Beings."

Locals say the spaceships come to harvest an unknown material from the ocean off Chilca's beach. The UFOs supposedly leave behind substances that reach the ponds through underground springs and give them curative powers.

Townpeople cite an abundance of twins in Chilca — more than 100 pairs in the town of 10,000, Rueda said — as proof of the power of "The Twin Maker" pond.

Although doctors dismiss the idea that spaceships have given the mud powers, they do say the ponds' high sulfur content can temporarily ease arthritis pain and stiffness and clear up problem skin.

But they're skeptics when it comes to "The Twin Maker" and any power it might have to make women have twins.

"Some communities have large numbers of twins for genetic reasons or coincidence. It is not proof of the mud's power," said Dr. Augusto Ascenzo, head of a prominent Lima fertility clinic.

Chilca's people aren't deterred by the skepticism.

Twins Veronica and Monica Sanchez, whose mother regularly bathed in "The Twin Maker," say many of their friends have seen strange objects hovering over Chilca.

"They are bright lights which form a circle and hover over the ponds or the beach," Veronica said.

Chilca is not the only place in Peru's southern desert that people believe is frequented by aliens.

On the plains of Nazca, 185 miles to the southeast, giant lines and drawings etched in the sand centuries ago by the Nazca Indians have attracted UFO buffs since the best-selling book *Chariots of the Gods* speculated in the early 1970s that they were alien landing strips.

Although archaeologists ridiculed the idea, tourists still try to sleep overnight among the Nazca lines to absorb supposedly mystical energies.

In Chilca, a sign above "The Twin Maker" boasts that the mud contains sulfur, silicon, iron, calcium, potassium and other minerals. It says the pond enhances male and female fertility and cures impotence.

The jet-black mud of "The Miracle Maker," the largest of the three ponds, is touted as a cure for arthritis, rheumatism, cataracts, vision problems and muscle pain. The third pond, "The Enchantress," is supposed to cure skin ailments and migraines.

On a recent day, dozens of mud-covered Peruvians basked on the sides of each pond, while others swam in the waist-deep water. The ponds are just outside Chilca and are surrounded by cheap hotels.

SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY,
Edinburgh, Scotland - Jan. 17, 1999

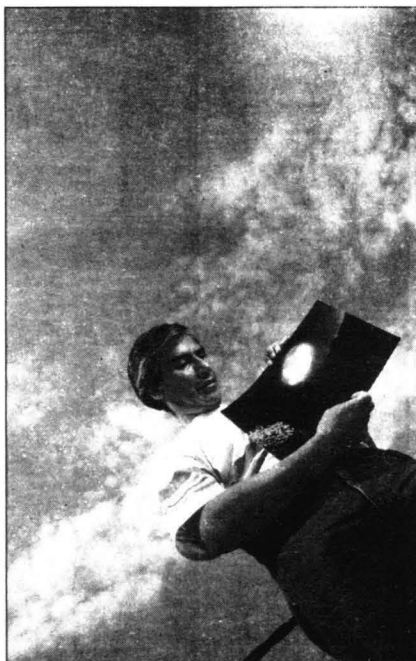
Scots 'will see more UFOs'

SCOTS are more likely to suffer from millennium UFO madness, Britain's top extra-terrestrial hunter has warned.

Nick Pope, a senior civil servant at the Ministry of Defence, who used to be the Government's official UFO investigator, says he expects more reports of mysterious objects above the UK's skies in the run-up to 2000.

But because of the Scots' special significance with Hogmanay, he expects proportionately more sightings to come from north of the Border. Already Scotland has one of the country's top UFO hot spots at Bonnybridge.

"Scots tend to rate Hogmanay more than the rest of the UK and are more in tune with it. I would expect proportionately more UFO reports to come from Scotland this year because of this," said Mr Pope, adding that he did not expect an alien invasion this year.



UFO researcher Carlos Diaz holds photos of what he says are UFOs that appeared in the village of Tepotzlan, Mexico, in 1988.

UFO center set to open in Mexico

By RICARDO SANDOVAL

Knight Ridder Newspapers

TEPOTZLAN, Mexico — When Carlos Diaz came down from his first mountainside encounter with a UFO 20 years ago, he was worried people in this popular resort town would shun him as a nut case.

But what stunned Diaz was his inability to get anyone here excited. To residents of Tepotzlan — and many of its countless weekend visitors — his account of getting close to a glowing object pulsing with yellow, orange and red streaks was no big deal.

In this sun-drenched haven for residents of nearby Mexico City, believers are as common as the healing crystals and Indian sweatshouses that help make Tepotzlan a popular getaway in a country steeped in superstition.

The commonplace nature of UFO sightings here, against a surreal backdrop of jagged peaks and an Aztec pyramid halfway up a 1,000-foot cliff, also make Tepotzlan ideal for the UFO information center Diaz plans to open this month.

"I found people in their 90s who have had so many sightings that they now take them for granted," said Diaz,

who says he has witnessed dozens of visits here by spacecraft. "They simply refer to them now as sunspots in the night sky."

Diaz says he wants to help others find the truth through a nonprofit clearinghouse about extraterrestrials and their love of visiting Mexico and Tepotzlan.

In the past decade alone, hundreds of sightings throughout Mexico have been reported to UFO experts, often above Mexico City and its surrounding volcanic mountains. Video recorders have captured odd shapes over the capital's upscale neighborhoods. During Pope John Paul II's recent visit, many people — including radio and TV reporters — talked quite earnestly of seeing strange lights in the sky during one of his Masses.

Some longtime residents report soberly that 60 percent of the people here have seen UFOs. Many say it's because the copper-laden mountains, which bedevil cell phones, televisions and radios, also act as beacons for extraterrestrials. Others say it's the "seven bands of energy" — electromagnetic waves — streaming through the valley around Tepotzlan.

It's probably mass hysteria and a

desire to be part of the hip crowd in very hip Tepotzlan, countered Mario Torres Lujan, a physicist who edits the magazine Contacto OVNI. OVNI is the equivalent in Spanish to "UFO."

Torres Lujan says he believes visitors come calling from elsewhere in the universe, but insists he tries to bring science into his investigations. He says he gets as excited about uncovering hoaxes as by establishing legitimate claims.

He says many of the Tepotzlan sightings are real and even predate the Spanish conquest in the 1520s. This area was a favorite getaway from Tenochtitlan (as the people the Spanish called Aztecs, but who call themselves Nahuas, called Mexico City) for royalty and priests intent on mapping the sky. Today, sightings of floating lights, often called "brujas" (witches, in Spanish) remain common around Indian pyramids.

Still, Torres Lujan harbors doubts about Tepotzlan's singular status among intergalactic frequent fliers.

"Too many people who want to stand out invent things," he said. "What is bad is that people see things with their eyes, and these things you must see with logic and science."

Uri Geller's Weird Web



The truth, probably

Joe Firmage is a Californian New Ager, a hippy-speaking child of Salt Lake City Mormons, whose stated ambition is to explore 100 new planets.

There aren't many reasons why anyone would listen when this man starts claiming he has documents proving the US government recovered alien corpses from a crashed UFO — except, at the age of 28, Joseph P. Firmage has already made two multi-million-dollar fortunes.

His first business, Serious, writing operating system codes, sold for \$24 million in 1993. His second, USWeb, is

word-is-truth.org/truth.cfm — a book on the web telling the history of UFO visits to Earth.

Like all truths, this one is beautiful but puzzling. Instead of an index, there's a poem. Readers navigate through the chapters along a twining double helix of DNA that glows and flashes as the cursor shifts.

The style floats from far-out to spaced-out. Firmage's press officer, Melinda Mattei, makes things clearer. Top secret documents, she says, are being released through the site. Dr Robert Wood, a former physicist with Mc-

Donnell Douglas, has declared them genuine.

The papers are said to prove a wrecked UFO was captured by the US military in 1947. Autopsies were carried out on the occupants.

'The papers are said to prove a UFO was captured by the US military'

Inside the highest security cordon ever created, technicians probed the ship. Their discoveries were "seeded" into private industry, and included advances in micro-circuitry and fibre optics.

"For the first time in 50 years, society is now ready to hear the rest of the story," says Firmage. At least he's putting his money where his mouth is.

● Visit the author at: urigel.com and e-mail him at urigeller@compuserve.com

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - Dec. 18, 1998

UFO rumours are sunk by Navy chiefs

THE Royal Navy last night quashed speculation that parts of a UFO sighted two years ago had been recovered from the sea off the Western Isles.

Rear Admiral Iain

Henderson confirmed that rotor blades and engine parts found in a trawler's nets 80 miles north-west of the Butt of Lewis were from a Royal Navy helicopter which crashed in 1982.

Last month, part of the BBC1 programme *Mysteries* with Carol Vorderman was devoted to dramatic accounts of the sightings of a plummeting, smoking UFO north-west of the Butt of Lewis.

ILKLEY GAZETTE, Yorkshire, England - Jan. 14, 1999

Mysterious object seen in sky over Burley

MYSTERY surrounds the sighting of a UFO by an Addingham woman and her husband between Burley Woodhead and Ilkley.

