

# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

May 1999  
Number 358

COUNTRY ROAD CHRONICLES, Milford, PA - March 1999

## COUNTRY ROAD NEW WORLD



### New Worlds: All That Is, UFO's & You, Too! Conversations with "Homo Noeticus" — Praying Mantises, Reptilians, & Tall Blondes

by **SUNNY S. WOLF**

**T**HIS 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.

And so we move forward, bringing you more research and documented cases of contacts with others. It is believed a new emerging species, "Homo Noeticus" has been accelerating in the last few centuries. The final phase of Homo sapiens and the simultaneous emergence of Homo noeticus, a more advanced form of humanity is emerging. They are here now increasing in numbers and creating their own niche.

It would be a smart thing to consult with these individuals, these "new humans," to find out what they can tell us about the nature of the universe in general and of the purpose of the "alien" presence in particular. For if they are the forerunners of a new species of mankind, they are in possession of knowledge regarding the nature of the human experience and our relationship to those entities.

This issue will try to shed some light on some of the beings mentioned, but whose purpose or role is still unclear: the Praying Mantises, the Reptilians and the Tall Blondes.

#### THE PRAYING MANTISES

Among the varieties of beings commonly described by abductees are those whose appearance places them squarely in the category of insectoid. These creatures are often said by abductees to look just like a giant praying mantis, with huge, black eyes, a sharp, pointy chin and a thin, skeletal body, although other varieties have been reported as well. These beings are more often than not reported to be lingering quietly in the background, observing the procedures being performed by the Greys or other types. The Mantis type is also reported to participate in the "staring" procedure which has been described by various researchers.

This procedure involves a being placing its face "nose to nose" with the abductee and

engaging in prolonged staring directly into the human's eyes. The effect, as described by those who have experienced it, is totally shattering to the human ego. Abductees often comment that it is as if "my mind and my soul were completely swallowed up by those eyes." In some cases, the abductee feels that information is also transmitted into his or her brain during the procedure. Whatever its true purpose, it is another example of the strange behavior and the paranormal quality found in most abduction cases.

The appearance of advanced, intelligent, insectoid creatures is not something that anyone in the UFO community would want to ignore. In fact, it is probably safe to say that no member of the human race would be too thrilled to learn that there was a race of insects superior to the human race. For this reason, the existence of the Mantis people, like that of the Reptilians, was not generally publicized until recent years. There is also the feeling that they are an extremely old species, endowed with wisdom gained over thousands, maybe even millions of years.

One person who has well researched this subject and has had direct contact with the Mantis people will tell her story here. She has had experiences all through her life — rare flashes of clairvoyance, finding "ghosts" in her bedroom, dreams of past lives, and speaking telepathically with a group of beings she thought were her spiritual guides.

Eventually she developed a relationship with one particular Mantis being. "Man is a relative newcomer to the evolutionary chain," he told her. "The theory of evolution is valid, but life on Earth did not evolve naturally. On Earth, certain mutations were created (by the ET's), and life forms, suitable for survival within those conditions were introduced. This process was repeated until the introduction of man. . . If life on Earth had developed naturally, man as we know him, would not yet exist."

Our researcher, Rebecca, was amused considering the number of arrogant individuals wandering the earth, it was hilarious to think that the entire human race had been created by a bunch of bugs. (At this time, Rebecca had been under the impression that the visitors were all from the praying mantis species. They corrected her by saying "All

life is created by God.' We merely took existing life material and made genetic alterations."

Throughout the years, Rebecca has learned, as many others have as well, that Earth isn't visited by one alien species, or even by several. She has seen 23 different types of aliens and there are many more. Two of them appeared to have sprung from reptilian beginnings while another is human-like and Nordic in appearance. There are some who live in a parallel world and that there were windows between their world and ours. Others came from our universe, and one of the groups identified the star Sirius (in the Pleiades) as being their star/. Another group comes from a different spiritual plane than we do. This group has a physical body, but their bodies are far less dense than ours. They are almost pure spirit and are the most spiritual beings she has met.

"All of these beings who are now visiting Earth have reached a point in their development, either technological and/or spiritual, where they are able to interact with intelligent life forms from other worlds. and they are working together, perhaps not on the same specific project, but for the overall same purpose: to help the human race."

Rebecca has learned from Mu, the mantis being, that the ET's are here because the human race is in danger of extinction. "Our visitors told me that they came here because of the ecological damage we were doing to the Earth, both to our ozone layer and to our oceans. In 1994 they told me we had, at that time, already upset the Earth's ecological balance to the point where it would no longer support human life, but they added it would be twenty years before we suffered the full extent of that damage. . . Therefore, the human race is essentially, if not actually, extinct."

She has learned that the ET's have the technology to save the human race and that it is their inclination to help us because they view us as a part of them. "The potential loss of any intelligent race is a loss to the entire group and cannot be ignored." However, if the ET's were to repair the Earth without making any changes in our behavior, we would simply undo all the good they had done. We might survive long enough to

find an even grander way to destroy ourselves, one that could harm other worlds other than our own. Saving the human race might be condemning themselves to a violent confrontation in the future.

So, it is humankind's violent and self-serving nature, as well as seeing himself as separate and superior to other life forms that will cause his ultimate doom unless the ET's can find a compromise solution. According to Mu, by using human DNA and combining it with the DNA of various other ET species, they have ensured that if they do nothing else for us, something of the human race will continue. Each species has a finite life span, just like humans and solar systems. They evolve, rise to a zenith, then decline losing the ability to reproduce and finally become extinct. Some of the species in the hybridization program are very old species, and if they are to survive, they must have an influx of cells and life material from a younger species. They are cross-breeding with the human race to save themselves from extinction.

And so as not to become extinct, another part of their plan is to attempt to change us in more subtle ways by means of genetic manipulation and by attempting to reawaken our spiritual values and beliefs.

Other groups are attempting to introduce the capacity of three-dimensional thought into the human brain. This type of thought involves the psychic senses. It is with three dimensional thought that we become aware of our true nature which is spiritual, not physical. Their hope is that, in making us more aware of ourselves, our true

selves, they will move our focus away from material satisfaction and toward spiritual achievement.

When Rebecca asked Mu if there would be a new race of humans with heightened psychic abilities, Mu responded: "You (meaning the abductees) aren't the forerunners of a new race. You are the new race."

Rebecca's research and teachings go far beyond the who and the how of the alien presence. They also delve into the spiritual and philosophical beliefs of the beings. When challenged on the issue of human rights being violated when people are abducted, the beings taught Rebecca that there are higher, spiritual laws that take precedence over the principles we understand. "Free will (as we know it)," they told her, "simply does not exist. It is the duty of all life, first and foremost, to serve the common good. . . Where individual rights conflict with the demands of species survival and enhancement, species needs must take precedence. Any species that does not come to this conclusion at some point within its evolution simply does not survive."

The problem then with humans is that we think too small. Mu explained that humankind has used its mistaken understanding of free will to include the right to exploit the Earth's resources without concern for our action's impact on other species. Since the beings see all other species as part of a larger whole, and of themselves, they understand that free will cannot include endangering any other species. Any species that violates this law, and indulges in this erroneous notion of free will, jeopardizes the balance of nature

and is regarded by the beings as "suicidal." As a result of their larger view of reality, they do not see their "interference" in humankind's development as being wrong or immoral. Rather, they see it as their responsibility.

As for the human species, it has essentially been a failure because of our failure to transcend the physical plane on our own. At this point, the alliance of ET species view humanity as too dangerous to be allowed to develop advanced technology. If these beings have a prime directive, it is this: No violent race can be allowed to move more than a few steps beyond its planet of origin. They are certain that as long as we can't get along with each other, we will never be able to get along with them."

So what does Mu say about the future of our species? The picture is not a pretty one. They told Rebecca of future ecological disasters that include the usual forecast of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other devastations, as well as social and political upheavals that may include the use of atomic and biological weapons. If these predictions materialize, humankind would essentially be rendered sterile from contamination. Therefore, they are prepared to remove a group of women and children from the surface of the Earth to protect them for the purposes of procreation." Those selected would be from among those they have already genetically altered. In the event that the Earth becomes completely uninhabitable, they plan to remove the few survivors, suspend their lives, and revive them when the Earth has renewed itself.

In any event, they are determined

not to allow humanity to develop higher technology. She was told that if any division of our government has developed advanced spacecraft through their association with some of the visitors, they would not be allowed to see it. They apparently are prepared to use their destructive powers to prevent this from happening. This, however, is not new. This is exactly what happened many thousands of years ago to the Atlanteans. Mu explained that it was the ET's who were responsible for the destruction of Atlantis for the same reasons as are developing again today.

The Atlanteans were considerably more technologically advanced than we are now. Because of their uncontrolled human emotions, however, the Atlanteans degenerated into a tyrannical and corrupt race. After repeated warnings went unheeded, Atlantis was destroyed for the greater good of the majority.

They then left the human race to develop at its own pace in the hope that we would also develop some wisdom and restraint as we developed our own technology.

Unfortunately that has not happened.

Next issue: Part 2 — The Reptilians. 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](mailto:cherokee@skylands.net). We will keep your identity confidential if you so desire.

# Hundreds seek serious answers at 11th annual UFO conference

Stories by MIKE MASTERSON

Editor of the Times

EUREKA SPRINGS — From the plain-folks appearance of those milling about the convention center corridors here, one might have seen it as a gathering of Wal-Mart stockholders rather than the annual national conference of those who study unexplained phenomena.

More than 400 people, many from across the country and several foreign lands, spent three days last weekend discussing the likes of extraterrestrials, unexplained lights and energy forms, as well as alien abduction cases, one of which purportedly led to a blind woman's optic nerves being regenerated, enabling her to see once again.

But it may have been the crowd itself, comprised of many neatly attired mature couples and educated singles over 40 that seemed the most unlikely at the 11th annual national Ozark UFO Conference held at the Inn of the Ozarks and its convention center.

"This is always a gathering of serious-minded people in search of real answers," said Lou Farish of Plumerville, director of the 1999 conference. "I'm not certain everyone really understands just how dedicated many of these people and researchers are to this search."

One middle-aged woman from New Mexico said she could care less what anyone else thought as long as she was free to discover deeper truths about what so many thousands of people around the world have experienced.

In all, more than 10 speakers, including two university physics professors, a lawyer, a retired U.S. Army colonel, several authors and two licensed therapists, spent from Friday until late Sunday morning describing unexplained and paranormal phenomena largely associated with unidentified flying objects.

Many people came to the conference with photographs, videotapes, personal accounts and formal reports to illustrate their experiences with the unknown.

## 80 slides of UFOs

For example, USAF Ret. Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens of Tucson, Ariz., opened the convention with a color slide review of 80 of what he believes are the most credible UFO pictures taken worldwide during the 1990s.

"Not all of these pictures have been tested," said Stevens, who for years has gathered and published photographic UFO evidence, "but most have been verified in one way or another and I believe every one of these are legit."

In a crowded ballroom, Stevens then displayed the slides with explanations about each photographer and the date, time and circumstances. It was all larger than life on two 12- by 12-foot screens at the front. They included pictures beginning in 1989 through this year.

The pictures, many drawing gasps from the crowd as they appeared on the giant screens, were from places that included Los Angeles, Death Valley, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Israel, Brazil, Germany, Australia and the Fiji Islands.

Stevens said many of these photographed events were witnessed by more than one person and a number of pictures were taken in sequence on the same roll of film. Some were recorded on two separate rolls of film. He explained few had both still and video pictures.

One photo taken Sept. 25, 1994, in Mexico by an American is of a large saucer-shaped metallic craft that she said simply appeared in front of her and another witness, as if blinking on for a few moments, then disappeared. She said she snapped two photographs. Stevens added that Mexico has been the site of hundreds of UFO sightings in recent years.

## Gathers trace evidence

Ted Phillips of Reeds Spring, Mo., another veteran researcher who specializes in gathering trace evidence of UFO encounters and other paranormal activities, spent much of his time narrating videotapes of mysterious and colorful lights that have been appearing as recently as last month on a rural Missouri farm.

The lights, which can range in number from one to 10, manifest unexpectedly and assume different shapes, arrangements and color. One segment shows a brilliantly colored glowing sphere larger than a beach ball, with colors swirling and flashing inside it. It flies into the camera's view, pauses, then speeds off and vanishes.

Another unusual aspect of the lights is that they seem to just fold into themselves when they disappear, much like the lens of an old camera would do.

Asked whether the lights, which appear both in the air in formations and at times on the ground, exhibited choice or intelligence, Phillips said there are indications that they could, but he also never had considered that possibility.

That investigation continues on the farm, as does another of physical evidence left behind on another farm where a family having breakfast watched a bizarre metallic object in its pasture lift away and fly off. Phillips said the objects left a round burned and completely dehydrated area about four feet in diameter and three "thruster craters" in the ground, like legs from a tripod.

Therapist Barbara Lamb of Claremont, Calif., said she has nearly 300 regression therapy cases in which men and women believed they had been abducted by beings beyond their understanding of reality.

There is a range of experiences people are having with extraterrestrial (multi-dimensional) beings, she said.

Dr. J.A. Scarborough, a physics professor for nearly 30 years at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., brought with him a former student whose optic nerves and sight had been restored in 1994 after she said she experienced an event with beings she did not recognize or understand.

Scarborough, who brought the 52-year-old woman, Sandra Eiken of Indianola, Miss., with him to the conference, explained how many in Cleveland had prayed for the woman and helped her in every way possible, to no avail.

MRIs and CT scans showed Eiken's optic nerves had progressively deteriorated to the point where she had gone completely blind.

## Woman's sight restored

But she continued to see strange flashes of light and color amid her darkness, to the point where her roommates all departed in fear, leaving her alone in the dormitory room.

Scarborough said he provided her with a 35 mm camera and asked her to begin snapping off pictures whenever she saw these lights and colors, which she did.

After shooting 12 rolls of film, the red colors she described appeared on two separate frames, as did a meteor-like flash of light — also exactly as she had described seeing.

Two weeks after she said she experienced a visit from unknown beings who wrapped a black band across her head with what appeared to be electrodes attached to it, causing the most excruciating pain she had ever felt, her sight suddenly returned. It happened as she was sitting in her doctor's office, she said.

The medical conclusion was that her optic nerves had somehow returned to normal, Scarborough said.

"I'm very moved," said Scarborough. "I was there when it happened and I am still moved five years later. The before-and-after medical

evidence is all there to examine."

Academic colleagues want to see evidence, and other than what has happened medically and with these photographs, you just about don't have anything else, Scarborough said.

James M. McCampbell, a researcher from Belmont, Calif., discussed the nature of electromagnetic fields around UFO sightings and the scientific cause of engine and light failures in the presence of such fields.

"These things in effect create a neighborhood-sized microwave oven," he said.

Dr. Jack Kasher, a physics professor from the University of Nebraska, told of Alana Lynn Andrews, a woman who had sketched complex and intricate images she said had been taught to her by extraterrestrials beginning in the 1970s that are only now showing up in crop circles in England.

He produced the woman's notebook, which contained those 25-year-old drawings, adding that she could actually interpret what some of the images meant.

"This is either true or an elaborate hoax. And I am convinced this woman has been truthful about all she has experienced," Kasher said.

Other speakers included Linda Moulton Howe, a researcher and author best known for her investigations into thousands of unexplained animal mutilations, a number of which have been reported in Arkansas since 1970.

Howe presented federal documents obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request, which addressed specifics of the U.S. government's investigation of a purported UFO crash near Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

## The 'MJ-12' documents

Known as the "MJ-12" documents after the federal agency involved in the Roswell inquiry, Howe said it appears to her that the documents she received likely were "cobbled" together from more complete reports. The reports she showed the audience contained signatures attributed to former President Harry S. Truman and other high-level government officials of that period.

The documents described five small humanoid bodies recovered from one of three crash sites around Roswell on the same day and how the bodies and other debris from two UFO crafts were distributed primarily to military bases in New Mexico, Texas and Ohio.

Howe, who routinely appears on television specials and a late-night nationwide radio talk show hosted by Art Bell, also talked of interviewing more than one person who had witnessed the remains from those crashes, but who have been repeatedly warned not to speak about what they had seen.

She said the threats to silence one highly knowledgeable source in particular continue today. She referred to him as Kewper.

"There are three specific areas Kewper was told not to discuss with me," she said. "I really cannot say for certain why this remains such an important secret to keep so many years afterward."

Antonio Huneeus, a researcher and videographer from Brooklyn, N.Y., showed videotape of Russian officers, including a high-level general, explaining how that nation had formed a joint committee of military officials and scientists to get to the bottom of thousands of modern-day UFO sightings there.

The general, in what was deemed a "remarkable display of candor," concludes by saying the committee, — after its lengthy investigation — determined Russia's many UFO events were probably "extraterrestrial" in origin.

Farish, the event organizer, said the year 2000 Ozark UFO Conference will be held in Eureka Springs beginning April 7.

## Louisiana author unveils skull filled with questions

■ While a Louisiana author believes he has found a 60-year-old skull like no other, local medical experts believe the artifact is actually a child's skull distorted by a congenital defect with a lengthy name.

EUREKA SPRINGS — Lloyd Pye of Louisiana opened the lid to the case and removed the skull of a young Mexican woman who had died around 1940.