Now Valerie Fawcett, 62, of Park Crescent, Addingham, has been left wondering exactly what the strange object she saw on Sunday afternoon really was.

Mrs Fawcett, a former medical secretary, was travelling from Burley-in-Wharfedale to Burley Woodhead when she caught sight of something unusual above the trees.

She describes seeing a bizarre object with the approximate length and size of a plane, but in a dart-like shape with two distinct rows of lights that were so bright that they obscured the fine details of the craft's shape.

While not drawing a conclusion about what, in fact, it was, Mrs Fawcett is adamant that the object was not a plane.

She said: "It had the brightest lights on the underneath of whatever it was. It was so bright and the sky was clear."

by Alistair Walton

There were lots of planes flying around, but this definitely wasn't a plane.

"It was high up. We had been looking at how you could see the airliners going over with vapour trails.

"This wasn't like that. It wasn't really moving, or very slightly. It was hovering. It was like looking up into a lot of electric lightbulbs."

"I saw it through the trees and then my husband looked at it. There was a car behind us and my husband hesitated. We just saw it for a few seconds and then it disappeared."

We looked for it again and it had gone as if it hadn't been there."

There were other people around at the time, says Mrs Fawcett, and the strange sighting has left her keen for more information.

She said: "It was weird. We went into the Woodhead Nurseries and said we had seen this weird thing in the sky. I

"It wasn't a helicopter or anything like that. I really don't think it was a plane and neither did my husband."

"I was glad he was there because it was a second pair of eyes to see it. It was absolutely covered from top to tail in lights."

"I would be very interested to know anything further, if anybody has seen it or what it might be."

A spokeswoman for Leeds-Bradford International Airport said that there were no known unusual aircraft in the area at that time, or anything matching that description.

Increasingly in recent years, the Ilkley Moor and Wharfedale area has become world-renowned as a UFO 'hotspot'.

Now Ilkley is being considered as the venue for a special Millennium exhibition which will celebrate the phenomenon of UFOs.

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - March 8, 1999 CR: G. Conway

UFO researcher won't believe until E.T. leaves calling card

by Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Until E.T. leaves a calling card, UFO researcher Chris Rutkowski will remain a skeptic.

But after 10 years of tracking unearthly objects, the University of Manitoba astronomer says he's kept the faith.

"I take a little bit of heat, but I'm approaching it pretty straight — I'm not wearing pyramids on my head or tin-foil on my wrists," said Rutkowski, who co-ordinated a national survey tracking UFO sightings.

"I know there's a likelihood there are aliens out there. We just don't have the proof."

Last year 200 Canadians, slightly fewer than the previous year, reported unidentified flying objects across the nation.

Fifteen sightings were reported in Manitoba, including a triangular object floating in the sky in Selkirk and one unexplained case of three square, yellow objects flying in the sky over downtown Winnipeg.

Reports from UFO zealots were discounted from the study, said Rutkowski, referring to die-hards "who camp out on the shores of Lake Ontario and look for UFOs every night."

The research team divided sightings in three

categories: the explained, the unexplained and who knows? Many are quickly discounted as stars, planets, meteors or airplanes, Rutkowski said.

In Winnipeg, a number of reports of "weird effects on the clouds" were put down to laser light shows during Manitoba Moose hockey games.

But 12 per cent of last year's cases, two of them in Manitoba, remain unexplained.

"People are genuinely puzzled by what they have seen," Rutkowski said. "Most people can recognize airplanes and things like that but when something flies or hovers that doesn't look familiar, it's a mystery."

"They turn to an individual like myself for answers and I don't profess to have all the answers."

UFO sightings are "not as interesting or dramatic" as TV or film images of "aliens walking out of spaceships," he said, confessing to a fascination with the social phenomena surrounding the extraordinary.

"You can't turn on TV without aliens trying to sell you computers or Pepsi or nearly anything," he said.

"I'm fascinated with what's happening on earth more than out there. But I'm still trying to find out what's going on up there."

SOCIOLOGY

A social theory explains UFO sightings as cultural phenomena that reflect our hopes and fears, and change as our scientific knowledge of space increases

Invaders from inner space

BY ANDY LAMEY

Before there were flying saucers, there were phantasmal hot air balloons and spectral spy planes, say two academics who have charted how UFO sightings have changed over the past 100 years.

According to Robert Bartholomew, a recent PhD in sociology at Australia's James Cook University and co-author of *UFOs & Alien Contact: Two Centuries of Mystery* (Prometheus, \$37.95), what people "see" in the sky is "a Rorschach inkblot of . . . popular fears, hopes, expectations, desires, [and] anticipations." The sightings reflect current cultural beliefs and scientific advancement.

In the late 1890s, for example, the world's imagination was captured by Swedish explorer Salomon Andree's plans to fly to the North Pole in a balloon. The Canadian government and the Hudson's Bay Company even warned northern aboriginals that Andree's craft might blow south and be seen over Western Canada.

Andree took off from Norway's Svalbard Archipelago in 1897, but crashed within 65 hours of liftoff, only a few hundred kilometres from Svalbard. (Preserved film and diaries found in 1930 showed the crew died trying to trek back to civilization.)

Yet a wave of Andree sightings were reported across Canada in 1897. A fisherman in northern British Columbia said he could see "a great balloon-shaped body" flying through the sky, as did residents of a Kamloops nursing home.

In Douglas, Man., people reported seeing an illuminated object "the shape of a massive balloon." A man in Manitoulin Island, Ont., said he and some neighbours saw an object — going from red to white to blue — that had to be Andree's vessel.

Excitement over the expedition had led to a similar wave of sightings the previous year — before Andree even left the ground.

"Believing is seeing," says Dr. Bartholomew, who compares the balloon viewers to the listeners of Orson Wells' 1938 *War of the Worlds* broadcast, who called police with eyewitness accounts of Martians.

A similar phenomenon took place during the First World War, Dr. Bartholomew says. After Canada entered the Great War in August, 1914, rumours of Germans infiltrating Canada from the United States swirled through the country. Every accident and fire was blamed on enemy agents.

"It was within this setting that a series of phantom aeroplane scares swept across Ontario and Quebec between 1914 and 1916," Dr. Bartholomew writes.

Airplane technology had barely been developed: The first night flight had occurred only in 1910 and lasted 20 kilometres. Quebec and Southern Ontario had almost no military significance for the Germans who, regardless, could have sent spies to "travel in the city unmolested in broad daylight," Dr. Bartholomew points out.

Nonetheless, Ontarians reported a wave of nocturnal German espionage and bomber plane sightings. Soldiers in London, Ont., told the local paper "we heard the purr of engines and looking up saw [an] aeroplane coming from the northeast of the barracks. It had a bright light and was travelling rapidly." In Windsor, people saw a biplane and used binoculars to "distinguish the figure of the aviator."

At the height of the panic, police and residents in Brockville swore they saw "light balls" and heard the "unmistakable sounds" of plane engines heading for Ottawa. After the police chief sent a telegram to Robert

Borden, then prime minister, the Parliament building's lights were all extinguished and the blinds drawn, while soldiers were stationed around Parliament Hill.

"Several Aeroplanes Make a Raid into the Dominion of Canada," *The Globe* reported credulously, before it was revealed that the UFOs were really toy balloons set off across the New York border. (In the United States, not yet at war, no one reported anything strange.)

The First World War case was a "collective delusion," Dr. Bartholomew says.

What all UFO reports have in common is a tendency to explain close encounters in culturally specific terms. Such encounters often occur when people are "alone, at night, [in] isolated areas: It was dark outside yet they record the presence of bright lights and time seems to move unusually fast or slow."

Under such circumstances in the last cen-

tury, people thought they saw fairies. In this century, they see UFOs.

"I would argue it's the same process, [with] different cultural expectations," Dr. Bartholomew says.

"People have a very large scientific component to their fantasies," says George Howard, Dr. Bartholomew's co-author and a professor of psychology at the University of Notre Dame.

He points out that in the early 1900s, people thought they saw heavier-than-air steam-powered flying machines: These would have been in step with turn-of-the-century technology. When aliens themselves began to be reported in the 1940s and 1950s, they gave their home address as Mars or the moon. After science revealed both places to be uninhabited, alien visits from those bodies stopped, to be replaced by travellers from farther away.