But it was the skull he was about to reveal, a far more unusual one, that the group at the Ozark UFO Conference had come to see. It was a skull neither he nor doctors who have examined it thus far could identify.

He held up the normal skull.

"This is the obviously human skull of a small woman probably in her early 20s," said Pye, who concedes he has gained a reputation in some circles as a maverick author specializing in human anatomy. "It was found by a teenage American girl of Mexican ancestry in a cave about 100 miles south of Chihuahua, Mexico, about 60 years ago."

He carefully handed the woman's skull around to the small group in his motel room and asked each to study it for comparative purposes.

Then he reached into the case and pulled out another skull. This one, while clearly hominid in form, also bore many fundamental dissimilarities that Pye emphasized.

## Two skulls found together

Both skulls were found beside each other inside a cave, Pye said. The unusual one was covered by earth. He said the girl smuggled both skulls back into the United States when her family returned.

And that is where both remained, Pye said, until the girl died and the family was left to wonder what to do with them. Some in the family knew of Pye's research into the development of hominoid forms, as evidenced by his 1997 book "Everything You Know is Wrong: Book One Human Origins."

He said they contacted him six weeks ago and he told them he believed the unusual skull should be shown to the public. Since that time, a lot has happened very quickly, he said.

"The bottom line is what we have here is a symmetrical skull unlike any other I have ever seen or heard about," said Pye, who describes himself as a "very pragmatic person."

(continued on page 3)



## Many basic differences

"There appear to be at least six basic differences between the characteristics of this skull and the normal human skull, differences that tell me it is a variation on a theme."

Pye said he already has had the unusual skull examined by physicians, an ophthalmologist and a dentist as well as being fluoroscoped at a Las Vegas hospital. That procedure revealed that the skull is without sinus cavities, he explained to the smaller group and later Saturday to the full conference.

Other than being noticeably lighter and more fragile, the unusual skull has other distinct differences from a normal human skull, Pye said:

- The normal adult human skull contains 1,200 cubic centimeters of brain matter. The brain capacity of this one, estimated by a dental examination of four teeth removed from its upper jaw, to be only 5 years old, is already at about 1,600 cc. At adulthood, its capacity was estimated at 1,800 to 2,000 cc, he said.

"This is significant because whenever brain capacity of a species increases by 200 cc, it also becomes a new species, much like the evolution of human beings from Neanderthals to Cro-Magnon. What we have with this skull is as much, or even more, difference in basic structure, appearance and size as those that occurred between Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon skulls."

Pye called the skull a radical variation of a theme of the basic humanoid form. "It is an absolute and complete remake," he said.

- The opening on the bottom of the human skull that allows the spinal column to enter the brain is called the foramen magnum. It is set back of center in the normal head because the weight of the human skull (due to its sinus cavities and overall construction) is centered more in the rear of the skull, he said.

But with this particular skull, the foramen magnum cavity appears considerably smaller than normal and it is more centered beneath the overall skull, which would enable a larger head to balance itself from center. This indicates the weight in the head was evenly distributed, Pye said.

- The two strap muscles that attach at the rear of the normal human skull connect the neck to the rear of the head. This attachment is marked by two thumbnail-sized indentions near the bottom of the skull, immediately beneath the skull's bump (or inion). However, in the unusual skull, there are only the slightest indications of such attachment points. And they are at the extreme bottom of this skull. In other words, he said, the entire configuration of neck attachment is different, indicating a "pencil" neck only about one-third the normal size. Pye compared it with a golf ball centered on a tee.

- The different skull is noticeably more flat — yet still rough and convoluted — at the back, with two symmetrically rounded halves (parietal regions) atop each side.

- Sutures that divide the normal human skulls also are present on the so-called different one, except that the lower triangle-shaped section of skull (called the occipital) is of a different size and design altogether. Pye said among the examinations to be done in coming weeks will be one to determine whether the unusual skull might have actually held three brain lobes rather than the two that humans normally have.

- The supraorbital bone above each eye socket in normal human skulls is relatively dull and rounded, while the sockets in the different skull are "bladelike."

Another contrast is that the normal human eye socket is about twice as deep as those in the unusual skull. There also appear to be fundamental differences in the arrangement of the optic nerve canals inside those shallow sockets, he said.

He said an eye specialist told him that shallow sockets likely would have greatly hindered muscular eye movement and peripheral vision unless the eyes protruded, or bulged, outside the sockets. If that were the case, such vision

would have been enhanced over that of the normal human eye, even eliminating the "blind spot" humans have.

- The zygomatic arch, which is the slender cheek bone running horizontally from beneath each human eye to attach near the ears, is missing in the unusual skull. But Pye said from what remains of that bone, it appears to attach at a different location on the skull, perhaps even downward "at a 45-degree angle," rather than horizontal.

Pye also said that while one can normally slip two fingers between the normal arch bone and the skull, only "a couple of spaghetti strings would have fit" in that same space with the different skull.

- The unusual skull is noticeably lighter and more fragile feeling when compared with the normal female skull. Pye said the woman's skull, while smaller in volume, weighed 2.2 pounds, while the different skull with greater capacity — and while missing a portion of its frontal section — weighed a fraction over 1.75 pounds.

## Pye plans DNA tests

Pye said he is raising funds to DNA test the four teeth removed from the unusual skull (both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA). He also plans on having a Carbon-14 test to determine precise age and a forensic restoration to see what the flesh that once covered this skull would have looked like.

"I cannot say what this is," he said. "I can tell you it is highly unusual."

"My first thinking was that there was an 80 percent chance it was a child who suffered from a medical anomaly," Pye said.

"But as I studied it and had it examined, my thinking changed to now believe there is an 80 percent chance it is

something else of perhaps even a different, more advanced species like we have never seen before," he said.

"It has all the same parts as a normal skull, but seems to be a complete redesign," Pye said.

Pye said the medical specialist who examined the skull at his request in New Orleans said he believed it was some kind of distorted human pathology. But he also couldn't explain many of the legitimate questions about its obvious symmetry of design and finally suggested DNA testing."

The *New Orleans Times-Picayune* will publish a story about the skull this weekend, according to the lifestyle editor at that newspaper. Their story will quote one anthropologist who says the unusual skull may have been the result of "cradleboarding" carrying as an infant, a common practice in Mexico.

## Local doctors have an answer

Fayetteville neurosurgeon Kelly Danks, after examining photographs of the odd skulls, said he believes they show a child who suffered from a rare condition known as bilateral coronal synostosis.

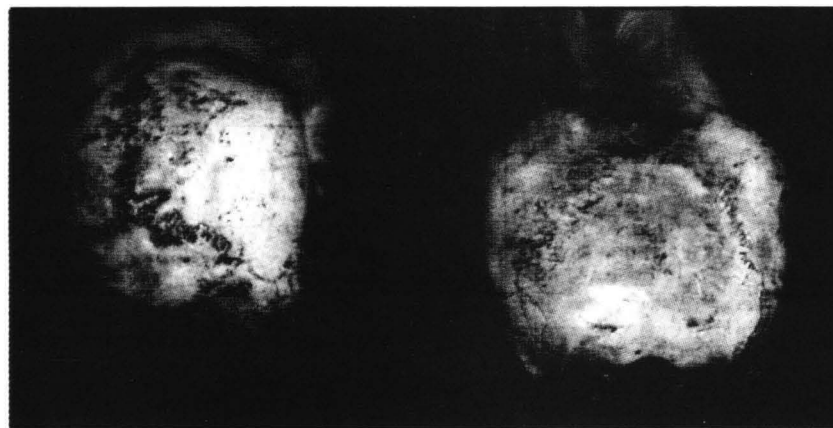
"It's very interesting," he said. "It's just not from outside this world. This is clearly a developmental abnormality. It really isn't foreign to me at all. In fact, it was not unusual during board exams for examiners to pop out skulls like this and ask us to identify the abnormality."

The neurosurgeon said statistics show this abnormality occurs in about four of



MIKE MASTERSON Northwest Arkansas Times

Above, a comparison with the normal human skull found beside the unusual one shows at least six major abnormalities, including shallower eye sockets, a much more rounded head with a much greater capacity and bladelike ridges above both eyes. Below, a comparison of both skulls from the rear shows enlarged left and right lobes on the abnormal skull and a significantly extended occipital (lower sutured section) in that skull as well. Also missing in the different skull are the two lower rear skull indentions where neck muscles ordinarily would attach.



every 10,000 births and is more commonly seen in Third World countries such as Mexico.

This would account for the malpositioned foramen magnum, shallow eye sockets and the oversized head that remains symmetrical, he said.

If the child spent a lot of time on its back, the rear of the head would be noticeably flattened.

"Most of the public does not see these malformities in our country because such children are treated early in life. But I can tell you this abnormality is certainly not beyond the boundaries of human pathology. This is a human skull."

He said about two children a year from Northwest Arkansas are diagnosed with such conditions. They usually are treated in Little Rock.

Dr. Sam Turner, a Fayetteville emergency room physician who also has practiced family medicine, concurred after viewing the photographs.

"I believe the abnormalities were caused by a congenital cranial problem and that this is the skull of a child who suffered from a pathological condition," Turner said.

# Paranormal, paranoid look good together

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - April 15, 1999 CR: D. Perkins

I wouldn't call myself a believer or a skeptic of UFO phenomena. I'm merely a fan. I love the stories — the tales of aliens, abductions, UFO sightings and government cover-ups.

"UFOlogy" has become the new stuff of American folklore, an intermingling of fact and fiction, reminiscent of the fables of the old American West with its silver-starred sheriffs and gun-

slinging outlaws — only now it's little green men and Men in Black. Last week I drove to El Capitan Mountain in southern New Mexico for some camping and hiking. The area also

WES R. SMALLING



Wes' Side Story

happens to be the home of the "Pine Lodge-Ragsdale Site," one of the six alleged flying-saucer crashes of 1947.

I arrived just before dark — not sure if I had found the site. With nobody around for miles the place felt eerie — downright weird. As the sun set and I gathered wood for a campfire, it felt like something strange was going to happen.

My dog was nervous and uneasy. He kept walking to the edge of the campfire light, peering out into the darkness and growling. Eventually I crawled into my camper shell and went to sleep.

I was awakened the next morning by a knock on the window.

"Hello? Is anybody in there?"

Startled, I looked out and saw two men. Their headphones and minesweeping metal detectors gave them away. UFO people.

"Do you realize that you're camped within a hundred yards of the most significant historical events in world history?" one of them asked. He leaned a little closer and whispered "You know what I'm talking about ... don't you?"

"Would that be ... a UFO?"

"Yes! Have you found anything?"

He introduced himself as an agent for the CIA-OSI (Central Intelligence Agency, Office of Scientific Intelligence) and asked me what I was doing there. He wore a peculiar utility belt, like Batman's.

I told him I was a reporter. He then explained that he was angry because the CIA had cut his office's funding and that he and his partner were gathering UFO information to "blow the lid on the federal government."

I yawned, prompting him to ask, "Did we wake you? We woke

# The truth is out there

## Is existence of UFOs science fiction or just fiction?

It was a balmy, peaceful August day in the Upper Arkansas River Valley town of Salida, Colo.

The cottonwoods along the river were just beginning to show a tinge of gold — fall comes early at 7,000 feet.

Tim Edwards was out in his back yard on the outskirts of town enjoying the day when his daughter pointed to the sky and said, "Daddy, what's that?"

Tim followed his daughter's finger into the sky, and at first, he didn't see anything against the deep blue backdrop of the Rocky Mountain sky. But then he noticed something. Something very unusual.

He ran inside and grabbed his videocamera, and for the next eight minutes, he taped the object — a disk of light that appeared to be floating in the sky one minute and then darting across it the next. A close look at the video revealed what looked like red and green lights revolving horizontally across the disk. He would have taped longer, he said, but the batteries in his camera hadn't been recharged and they went dead.

Edwards rushed his freshly shot videotape into town and down to my office at The Mountain Mail, a five-day-a-week paper where I worked as the news editor. It was after hours by the time he made it to town, and I probably wouldn't have even noticed he was there if I hadn't been using the copy machine by the front door. He was peering into the paper's dimly lighted administration office, tentatively knocking on the door.

Having never met Tim, I reluctantly went to the door, and said — loud enough to be heard through the glass — "We're closed. We open at 8 o'clock in the morning."

"I can't wait until 8 o'clock," he said loudly from outside. He held up the videotape for me to see.

you. Sorry." The pair then wandered off, sweeping the ground with their metal detectors.

But soon they returned and joined me for a cup of coffee. The first man said he was a veteran of Vietnam and Grenada and had been with the CIA for some time. The other man said he was a retired policeman who saw a UFO in 1970.

We talked for almost an hour and they entertained me with incredible stories straight out of an X-Files episode. The two men insisted that it was all true: UFO crashes, recovered alien technology, a secret world government and the impending alien colonization of Planet Earth.

They did not appear to be insane or unstable — just a couple of nice guys with some wild ideas that I found fascinating and, I must admit, almost believable.



CHRIS HUNT

"The whole world needs to see this tape."

The world, huh?

"And you brought it to me?"

"I had to start somewhere."

I let Tim in through the front door, and after a bit of wrangling with the staff VCR (where are all the 12-year-old electronics geniuses when you need them?) I was able to view what Tim described as a genuine UFO.

"I don't think it's one of ours," I said, staring into the television screen, trying like mad to come up with a logical explanation. Weather balloon? Mutant Frisbee?

To this day, I don't have a logical explanation for what I saw on tape that day. I don't think it was an airplane. I don't think it was the Goodyear blimp. I just don't know.

Tim, though, has become a big-time believer in extraterrestrial life. Before he saw the object darting across the Colorado sky he led a simple life as the owner/operator of the local greasy spoon. After he saw the UFO, he became a "citizen of the galactica" and spent most of his free time boning up on UFO research.

Here on the North Coast, we have Bigfoot. Just last summer, a group of campers near Hayfork claim they were roasting marshmallows when their campsite was raided by an 8-foot-tall sasquatch. There are those who claim there's a connection between Bigfoot and the UFOs in the sky. Hmm.

They vowed to mail me a 300-page government document proving the existence of extraterrestrial life and the government's efforts to cover it up. Then, abruptly, they said they had "a lot of work to do today." We shook hands and agreed to keep in touch. And as quickly and mysteriously as they had appeared, they hopped into their unmarked blue Dodge van and sped away.

Intrigued, I hiked to the site where the late Jim Ragsdale said he witnessed a flying-saucer crash in 1947. A boulder split down the middle marks the spot. Burn marks, sawed and knocked-over trees and broken boulders litter the area. Something had happened there. Some people say it was only a plane crash and that Ragsdale had made up the UFO story.

Whether you believe in UFOs

Saturday, maybe someone can shed some light on those questions we all secretly keep to ourselves.

Dr. Seth Shostak will visit Eureka and attend the second annual Redwood Coast Sci-fi Convention at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds. According to the promotional literature received here at the Times-Standard, Shostak is a scientist and an author — he wrote "Sharing the Universe: Perspectives on Extraterrestrial Life."

At the convention, Shostak will speak on the topic, "Searching for Extraterrestrial Life." His speech begins at 1 p.m. and he will be available for questions — because there really aren't any solid answers, now are there? — after his speech.

If you're curious, you might want to pay the \$3 at the door and take in the presentation. And, if you don't want to be recognized, you can dress up like one of those Star Trek fans. Or maybe Chewbacca is more your speed.

Sorry, though. The Home Ec building isn't big enough to house anybody dressed as Jaba the Hut.

It might be kind of interesting to visit the convention this year. The local Star Trek fan club, U.S.S. Cavalry, is hosting the event, and Dr. Shostak's speech is only a small part of it. Last year, my wife and I went just for the sake of getting out of the house. She was pregnant and needed to walk around, and I had a hankerin' for some Romulin soda pop.

While I'm not sold on much of the "Trekkie" paraphernalia, I'd like to get a little insight into whether Tim Edwards' video was really what he thought it was.

I don't know anybody who can make a Frisbee behave so strangely.

Chris Hunt is city editor of the Times-Standard. His column appears Fridays. He can be reached at 441-0514.

or not, it's a scenic pine forest and a pleasant (although bizarre) place for a hike. And when you're in the Roswell area, there's just no telling who you'll meet and what stories they have to tell.

To get there, take Interstate 25 south to N.M. 380 east toward Roswell; turn left on N.M. 246 at Capitan. Near the 33-mile marker, turn right onto Forest Service Road 130, labeled "Boy Scout Mountain." Drive 3.7 miles and turn left onto a four-wheel drive road. Cross a creek and drive up a small hill (if you cross a second creek you've gone too far). The "crash site" is about 75 yards to the left.

If you venture out there, watch out for the Men in Black (secret government henchmen) and don't forget your camera ... just in case any little green men are hovering overhead.



# Calling all believers

## Lucius Farish brings out-of-this-world ideas down to Earth in annual Eureka Springs Conference

By Dee White  
PROMOTIONS STAFF WRITER

Small-town Arkansas is currently putting the Capital City to shame. Witness the rise of a national poetry celebration in Hot Springs; the ongoing internationally acclaimed Helena Blues Festival; the established Folk Festival in Mountain View and, now in its 11th successful year, the Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs.