"Most UFO reports have easy explana-

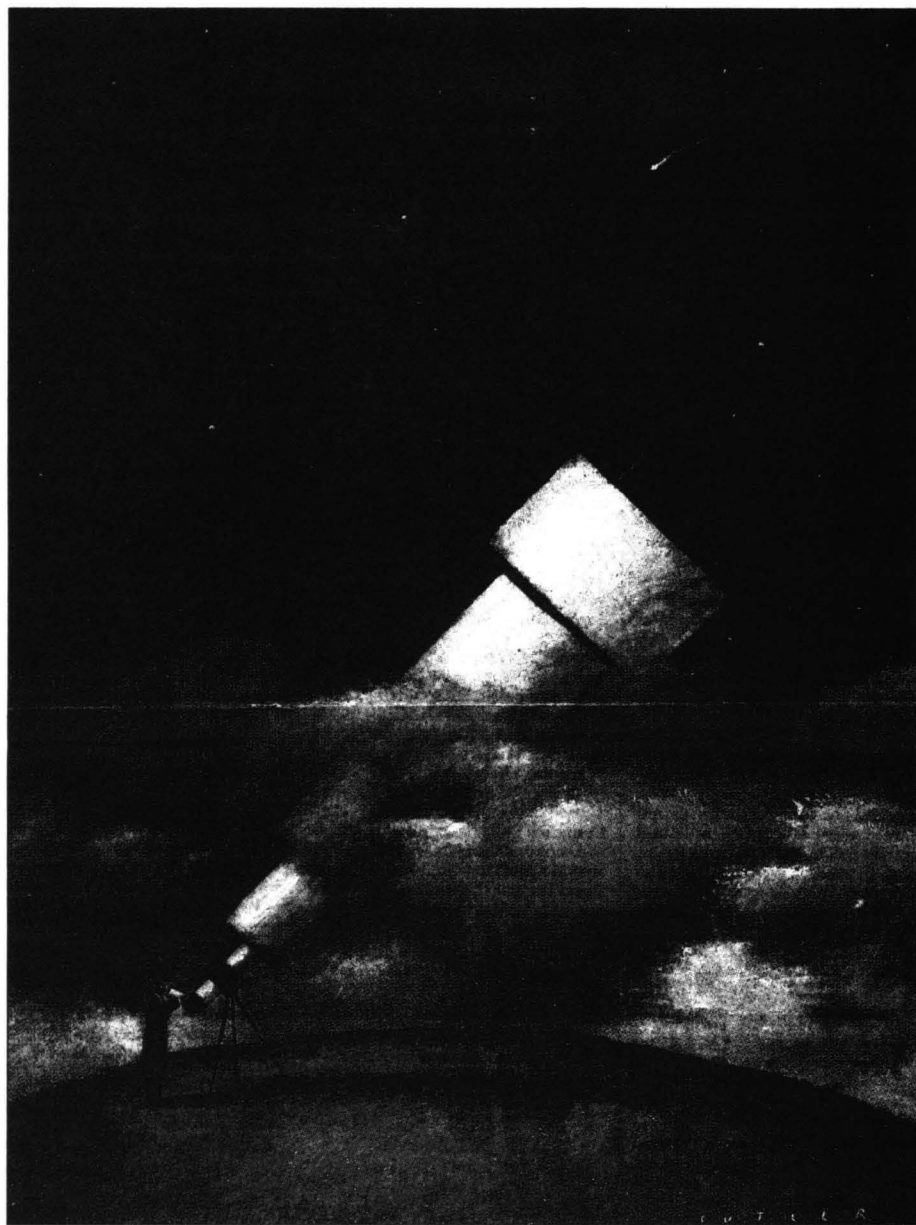
tions," says Chris Rutkowski, founder of Ufology Research Manitoba, which compiles an annual list of Canadian sightings. "But there always is a core of unexplained cases from year to year."

The "social theory," as he calls the view of Drs. Bartholomew and Howard and previous researchers, can't explain these residual cases, which "may represent a new phenomena [sic] or a hitherto unrecognized phenomena."

But even if UFOs do not exist physically, they still do psychologically and sociologically, Mr. Rutkowski says, and deserve scientific attention on those grounds. "So I applaud the authors of this study for taking the steps to seriously look at UFOs from a sociological point of view."

For his part, Dr. Bartholomew says we should keep our eye out for time travellers next. "[The concept is] so wonderfully ambiguous," he explains.

National Post



Truth stranger than fiction as author claims Capital is Mecca for space visitors

By BRENDAN MCGINTY

WE'RE the home of the Scottish Parliament, we won the battle for Britannia and now we've got Harvey Nicks.

But for thousands of people, Edinburgh's place on the world map is down to another phenomenon entirely – and it involves little grey men, red-eyed, hybrid children and sinister X-files-style cover-ups.

For when it comes to visiting Britain, the one area any self-respecting alien wants to be seen in is the skies above the Capital.

According to a new book published this week, Edinburgh and its surrounding villages is an "inter-dimensional alien area".

In the world of the unexplained, this is like having Enterprise zone status – which is good news for any lonely souls in the city who need an alien in their life.

Bizarre

Research carried out by the author of UFO Scotland, Ron Halliday, shows that an amazing 54 per cent of all UFO sightings reported in Scotland since the 1970s have come from Edinburgh and West Lothian.

And among the new cases reported in the book are a city-born woman who believes she married an alien, a suspected cover-up after a UFO was spotted by air traffic control at Edinburgh Airport and bizarre theories surrounding reports of sheep mutilation.

Mr Halliday, 49, who has been an investigator of paranormal phenomena for more than 20 years and is the head of the Stirling-based Scottish Earth Mysteries Research Group, said: "One of the most fascinating cases in the book was a woman we spoke to called June."

"She grew up in Craigmillar but later moved to West Lothian, where she still lives in Livingston with two children."

"But she has had a fascinating series of experiences since childhood with unexplained figures and objects."

Encounters

UFO Scotland details how June was involved in several encounters and then she met a woman called Ruth.

It is claimed in the book that both 42-year-old Ruth and June, 46, who have spoken to the author, believe Ruth's husband Leonard is an alien. At first glance, they say, Leonard looks like an ordinary man.

But, according to the book, he mainly contents himself with sitting around and saying practically nothing, while at times parts of his body become translucent.

There was also the fact that he claims that he works in a "top-secret military base."

Inevitably, the couple do not have a conventional relationship and it's claimed that Leonard "hunted Ruth down" before marrying her.

His movements are often extremely slow and Ruth, who also lives in Livingston, is said to believe that their young son Christopher is

half-human, half-alien. In one incident she describes how the child, aged just 18 months, managed to crawl from his cot, over the body of his mother and out of the house.

The book recounts how he appeared almost as soon as Ruth had realised he was missing.

His eyes, however, had turned red "as if something had been done to them".

It sounds extremely fanciful and as Mr Halliday insists on keeping the identities of his subjects a secret, it is difficult to check.

But he adds in the book: "An entity, not from this planet seeking a mate, not at all for sinister reasons."

"Had we been put on Planet X, would we not do exactly the same?"

And he said: "There is not much detail because Leonard says next to nothing."

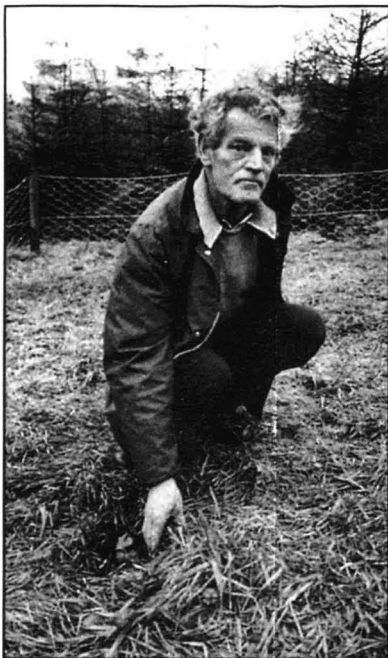
"His speech is normal but he speaks very, very rarely."

"She was drawn to him and married him several years ago despite the fact he doesn't say very much."

The most famous Lothian incident covered surrounds the claims of forestry worker Bob Taylor,



WRITER: Ron Halliday



OUT OF THIS WORLD: Bob Taylor examines the strange marks on the ground that he claimed were left, as artist's impression shows, by mine-shaped balls from a space ship



Ruth married an alien and Ron says Lothian is their ideal home

now 80, of Blairgowrie, who said he was attacked by two mine-shaped balls after spotting a spaceship at Dechmont, West Lothian in 1979.

More recently there is the evidence of "repeater" witness Andrew McMichael of Mortonhall, Edinburgh.

Repeaters are those who have had several encounters with the unexplained.

His first experience came when he saw a 30-foot saucer moving in a "slightly wavy pattern" close to the edge of Frogston Road late in 1996.

Later that year, in December, pensioner Andrew, who by coincidence has seen several strange objects close to home, spied a giant snowflake covering the whole of his window.

It resembled a "bright diamond" but shattered into hundreds of pieces when a dog barked nearby.

Andrew, by now having strange experiences at a rate of one a month, was woken just one week later in his home when he saw "an incredibly beautiful red right moistness" again at his bedroom window.

He described the vision as a swirl of bright dust which he said drastically improved his health after seeing it.

Not all the UFO witnesses are so lucky, however. One,

John S, emerged from his encounter having apparently been punctured in the neck with hypodermic needles.

The drama started when John's television started to go on the blink, then his lights went on.

He was approached by a "human-looking alien" before four other dimly-lit figures appeared in the room.

Believing to have had an alien experience, in which he visited the interior of a UFO, John woke in the morning with puncture marks in his neck. Since then, he has had

my research. Robert Taylor was one of the most fascinating cases but we are getting new reports and sightings all the time."