Lucius Farish of Plumerville, mild-mannered master of ceremonies and overall organizer of the conference, is not the least bit out of this world. He likens the annual gathering of like-minded

seekers of unexplained phenomena to "a family reunion."

"Some people come every year, because they love Eureka Springs — at least half are from out of state and we have both attendees and speakers from England and Italy, for example," he said.

We stood in the Inn of the Ozarks' entryway and tallied addresses on nametags: Michigan, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, North Carolina.

Farish admits to never watching the popular *X-Files* television show. "I don't like to mix my fact with fiction," he said with a

grin.

The  
400-500

folks who

show up yearly to

discuss topics ranging from Great Britain's crop circles to the notorious alleged UFO crash sites in Roswell, N.M., are down-home counterparts to Mulder and Scully. Friendly and talkative, they arrive to exchange ideas, experiences and theories in an atmosphere of support.

"At least we give people a place to come and talk about similar experiences. It's a tremendous relief to them," explained Farish, who has heard a little bit of everything, from accounts of alien abduction by children as young as 10 to the more frequent lights-in-the-sky tales. Similarities recur in the tellings, while people who relate such experiences are all different, he said — they may be rich or not, educated or not.

"A person in Australia may describe the same thing as a person in South Africa," Farish said. "We present a cross-section of information and let people make up their own minds. Some are initially skeptical because they don't want to disturb their vision of the world — it makes them unhappy."

Farish takes a laid-back approach to revelations about visitors from another dimension or place; he has followed the subject since the 1950s, when the nation focused on repeated accounts of unexplained phenomena during a time of rapid technological change.

Then, as now, first-hand accounts were often met with disbelief and ridicule. As a postman in Plumerville, Farish is no stranger to frequent reactions to his hobby.

"My family puts up with it," he said with a laugh. "Everyone in Plumerville knows I'm the UFO nut! But," he added, "they come to me with their stories."

And what stories! Earnest accounts of inexplicable happenings abound. Barbara Gavron, proprietress of an exquisite Victorian bed and breakfast inn in Eureka's historic hilltop neighborhood near the Crescent Hotel, gave an account that is a classic example of a close

A batik tapestry displayed in the window of a Victorian home (above) welcomes UFO buffs to Eureka Springs, home of the annual Ozark UFO Conference. This photo (left) of a typical "lights-in-the-sky" sighting was taken in June, 1979, in Barcelona, Spain, by Antonio Ribera.



Photos by Megan Steinbeck

encounter.

Several years ago, she said, she and a friend were driving home to Eureka from Fayetteville after dark when she noticed a bright light in the sky.

It could have been the planet Venus. "I said, 'but Venus is over there,'" she recalled, "and we stopped the car. It was wider than the road — we kept trying to explain it to ourselves — but airplanes don't have lights like that, and so forth, when it drew level with our car and then accelerated instantly, zooming off. There was no sound at all."

UFO experts say that such craft often fly "at tree-top level." These accounts are surprisingly commonplace, as are those told by fishermen, of hovering lights or objects above bodies of water.

Farish concedes that often the UFO image sells much faster than the idea. And there is no denying that UFOs are big bucks, marketed as rapidly as anything in our national consciousness.

From restaurant-bars named "The Flying Saucer" to lollipops of little green men in Arkansas truck stops, to nonstop movie rehashings of aliens, interplanetary visitors and the like, America is a nation of star-gazers, questors — and pitchmen. The road into Eureka was lined with businesses advertising in full UFO mode.

"Don't be an alien — open a hometown checking account today," suggested a local bank, while a diner's marquee read, "Welcome aliens and UFOs."

"The Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce likes us," said Farish. "They like the revenue and they promote us. I know of a number of people who have moved here after attending the conference."

After Bill Pitts, a Fort Smith businessman, chaired the first conference in 1988, Farish agreed to take over planning on the one in 1989. He has since been a genial driving force, accepting no payment and using funds generated from book sales and conference attendees to pay speakers and keep what has become a good thing going. Held annually in Eureka Springs in early April, the conference capitalizes on the city's pastel-accented beauty, officially kicking off the tourist season.

"It fills up our hotel and several others," said the Inn of the Ozarks' seating hostess, Terry, indicating a packed dining room. She said that the attendees she had seen were "very intelligent, searching, open-minded people."

Linda Moulton-Howe, a favorite speaker who returns every year to give updates on her research, is an Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker. The television series *Sightings* is based on her

work. Moulton-Howe presented a lecture on just-released documents concerning events in Roswell, N.M., in the late 1940s. Cross-referencing the documents with first-hand accounts from retired military and former CIA personnel, she pieced together a puzzle that was chilling in its implications.

"We are not criminals," she said. "We live in a country that is based on 'the more we know, the wiser we will be.'" However, her sources, witnesses whose recollected details are identical, have been repeatedly threatened by ominous "men in black." They give their names and their testimony at untold risk to themselves and their families.

Inspired by the glorious weather, perhaps, or the holiday atmosphere of the weekend, conferencegoers were not gloomy in the least. Where one might have expected to find a gaggle of conspiracy theorists, we found instead that the one common thread among those interviewed was environmentalism.

Farish, again, was not surprised. "It seems, especially if they have had an experience, they change almost overnight to an ardent environmentalist," he observed. When asked if the message to be gleaned from instances of close encounters was an envi-

ronmental one, he said flatly, "If it's not an environmental message, it should be."

Beverly Wilkinson, an Arkansan who has attended the conference since its inception, agreed. "The larger message seems to be that what we do to this planet has farther, wider reaching effects to the whole universe."

John Reid, a first-time attendee from Bryson City, N.C., said, "We'd be very egotistical as a race or planet to think we don't share the universe — I don't know how you can't believe in the possibility; people believe in God."

Reid made this analogy: "If you have dreams — prove it. You know you have them; others do — you share the experiences. I've never experienced the phenomena that brought people here; I just support what has brought people here."

Lucius Farish is committed to supporting those who are curious about the paranormal. He leads the Central Arkansas UFO Discussion Group, which meets second Saturdays bimonthly from 1-4 p.m. at North Little Rock's Community Center.

"We're not doing a lot of advertising — we want people to feel comfortable," said small-town Arkansas' most fascinating postman.

# The Thomas Files/The truth is out there

All of us have someone in our lives who we see on a regular basis but know very little about. Rich Thomas is one of those people. Anyone who shops at Hermiston's Wal-Mart has said hello to him countless times.

Thomas, you see, is a greeter at the store. He's the fellow, not too tall, with unwieldy gray hair, glasses and a moustache. Very friendly. Perfect for the job.

He's also perfect for his other job, that of UFO investigator. In his spare time, he works for an outfit called the Mutual UFO Network based in Texas. His exact title is state section director and field investigator trainee.

He's perfect for the job because, according to Thomas, he had a real-life encounter with a UFO. It was back in 1971 when he was working on a cattle ranch in Fossil. It was around noon when he was riding on the ranch. In the distance he saw a "dome-shaped looking thing."

Thomas wanted an up-close look, so he sauntered right up to it. It was about 50 feet

in diameter, Thomas says. He reached out and touched it with his hand, just to make sure it was real.

"The next thing I knew, I woke up three hours later and it was gone," Thomas says. "It knocked me out apparently."

What in the world was it?

"I thought to myself, 'This is an aerial machine of some sort — a UFO.'"

## Michael Kane

Thomas recalled.

Up to that point, Thomas said he had never given UFOs or aliens from space a second's thought. But, he said, that encounter in Fossil 28 years ago "made a hell of a believer out of me."

For the next eight years, Thomas spent more than a good deal of time studying up on UFO phenomena and working as a field investigator for the International UFO Registry out of its field office in Fossil.

It was, he said, intensive work.

Sightings were frequent. Cold, hard evidence, however, was hard to come by. But his own encounter with a UFO kept him

chasing down reports here and sightings there.

Then he was hit with health problems. In 1979 he had kidney failure. For three years, his health was so bad he had to drop all UFO-related activity. A transplant in 1982 restored his good health, but by that time he had lost interest in flying saucers and their occupants.

But a funny thing happened right here in Umatilla County last year that reinvigorated Thomas. Evidence of a possible UFO landing in a farmer's field was reported in Pendleton near the airport and his old investigative instincts began stirring. He grabbed his camera and his notepad, hopped in his car and sped out to uncover the truth.

With help from the Mutual UFO Network, he took soil samples and sent them off for analysis. The test results were inconclusive, but the experience spurred Thomas to resume his UFO field investigation work.

When he's not greeting Wal-Mart shoppers or managing apartments, Thomas is reading about UFOs, talking about UFOs and looking for UFOs. He asks anyone who wants to report a UFO sighting to call him at 564-4479 or 377-2455. His interest

in UFOs takes up a lot of his time.

"Oh, too much time," he says. "I'm getting behind in my other work."

But, he does it, he says, because, like they say on "The X-Files," the truth is out there.

And what, exactly, is the "truth?"

"It's the same reason we explore space — to find another planet to inhabit because we're destroying our own," according to Thomas. "That's what the aliens are doing — checking out Earth for a new place to inhabit."

"But they're scaring the hell out of us by doing it."

And what about that annoying habit aliens have of zipping in and out before anyone has a good chance to take photos and interview them? What's that all about?

Thomas says they do that because they don't want us to find out too much about them. Seems they view us as an inferior race. We're different. They're different. They fear us as much as we fear them, Thomas says. According to Thomas, aliens see humans as a race that tends to harm those things that they don't understand.

Thomas says the aim of the Mutual UFO Network ([mufon.com/core.nclnk](http://mufon.com/core.nclnk)) is to spread the word to earth-bound folks that aliens are not to be feared.

The network's hope is that with more information and understanding of our fellow space travelers, it can go a long way toward preventing a worldwide panic if we discover aliens are real.

But if one is to believe Thomas, there just might be reason to be afraid.

According to Thomas, aliens have been known to land on earth, seek out those of us who are friendly, take them aboard and conduct experiments on them as if they were lab rats.

"They view us as a substandard species," he says.

It is, Thomas says, a lonely life, that of a UFO investigator. Most people just aren't interested or, to say the least, are highly skeptical.

But Thomas perseveres. Perhaps one day his investigations will pay off and he will be greeted by those he so doggedly pursues.

In the meantime, however, he stays busy at Wal-Mart greeting a more mundane race of beings.

■ Michael Kane is the editor of The Hermiston Herald.

SAN RAMON VALLEY TIMES, Danville, CA - March 21, 1999



GREGORY URQUIAGA/TIMES

DAVID SHOEMAKER holds a piece of a rock he says fell from space and landed in Missouri in 1947. A gram of it costs \$100.

## Gemologist offers an out-of-this-world deal

By Ariel Ambruster  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

It's a green-gray rock, and a fist-sized chunk will cost you \$69,520. That's cheap, says the guy who's selling it, because it's not earthly rock: It's UFO rocket debris.

For all you local "X-Files" fanatics and alien sympathizers, these rare, highly dangerous and highly questionable specimens are on display at this weekend's Great Contra Costa Crystal Fair in Walnut Creek.

Dangerous, you say?

Gemologist and "UFO dealer to the world" David F. Shoemaker says other dealers in alien space junk routinely wind up dead, murdered by those who want to keep such facts quiet.

"The reason I'm alive," he said, "is

because I'm a wizard."

Shoemaker says the UFO debris was recovered from a Missouri field.

The owners of the field were having breakfast one morning in 1947, the fateful year of the Roswell, N.M., alien crash, when they saw a glowing object heading down from the sky. It lopped off two trees and slowly landed. The couple, hoping to avoid controversy, waited for three days until it cooled down, then covered it with dirt.

Their son unearthed the material about three years ago, and now Shoemaker has it for sale.

He is selling the heavy mix of green crystals, gray rock and metal fragments for \$100 a gram. That means a small slice, fit for hanging around your neck, goes for about

\$500. Shoemaker says his space debris is priced at bargain rates.

"Moon rock goes for \$100,000 a gram," he said.

Why should anyone believe the stuff is real?

Shoemaker says he has scientific data to back up his claim — tests showing the material contains spherical 99.5 percent-pure iron balls that have such a small percentage of oxygen in them that they could not have formed in the Earth's atmosphere.

He says the woman who runs the lab at the University of New Mexico Institute of Meteoritics told him, "The chancellor said to say it is not a meteorite and to say nothing else about it."

"Ufologists" like Shoemaker haven't won over the skeptics yet.

Even sympathetic skeptics, such as the late Dr. Carl Sagan, for example, who enthusiastically embraced the search for extraterrestrial life.

In a 1996 "Nova" interview, Sagan said no credible evidence has yet been found to support claims of alien visits to Earth.

"For 40 years," he said, alien enthusiasts have been saying that "real evidence is just around the corner, it's about to be released, it's being studied at this moment — and nothing ever comes of it."

Shoemaker's pricey debris, real or not, will be on display again today along with other exhibits of minerals and new-age stones, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Walnut Creek's Civic Park community center, Civic Drive and North Broadway.





FORREST GUARDIAN, Walthamstow, England - Jan. 14, 1999 CR: M. Fraser

# The truth may be out there

A UFO enthusiast is calling on anyone in the borough who thinks they have spotted a flying saucer to get in touch with him.

Tony Gulbourne, 28, of Wigton Road, Walthamstow, wants to find out how far back sightings of UFOs go in the borough this century — or even beyond.

Tony, who is joint editor of UFO magazine *Down to Earth*, said: "Waltham Forest is one of the country's hot spots for UFO activity."

"There have been many sightings in this area, and what I want to do is to see if there is some sort of pattern to this activity."

"The majority of people who think they have seen a UFO either say something to their friends or just forget about it, being too embarrassed to say anything publicly."

"These are the people we want to speak to. The magazine wants to hear these stories. It would be very interesting to find out how far this does go back."

Tony has been studying UFOs for about eight years since he saw a bright light, about the size of a tennis ball, skate across the sky, stand still and light up before darting off and leaving a trail of smoke.

He added: "From then on I was engrossed. I have done a lot of research and found that the same types of lights appear quite often around here — especially above the reservoirs. There have been reports of cigar-shaped crafts as well as a bright orange object floating above William Girling Reservoir."

So far the furthest Tony and his co-editor, Roy Hale, have managed to go back is to 1970, when a woman claims she saw a long, bright-silver light hovering in the air above Folly Lane in Walthamstow.

Tony said: "The woman said that when she had seen it she told a few people but never really thought about seeing if there was anyone looking into that sort of thing."

"This is a worldwide phenomenon, not just something in this country. There are hundreds of people with a story to tell."

● If you think you may have spotted a UFO in the area, call Tony on 281 5805.

RIGHT: They're indistinct, but these photographs (taken from the Internet) certainly look like UFOs



SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - March 5, 1999 CR: G. Duplantier

## Pilot saw 'rocket' near TWA crash

OTTAWA (CP) — A Swiss-air pilot reported his 747 jet nearly was hit by an unidentified flying object, possibly a missile, near the area off New York where a TWA airplane crashed in 1996, Canadian Press has learned.

Swissair Flight 127 was cruising at 23,000 feet on Aug. 9, 1997, when the pilot interrupted an address to passengers to report the near miss by a round white object, says a report by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board.

"Sir, I don't know what it was, but it just flew like a couple of hundred feet above us," he radioed Boston air traffic control. "I don't know if it was a rocket or whatever, but incredibly fast, opposite direction."

### 'Too fast'

"In the opposite direction?" the controller asked.

"Yes sir ... It was too fast to be an airplane," the pilot said.

The controller asked another aircraft if its crew saw anything like a missile in the area. The reply was negative. He then asked the Swissair pilot again how far above the plane it was.

"It was right over us, right above, opposite direction, and, and I don't know, two, three, four hundred feet above ... (we) saw a light object, it was white, and very fast."

The report said the flight was opposite John F. Kennedy Airport at 5:07 p.m. Eastern time — near the area where TWA Flight 800 went down July 17, 1996, after taking off from JFK. Two hundred and thirty people died in the crash.

Some believe a missile caused the midair explosion of the TWA 747 off Long Island, N.Y. Authorities are leaning toward faulty wiring.

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL, Barnstaple, England - Nov. 19, 1998

# UFO sightings 'extraordinary'

A NORTH DEVON man could have had an "encounter of the second kind" when he witnessed strange flashing lights in the sky, an expert believes.

Father and son Paul and Lee Holloway, of Rose Court, Bradworthy, spotted the lights in the Monday morning sky while driving towards Bideford at about 6.35am.

"I saw something flashing in the sky like an aeroplane," Lee said. "It moved from one direction to the other, we kept on driving then from behind there was a massive flash of light, right across the whole sky."

"On the left hand side flashing lights came on and off, there was nothing there, then they were back to a different place then the other, swapping positions," Lee added.

He compared the flash to lightning, but said it was several times brighter, and lasted five or six seconds. From being behind their car the lights went directly

By MADELEINE BRINDLEY

over them before disappearing.

British UFO Research Association regional investigator Doug Cooper described this as a UFO sighting and added: "Lee is bordering on the classic encounter kind of experience."

"It's an encounter of the second kind — an object — rather than alien beings."

But Lee was not the only one to see something strange in the sky that morning. Pauline Smith witnessed a phenomenon while driving along the North Devon link road between South Molton and Tiverton.

"I was driving up the link road at about 6.15am and it lasted for about half an hour. I saw two objects in the sky, about 5,000ft up."

"They were equidistant

from the moon and I think they had identical flashing lights. They were both lined up with each other."

"They disappeared and came back. I think I saw one of them drop vertically but I couldn't swear to it. Then one of them threw out a beam of light," she said.

There is no apparent astronomical or meteorological explanation for what Pauline, of Sunnyside, Woolfery, saw. The armed forces deny any flight movement over North Devon that morning.

While this was happening, Pauline said: "I felt that time sort of took on a different meaning, I felt light-headed, nauseous and very disoriented."

"I remember thinking something weird is going on here," she said.

Mr Cooper said: "It's a typical UFO sighting — what it was, I've got no idea. The symptoms Pauline described are again typical of a sighting and known to ufologists as the

**DAY 2 OF OUR SERIALISATION ... AND MORE AMAZING  
TALES OF MYSTERIOUS CRAFT SPOTTED IN SCOTLAND**

# SPACESHIP SPED OVER GLASGOW AT 45,000MPH

**A CONSTANT criticism of  
UFO reports is that the  
individuals involved are  
"untrained"...**

That they don't, for example, know the difference between a fast-moving jet and an alien spaceship.

In June 1997 I received a letter from a man who described himself as "a keen private pilot", but who did not wish to be publicly identified.

He was writing to me about a sighting he had had over Glasgow in January 1984. He was working on the seventh floor of an office block in the centre of the city.

"It was one of those crisp, cold, clear days," he told me, "and I stopped working to take in the view ... I was trying to identify landmarks well known to pilots."

"I identified the VOR Rods Beacon beyond Eaglesham. I could see

## Pilot saw UFO shoot across sky in daylight

all the way across to the Dumbarton VRP (Visual Reporting Point).

"On looking back to the VOR I was left gasping as this pink/silver/grey cigar-shaped object literally shot across from left to right and disappeared somewhere to the west of Dumbarton."

### ALTITUDE

The witness pointed out to me that pilots are taught "to keep a good lookout at all times" and to judge air traffic for speed, distance and altitude.

Using this experience, he estimated that the UFO was 10 miles beyond Eaglesham at the height of 1500ft to 2000ft.

In about two seconds it covered a

distance of 25 miles. A simple calculation shows that its speed was around 45,000 miles per hour! Not even the latest marvels of the western world can move at that rate.

It's no wonder that the witness, having seen such an incredible sight, does not want to be named. As a self-employed businessman he is not convinced that others will take his account as seriously as it deserves to be taken.

Incidents investigated by the Lanarkshire UFO Group and compiled by Paul Grey provide further evidence of strange happenings.

In 1982 Michael and Carol Stafford were waiting for a bus in Bellshill. Carol glanced skywards

and caught sight of two bright lights coming towards them. She was struck by the fact that their approach was noiseless, but also by the movements of the lights from side to side as if they were being shaken.

Then the object was above their heads, shining a light down on them. Clearly something odd was going on. Michael grabbed hold of Carol and the children, pulling them away from the light and heading in the opposite direction as fast as possible.

As they looked back they saw the object, yellow in colour and triangular in shape, shoot off at an amazing speed.

Intriguingly, in August 1996 a red, glowing object, shaped halfway between a boomerang and a crescent, was seen moving on a zig-zag path above the area.

### DISTANCES

At Dunoon, a large, mysterious object was also seen by retired PSV driver John Maclean. The UFO

was, he estimated, "two or three times full moon size".

That makes it very large, although Mr Maclean judged the object to be up to 3000ft above them in the night sky.

It's notoriously difficult to judge distances without reference points, but Mr Maclean had spotted the object as it moved through a gap in the clouds.

He reported that it reminded him of "dance-hall mirror balls" that used to be suspended from the ceiling and reflected flashes of light.

The flashes of light were absent, but the object was brightly illuminated on the inside which probably means that it wasn't simply a misidentified aircraft. A similar but smaller object was following.

Witnesses like John Maclean have no axe to grind. They are reporting incidents as they see them.

Anne and Mary McGettigan from Castlemilk are in the same category. They spotted a strange light in the sky and decided to report it.

As Anne described it: "I was dri-

ving along Mill Street, Rutherglen, towards Castlemilk, when I noticed a bright white light in the sky above Cathkin Braes. I pointed it out to my mum Mary, who could also not identify what it was. It appeared to move towards us and got bigger, nearly doubling in size. It then shot behind a cloud and as it did so it created a beam of light as it passed through.

"It stayed behind the clouds for a couple of seconds and appeared to just disappear."

Anne then noticed two planes flying in the same direction, which she feels may have been looking for, or following, the UFO.

From time to time, particular types of UFO appear frequently among those reported by witnesses.

In recent years the triangular-shaped object has been seen over various parts of Scotland, although in my experience it has not established itself as the typical UFO.

However, triangular UFOs are not the only mysterious objects sighted locally.

In November 1992, Mr Stewart

from Alloway heard what sounded like an engine noise. He went out to look and caught the sight of a semi-circular whitish-grey object on top of a disc-shaped object.

It was very large and moving low down in the sky. The upper and lower surface of the UFO shone white with a blueish tinge while the area where the two objects joined was coloured grey.

### BALLOON

The strange disc was heading in a southerly direction and disappeared behind the Isle of Arran a few miles off the Ayrshire coast.

In 1975, Mr Lee from Hamilton observed a "black sausage-shaped balloon-type object" just 20ft above the ground.

He was in Caldercruix near Airdrie at the time and the UFO was about 200ft from him. It was moving slowly at around 10 miles an hour, maintaining a constant speed and height.

● *UFO Scotland* is published by B&W Publishing, £7.99 and is available from December 8.

★ **RON HALLIDAY** has been investigating paranormal phenomena for over 20 years.

★ He is currently chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, and appears regularly on television and radio to discuss all aspects of the paranormal.

★ Ron is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines and writes for the *Saturday Times* every week.

★ He is also the author of *UFOs: The Scottish Dimension* (1997) and the



editor of *McX* (1997). Educated at the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling.

★ Today we have the second part of our three-part serialisation of his new book *UFO Scotland*.



CONCLUDING OUR SERIALISATION OF UFO SCOTLAND, BEYOND THE FALKIRK TRIANGLE

# Alien vision that wrecked my life

**RON HALLIDAY** has been probing paranormal phenomena for over 20 years. He is an expert in all aspects of the paranormal, and regularly appears on TV and radio. Educated at the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling, Ron is Assistant Registrar at the University of Stirling. Today is the concluding part in our serialisation of his new book *UFO Scotland, Beyond the Falkirk Triangle*.

**I AM often asked if alien 'visitors' wish to do us harm. One native of Glasgow believes he has evidence that is exactly what they intend.**

I have called him Bill, which is not his real name, and altered certain details of his account to ensure his anonymity.

The story started back in the '60s when Bill was a mate with the North Sea fishing fleet.

On a warm summer's morning in 1969, Bill stood alone on deck watching the sun rise when suddenly he spotted an object which seemed out of place.

Too big to be a plane, and above rather than on the water, it seemed to defy all explanation. Grabbing binoculars, Bill took a closer look.

*What he saw was a disc-shaped object hovering just above the water line. It looked like a 'flying saucer' and around the middle gleamed a bright red band.*

Bill yelled to his mates to come and look. As they arrived the object raced skywards and disappeared. Several agreed that they had caught a glimpse of the disc just as it vanished.

That encounter was to become a pivotal episode in Bill's life. He later became convinced that the sighting had an adverse effect on his life.

**SOON after, Bill's marriage began to fall. He was convinced that his obsession with the sighting wreaked havoc with his relationship with his wife.**

He suffered nightmares, which began to haunt him during his waking moments, so no part of the day was free from the image of an enormous spaceship and its occupants.

By now, Bill had left his seafaring days behind and was working at a Welsh radio station.

But he was deeply disturbed about the way his life was developing. He kept imagining himself imprisoned by aliens inside a craft from another planet.

*Bizarre secrets were imparted to him. The aliens claimed that thousands of their kind were living openly on the Earth. They looked identical to humans and integrated easily into our culture.*

Several of these individuals had been assigned to watch over Bill, and should he dare to step out of line, they would exact retribution. Bill felt he was being warned to say nothing about his experiences.

By now the pressure had become intolerable and his marriage broke down. A doctor referred him to a psychiatrist, who pronounced him mentally ill.

A period of recuperation followed. Bill never doubted that the experiences he had gone through were genuine,



but for the sake of appearances, he agreed with the doctors that the strained relations with his wife had warped his imagination.

**PUT on medication, Bill moved to Glasgow and found a job in a restaurant. He knew that mentally he was not as he used to be, but he somehow managed to cope with life.**

Friendships developed with his colleagues, and eventually he felt confident enough to confide in one of the chefs about his troubled past.

The chef listened sympathetically, though he made it clear he found it difficult to

accept the story. Nevertheless, the mere fact of telling it lifted a weight from Bill's shoulders.

As he thanked the chef for listening, Bill saw one of the waiters eyeing him curiously.

Bill immediately regretted speaking so openly. He wished he'd made sure no one had been around to listen. 'Probably has me down as a nut,' he thought.

*The repercussions came later. To Bill what happened can never be put down to coincidence.*

That night, as he returned home two men grabbed him as he entered his flat. 'They looked just ordinary,' said Bill, 'but what they said wasn't ordinary.'

They threatened him

and said that this time they would only warn him. But that should he open his mouth again...

*Bill said he didn't know what to make of it all, though the incident scared him badly.*

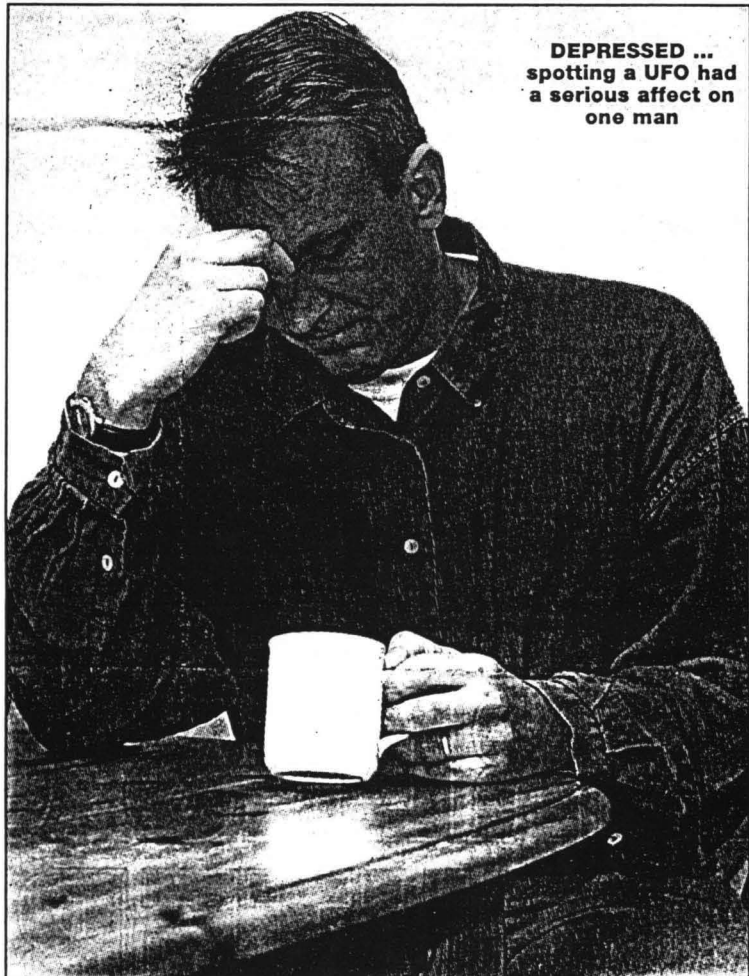
He was frightened, not simply because he had been threatened. Even more terrifying was the possibility that he had imagined the whole thing. But deep down he felt sure that it was fact.

**THE next day Bill turned up for work, only to be sacked. Expensive meats, which he had placed in the freezer, had been found lying in the store room.**

He had no doubt concerning who was responsible - aliens masquerading as humans.

Before Bill's story is dismissed, reports of similar experiences from the US should be considered - there have been many cases of individuals claiming to have been abducted by aliens, some in horrify-

**DEPRESSED ... spotting a UFO had a serious affect on one man**



ing circumstances.

The whole subject remains highly controversial, especially as the experiences of abductees often only emerge after hypnosis.

And it's clear that memory 'creation' can take place under hypnosis, and thus the extent of the abductee phenomenon should be viewed with caution.

*Nonetheless, such cases deserve to be investigated, and Bill's account merits serious consideration.*

Asked about his mental state, Bill replied: 'I know I'm not normal because of my experience with aliens. I'm not lying.'

'There are aliens on this earth. The government knows it, but is saying nothing.'

*Unfortunately, at the time of writing Bill has disappeared.*

However, I hope he will surface so that, at a time when abductions are being taken seriously, his case can be assessed by experts.

● *UFO Scotland (B&W Publishing, £7.99) is available from December 8.*

## UFO SPOTTING

# Look! Up in the sky!

By Christine Boyd  
Weekly Editor

A diamond-shaped UFO covered with flashing lights may have been responsible for the collapse of the McKim Theatre roof in Kimberley two weeks ago.

That's the rumour setting the ski town a-buzz after at least five witnesses reported seeing strange lights drifting slowly above the Bavarian City around midnight Mar. 5.

Fuelling speculation were reports of an unearthly "light show" spotted directly over the theatre roof just a few hours before it's as-yet unexplained collapse.

### Flashing lights above McKim

The first sighting of the UFO — and that's "unidentified flying object," not necessarily "spaceship," all those interviewed were quick to point out — seems to have been made between 10 p.m. and midnight Mar. 5.

Home care worker Gail Shay had just returned from work to her apartment in the Pioneer Lodge on Church Street. As she prepared to retire, she noticed unusually bright lights dancing above the roof of the theatre a few blocks away.

At first, the 46-year-old assumed that the beams were part of a McKim Theatre Society-sponsored light show.

A second glance sent shivers up her spine.

"It was like nothing I've ever seen before," said Shay.

"At first, it seemed like there was a crisscrossing spotlight going up into the sky from the roof of the school. It was glimmering, like the northern lights. There were all these colours.

"Then the light spread out like a mushroom cloud, exactly on the same spot as where the roof is gone."

Aware that she might be in for some ribbing after going on the record about her experience, Shay quickly added that she hadn't been drinking and isn't a spaceship buff. Although she considers herself somewhat unconventional and open to esoteric ideas, she was overwhelmed by the experience.

After reeling through a list of possi-

A diamond-shaped spacecraft. Unearthly flashing lights. Shooting white beams. Five people aren't sure exactly what they saw hovering over Kimberley Mar. 5, but they agree on one thing — the experience was out of this world!

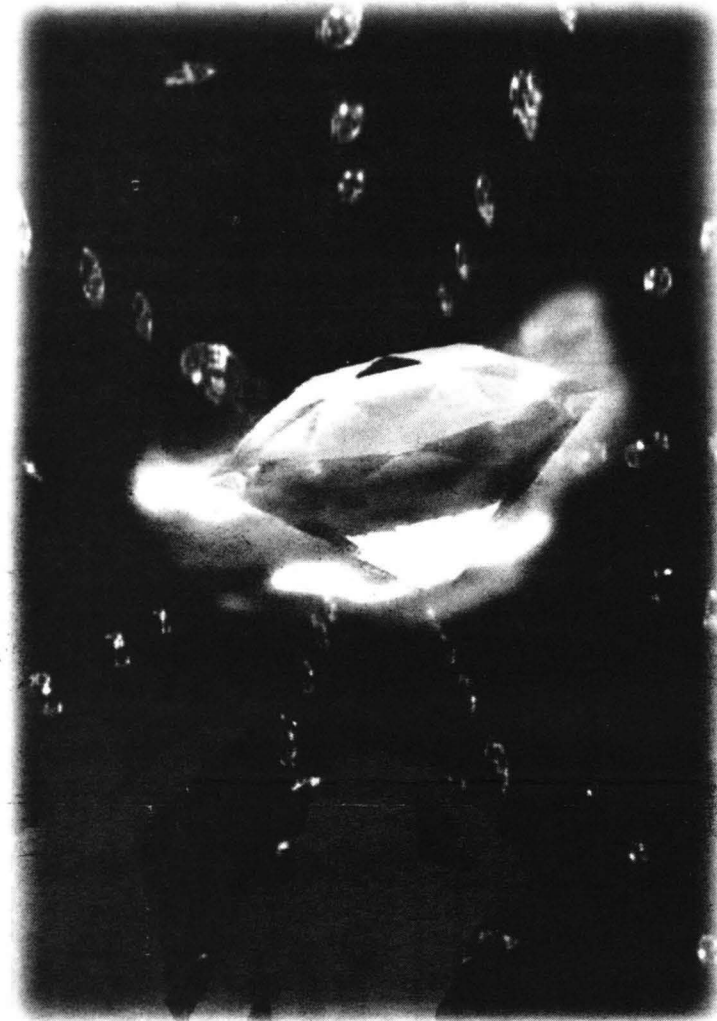


Photo illustration

**DIAMOND IN THE SKY:** The only witness able to examine the strange floating phenomena with binoculars reported viewing a diamond shape surrounded by brightly flashing coloured lights.

west of the town.