One other bizarre case involves allegations of a cover-up by airline staff at Edinburgh airport.

Commercial pilot Iain Ray completed a commercial flight from the East Midlands to Edinburgh in 1995.

He claimed to have spotted security staff in a state of excitement after an unexplained object was spotted Air Traffic Control Systems hovering above the airport.

But when he asked the air traffic staff about the incident just one week later, they all denied any knowledge of the incident.

Mr Halliday followed up with a query to the Ministry of Defence but was met with a firm denial.

In 1995, not far from the airport, claims of animal mutilation surfaced after a sheep died with a huge wound around the throat.

Mr Halliday suggests it could be the work of the notorious Boghall puma which has been hunted by local resident Brian Wood since 1997.

Mr Halliday added: "I think it is certain that we will soon

have irrefutable proof that there is life on other planets."

"There are so many galaxies and so many different dimensions it would be bizarre if there was no other life on other planets."

"One reason for all the sightings in Edinburgh could be that it is an inter-dimensional area. That means that it occupies the same space as another planet in another dimension."

"Another theory is that it is because Edinburgh has so

many defence facilities in and around it – although that is not so much the case these days."

So, will any visitors from beyond become even more interested in the Capital when the Parliament makes it a bona fide seat of power?

Mr Halliday laughs: "It's certainly one theory – people believe they are interested in power – and we shouldn't rule anything out."

● UFO Scotland is published by B&W on December 17, priced £7.99.

'Edinburgh may occupy the same space as another planet in another dimension'

several encounters and claims to have come into contact with the Greek God Zeus on more than one occasion.

John says of his experiences: "Let's say the person I have called Zeus is a god, or put it another way, he is a leader of a group of scientists/organisers who arrived on the scene when the world was forming...They obviously don't die like us and they have engineered the planet."

Mr Halliday said: "I have spoken to so many interesting people and reviewed the most amazing cases doing

CHRONICLE, Wolverhampton, England Jan. 22, 1999

Bid to solve UFO mystery

A WOMBOURNE man is still no closer to the truth after spotting a strange object in the sky last October which he believes may have been a UFO.

Dave Rose appealed for other witnesses to come forward and learned of several other sightings but so far he has still not found any answers.

Mr Rose was walking with his parents in Sandwell Valley on October 18 when he spotted what he at first thought was an advertising balloon.

He watched for around 20 minutes and said the craft was perfectly stationary and shortly after a triangular-shaped craft then appeared.

He said: "It was unbelievable to watch, if I had been alone I would have thought I'd imagined the whole thing but my parents saw it all too."

"To my mind it had to be a

UFO or a military aircraft and to be honest it would be even more amazing that they could have invented something like that," he continued.

"It was silent and yet had to be at least the size of a Vulcan bomber."

A member of UFO Research Midlands, Trevor Wyld, received several reports but is still interested to hear from anyone who saw anything that day.

Others did come forward to say they had spotted the craft and Trevor Wyld has been studying the case.

He is eager to hear from anyone who may have information on the sighting and will treat any accounts of the incident with the strictest confidence.

Trevor can be contacted on: 0958 312115 or you can write to him at UFO Research Midlands, PO Box 1052, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3ZF.

THE PEOPLE, London, England - Dec. 27, 1998

UNKNOWN FORCE WAS BEHIND CORN CIRCLES, CLAIMS HOAXER

By NICK BROWNLEE

THE man behind Britain's spectacular corn circles hoax has done a dramatic U-turn.

Doug Bower now claims an "unknown force" told him to create the elaborate patterns in fields of wheat.

And he has given new hope to UFO buffs who are convinced crop circles are the work of extra terrestrials.

Five years ago, Doug stunned the world when he revealed how he made the circles using only a plank and a length of rope.

But the 74-year-old Southampton artist now says: "I honestly believe I was programmed by some force to make these circles."

"At the time it was just a good laugh. We made monkeys out of the scientists. But now I'm convinced something out there was telling me to do it."

Doug's comments – in Country File Special: Crop Circles next Sunday on BBC1 – are sure to reopen the debate about the controversial and often beautiful patterns in cornfields which were once thought to be the landing marks of space ships.

During the 1980s, experts came up with a variety of explanations. They blamed static electricity, microwaves and a spinning plasma vortex.

Then Doug and his pal David Chorley revealed how they had dreamed up the crazy stunt in their local pub.

You're a little green, men

58 per cent
of males
believe
in aliens

BY MICHAEL HAMMON
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

FOX MULDER'S suspicion that the truth is out there is shared by the public, it seems.

More than half of us believe that alien intelligence exists - with more men than women showing their gullibility over little green visitors from far-off galaxies.

And nearly everyone thinks that if extra-terrestrials were visiting us our Government would do everything in its power to cover it up, according to a new survey.

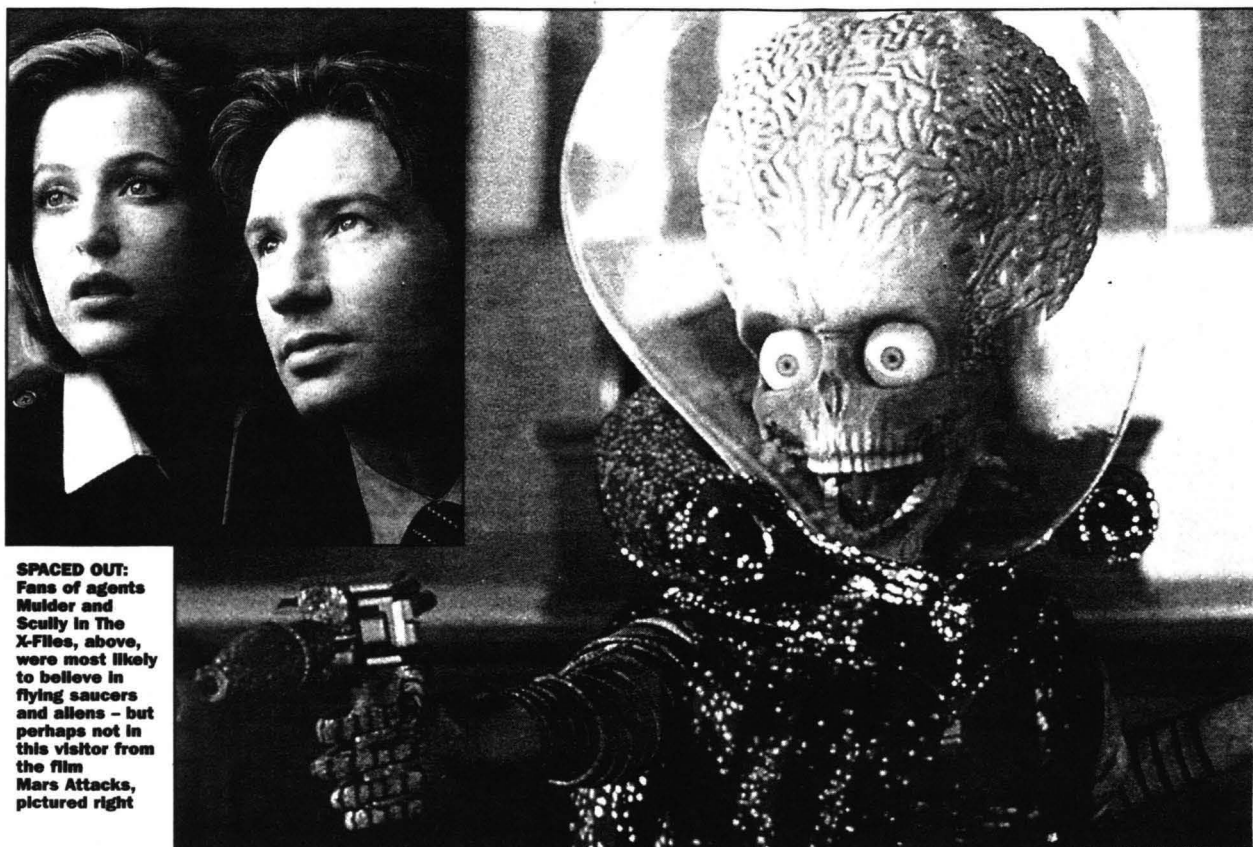
Unsurprisingly, sci-fi fans, particularly enthusiasts of the TV series *The X-Files*, are most likely to assume a conspiracy, with 86 per cent expecting the Government to lie.

"Even people who do not believe in UFOs believe the Government wouldn't tell the truth if they knew there was alien life," said Paul Simpson, editor of *Focus* magazine, which polled more than 1,000 people.