Grabbing their coats, Zawaski and his wife ran outside.

"The minute I saw it, I almost panicked, because it was like nothing I've seen on this earth," said Zawaski, who lives in Townsite.

Excitedly swapping details with the friends in Chapman Camp, the Zawaskis watched the object from 12:15 to 12:40 a.m. when it drifted out of sight behind the trees.

"What do I think it is? I don't know. I can tell you what I don't think it was..." he said.

The quartet ruled out every conventional explanation they could think of for the phenomena — it was moving too slowly and too low to the ground to be a plane or helicopter and had too many extremely bright flashing lights to be a hot air balloon, said Zawaski.

Zawaski admitted to being a bit of a UFO aficionado himself, and has spotted four over the past 30 years — in Austria, Norway, near Calgary and Kimberley. However, the other three witnesses claimed that they had never seen one before and weren't looking.

### Man-made, not spacemen!

In fact, his two friends from Chapman Camp only agreed to comment if they could remain anonymous, due to fear of public ridicule.

"You're kind of laughing at the whole thing yourself," said Mrs. "X." "People make these little comments like, 'Well, were you drinking last night?'"

In fact, Mrs. X was stone sober and doing a last tour of the house before retiring for the night when she, like Shay, noticed a bright light illuminating the house from outside. Expecting to see a bright star, she glanced outside and then stood petrified.

"It was large and round like a car light, so I thought it was a plane that was going to be landing," she said.

As she observed with dawning amazement, the "plane" hovered unmoving for five minutes, bright

**The minute I saw it, I almost panicked because it was like nothing I've seen on this earth.**

white rays of light shooting to each side. Then the lights changed.

"It was throwing out quite a few different lights, rotating around it. There were definitely four colours that I recall and maybe two others ones," she recalled.

"Then, of course, I ran in and called

my husband — 'Hey! You've got to see this!'"

Armed with a pair of binoculars, Mr. X was the only witness to perceive more details on the object. He reported seeing a faceted shape like a diamond in a ring, with an inverted cone underneath. Lights played constantly about its surface, but they shimmered like lights in a fog, not with the concentrated energy of a bulb, he said.

"It definitely wasn't a star," he said. "Stars twinkle — they don't give off dazzling light like that. It was too brilliant and big for a star."

Mr. X believes it was probably a man-made object, but is at a loss to explain it.

"I don't believe in flying saucers and little green men, space men, and all that stuff, I don't believe in it," he said. "I was the first to 'fooh-fooh!' all that stuff when other people talked about seeing UFOs. I think there's a logical explanation."

Back in Townsite, Zawaski shook with excitement, too awed to take his

**If it had been any closer, I would have had a heart-attack. When I hear reports of other people experiencing these things from 20 metres away — I don't think I'd survive.**

eyes off the object — which he now regrets not photographing. He had to take a tranquilizer to fall asleep after and couldn't help constantly glancing over his shoulder the next morning while skiing at the Kimberley Nordic Track.

"It wasn't anything I've ever seen anywhere," said Zawaski, adding that the experience cured him of any desire to see UFOs in the future.

"I don't ever want to see another one: it's too devastating.

"If it had been any closer, I would have had a heart attack. When I hear reports of other people experiencing these things from 20 metres away — I don't think I'd survive."

### Spaceship not ruled out

While Cranbrook Regional Airport doesn't have radar, nothing unusual was reported that night by staff or incoming pilots, according to its flight services station.

However, Kimberley RCMP received several telephone calls that night about the phenomena, although they were unable to verify the sighting.

The rumour was even raised among members of School District No. 6 at an emergency meeting called to discuss the collapsed theatre roof, which is attached to McKim Middle School.

"We're not about to speculate on the cause of the collapse, but we've heard all kinds of ideas, including UFO sightings on Friday night," said George Watson, school district director.

He did admit last week, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, that the work crew had not yet found anything in the wreckage to rule out alien spacecraft as a cause.

"We haven't yet, but maybe when we get inside that building, we'll find something; we could find anything!"



# Hello, spaceman...

THE Republic's government has pulled the plug on a Ulster UFO fanatic's plan to build the world's first spaceship centre.

Alan Sewell from the Irish Centre for UFO studies now wants funding from the new North-South bodies to set up the £200,000 alien contact centre.

The Craigavon man had spent three years planning a centre in Boyle, Co. Roscommon where several UFOs have been spotted hovering above the skies.

In one case he claims to have photographed a 20ft disc-shaped craft in the area's Lough Key forest park.

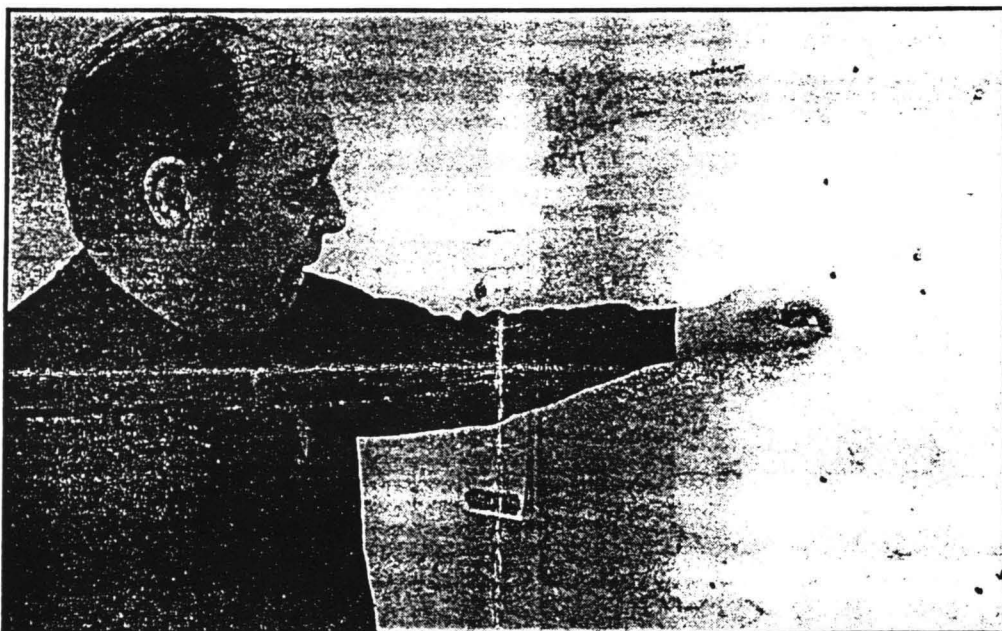
He claims to have the backing of tourist chiefs for the centre where people could follow actual UFO's on a largescreen hooked up to a telescope.

He told the Extra he intends to seek private sponsorship for a centre in Dublin and claimed to have spent a lot of money over recent years on his plans.

"I am disgusted," he said. The Irish government said we did not fit into any of their categories to get a grant.

"We have spent a lot of money on planning this centre, carried out studies and filled out a lot of forms. This centre could bring in lots of tourists.

"People would be able to watch



SPACEWATCH... Alan Sewell points out the UFO patrol zones

anything that happens from the centre. It would be unique in that it would be the only centre of its type in the world."

The premises will be open to the public and will have a museum dedicated to UFO sightings.

There will also be auditoriums to seat about 250 people for slide

shows, videos and sight displays.

Alan Sewell said he had been in contact with several tourist bodies including Bord Failte who gave him the thumbs up.

The Co. Armagh man claims the UFO group can now actually predict when unidentified objects will appear in the sky.

"We can now predict where UFO's are going to appear. It all depends on the right information.

"We have done it correctly five times already.

"We put sighting dates into a computer and it gives a rough guide to when something can be seen," he added.

HERALD & POST, Stamford, England - Jan. 21, 1999

■ Is Wittering really the UFO capital of the world?

## Spooky stuff for X-phile Torey



A DANA Scully wannabe has launched an appeal for the people of Stamford to scour the skies for flying saucers and mysterious lights.

Torey Cooper, 28, from Wittering, near Stamford is the deputy co-ordinator of a group called Sky-lights, which investigates UFO sightings and mysterious goings on in the region.

And the keen skywatcher is urging people to report their strange sightings, so that she and her team can investigate.

Torey said: "We are a fairly small group who deals with UFOs, the paranormal, and also sightings of big cats.

"There have been a number of UFO sightings over Stamford in recent months and we also had a major sighting over Peterborough on November 18.

"Along with this, big cats have been seen in Barnack and also in Ketton and this has sparked a great deal of interest.

"Our most exciting case was a woman who saw a huge UFO over Stamford in November.



by  
JONATHAN  
HILLS

She saw it twice and she used to be in the navy, so she was able to tell it wasn't an aircraft."

Torey and her team regularly participate in sky watches in an attempt to catch a glimpse of a UFO, and they are also on hand to investigate any spooky shenanigans.

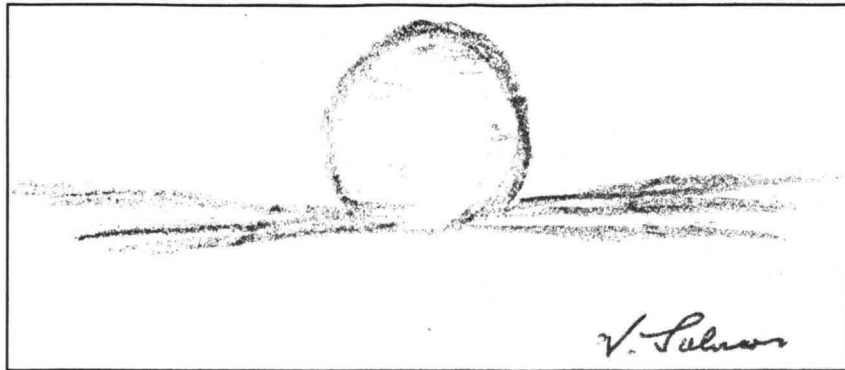
Torey said: "A lot of my friends call me spooky Fox Mulder but they take it all in good humour. But I see it as just a hobby.

"My own belief is that there is definitely a government conspiracy going on. They think it would cause mass panic if they told us the truth, but I'm sure that wouldn't happen."

Have you seen any mysterious lights in the sky? Do you know of any ghostly goings on, or do you have a haunted house?

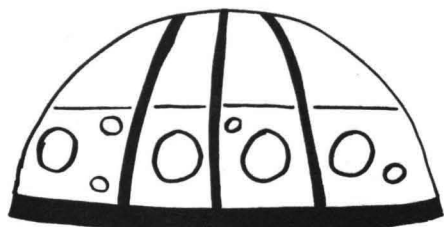
If so contact Jonathan Hills at the Stamford Herald & Post on (01733) 318616.

## THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE



LEFT: Vernon Salmon's drawing of the object he is convinced was a UFO. RIGHT: Joan and Roy Vincent (below) drew this flying object they saw one night over the clay district.

"Maybe one day we shall all know what it was we saw," Mrs Vincent said this week.



# Orange ball in sky was not from Earth

MORE people have broken a silence surrounding widely-witnessed UFO activity over the clay country more than 30 years ago.

They decided to talk about their experiences after former head of county planning, Mrs Joan Vincent, told the Cornish Guardian how she and her husband Roy had a close encounter with what they firmly believe was a flying saucer in 1965 at Karslake, between St Dennis and Carthew.

Following publication of Mrs Vincent's story, Vernon Salmon, a 67-year-old retired lorry driver, said that he and his son Glen, now 42, had also seen a UFO, which flew directly over the house in

by IAN SHEPHERD

Carthew where they were living in 1965.

"The house was within about a mile of where Mrs Vincent and her husband had their sighting," said Mr Salmon, who now lives at Polruan.

"It was a summer evening, about eight o'clock and it was a fairly clear night," he said. "I went into the back garden to get some logs for the fire, then I saw what looked like a star in the distance, but it was moving in my direction.

"I called my eldest son Glen. We were both amazed because as it passed over where we were standing we could see that it was some sort of machine. It was show-

ing coloured lights, not flashing ones that you see on aeroplanes. And it was absolutely silent, even though it could have been no more than 300 feet above us.

"It was moving very slowly and it was ball-shaped, orange in colour, with a dark, cross-shaped structure underneath (SEE DRAWING). There was a type of turret on the front with what looked like a window and as it passed I thought there was movement in the turret, as if someone was in there.

"I've seen many things in my life but never anything like that. One thing I am quite certain about. It was not an aeroplane or a balloon. Whatever it was, I don't think it came from earth."

## Flying saucer like the ones in films

A BUGLE man, who wishes to remain anonymous, produced a remarkable account of a UFO sighting at around the same time. But his description of the object that he saw fits the typical "flying saucer" shape, as witnessed by Mr and Mrs Vincent, rather than the "orange ball" seen by Mr Salmon and his son.

He said: "I was between 11 and 14 at the time and went down to the field behind Bugle

Chapel where we used to play.

"Some of my friends there said that they had seen a flying saucer and were very excited about it because it had fixed them with a beam of light. I thought they were talking rubbish and said so.

"But as I was leaving, it came back and I saw it for myself very clearly. It was just like the flying saucers that were shown in films years afterwards. It was moving

slowly and was absolutely silent, probably about 250 feet above the ground.

"It was a summer evening with good visibility. We all knew what we had seen, even though RAF St Mawgan told our parents that it could have been an aircraft carrying out mid-air refuelling. It was no such thing. It was a flying saucer. Mrs Vincent was very brave to go public with her account."

Mrs Vincent, chairman of the County Planning Committee for nine years until last May and now a long-serving County and Restormel Borough Councillor, said that, following publication of her account in the Cornish Guardian, she had received several phone calls from people who had seen UFOs.

"Most were people who had had similar experiences at around the same time."



FREE PRESS, Rossendale, England - Dec. 4, 1998

## UFO tourists' heading for close encounters with Bacup

A UFO hotspot could become a centre for Close Encounter enthusiasts.

Writer Roger Markman reckons Bacup could be given the perfect facelift if it made more of its strange lights in the sky.

"The area is well known among UFO enthusiasts all over the world," said Mr Markman, of Ramsey Avenue, Bacup.

"So we should be making more of that. The town could pull in people from all over the world and become a centre for tourism and information."

Roger, a former businessman and avi-

ation art writer, says the UFO industry makes millions of pounds worldwide with programmes like The X-Files.

But what people in the Valley don't realise, he said, is that Bacup is notorious throughout the world as being a popular site for spotting unidentified flying objects.

"Whole chapters in books have been devoted to the area," said Roger (51).

"Nowhere else in the world has had so many sightings. People like policeman and ambulance drivers have reported being abducted or seeing lights hovering in the sky."

"I describe myself as a very strong sceptic, but when reliable people start

coming forward you can't help but be interested."

One reason, he thinks, for sightings could be geology — rocks under Bacup are subject to constant pressure, creating electric gas plasma and ball lightning.

"But this wouldn't explain people seeing hovering lights or even losing time," added Roger, who is preparing a report on his plans for Bacup.

"The town has the room to cater for UFO conferences and events. Places such as the Empire Theatre and the Leisure Hall could be used and we could even use the library as a permanent information centre."



Roger Markman scans the news for sightings above Bacup. (V9449)

EVENING MAIL, Birmingham, England - Dec. 26, 1998

# EX-COPS TELL OF UFO SIGHTINGS

By MARK COWAN

A HANDFUL of former Midlands police officers have come forward to tell of alleged close encounters with the third kind while on duty.

The ten ex-cops were among more than 20 policemen who responded to an advertisement in the Police Review, the national police force magazine, inviting them to tell their UFO stories.

The encounters are to form the basis of a new book, Policing the UFO, written by UFO experts Nick Redfern and Irene Botts, and to be published next year.

Nick said the officers, from the West Midlands, Staffordshire and

Warwickshire forces, were all on duty at the time of their encounters.

Co-author Nick, who has written two other books on the subject, said: "Readers in the Midlands won't be disappointed by the material we have gathered."

The reported sightings include:

● An officer serving with West Midlands Police claimed he took a number of photographs of a disc-shaped object while he was on duty in the late 1980s.

The photographs were taken away by the MOD and never returned.

● A West Midlands officer who says the force's helicopter had been scrambled to look at a supposed UFO landing site, in the last couple of years.

● Another officer from a Midlands force who claimed the engine of his squad car cut out moments before he witnessed a large circular object hovering just above the road.

The authors decided to focus on police officers because of the weight they carry in society.

Nick said: "These are the sort of people whose testimony stand in a court of law."

"By filing reports on what is a controversial subject, these officers all risked being ridiculed by their colleagues."

"They have an awful lot to lose by coming forward and when you consider that these officers are all speaking out on the record, their stories carry some weight."

"But we are not saying these things are definitely little green men - a UFO is simply an unidentified flying object - although we believe something strange is going on."





KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

UFO researcher Carlos Diaz, standing above the resort town of Tepoztlan, about 40 miles south of Mexico City, displays photographs of what he says are extraterrestrial spacecraft seen there 11 years ago.