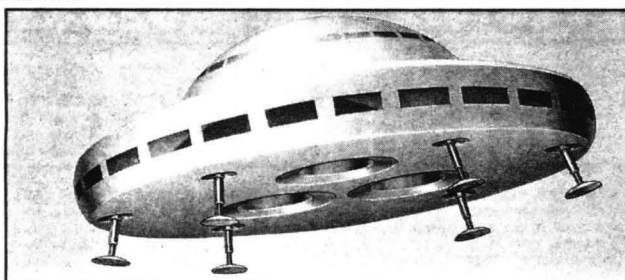
Overall, more than 50 per cent of the UK population believes there is intelligent life on other

worlds, while 14 per cent don't know. And while 58 per cent of men believe there is alien intelligence, the figure for women is just 43 per cent. "This was a finding we could not explain. Men tend to be slightly more cynical, so this is a bit contradictory," said Mr Simpson.

There were also marked differences in belief in aliens, by age, and geographically. The biggest believers in alien intelligence live in the South West, where more than two-thirds think that we are not alone, while Londoners are the most sceptical. Pensioners were the least likely to accept the idea of extra-terrestrials. "A lot of scientists are coming to the view that alien life is out there," said Mr Simpson. "Our poll shows that



SPACED OUT:
Fans of agents
Mulder and
Scully in *The
X-Files*, above,
were most likely
to believe in
flying saucers
and aliens - but
perhaps not in
this visitor from
the film
Mars Attacks,
pictured right



belief in alien life is no longer only the preserve of the lunatic fringe."

Britain's own Fox Mulder is Nick Pope, a Ministry of Defence civil servant who investigated UFO sightings from 1991 to 1994. He says that in about "90 to 95 per cent of cases" he could explain away the alleged UFO sighting. But a small number of

sightings "were really interesting, as far as I was concerned there was definitely an intelligence at work".

However, unlike agent Mulder, Mr Pope never had anyone trying to suppress his findings. "I never got anyone trying to shut me up. Never once did anyone have a quiet word with me to cover up a mysterious sighting.

Never once did a witness say that mysterious men in black had turned up at their house after a sighting. There's a lot of paranoia out there.

"Of course, I have been accused of being part of the conspiracy myself, but you just can't win with these people."

Most scientists accept that alien life is almost a certainty, but point out that sending crewed spacecraft across interstellar space is so difficult, time-consuming and expensive that it is much more likely that aliens will choose to communicate with us using radio signals.

Meanwhile, American computer tycoon Joe Firmage has abandoned his £1.2 billion business to search for UFOs.

He believes that recent advances in technology, from silicon chips, fibre optics and lasers can be traced back to alien hardware recovered from a spacecraft which allegedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

STANDARD, Ellesmere Port,
England - Nov. 12, 1998

CLUB NEWS

Supernatural Encounters Association

THE group travelled to Malpas recently after being contacted by a woman who claimed to have seen a UFO on her property on 31st October.

The woman recalled how her younger daughter returned from their stables at the front of the house to be confronted by a craft hovering above the trees.

Both mother and daughter witnessed the object which they describe as flat and approximately 80ft in diameter. It moved across the field at high speed, waking the woman's eldest daughter.

All three watched the craft return to its previous

position over the trees where it remained motionless. The lights fused into one, the ship travelled across the field three or four times before disappearing out of view. A shocking experience for all three.

After interviewing each family member SEA members decided to conduct a skywatch on Saturday night. Nothing was seen, probably due to the deteriorating conditions, but a return visit is planned soon.

The group would like to hear from anyone who has had any recent UFO experiences.

Solway becoming UFO hotbed

by Bryan Armstrong

THE SOLWAY area is fast becoming one of the nation's UFO hotspots.

According to Mark Toner, president of Dumfries Astronomy Society, the number of reports in around Dumfriesshire has increased in recent weeks.

He says that while the majority are due to natural phenomenon some remain harder to explain.

Mark revealed that one of the most unusual he had received was of a stationary light in the sky in the Dumfries area, which appeared to have a separate flashing beacon underneath.

He said: "My initial thought was that it may have been a weather balloon but I have so far been unable to confirm that explanation".

However, the Dumfries and Galloway College lecturer believes he does know what is behind a series of reports of red, green and blue flashing lights spotted by a number of people in a south easterly direction.

He said: "Most have been spotted close to the horizon around mid-evening. We've studied most of the descriptions and are fairly sure it is the star Sirius, which is very bright at present".

The road between Lockerbie and Ecclefechan has also proved a regular location for sightings, confirmed Mark.

In one of the most recent, a care worker travelling south along the route around 7.45 am on Mon-

day 16th November, spotted two cigar shaped objects in the sky in the direction of the Solway.

The woman, in her 30s, told Dumfriesshire Newspapers: "The objects were identical and a short distance from each other. They were stationary and giving out an intense white light."

"I watched them for about 10 minutes and then they vanished in an instant. I've heard of other people who have made similar sightings but are reluctant to say too much in case people laugh at them".

Mark said it was perhaps significant that the sighting was shortly before a large meteor shower was visible from parts of the earth.

Explanation

He said: "It is difficult to come up with a definite explanation. As it was around dawn there is also a chance it may have been the sun reflecting off a condensational trail. That can create some strange optical effects".

Meanwhile, around 10.15 on Saturday night, "a glowing ball of light" was spotted travelling low in the sky in a north easterly direction over Cummertrees, near Annan.

That, suggests Mark, may have been the remnants of meteor.

He added: "It is possible that if it reached the ground some fragments of nickel or iron ore may be found to allow the spot to be identified."

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST,
Swansea, Wales - Jan. 23, 1999

Thanks on UFO

SIR, — I really feel I should congratulate the Post on its comprehensive and accurate reporting of the mass UFO sighting on Thursday, October 8 1998.

The paper was kind enough to publish my telephone number for witnesses to the event to contact me — for this and to the people who phoned me I am grateful.

The incident, as many will recall, involved the mass sighting of a large, pencil-shaped object over Swansea Bay and the military helicopters that were seen to pursue it.

The event remains inexplicable as does the precise motives of the helicopter pilots.

However, the MoD has confirmed these aircraft came from RAF Chivenor and RAF Valley.

They have not seen fit to comment on the third helicopter, which did not land at Swansea Airport as the other two, did.

These claims are somewhat spurious when considering that RAF Chivenor did deny having released any helicopters on that date.

There is great interest in this subject in South Wales which itself has long been a hot spot for UFO activity.

It is for this reason that I am currently writing a book which will deal with the history of the phenomenon in Wales in which the above sighting will be documented.

There are many people I suspect who have seen things and who do not know whom to contact.

As the city's UFO researcher, I invite anyone who believes they have seen a UFO to write and tell me of their experience.

Neil Spring

UFO Researcher
Northway Court
Bishopston
Swansea



CHRONICLE, Centralia, WA - Feb. 16, 1999

An absorbing solution to goo question?



A piece of water-saturated cross-linked polyacrylamide copolymer is shown next to its dry counterpart. When water is added, the pieces expand greatly over time, absorbing up to 400 times their weight.

Gary J. Cichowski / The Chronicle



Toni L. Bailey / The Chronicle

Dr. James Lee removes a piece of cross-linked polyacrylamide copolymer from the potting soil in one of the plants at his Chehalis home. Lee, a Chehalis dentist, and a business partner purchased the goo, and sold it in cold packs and potting soil for years.

Chehalis dentist says mystery goo is earthly, super-absorbent polymer

By John Henderer
The Chronicle

Dr. James Lee doesn't swallow outlandish theories about "goo" sightings reported in Lewis County.

Like a Lewis County official who deduced the goo has down-to-earth roots, Lee believes goo originates in a laboratory, not in an alien spaceship or aboard a top-secret military aircraft.

Lee ought to know.

For years, the Chehalis dentist and a business partner purchased goo, and sold it in cold packs and potting soil. He knows goo by its scientific name, cross-linked polyacrylamide copolymer.

"We sold tons and tons of it," Lee said. "A teaspoon of this stuff is ... amazing. It's quite a universal product."

Recent goo sightings in back yards and car windshields followed a 1994 case in which an Oakville woman reported blobs of clear "gelatin-like" goo fell from the sky, blanketing her lawn.

"I touched it and thought, 'Eeew, gross!' and wiped my finger off and went about my day. I got pregnant not long after that."

Shari Haynes,
Goo on car, porch

She claimed it sickened her, requiring an ambulance trip to the hospital.

The incident launched Dottie Hearn into international fame, accompanied by televised appearances on "Unsolved Mysteries" and "Mysterious Universe."

Last month, Chris Cooper, Lewis County environmental health specialist, identified several mysterious goo discoveries as the absorbent material in disposable diapers.

Soon after, Morton resident Shari

Haynes reported she, too, had found some goo.

Haynes said the mysterious substance was springy, different from diaper goo. It showed up last summer on her car windshield and back porch.

"I touched it and thought, 'Eeew, gross!' and wiped my finger off and went about my day," Haynes said. "I got pregnant not long after that."

Reports of goo sightings have tapered off recently, Cooper said.

Through his now-defunct Water Saver business, Lee purchased the water-absorbent polymer from a manufacturer in Suffolk, England.

He no longer sells the product, but he and his partner retain the rights to sell a machine that bags goo for Thera-Pak cold packs used in the health industry. This is the secret to the business, he said.