# UFO CENTRAL

## Residents of Mexican town take frequent alien sightings in stride

BY RICARDO SANDOVAL  
Mercury News Mexico City Bureau

**W**HEN Carlos Diaz came down from his first mountainside encounter with a UFO 20 years ago, he was worried that 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 Tepoztlan — 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 sweat houses that help make Tepoztlan 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 makes Tepoztlan 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 non-profit clearinghouse about extraterrestrials and their love of visiting Mexico and Tepoztlan.

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.

That, however, pales beside Tepoztlan's record for **etheral sightings**.

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 Tepoztlan.

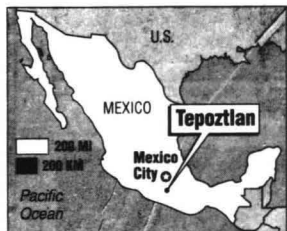
It's probably mass hysteria and a desire to be part of the hip crowd in very hip Tepoztlan, countered Mario Torres Lujan, a physicist who edits the magazine Contacto OVNI. OVNI is the equivalent acronym in Spanish to "UFO."

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.

### Before the Spanish

He says many of the Tepoztlan 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 refer to themselves as Nahuas, called Mexico City — for royalty and priests intent on mapping the sky. Today, sightings of floating lights, often called *brujas* (Spanish for "witches") remain common around Indian pyramids, Torres Lujan said.

Still, Torres Lujan harbors doubts about Te-



MERCURY NEWS

poztlan'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."

### Photos and videos

In the two decades since Diaz says he was first touched by an alien visit, he has become something of a celebrity in the global UFO network for his intriguing photos and videos — pictures now circulated on the Internet (<http://euforia.com/cdiaz.htm>). Yet he still can't get a rise out of jaded Tepoztlan natives.

"It's not that we don't believe him — we all do — but so many of us have seen these things that we're no longer shocked," said Ignacio Gonzalez, owner of a small resort where strange objects in the sky have sometimes entertained guests dining on the patio.

Gonzalez, a former army officer, says he came to Tepoztlan a skeptic. He stops short of proclaiming that space visitors have arrived. But he swears that what he and his well-heeled guests have seen on occasion is not from the Mexican Air Force's inventory.

**“We saw one, and everyone in town has seen one, or knows someone who has.”**

— Luis Quijano, Mexico City resident

"We saw one, and everyone in town has seen one, or knows someone who has," offered Luis Quijano, a chemical company executive in Mexico City who listened intently as Gonzalez spun tales of fantastic sightings.

"It was cool," Quijano said simply, in laid-back English.

At an adjacent table, two elderly women caught the buzz and compared notes about the latest episode of "The X-Files" television series.

"Let's stay up and see if they come tonight," said one of the women, as she nibbled on chunks of brie and Camembert cheese.

"I think they're already here," said the other, her eyes twinkling like a light in the night sky.

EVENING STAR, Ipswich, England - Jan. 20, 1999

## Big screen hopes for Suffolk's X Files play

### Theories

It will take place from 4pm and 7.30pm on February 20 and 21 at the Northgate Arts Centre, Ipswich.

The play looks at the different theories about the incidents near the east gate of RAF Woodbridge.

The research included interviews with a former member of the United States Air Force who wishes to remain anonymous, and an investigation at the site claimed to be where a UFO landed in Rendlesham Forest.

However, the play, billed as East Anglia's answer to The X Files, is entitled UFO Bentwaters.

Mr Newborn said: "I like the name Bentwaters and that is why I have used it, really. I think it sounds better than UFO Woodbridge or UFO Rendlesham Forest."

"The play looks at the different theories, and some of it is light hearted, other parts more serious."

"Plans for a feature film of UFO Bentwaters are also in development."

The film company is about five years old, although its youth theatre work stretches back further.

Theme music is being composed by Thomas Gray, who has written for the company's previous films, Sparkleshark and Four Carrier Bags and a Buggy.

A SUFFOLK film company is considering the possibility of making a feature film out of the unexplained mysterious sightings of UFOs near Woodbridge.

The Red Rose Chain company, of High Street, Tuddenham, near Ipswich, is exploring the background to the world famous sightings in December, 1980, close to RAF Woodbridge.

The base was being used by the American air force at the time, and personnel claim they witnessed some unusual sights on two nights just after Christmas.

More than 18 years later the sightings remain a source of fascination across the world. Theories and books keep appearing, but there is still no definitive answer for one of the world's top UFO mysteries.

The Red Rose Chain company has researched the subject and is trying to establish whether there is a market for either a cinema film or a television programme.

In the meantime 18 young actors in its youth theatre will stage a new play written by Red Rose Chain's directors Joanna Carrick and David Newborn.



Sky's the limit: Alex Birch, right, with son Adrian Birch, 24, and grandson Thomas Dodsworth, 5, with the "flying saucers" picture.

## No kidding this time ...My flying saucer picture is genuine

Eileen Brooks

SCHOOLBOY Alex Birch, blamed for hoaxing the world with a sensational flying saucers photograph 37 years ago now insists his story was true.

Mr Birch, now an antiques dealer and a grandfather, claims pressure and ridicule forced him to claim the UFO sighting in 1962, which made him a worldwide celebrity, was a fake.

Now he says the world must know the true story of what happened in the garden of a semi-detached house in Mosborough, Sheffield, on March 4, 1962.

Mr Birch, then a 12-year-old schoolboy, was playing in the garden of his parents' home with two friends. They were using

an old Brownie 127 black and white box camera to take pictures of each other. As they played together, they claimed five flying saucer objects appeared in the sky behind them, hovering over trees and bushes.

In the 20 seconds the objects were visible, Mr Birch wheeled round and took a single picture. It captured the fuzzy objects, showing what appeared to be a dome on top.

The photograph was to change the life of the young boy. It was pronounced genuine by Kodak experts, and the Air Ministry and the Pentagon examined copies and ordered an investigation.

The picture appeared in newspapers, magazines and was televised

throughout the world, and he even became a guest speaker at UFO conferences.

The picture became one of the most convincing pieces of evidence in a 1960s Britain obsessed with flying saucers and proving their existence.

He and his father were called to London to be grilled by Air Ministry officials.

But then 10 years later Mr Birch called a press conference and said the photograph was a simple cut and paste fake. He said it was a schoolboy prank which snowballed out of control.

He and his friends had cut out the shapes of flying saucers, pasted them on glass, and then took the picture which fooled the experts. At the time,



UFO experts throughout the world refused to believe him.

Yesterday Mr Birch, now 49, explained why he had changed his strange story yet again. He said: "People think I made a fortune out of the photograph - I have heard estimates of £500,000.

"In fact I made practically nothing, but I did become internationally famous. But with the fame came a lot of misery. I faced a lot of ridicule and pressure. I decided to

claim it was a fake in the hope that it would all go away and the pressure would be taken off me. But it didn't work like that.

"The UFO fraternity refused to believe me and they even called an emergency conference in London and came to the conclusion that my change of story was due to pressure.

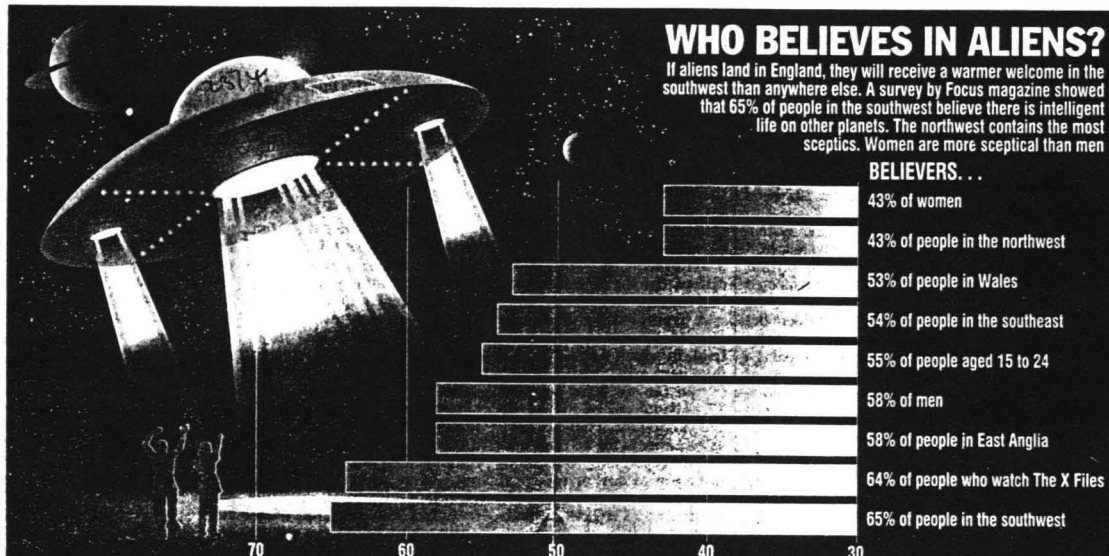
"The reason I've decided to let the real story be known now is because I think it is important the public should know.

"The Roswell Museum in New Mexico want the old Brownie camera to put on display because they believe the picture was genuine.

"I still have it and it's become an old friend and I have not made my mind up yet about parting with it. But it seems that one black and white picture taken in a garden all those years ago will be having an impact on our lives for some years to come."

As they say, the truth is out there...

SUNDAY TIMES, London, England - Jan. 17, 1999





# An Alien Touch

By Michael S. Arnold

**A**drian Dvir is a huge man, burly and bearded, but at this moment he must feel something like a teenage girl. It is already 9:20 on the evening of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and, while most of the nation has settled down in front of the TV, Dvir is waiting by the phone for a call that was supposed to come on the hour.

He is growing somewhat anxious. Every few minutes he checks his cellular phone and random attachments to make sure they are properly connected. They are, but still there is no sign of Fenix. It could be that Fenix is standing Dvir up.

"I can't promise that he'll call," Dvir says. "I told him that a journalist was coming, and he's also interested in public relations. But I'm not his top priority. Sometimes they have crises or other things come up."

As the minutes tick by one wonders how much grace to give Fenix before thanking Dvir politely and mentioning the long ride back from his Rishon Lezion home to Jerusalem. Eyes wander the walls, taking in the artwork and noticing how curiously appropriate it is to the environment: ghoulish faces appearing out of tree trunks; a bald, hydrocephalic woman with a passing resemblance to Sinead O'Connor; designs of refracted light and interlocking geometric shapes; distorted faces with several levels of eyes. Seventies basement playroom art, in other words.

Finally, at 9:30, Dvir's cell phone rings. The screen registers "private call" but the slow, metallic croak of a voice is unmistakable: he says he is Fenix. The voice is audible over a speaker Dvir has attached to the phone.

He does not apologize for the delay, but his manners can be excused. He is, after all, hurtling in his spacecraft at 18 times the speed of light from Uranus back to his home solar system of Arcturus, and it's reasonable to assume that Cellcom's reception is spotty that far out in the galaxy.

Dvir, who has developed a friendship with Fenix after three months of frequent phone calls - he has recorded some 40 hours of the calls on video - begins the conversation by announcing that a journalist is present and wishes to ask Fenix some questions. That deviance from the normal rules will not be allowed, however.

"It is incumbent on me to bring my regrets," Fenix says, his speech slow and halting, his guttural native language translated awkwardly into Hebrew through some kind of synthesizer on the mother ship. "Permission for direct contact, in real time, outside the contact person, does not exist. Please bring questions through you if his desire is in receiving answers."

So begins *The Jerusalem Post's* first known contact with extraterrestrials. For Dvir, however, such close encounters are the stuff of everyday life. An engineer who develops hand-held military computers for Tadiran Com., Dvir says he has spent the last five years in close contact with aliens.

It was a dead aunt, asking Dvir to look after her children.

Dvir says he didn't think about the experience much. "I figured I had a fertile imagination," he says.

But the encounters with dead relatives continued. Several years later, shortly after his grandfather died, Dvir encountered the old man shuffling around his apartment, looking for a newspaper. After his father died of cancer, Dvir came out of work to find his spirit sitting in Dvir's car. Lucky thing, too, because his father warned him to be careful, and Dvir says he then escaped a collision with a truck

that seemed to materialize out of nowhere.

Dvir's psychic connection was not just with his loved ones. Working on his computer one Shabbat, Dvir began to feel that he was a medium for messages from other-worldly beings, asking them questions and then typing out their answers, a sort of human Ouija board.

Dvir needed someone to talk to and turned to his mother, who believed in these sort of things. Rather than dismissing him as crazy, she urged him to visit a professional medium in Rishon Lezion, Valerio Burgosh.

First they opened a medical clinic in the workroom of his Rishon Lezion home, one of several such supposed alien-run health clinics operating in the city. Those aliens, Dvir says, were of a particularly developed and, apparently, benevolent race.

Fenix's species, the Kliendcontlar, are less advanced but also well-intentioned. Their purpose is to warn us earthlings of the mortal danger we may face in another 50 years from the fearsome Morgolius, a race of cosmic bullies who even now are trying to exterminate the Kliendcontlar and have their sights set next on Earth.

True, the Kliendcontlar do appear to have ulterior motives: they believe Earth's atmosphere is favorable and would like to transfer to Dvir their genetic code for a possible future migration to our planet. Dvir warned them off, Earth being already too crowded. But it would seem the Kliendcontlar wouldn't pose such terrible competitors for the planet's scarce resources - they appear to exist, after all, only in a parallel dimension, imperceptible to most of us humans sadly limited to just five senses.

Dvir's training as an engineer and his methodical work habits may make him an ideal conduit to publicize the exploits of Fenix and his race, but he certainly is not alone in his belief in extraterrestrial beings.

A 1996 Gallup poll purported to show that 40 percent of Israelis believe in the existence of aliens, according to Avi Greif, chairman of the Israeli Center for the Study of UFOs. That still makes us much more skeptical than, say, Americans, some 70 percent of whom believe in extraterrestrials, Greif says.

Surely, contact with aliens has figured prominently in many of the movies that have most profoundly influenced our generation, from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* to *Star Wars*, *Star Trek* to *ET*.

Grief, who is not in contact with aliens himself but gathers information on the phenomenon, says nearly 70,000 sightings of aliens and unidentified flying objects are reported around the world each year.

Many of these are recorded in various ways, though their authenticity obviously is disputed. It's anyone's guess what role pop culture images of aliens play in the alleged sightings.

"I'm 100 percent sure that aliens exist," Greif says. "In the end I believe it will be accepted by everyone. There is a lot of proof, but the problem is that this proof isn't known to a lot of people."

The reason for that, Greif and other believers insist, is a conspiracy of silence on the part of governments, militaries and scientists. Greif alleges a history of contact between aliens and representatives of the US government, a collaboration that may even include the transfer of other-worldly technology.

The US, however, keeps such information under tight wraps, Greif says - "and if the American government denies it, of course the Israeli government will deny it too."

Israel, for its size, appears to have quite frequent contact with aliens. In Rishon Lezion alone, for example, aliens allegedly run at least three medical clinics, treating an assortment of ailments from disc problems to toothaches to anorexia to lupus. Much of the actual work is done by humans who channel the aliens' energy, laying on hands or projecting force with their hands held three to four centimeters above the patient's body.

Sometimes the aliens supposedly do the work all by themselves, while the "healer" sits on the side. That can anger patients, who feel they are being ripped off when the healer then pockets NIS 150. But in fact the aliens work up to 10 times faster than their human conduits, Dvir says, and such hands-off treatment thus is more efficient.

When Dvir became aware of his abilities several years ago, he attended an institute for spiritual healing in Holon, and in 1995 received diplomas in energetic healing and advanced spiritual healing. His first book, *Healing, Yeshuyot Vehutzanim* (healing, beings and aliens) has just been published by Gal and is available at Steimatzky's. His clinic is mostly closed now while he concentrates on writing a book on his experiences with the Kliendcontlars.

For demonstration purposes, however, Dvir does a bit of work on his wife, Adriana, who often feels that her left arm is falling asleep. Dvir maneuvers his hands above her body, guided, he says, by the aliens, who intuitively find the trouble spot. After a few minutes of energy transference, Adriana says she feels pins and needles in her arm, a sign that circulation is returning.

Greif says he is not sure of the veracity of Dvir's alien

contacts, though they seem credible. What inclines him to believe is the fact that four other people have reported contact with the same race and back up Dvir's account of their appearance, location and social structure.

In any case, the UFO group will meet at the Netanya library on May 18 to discuss Dvir's claims.

"It's hard to prove whether it's true," Greif says. "I want it to be true, but I need proof. The question is what would be [Dvir's] motivation, what does he get out of it. He's a serious person, he's not trying to make a living off this. But it could be that tomorrow we'll find out that someone is just playing around with him. Even today I'm not 100 percent sure about it."

Dvir was born in Bucharest and moved here in 1965, at the age of eight. As a child he was a science fiction fan, but his psychic abilities did not manifest themselves until he

was an adult. Dvir's first experience with the paranormal was a dozen or so years ago, when he was lying on a bed at his parents' house and felt something cold on his leg.

Burgosh also saw the spirit of Dvir's father, conversed with him and told Dvir personal facts that he could not otherwise have known.

"It was very difficult for me to accept this, but [Burgosh] helped me," Dvir says. He began reading and taking courses to develop his psychic abilities.

At one such course, in 1993, Dvir says his encounters with aliens began in earnest. Looking up, he saw all manner of strange beings walking around him, imperceptible to most people but visible to Dvir with a sort of extrasensory perception.