Lee's company bought dry polyacrylamide pieces from the manufacturer in bulk.

They look like pieces of dry tapioca. When water is added, the pieces expand greatly over time, absorbing up to 400 times their weight.

A friend working as a flight instructor joined Lee in a goo marketing venture, selling cold packs to fish packers in Alaska. Airlines preferred cold packs to dry ice, which emits carbon dioxide.

The partners hired an engineering firm to design a packaging machine to bag, moisten and seal the polyacrylamide cold packs. They soon had operations in Hawaii, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland.

"Our biggest market was in Alaska," Lee said. "It's quick and it's easy, and you can turn a buck in your garage."

His children worked their way through college with the business, he said. At its height, the business had four employees.

One of Lee's early customers was Jerry Kaija, who owns Kaija's nursery store in Chehalis. Kaija now buys Soil Moist from JRM Chemical Co., Cleveland.

"We sell a few jars of it each year," Kaija said.

The product retails for \$2.99 for a 3-ounce jar and \$11.99 for a pound.

JRM Chemical manufactures a hard form of the goo, selling hundreds of tons of it a year, said spokesman Scott Wiesler.

"We don't disclose (volume), but it's a lot," Wiesler said.

Goodfellow Corp. in Berwyn, Pa., also sells polyacrylamide copolymer as Hydrogel in bulk, charging \$123 for 100 grams delivered, said Herb Nass, sales coordinator.

Other brand names for the material include Horta-Sorb and Stockosorb, depending on the manufacturer.

European manufacturers produce most of the goo used in disposable diapers, sources said.

Goo appears well on its way to establishing a presence on farms as well. Known as PAM to the agricultural industry, polyacrylamide copolymers won approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use on farms, according to a 1997 story by the Agricultural Research Service.

Tests have shown goo can cut irrigation needs in half, and can "anchor" up to 1,000 pounds of topsoil against erosion.

The material is nontoxic and biodegradable, decomposing in three to five years into water, carbon dioxide and ammonia, Wiesler said.

Lee mixed the polymers in potting soil used for rhododendrons and shrubbery around his rural Chehalis home.

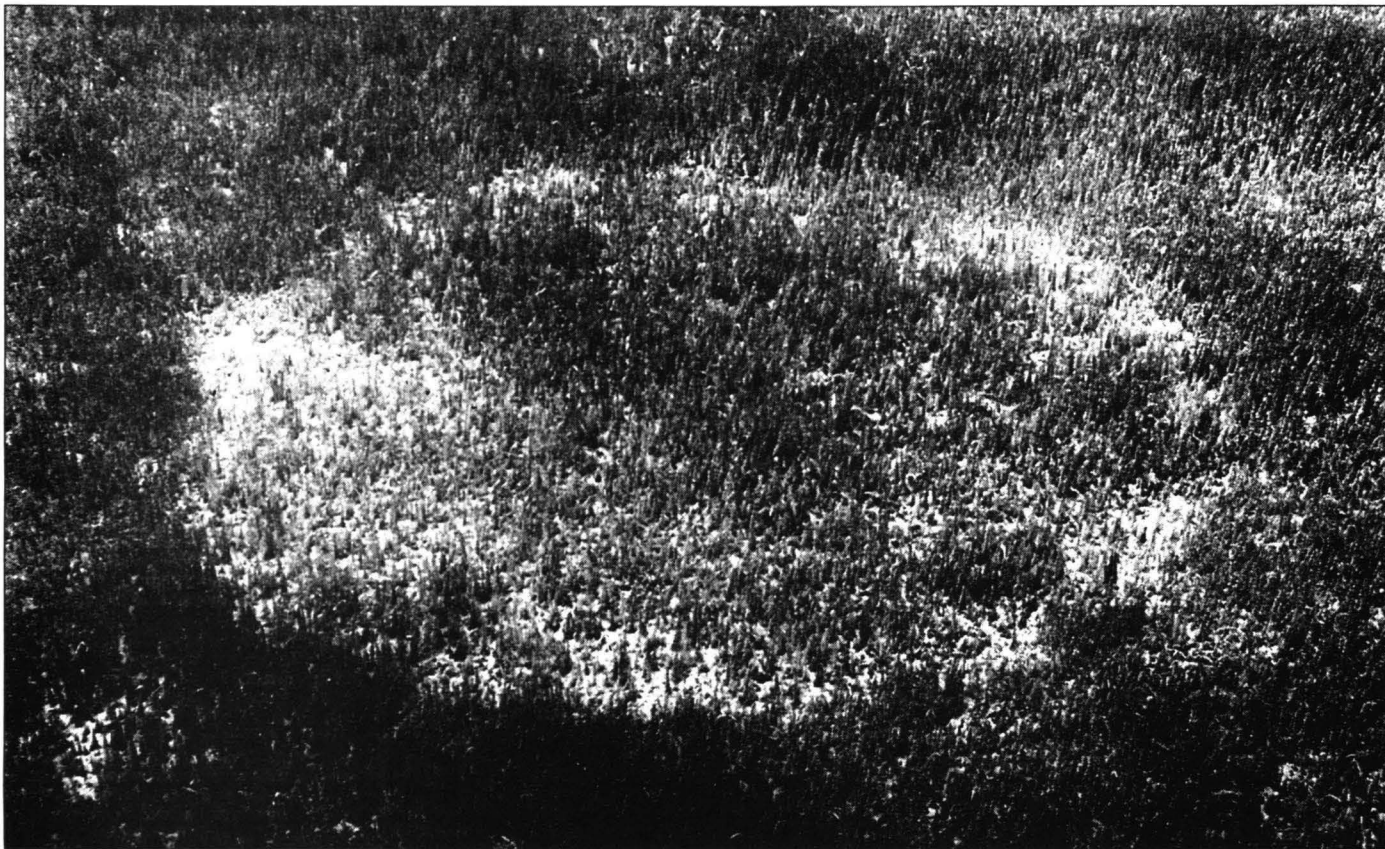
"It's in the plants here in the house. It's in the plants outside; it's under the shrubs," Lee said, pointing to a rhododendron under a large Douglas fir. "Look at how lush that plant is. Ordinarily, it would be starving because it's a top feeder."

Lee cast doubt on Haynes' suggestion that a connection may exist between touching the goo and becoming pregnant.

He said he and his wife had five children. Then, they bought a color television set, and the births ended.

John Henderer covers county government and environmental issues for The Chronicle. He can be reached by e-mail at jhenderer@chronline.com or by calling 807-8239.

GEOLOGY



COURTESY OF JEAN VEILLETTE

An isolated forest ring viewed from a helicopter. Several theories have tried to explain such rings, from UFOs to fungus attacks to electrochemical processes in the earth.

A geochemist from Sudbury today unveils the latest theory to explain the formation of giant rings in the forests of northern Ontario and Quebec

Stranger than science fiction

BY ELIZABETH SHILTS

From the ground, the backcountry of northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec seems like typical boreal forest: endless, dense stands of black spruce, tamarack, and pine, anchored in moist, peaty ground. But flying over the region on a clear day reveals a different terrain, marked with thousands of perfectly round rings, reminiscent of the bizarre crop circles that have confounded people for years.

Theories of how the rings were formed have emerged from every scientific — and not-so-scientific — corner. Ufologists claim an extraterrestrial influence; astronomers suggest meteor showers; prospectors hope they signal diamond-bearing kimberlites (rare igneous, blue-tinged rocks); and others have contemplated unusual wind action or ancient permafrost features. "A colleague once jokingly suggested they were from moose tied up to a peg," says Jean Veillette, a geomorphologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, who has been studying the rings for more than 10 years.

Stewart Hamilton, a geochemist with the Ontario Geological Survey in Sudbury, is about to unveil a theory which, at first, seems as outlandish as UFOs. Today at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's annual convention, he will show how the circles could be giant, natural batteries.

The battery hypothesis replaces a biological explanation, which Dr. Veillette will disprove at the same convention.

Dr. Veillette became intrigued by the rings in the early 1980s, when he noticed them on aerial photos he was using for a mapping project in Quebec's Abitibi region. The light colour of the rings results from sparse vegetation growth, which contrasts with the dense tree cover inside and outside the ring. Most of the rings measure less than 300 metres across, but the largest is two kilometres wide.

"I recorded them as I went along," he says, "and noticed there were more rings as I moved north." Since then, he has looked at 38,000 air photos and

recorded more than 2,000 of the rings, which seem to be concentrated in a band that stretches from north of Lake Nipigon in Ontario to Matagami, Que. There is also an isolated cluster on Anticosti Island at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

Dr. Veillette consulted Jack Mollard, an aerial photography expert who was one of the first geologists to study the rings in the 1960s. Dr. Mollard suggested they were formed by a fungus that spread out radially, similar to the way the fairy-ring fungi leaves bleached rings on manicured lawns. He believed the fungus formed a killing front, strangling and weakening tree roots as it spread. If the theory were right, trees should increase in age toward the centre of the circle because they would have the most time to regenerate after the fungal infection.

Myron Smith, a plant geneticist at Carleton University in Ottawa, also supported the biological view. He had previously identified a fungus in Michigan, *Amillaria bulbosa*, that spread across 15 hectares of hardwood forest, weighed more than 10,000 kilograms, and had been stable for more than 1,500 years. He claimed it was among the largest and oldest living organisms.

"The images [of the rings] looked consistent with the focus of infection,"

says Dr. Smith. The fact that rings occurred in various sizes and some rings stopped abruptly at rivers or streams also made a case for the fungus theory.

But when Dr. Smith analyzed tissue samples from the trees, he found no sign of the *A. bulbosa* fungus.

A more definitive shot to the biological theory came with a detailed botanical study conducted over the past two years, which was initiated by Dr. Veillette and Dr. Yves Bergeron, director of forest ecology at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Under their direction, Jean-François Giroux, a master's student, found that trees did not increase in age toward the centre of the circle as expected in Dr. Mollard's theory.

Mr. Giroux discovered another important feature: The soil underlying the ring sits one to two metres lower than the surrounding soil. In most cases, the depressions are filled with a thick mat of peat that is poorly drained and allows only trees such as tamaracks to grow. "Instead of a killing front, [the decreased growth in the rings] is strictly a moisture condition," says Dr. Veillette. "In all fairness, we still do not know that it isn't biological, but we have created doubt about the vegetation theory."

He once again began searching for a common geological thread among the rings. He discovered that, while they

do not all sit on the same bedrock, the main concentration of rings occurs in a band of carbonate-rich soil which spreads from Manitoba to northwestern Quebec. Those on Anticosti Island also lie on an isolated deposit of carbonate-rich bedrock and soil.

The soil type, along with the discovery of the rings' soil depressions "are very exciting," says Mr. Hamilton.

After five years of research, he released a paper last spring detailing a new model for finding mineral deposits buried deep beneath thick clays or soils. The model, based on electrochemical processes in the earth, suggests that a mineral deposit can act as a "natural battery in the ground that is slowly and continually discharging."

He has extended his theory to include the rings. He believes each ring could be acting as an individual battery, with a mineral such as iron acting as the negative charge at the circle's centre. As the negatively charged iron comes into contact with the positively charged carbonate soils on the circle's edge, it rusts, or oxidizes, leaving acidic conditions that eat away at the soil, forming a depressed ring. What is happening in the ring is "analogous to adding vinegar to baking soda," says Mr. Hamilton. "Acid is produced at the edges and dissolves away soil and the ground surface drops."

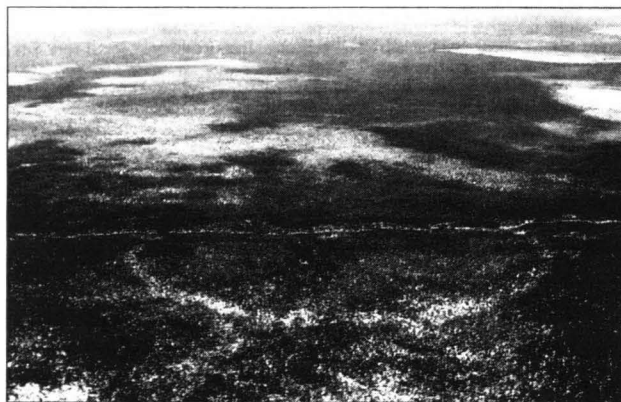
He cautions that the negative charge could also be produced by methane gas or upwellings of ground water.

Dr. Veillette says Mr. Hamilton's theory certainly seems plausible. "We don't yet know what they are, but we know what they are not. We are getting closer to refining a model of what it all means."

Meanwhile, prospectors are chasing their own theory of what lies hidden beneath the mysterious rings.

Since last spring, Bob Kamarechka and three others from Sudbury have been staking mineral claims in the area and have recently formed Diamtre Explorations Inc., hoping to strike it rich by finding minerals below the ring surface. They began to stake after noticing that the rings were similar in size to diamond-bearing kimberlite pipes.

National Post



COURTESY OF JEAN VEILLETTE

A ring 500 metres in diameter in the Matagami area of Quebec.

Investigators closer to mutilation answers

By Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

The National Institute of **Discovery** Science (NIDS), the top agency for cattle mutilation investigations in the Southwest, appears to be one step closer to solving the puzzle of strange animal deaths.

After 22 years of investigation by various private parties and public agencies, NIDS has published a 20-page detailed scientific report on a cow that died last fall in Utah, concluding, for the first time, that the cow did not die a natural death.

In the past two years NIDS has investigated seven strange animal deaths in New Mexico, with six of those in Taos County.

District Attorney John Paternoster, who helped set up the team of forensic experts, said, "I think the comprehensiveness of the investigation and the report confirms the leadership of NIDS in the field of suspicious cattle death investigations. I'm pleased and encouraged by this report because of its content and context which clearly shows we're making progress in our efforts to solve this latter-day mystery."

The Utah cow, a 3-year-old registered

Hereford, died Oct. 16, 1998, and was seen the day before its death alive and in good health. There were no signs of struggle, no blood on the ground and no tracks in the waterlogged grass around the animal. Part of the left ear was missing. The left eye and two to three centimeters of the upper eyelid had been removed in a clean circle by a sharp instrument, not by predators or scavengers.

This was confirmed by a veterinary pathologist from Purdue State University in Indiana and a NIDS staff veterinarian using a dissect-

ing microscope equipped with a digital camera, which showed that the hair had been evenly cut. There was no evidence of the use of high heat, as there has been in past cases. The necropsy was followed by a full toxicological, histological and chemical analysis of samples at nationally accredited laboratories.

An unusual blue, gel-like substance was discovered on the left eye, the ear and the anus. Four different chemical tests revealed the presence of formaldehyde, which is not usually found naturally in the environment.

Normally, the heart is a tough muscle, but when the investigator inserted a needle into the organ to extract blood samples, the heart fell apart with a consistency similar to pudding but there was no blood in the pericardial sac. Under a microscope, multiple yellowish-white "structures" were found in the heart tissue. Further tests are under way.

Blood samples taken from an artery and from the abdominal cavity of the cow revealed unusual ratios of phosphorous,

sodium and potassium chloride. According to the report, "This discrepancy leads to the possibility that potassium chloride may have been used to kill the animal" (potassium chloride is also used in lethal injections to kill humans).

The report notes that this chemical is relatively easy to obtain, extremely difficult to detect in post-mortem samples and if injected into a vein kills the animal in seconds.

"The totality of the evidence ... suggests that this animal did not die a natural death," the report concludes.

The toxicology also showed that liver copper was extremely low. Random samples from other animals that were grazing in the same pasture did not show low copper. According to investigating officer and former state policeman Gabe Valdez, several cases in New Mexico have also revealed low copper. No one understands the significance of this.

One of the strangest facts of the case is that two different blood tests revealed the animal was pregnant, but its uterus was empty.

"The fetus would have been about the size of a softball," Valdez said. The uterus was enlarged and the veterinarian speculated that the animal might have aborted, but found no traces of blood or bodily fluids on the rear of the cow, and no fetus on the ground. "Another possibility is that the fetus was removed by unknown means at, or close, to the time of death," the report states.

A small hole was visible in the hide near the chest, yet there was no wound in the flesh beneath the hole. Tell-tale hemorrhaging of muscles under the hide, a typical characteristic of recent mutilations, was noted around the neck.

"The animal mutilation field has been plagued by a severe lack of reproducible results," the report confirms. On their Web site, <http://www.accessnv.com/nids/page4.shtml>, they offer guidelines for performing a full necropsy.

To request an investigation of a mysteriously dead animal, Valdez urged ranchers to notify him as soon as possible at home in Albuquerque: 505-275-5943; pager: 857-1717, and to please keep clear of the area and not blot out possible clues.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Nov. 9, 1998 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Science

TELEPORT REPORT

Scotty may not be able to beam us up just yet, but California Institute of Technology researchers say they've completed the first "full" teleportation experiment. They said they had teleported a beam of light across a laboratory bench. They did not physically transport the beam itself, but transmitted its properties to another beam, creating a replica of the first beam. One of the researchers says the experiment shows quantum teleportation eventually can transform everyday life.

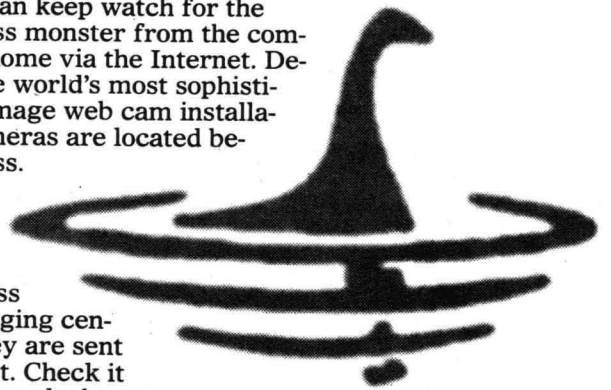
— The Philadelphia Inquirer

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Feb. 28, 1999 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Web crawling

CALL IT THE 'INTERWET'

Now you can keep watch for the Loch Ness monster from the comfort of your home via the Internet. Described as the world's most sophisticated multi-image web cam installation, four cameras are located beside Loch Ness. Their pictures are combined and send via digital wireless link to an imaging center, where they are sent to the Internet. Check it out at <http://www.lochness.co.uk/livecam>.