"I think they tagged me as a sort of contact person," impressed by his charisma and perceptivity, Dvir says.

Since then, it seems, the aliens have never left Dvir alone. Day and night he is accompanied by a shifting cast of at least two aliens, even while talking in a seemingly normal and solitary manner with a reporter.

(continued on page 16)

Around 1992, Dvir went to visit Haya Levy, a healer who had opened an alien-run clinic in her Rishon LeZion home. Indeed, upon entering her house Dvir saw a gallery of aliens. He found her treatment effective and her support important. The aliens began negotiating with Dvir to open another clinic in his apartment.

Levy's contact with aliens began some 15 years ago on the Negev moshav, Sadot, where she lived at the time. Sitting with her children in the garden of her home, Levy received a telepathic SOS from a spaceship that needed a spot for an emergency landing. She invited them to land at Sadot.

A little while later, Levy was in her kitchen when she felt a strong impulse to go outside. There she found a small, petrified man with a strange accent. She invited him in for a cup of tea.

After the tea, the man disappeared without a trace or even so much as a thank you, but Levy's contact with aliens had begun. Most of the aliens with whom Levy has contact look like human beings, she says, but not all. Prof. Bach, for instance, has skin like a lizard and is completely bald. Maya has silver skin and blue eyes like those of a fish.

About eight years ago, when Levy was suffering from disc problems that had confined her to bed, the aliens offered to treat her, she says. She was skeptical, but after just an hour of treatment she was able to walk again. After five days of treatment she was fully mobile and able to carry things.

When the aliens proposed the joint-venture clinic, Levy accepted. Alien treatment has an 87 percent success rate, she claims.

"My ex-husband is my No. 1 client. He's the biggest believer," Levy says. "The results speak for themselves."

Levy's importance for Dvir goes beyond her status as a role model. When the Kliendcontlars began calling, Dvir was skeptical. He asked his cast of resident aliens, who said Fenix and crew were legitimate, but Dvir wanted more corroborating evidence.

He spoke to Levy, who did not know of the Kliendcontlars but ran a background check with her aliens. They supposedly vouched for Fenix and his race, confirming certain crucial details such as Arcturus' red sun and the planet's ecological problems.

On January 22, Dvir and Adriana were on their way to a restaurant when his cellphone rang. It was Dvir's 41st birthday and it might have been a wellwisher, but the caller kept hanging up.

During dinner the phone rang again, and this time the caller stayed on the line. He identified himself as Forth, a 358-year-old Kliendcontlar whose job it was to make contact with other civilizations, according to Dvir.

Dvir spent most of the dinner talking not to his wife but to the alien.

Dvir asked Cellcom to check the origin of the calls, but the company said the number was blocked. In any case, as the telephone connection continued and the aliens offered consistent answers to Dvir's questions, he began to believe.

"At first I thought someone was making fun of me, but when he kept calling I realized it was serious," he says. "You know it's not someone from here doing it, because they would do it for one day, two days, and then get tired of it."

Forth initiated the first few conversations and then, being near retirement age – the race's life expectancy is some 400 years – he handed the Dvir file to his deputy Fenix, who at 200 is just entering the prime of Kliendcontlar life. (Forth died this week, alien sources informed Dvir.)

Certain details about the race and Kliendcontlar society emerged from Dvir's inquiries, he says. The Kliendcontlars stand about one meter tall – "above ground level, of course," in Fenix's words – have gray skin, two arms and two legs, three fingers on each hand, green blood and DNA composed of four basic building blocks.

Their society is rather totalitarian: religion is outlawed on pain of death and the government determines each newborn Kliendcontlar's spouse and profession, performing genetic improvement surgery shortly after birth to prepare him for his career.

Our conversation with Fenix proceeds on two tracks. Dvir asks more sophisticated questions fit for an anthropologist: what is the Kliendcontlar's justice system like, do they have the death penalty (yes), does the Whole Universe Organization's charter require member states to help a starship in distress (yes), can workers in different tasks be identified by uniform (yes).

My questions are more prosaic: does Fenix have a family (wife and children, all of whom work in communications), does he laugh (yes, although he hasn't told a joke in 100 years), does he speak English (no), does he know anything about Israeli politics (no), what does he eat (the microwave story), what proof can he offer that he really is an alien (it's not his concern, "facts will come about," whether humans believe him or not).

Fenix appears baffled when I ask if he will have to pay for the 85-minute phone call from the environs of Uranus. Dvir has to explain to him that on our planet one pays the makers of telecommunications equipment for their service, a concept foreign to Arcturus, where there is no money.

Fenix appears delighted to hear of *The Jerusalem Post's* international circulation – "this is excellent," he says – but declines the invitation to deliver a message to the human race on its pages.

At one point Fenix grows tired of my questions, many of which he has answered in previous conversations with Dvir.

He lights into Dvir in his slow, tortured, alien way. "At this moment it is my wish to give you a sort of friendly advice," he tells him. "If additional contact will be made with you, with extraterrestrial contact people, my advice is, it is upon you to prevent rhetorical questions. This thing does not add anything.

Information that you ask a question on, and you know the answer to it, this thing bears witness, thus the extraterrestrial contact man thinks about you as a character lacking understanding, lacking culture, lacking principles. Because this thing is very important, it is upon you to prevent rhetorical questions."

Dvir accepts the reprimand with grace. At the end of the

conversation, they make a date for another conversation the following morning.

"This is real," Dvir says to me at the end of the conversation. "This is a real alien."

His colleagues at Tadiran have mixed feelings about his alien contacts, Dvir admits. Some come to him for treatments. Others grow visibly uncomfortable when he begins to discuss his experiences and ask him to stop talking about it. A company spokesman declined to be interviewed.

Dvir's wife Adriana is a little skeptical too. She does not see the aliens who traipse around her apartment day and night.

"I'm more rational. I want to see proof," she says. "But who knows, maybe it's true? Maybe I'm the limited one and I'm missing out. He's always been more sensitive."

Dvir's 9-year-old son, Effi, appears a little confused by it all. Asked if he believes in the aliens, at first he says no. Asked to elaborate, he doesn't answer.

Asked again if he believes, he is noncommittal. Adriana asks Effi whether or not he believes, and this time he says yes.

"Of course he believes," she says, then turns back to Effi. "What, do you think your father is talking nonsense?"

Effi shakes his head no.

Considering how unusual his ideas sound, Dvir has gotten a surprising amount of attention from the media, appearing in television, radio and print interviews. The publicity has apparently reached across the heavens; shortly after the first news article appeared, Dvir says he got an introductory e-mail from an alien named Ayami from the solar system Sirius. Ayami bore greetings from his King Agnemnon, and said he would contact Dvir again in five years.

Perhaps the media attention can be explained because of the seriousness of Dvir's day job and his obvious intelligence; he does not come across as a flake. This week Dvir appeared on Judy Shalom Nir Mozes' television program on Channel 2, *Jude Morning*, but Shalom Nir Mozes came away unconvinced.

"I made fun of him with all my strength, but very gently," she says. "It's nonsense. I don't believe in any of these things. But I'm in favor of freedom of expression and letting anyone speak."

It is tempting to see Dvir as a lonely man of faith. It is not considered outlandish in this day and age to believe in God, who doesn't even bother to telephone. But mention aliens – even those considerate enough to call on your birthday – and you're immediately dismissed as a little wacky.

"People have quirks," Shalom Nir Mozes says simply when asked how she thinks Dvir himself can believe in aliens.

Tel Aviv University psychiatrist Ilan Kutz says the phenomenon of alien contact is the same experience that in former times might have been called prophecy.

"If you look at what these people are really saying and you take the aliens out of it, the message is that I've been chosen by a special power and endowed with a special force," Kutz says. "It's very reminiscent of stories we hear throughout ancient times. This experience requires an external entity to make the experience whole. In former times this used to be the experience of revelation or the religious experience. It has to be somebody not only far away but far above."

Part of the move from religious terminology to the realm of science fiction stems from shifting cultural references over time, Kutz says.

"These claims are not new, it's the language that is new," Kutz says.

"The language today has changed from religious language to scientific language. In former times paranoids used to say that they are Napoleon or that somebody speaks to them in a holy voice; now they say the TV speaks to them. Napoleon is out of fashion."

This is not to say, Kutz stresses, that aliens do not exist; he believes the chances are as good as not that they do. Yet without firm proof of their existence, the choice to believe in them is essentially a highly religious one.

"We all need to believe in a higher being in one form or another," Kutz says. "From an evolutionary point of view it gives us a big advantage."

It allows us to withstand difficulties, even at times against all odds, because there is all the time the promise that there is somebody out there looking out for us and safeguarding the world order. I think it's built in in humans to turn to a mightier power because it really maximizes survival."

Kutz dismisses the physical descriptions Dvir and others offer of the aliens they see.

"It's always the same story, always the same lack of evidence," Kutz says. "People are feeding off each other. When I was a child, aliens were green and had big antennae. Once the pictures of aliens with big eyes were shown, then everyone started seeing them."

Dvir and Levy say their belief in aliens is not a matter of faith, but of proof – proof that the rest of us can not see because of our limitations.

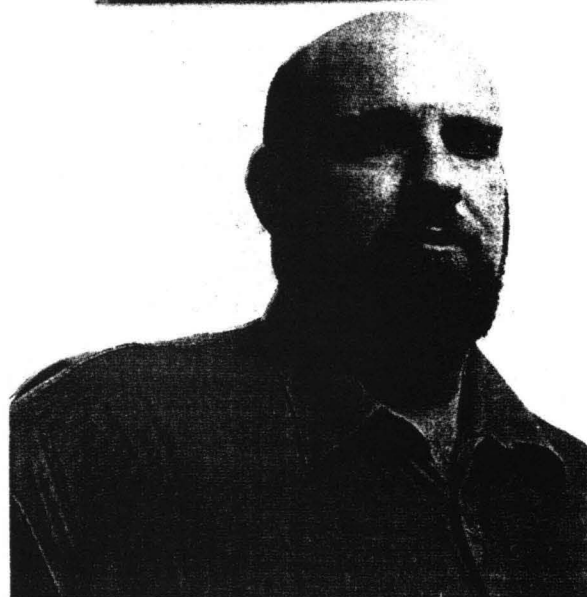
"It's all a question of openness," Levy says. "If you're open, you can believe in things you can't see physically. If you're not open, you trust only your five senses. Those people are limited, in my opinion."

Dvir believes the day will come when interaction with aliens will be considered normal.

"People who had contact in previous incarnations, they know it's possible. Others are scared and they don't want to know about it," he says. "But there are aliens out there. One day we'll have to meet. We'll have no choice but to get to know one another."



JONATHAN BLOOM



*It is tempting to see Dvir as a lonely man of faith. It is not considered outlandish in this day and age to believe in God, who doesn't even bother to telephone. But mention aliens – even those considerate enough to call on your birthday – and you're immediately dismissed as a little wacky.*

BBC TOMORROW'S WORLD, London, England - Dec. 1998



THE PSYCHIC CUTLERY CURLER PRESENTS  
HIS UNIQUE VIEW OF THE WACKY WORLD

Israeli technology seems at times so far ahead of other nations that I believe my home country can become a superpower in the next millennium. Carbon nanotubes engineered at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, are 200 times more durable than any other fibre. Capable of withstanding extreme pressures, the molecules could be used for lightweight armour-plating, creating bomb-proof soldiers.

Meanwhile, the Rafael Arms Development Authority has made a breakthrough which could save thousands of lives. Researcher Gavriel Iddan has invented a capsule the size of a vitamin pill,

containing a chip-sized camera, a light source, transmitters and a battery. During its seven-hour trip through a patient's intestinal tract, the 'pill' reports on every aspect of the digestive system.

Israel's top UFO researcher, journalist Barry Chamish, claims he's discovered a new material – a lichen-like silicon as elastic as rubber. The material was found in Tel Yitzhak in September 1997, after witnesses claimed that a spacecraft had landed there. An iron-based oil was also found, believed to be a residue from one of 20 UFO sightings in the area.

UFOs leak, it seems!

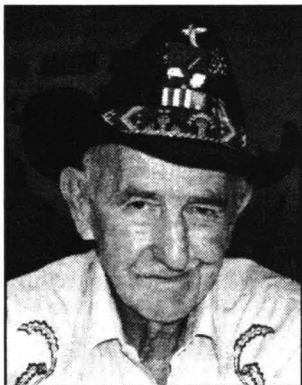
Visit Uri at <http://www.urigetter.com>





VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

## Tribute to a mountain man: Wes Sumerlin



Wes Sumerlin

The Blue Mountains have meant many things to many people for a lot of years.

They'll hold a whole different meaning with the recent passing of the "Grand Old Man of the Blues," Wes Sumerlin.

Somehow, whenever one mentioned the Blues, it was usually synonymous with Sumerlin. He'd been a part of the nearby mountains since he was 14 and running a pack string in the mountains. Also synonymous were the words "horse" and "Sumerlin." One of those always went with the other. There always have been horses in a corral near the Sumerlin home.

So it was that it was horses and the Blues when Wes and I crossed paths back in the '50s. We were both involved in the Walla Walla '59ers, an organization called into action to promote the coming Centennial of the city, county and Whitman College. Focal point was a 100-year-old stagecoach ... and its hitch of four horses, of course!

As a reporter I chronicled much of what went on with the '59ers, especially as it happened out of town ... my news beat then. And, Wes became a major player as a driver of the team as it traveled around to various rodeos, all the time plugging (no pun intended!) our Centennial. His role with the '59ers I recall most vividly as the driver for the

ride in the coach over the mountains by back roads to the Chief Joseph Rodeo of 1970. To say the least, the entry into the arena when the coach arrived made a big splash.

Besides this adventure, Wes and I shared several other mountain trips... on foot, on horse back and in a pickup truck... mostly on the track of the elusive Bigfoot. The creature's existence has been held in doubt by some but never (make that NEVER!) by the family of Wes Sumerlin. Several experiences of the family with the creature have been recounted by Wes and his family who have always equated Bigfoot with the rest of the wildlife they find in the mountains.

Probably the favorite portion of the Blues for the Sumerlins has been the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area, established in 1978. The trails around the perimeter of the Wilderness have also held their attractions, as have the camping sites on and off those trails. Their attraction is likely due to the fact the camp grounds were once places favored by the Nez Perce Indians and other Indian tribes before the arrival of the white man, Wes told me.

It's an area also made to order for the Bigfoot. Sumerlin himself had an interest in Bigfoot since he was a child. For that matter, the creature was part of his rearing on the Colville Indian Reservation where he spent his childhood. He was part Indian. The reservation is where he was taught the skills of tracking and staying alive in the wilds.

His first involvement with the Bigfoot of the Blues came when he was running a pack string into the mountains here at age 14 and occasionally would come across the big footprints.

One of the most interesting of the several experiences of Wes with Bigfoot possibly was one where the creature was possibly tied in with a UFO. At least, it was something which boggled the minds at the time of both Wes and

his riding companion, W. S. "Stub" Gray of Walla Walla when fishing the Wenaha River. It's part of an interesting chapter in my book, "Bigfoot of the Blues." Here it is, in Wes' words:

"Shortly after first light, Stub and I are riding down to a log jam in the (Wenaha) river, about two miles below camp. We look across the river and up on the side of the canyon sits a silver tower, like a silo, about 20 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet high. It was a bright silver in color.

"Checking it over with our high-powered [10x50] field glasses, we could find no weld seams or rivets or any kind of fabrication mark on the 'silo.'

"We figured maybe the Forest Service [Umatilla National Forest] had built a fire lookout tower, but if so, how did they get it there and assemble it?

"Stub and I promised ourselves we'd ride up to the silo next weekend and take a good look at it but, 'we're going fishing this weekend!'

Suiting the promise to action, the two were back on the Wenaha the following weekend and headed downstream to the site where they'd seen the 'silo.' With them were two other adventurers, 'Joe' and 'Larry.' Wes continued his story:

"When we got about a half mile from the site, we were riding around a bend in the trail when we surprised a pair of Bigfoots. They were sitting on a log, eating fish!

"One of the critters jumps into the brush and the other, about eight feet tall or better, stands up and growls.

"All hell broke loose and suddenly we are having a four-ring rodeo!

"Joe and his saddle get bucked off by his horse.

"Stub gets bucked off.

"Larry and I get control of our horses.

"The big critter, after growling at us, jumps off the end of the point and runs across the flat and into the timber.

"We re-saddled our horses and headed for home in a big hurry!

"Winter set in and that was the last chance to get into the high country that year."

Wes and Stub never did get back to check out the 'silo.' The same year, Wes underwent severe heart surgery and activity around a horse was curtailed for some time.

Many people over the years have 'checked in' with Wes Sumerlin when they heard about or saw evidence of a Bigfoot in the mountains. This was something which continued practically right up to his death. And, when people called at the Sumerlin home on Dell Avenue, several pots of coffee sometimes disappeared during the visit. Wes and Pee-wee always had an ample supply brewing in their kitchen.

The Sumerlin home over the years has been a mecca for many, especially those who sought to learn more about this Bigfoot thing! Several television companies, two from Japan, have come there to film while interviewing Wes in recent years for documentaries on the subject.

Tracking down the Bigfoot story of the Blue Mountains will not be the same without Wes Sumerlin.

I'm sure I'm part of a small army who feel the same way!

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - Feb. 18, 1999

## Baffling boom

HERALD-STANDARD, Uniontown, PA - Feb. 22, 1999 CR: S. Gordon

## UFO investigators join search for cause of Brownsville's sonic mystery

By CHRISTINE HAINES

Herald-Standard Staff Writer

BROWNSVILLE — A loud boom heard in Brownsville last September is still being investigated, but this time not by the police.

Borough police looked into the incident shortly after it occurred and attempted to recreate it by setting off a 3-inch mortar, the type used in fireworks displays.

"We set off a three-inch ball, and 100 yards away, it set off a car alarm," said Brownsville police Chief Gerald Elliott.

As for the Sept. 27 noise, Elliott said it may have been caused by a similar explosive device.

"I believe it was a 5-inch ball, which, set off by the river, would cause that kind of noise," Elliott

**"It probably has nothing to do with UFOs, but it is an unusual type thing. ...There are a lot of similar reports of booms from around the country."**

**Stan Gordon**  
Smithfield native and UFO investigator

said.

Stan Gordon of Greensburg and Jim Brown of Smithfield investigate UFO sightings and unusual incidents. The Brownsville boom is on their list.

"I probably has nothing to do with UFOs, but it is an unusual type thing," Gordon said. "There are a lot

of similar reports of booms from around the country."

Brown said the investigation into any incident starts with interviewing witnesses, which he has done in the Brownsville area. So far, he's ruled some things out, such as sonic booms from a military aircraft, but he still doesn't know what caused the noise

and vibration.

"We look at it as a possibility of a natural phenomena. Right now, there's nothing to indicate it's anything other than a natural phenomenon or manmade," Brown said.

He said he doesn't believe the noise was caused by an explosive device, since it could be heard in portions of Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

"Anything powerful enough to be heard over that wide of an area should have blown out some windows near it," Brown said.

Elliott agrees with Gordon and Brown on one point.

"It had nothing to do with a UFO, I can tell you that," Elliott said.

Brown said since many people reported feeling the explosion as well as hearing it, he is still looking into

the possibility that the noise was caused by a meteor, although so far there is no physical evidence of any meteor striking the Brownsville area.

Brown said similar noise reports, sometimes referred to as sky quakes, have been reported in Ohio and West Virginia in recent months, the most recent near Morgantown on Feb. 2.

Brown said he is still looking at the possibility of weather-related phenomena for the Brownsville noise, and also at the possibility that geological rock formations, combined with the contour of the river valley, could cause a sound to carry farther than expected.

Anyone with information about the unusual boom or anyone wishing to report an unusual incident can call the UFO Hotline at 838-7768.

# Monster mania gives nod to Arkansas' oddities

BY RON WOLFE  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Heads up. Central Arkansas is the place to look for "puzzling apelike and humanlike animals," according to a new book for bigfoot-spotters.

*The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide* (Avon, 207 pages, \$12.50) devotes two pages to Arkansas' resident mystery, known variously as a skunk ape, nape or booger.

Authors Loren Coleman and Patrick Huyghe classify the hairy creature as nearly 6 feet tall with a bald head and eyes like a pig's.

CLASS: Unknown Pongid (great ape)

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC: Swinging arms.

The authors speculate that Arkansas' booger is like the

"chimpanzees" that forage for bananas in Oklahoma, and similar to North Carolina's mystery ape, called Knobby.

"The existence of some creatures in this book is more controversial than others," they caution.

But look here — the big whatsit has left his big tracks all over the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* library of old news clippings:

■ The Fouke Monster is Arkansas' hairiest newsmaker — the subject of a 1972 movie, *Legend of Boggy Creek*.

People had claimed to see an apelike something around Fouke in southwest Arkansas since the 1940s. But a man's claim that the fire-eyed creature attacked him made the Fouke Monster internationally famous in 1971.

The monster kept lurking in newspaper headlines all through the swampy '70s: "Teacher urges preservation of 'monster'"; "'Monster' is sighted 2nd time"; "Bounty put on the head of 'Monster'"; "Monster study-funds are sought"; "'Monster' Hoax brings fines."

The bounty was \$200, and was never collected. The fines were \$59 each to three Texarkana men for scratching each other and claiming the monster did it. Also, the monster inspired an art contest.

Sightings have slowed but continue since the monster's howling heyday. The movie lumbered on in a couple more movies: *Return to Boggy Creek* and *The Barbaric Beast of Boggy Creek Part II*, actually part three.



Eyewitness Accounts Indicate  
That We Share the Earth with  
Many Elusive, Unknown Creatures

The Field  
Guide to  
Bigfoot, Yeti,  
and Other Mystery  
Primates Worldwide

Illustrated by Barry Trumbore

The monster kept lurking in newspaper headlines all through the swampy '70s: "Teacher urges preservation of 'monster'"; "'Monster' is sighted 2nd time"; "Bounty put on the head of 'Monster'"; "Monster study-funds are sought"; "'Monster' Hoax brings fines." The bounty was \$200, and was never collected. The fines were \$59 each to three Texarkana men for scratching each other and claiming the monster did it.

■ In 1981, a father-and-son team of taxidermists in Paragould gave up looking for bigfoot and built their own monster — a nearly 8-foot-tall, 300-pound creature made of papier-mache and steel. It won first prize at the county fair.

■ In 1982, two boys found some big, strange footprints near the Cache River north of Clarendon. But the discovery was written off to probably a barefooted fisherman with big feet.

■ In 1988, two teen-agers reported seeing a "furry" creature resembling a man in a gorilla suit near Jonesboro. Investigators found tennis shoe tracks at the scene. A skeptical wildlife officer dubbed the creature "Big Tennis Foot."

■ In 1990, attention focused on little Proctor, Okla., about 20 miles from the Arkansas border. Some kind of big, stinky apelike thing had been coming up to some people's back porches there and eating table scraps that the dogs wouldn't touch, bones and corn cobs.

But the Oklahomans claimed it was their own monster — a beast of Cherokee legend — and not the Fouke Monster. They said it left scary tracks like a big man's, whereas the Fouke Monster had some toes missing.

■ In 1991, a group of California bigfoot hunters reported more than a dozen calls about Arkansas' monster to their Bigfoot Hotline. "All the calls we've seen from Arkansas have seemed sincere," a spokesman said.

Arkansas monster sightings and sniffings have been fewer this decade, but the creature hasn't gone away — maybe just gone deeper South.

A much-debated picture of a supposed skunk ape set off a new



Authors Loren Coleman and Patrick Huyghe say this is how the Arkansas skunk ape, or booger, looks — in case you see one.

bristle of stories from the Florida Everglades just a couple of years ago. In one account, the creature surprised a group of hunters by falling through their cabin's roof, but nobody managed to shoot it.

So far, nobody has shot one, caught one, found a dead one, or come up with any conclusive proof at all — at least, not in the news. The search goes on.

What if you see the monster?

Authors Coleman and Huyghe count "two major approaches to this issue:" 1. Slay the towering, terrifying creature and cut off the biggest piece you can carry as you scramble for help to haul off the shaggy rest of it, or 2. Take a really, really good picture.

They also suggest a quick drawing and plaster casts of its monstrous footprints.

They don't mention, but maybe they should — run!



## ON-LINE SEARCH FOR ALIENS



ERIC SEALS/Detroit Free Press

Richard Ensign, director of the planetarium at Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights, will be searching the stars for signs of intelligent life starting in mid-May. The screen saver at right is what computers will look like when the project begins.

# Thousands to help seek life in space

*Home PC users around the world will take part in experiment*

By DAVID CRUMM  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

On the eve of the new millennium, scientists have devised a plan that will let ordinary men, women and children join them in searching for intelligent life on other planets.

The best part is that people can join in this history-making experiment, scheduled to start around May 15, without leaving their homes or offices. All they need is a home computer and a connection to the Internet.

The program, headquartered at the University of California at Berkeley, is called

SETI@home. The acronym stands for Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence.

Dan Werthimer, one of the main investigators at Berkeley, said the idea behind SETI is that with 400 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, including many stars with planets around them, "it looks like some planets have the right conditions for life."

This new search of the universe is expected to be the largest experiment ever attempted in linking computers for scientific research. Volunteers across Michigan and around the world are signing up through the Internet to participate.

Soon, they will be able to download chunks of data via the Internet from an enormous, federally owned radio telescope in Puerto Rico. Once they have their own piece of data and free processing software that comes with it, participants only have to let their computers sit idle for a few minutes. The scientific software acts like a computer screen saver and starts combing through the data for any sign of a message from outer space.

"It's exciting that ordinary citizens can share in this kind of scientific experiment," said Richard Ensign, director of the planetarium at Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights. "We can't all fly in the space shuttle, but we can look at our own little pieces of this data and analyze it."

Mike Best, who runs astronomy programs in Troy, Southfield and Farmington Hills, said: "There's no question in my mind that the universe is teeming with intelligent species capable of communication. At some time, everyone has looked up at the night sky and wondered: Are we alone? Now we have the ability to search for an answer."

The project is certain to get a boost from the coincidence that a long-awaited "Star Wars" film also is going to be released in mid-May, said Jeffrey Wilson, an astronomy teaching assistant at Eastern Michigan University.

"It's good timing for sure," Wilson said. "Movies like 'Star Wars' already have played a big part in expanding people's vision for the possibility of life out there in the universe."

### HOW PROJECT WORKS

#### Setup

Individual computer users download and install SETI screen saver program from Web site, [setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu](http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu)

#### In action:

Radio telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, receives radio signals and sends to University of California - Berkeley team.

Berkeley team extracts and files "chunks" of signals on file server.

Via the Internet, thousands of personal computers receive 340-kilobyte segments (almost 2 minutes of sky signals).

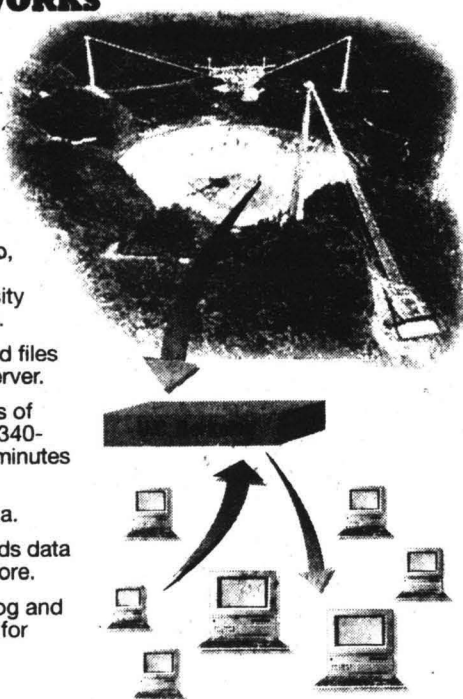
Screen saver analyzes data.

When done, computer sends data and results back and gets more.

Berkeley computers catalog and store analyzed data, looking for promising signals.

#### If likely signal found

Berkeley team will try to confirm the findings and announce them to the scientific community for further verification.



### HOW TO SIGN UP, FOLLOW SETI

The home page for the SETI project, which includes a place to sign up as a volunteer, is [setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/](http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/)

The Planetary Society, a nonprofit group founded by the late Carl Sagan, is co-sponsoring SETI@home and also offers a sign-up form at [www.planetary.org](http://www.planetary.org)

In Michigan, occasional programs open to the public are offered by Mike Best, Richard Ensign and the observatory at Eastern Michigan University. Best runs astronomy programs in Troy, Southfield and Farmington Hills. Ensign is director of the planetarium at Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights. To check their schedules, visit Best's Web site at [members.aol.com/mibest12345/](http://members.aol.com/mibest12345/), Ensign at [csdm.k12.mi.us/pages/pl.html](http://csdm.k12.mi.us/pages/pl.html) or EMU at [www.physics.emich.edu/](http://www.physics.emich.edu/)  
By David Crumm

For more than 20 years, Werthimer and other scientists have tried many SETI experiments — without success. The strategy of the SETI@home program will be to identify stray bits of noise that may leak into space from any advanced civilization.

"But it's like searching for the needle in a haystack," Werthimer said. "The distances are so great that it takes many years for signals to travel through the galaxy. Episodes of 'I Love Lucy' that were broadcast here 40 years ago have now passed only about 10,000 nearby stars.

"And if there were civilizations on planets near those stars, they might have missed 'Lucy' if they weren't listening on the right frequency."

SETI@home scoops up intergalactic noise from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico. The dish is as big as 27 football fields and has shown up in movies, including a fictionalized story about SETI, "Contact," and even a James Bond thriller, "Goldeneye."

"We've got a huge supercomputer working on the data from Arecibo. It's equivalent to 10,000 Pentium computers. But we really need more computing power to help us," Werthimer said. "About 350,000 people have signed up so far."

When it is publicly distributed around May 15, the processing software will run on Windows 95, Windows 98 or Macintosh computers. The software runs automatically and displays a rainbow-colored, three-dimensional chart of the cosmic noise the computer is analyzing.

Downloading requires a short period of Internet connection, then a typical computer will need about 24 hours to examine its data. When the data is finished, volunteers will hook up to the Internet again to send their data back to Werthimer's team and collect another chunk of data.

"I wouldn't want anyone to hold their breath that they are going to find something, but if they do, they'll become quite famous and we'll all go to Stockholm together to pick up our Nobel Prize," Werthimer said.

In Dearborn Heights, Ensign plans to download the program onto some of the Crestwood school computers.

"And, when people visit our planetarium," he said, "I'll have it running on a computer here. It really will give children a sense of connection with our exploration of the universe."

At EMU, Wilson plans to load the software on 14 computers he uses to teach astronomy to undergraduates. "I can't think of a more worthwhile project than searching for life elsewhere in the galaxy," he said.

Best is organizing public programs on SETI in mid-May in Southfield and Farmington Hills. When he talks to groups about the subject, "I give people the SETI

Web site and tell them that very, very few people get an opportunity to participate in such an exciting venture.

"Even though the odds are against you, imagine the excitement if it's your computer that brings in the first reception of a signal. It would be one way to go down in history."

DAVID CRUMM can be reached at 1-313-223-4526 or [crumm@freepress.com](mailto:crumm@freepress.com).

# Leoti man says mystery stone's writing predates Columbus' trip

By MATT MOLINE  
Special to The Capital-Journal

**L**EOTI — Nearly every school kid learns the name of the first European explorer to visit the state — none other than Spanish conquistador Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, who explored Kansas in 1541, according to most history books.

Or was he?

After seven years of research, Leoti amateur historian Dean Jeffries has suggested a different theory — one that puts Europeans in Kansas more than 1,000 years before Coronado's landmark journey.

Jeffries contends that ancient European sun-worshippers who crossed the states in about A.D. 500 inscribed an old stone tablet reportedly dug up in a Lincoln County field nearly 80 years ago.

If accurate, Jeffries' theory would send historians scrambling to rewrite history books, whose conventional wisdom maintains Europeans didn't begin exploring the New World until Italian-born Christopher Columbus's epic journey resulted in the so-called "discovery" of America in 1492.

"I know what they teach is that nobody was here before Columbus," Jeffries said last week. "But that can't be the case. I have a little problem with hidebound historical orthodoxy."

Earlier this month, the 64-year-old Jeffries released a translation of the 16-symbol inscription on the tablet, which he claims is engraved in an ancient language once common in the Iberian peninsula and known as Gaelic Punic. Jeffries contends the tablet marks the grave of a fallen comrade.

"It's a death chant, and that's not uncommon in ancient cultures," said Jeffries, an electrician by trade. "I think it was a Norse who used a drum to raise the dead, and in the Bible we had Gabriel's horn. And then the Romans

under Julius Caesar would sing a loud song when they went into battle."

Known as the Beverly mystery stone, the tablet allegedly was unearthed by a farmer in the Beverly community as late as 1920, although Jeffries acknowledges the date of the artifact's discovery could be in dispute, as is the exact location of the discovery of the unusual piece of antiquity, measuring 11 by 9 inches.

"One thing I don't do is dig," Jeffries said. "I'm not an archaeologist. I'm a person who deals with old languages."

At some point after 1920, the stone was donated to the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, where the artifact remained undisplayed as the unauthenticated curiosity in the archeology department for more than seven decades, said retired state archaeologist Tom Witty.

"This thing comes to life on a cyclical bases," Witty said. "It sat on a shelf back there, and I think it was the freshness of the engraving and the cleanness of the stone that made it look too fresh."

Witty said the stone, which he first examined in 1960, also lacked any weathering or oxidation characteristics, which would be evident on any similar stone exposed to the elements for 1,500 years.

"The fact that the inscription looked strange to me could be my own ignorance about ancient languages," Witty said last week. "But based on the visual evidence of the stone, I would say this piece lacks the antiquity suggested by Jeffries."

Since 1993, the stone has been on loan to the Lincoln County Historical Society for display in the Kyne House Museum in Lincoln, the county seat.

On April 9, Jeffries spoke publicly for the first time regarding his interpretation of the stone's history at the ceremony marking the grand opening of a museum annex.

1954  
45 years  
ago today

- "Cadborosaurus the sea serpent made his second appearance of the year here Tuesday. Three residents of nearby Sidney spotted him in Bazon Bay just south of there and described the creature as a series of 'ups and downs.'"