— Newsbytes

Arkansas' ghost tales make for spirited storytelling

Legends include strange lights, Confederate sightings and a burning bride

BY MARCIA SCHNEDLER
SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Halloween is the season for frightening tales of ghosts in graveyards, strange apparitions, mysterious lights, vanishing hitchhikers and spirit animals. They're all over Arkansas.

Haunted houses will be open to visitors in Van Buren, Hardy and Hot Springs. You can take a haunted hayride at Devil's Den State Park. Fort Smith puts on a Symphonic Screammers Halloween Concert, while there's a bonfire and owl prowls at Lake Ouachita State Park as well as plenty of other eerie events staged throughout the state Saturday.

Or you and family and friends can pull up a log around a campfire — or pillows around the fireplace — and scare yourselves silly with ghost stories.

Don't know any? Then get a copy of *Ozark Ghost Stories* by Richard and Judy Dockrey Young (August House, \$12.95). The Youngs grew up in the Arkansas and Missouri Ozarks on a diet rich in traditional tales. Now they are storytellers at Silver Dollar City in Branson. They live atop a ridge occasionally frequented by "Old Raw Head," a grisly creature described in one of their stories.

But if you've seen any ghosts lately, don't call the Youngs — unless your apparition is the subject of a legend or joke.

"We collect stories," Judy says. "We don't investigate the paranormal."

Storytelling was one of the main forms of entertainment in the Ozarks and elsewhere during pre-electronic days. So folk tales come in various versions depending on who told them. In their book, the Youngs have distilled the scary stories into the most typical way they've heard each one told, in a rendition that works for them.

The Youngs graciously gave permission for the Arkansas Explorer to share condensed versions of a number of their spine-tingling tales. The complete thrilling and chilling details are in their book. If you can't find a copy, feel free to invent some ghosts of your own.

WAR STORIES

Numerous spooky stories in the Youngs' collection emanated from the Civil War. In many parts of Arkansas, bushwhacking was all too common. In an old log house in Newton County, some folks have heard a baby crying in the back room. While many babies died as infants in the mid-19th century, the Youngs write, "Sometimes a feud or renegade attack in the Civil War might kill all the members of a family except a baby sleeping in the back room." That, they say, has most often been suggested as the cause for the crying.

When the Yankees were coming through eastern Arkansas during the Civil War, a young woman, her baby and two older boys fled west and hid in a cave, the Youngs write. Later on, after the Yankees had gone, neighbors found the two boys in the woods, surviving on berries. But the mother and baby had starved to death in the underground chamber. They claim the baby's ghost still cries in the cave.

In the Civil War-era town of Bobo near Old Carrollton in Carroll County, a two-story house served as a Confederate hospital after the battle at Elkhorn Tavern. People around there say they see wounded Confederates still walking at night every 10 years or so. They're the ones who refuse to believe they died, the Youngs write.

Near Denver in Boone County, the face of a bearded, ragged Confederate soldier peered out the window of a Civil War-era church at a young couple parked by the cemetery, another story says. The young man lit a Coleman lantern and went into the church, but saw nothing. Back in the car, his girlfriend told him that the face vanished when he was inside. But then they both spotted it again — grinning.

Long ago, two men went to a dance in Newton County and got falling-down drunk. About halfway home, they took a shortcut through a graveyard, where one of them sat on a tombstone to get his bearings. Somebody started poking him on the shoulder. It was a skeleton, complaining that it couldn't get back into its tomb because the young man was in its way.

SCOUTS' HONOR

Another of the Youngs' favorite stories

took place years ago at a Boy Scout camp along the Buffalo River. Some of the boys started splashing each other. It turned into a fight. They threw mud, then rocks. A Scoutmaster came along and was accidentally struck in the side of the head by a large rock. He fell hard, face down, in the river.

The scared boys ran for help, but when they returned, the Scoutmaster had disappeared. Next spring, Scouts saw shadowy shapes at night and a figure on the bluffs across the river. A Scout hiking alone fell from one ledge to a lower one, breaking an ankle and knocking himself out. He awoke in a cliff shelter with smoky walls higher up than the ledge. His ankle was bound with an Ace bandage. He hobbled back to camp, where all the boys believed he'd been saved by the missing Scoutmaster.

Another of the Youngs' tales describes a strange creature — half man, half fish — lurking in a deep depression in the Buffalo River bottom near the mouth of Hemmed-In Hollow. Or is it a giant catfish?

Fayetteville is occasionally haunted by the ghost of a burning bride. Up on East Mountain, an engaged couple moved into a log house just after the Civil War. On their wedding night, the bride leaned over to stoke the fire and her lace wedding dress burst into flames. She screamed as she ran outside and into the underbrush, which also caught fire and killed her. Now and then, people say they can still hear her cries and see the distant glow of her burning dress.

For years, a criminal had hidden out below a hill along War Eagle Creek. He was captured and placed in an asylum, where he told about an albino man with red eyes and long white hair he had seen in the valley. A few people who lived around there thought they'd seen the albino, too. But the creature hasn't been spotted since the 1970s.

Another of the Youngs' stories takes place in a farmhouse at Hughes in St. Francis County that is haunted by a beautiful young ghost in a long white dress. One day, the farmer came in from the fields and thought he heard his wife rocking in her chair upstairs — until she came through the door. The couple ran upstairs and found the chair still rocking. The Youngs tell stories about strange, wavering lights appearing at night. One such ghostly light sometimes flickers atop Petit Jean Mountain around the supposed grave of Petit Jean, a tiny French woman who disguised herself as a cabin boy and followed her true love to the New World, where she died in his arms.

Legends also tell of a ghost light along a rail bed near Crossett. On a hot night in the early 1900s, a train stopped and a brakeman jumped down to inspect a coupling. He leaned between the cars, trying to fix something when the locomotive lurched. It caused the cars to bump together, beheading him. People still see his lantern. Perhaps he's still searching for his missing head.

At Harding University in Searcy, a ghostly piano player practices at night on the third floor of the music building. They say it's the ghost of a music student who died of a broken heart after her true

love died in an automobile accident, write the Youngs. The problem is that since then, the old music building has been torn down. But you can still hear her playing.

NO LEGEND REQUIRED

Arkansas boasts ghosts that do not come with legends attached. There's another unexplained light over the train tracks at Gurdon, although it's said that it might be the specter of a section foreman murdered in 1931.

Ghosts have been reported in Little Rock's Quapaw Quarter, Pulaski Heights, Lorraine Creek in southwest Little Rock, and even the Empress of Little Rock excursion boat. They've been sighted in Tuckerman, at the Saline County Public Library in Benton and along the train tracks near Piggott. Van Buren's King Opera House and Eureka Springs' Crescent Hotel may be haunted, too.

Even the Old State House has a spirit. During a debate over increasing the bounty on wolves in 1837 — the first session in the new Capitol — Rep. J.J. Anthony slung an insult at Arkansas House Speaker John Wilson. Wilson pulled out his Bowie knife and attacked. During the ensuing melee, Wilson killed Anthony on the spot.

"It's not the first time he has insulted me," Wilson said. He was later acquitted of murder. They say his ghost still lurks in the Old State House, though, so watch your tongue.

A possible ghost has been photographed in Camden's McCollum-Chidester house, where bullet scars from the Civil War remain visible. The portrait of Peter McCollum, who built the house in 1847, hangs in its foyer.

John T. Chidester, who operated the country's second largest stagecoach line in the 1850s, bought the house from Peter McCollum, who built it in 1847. During the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Sterling Price, then Union Gen. Frederick Steele used the house as headquarters.

The Chidester family owned the home for three generations, until the 1960s when they sold it with all its furnishings — and even the family Bible and diaries — to the Ouachita County Historical Society for its museum.

The family never mentioned a ghost. But a dozen or more years ago, photographer Elmer Lee took some interior shots, developed his film and made prints. He was shocked at what he saw in one of them.

The lower half of a dresser mirror, below a reflection from his flashbulb, showed a man dressed in a gray frock coat, pants and knee-high boots, holding a saber in his right hand. It certainly wasn't Lee's reflection. And nobody in Confederate or other garb was there that morning.

Who or what was reflected in that mirror?

Some of the latest uncanny appearances have been at the Magnolia Hill bed and breakfast in Helena. Jane and James Insko, who own it, do not reveal to visitors what previous guests have heard or seen. But the Inskos reassure everyone that their ghost is benevolent, and has a good sense of timing about when to make its presence known to skeptics.



McCollum-Chidester house/ELMER LEE

Camden's McCollum-Chidester house is home to one of Arkansas' Civil War ghosts. A figure dressed in a Civil War uniform has allegedly been seen in the lower part of the mirror atop this bureau.