

UFO

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Expo on UFOs attracts hundreds

Event boasts
lectures, products

By Michele R. Marcucci
STAFF WRITER

SAN MATEO — Hurley Young was one of just a few hundred people who attended the first Bay Area UFO Expo, held in 1993 at the old Dunfey Hotel.

But Saturday at the Courtyard Marriott, the Berkeley physical education teacher who said he once saw a lighted craft balancing on a flagpole by the Oakland Tribune Tower building was part of an overflow crowd of 700 who packed lectures about UFOs and alleged government and media conspiracies to hide their existence.

"There's a lot more stuff about the paranormal and UFOs on TV than there was five years ago. So that's certainly a part of (the popularity)," said Ted Oliphant, associate producer of the Expo, which ran Saturday and Sunday.

When Young, who has studied UFOs since he was in the seventh grade, talked to his students about UFOs five years ago, it scared them. But not anymore.

"They've heard it on TV or whatever," said Young.

He also credited commercialization of the field — from UFO T-shirts and bumper stickers to the scads of UFO-related merchandise available at a few dozen exhibition tables Saturday — with drawing people's interest.

"More people are involved. It's keeping the subject front and center," Young said as he eyed bumper stickers and mouse pads at the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy table.

UFOs are the second-most talked about subject on the Internet, behind sex, Young said.

They're also talked about by radio host Art Bell, whose syndicated program is helping to make celebrities of expo speakers such as former NATO intelligence analyst Robert Dean, considered by many to be the grandfather of UFO studies.

"Art Bell has been fantastic. He called our expo, 'The Best of Art Bell,'" Oliphant said. "He let his guests talk about the expo (on the air)."

Bell guest University of California, Berkeley, lecturer Stanton Friedman wasn't shy about promoting himself either. The nuclear physicist's 45-minute "Flying Saucers are Real!" talk contained pitches for two books, an upcoming Redwood City appearance and a \$25 CD-ROM.

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - July 27, 1999

Crop circles leave farmer wondering

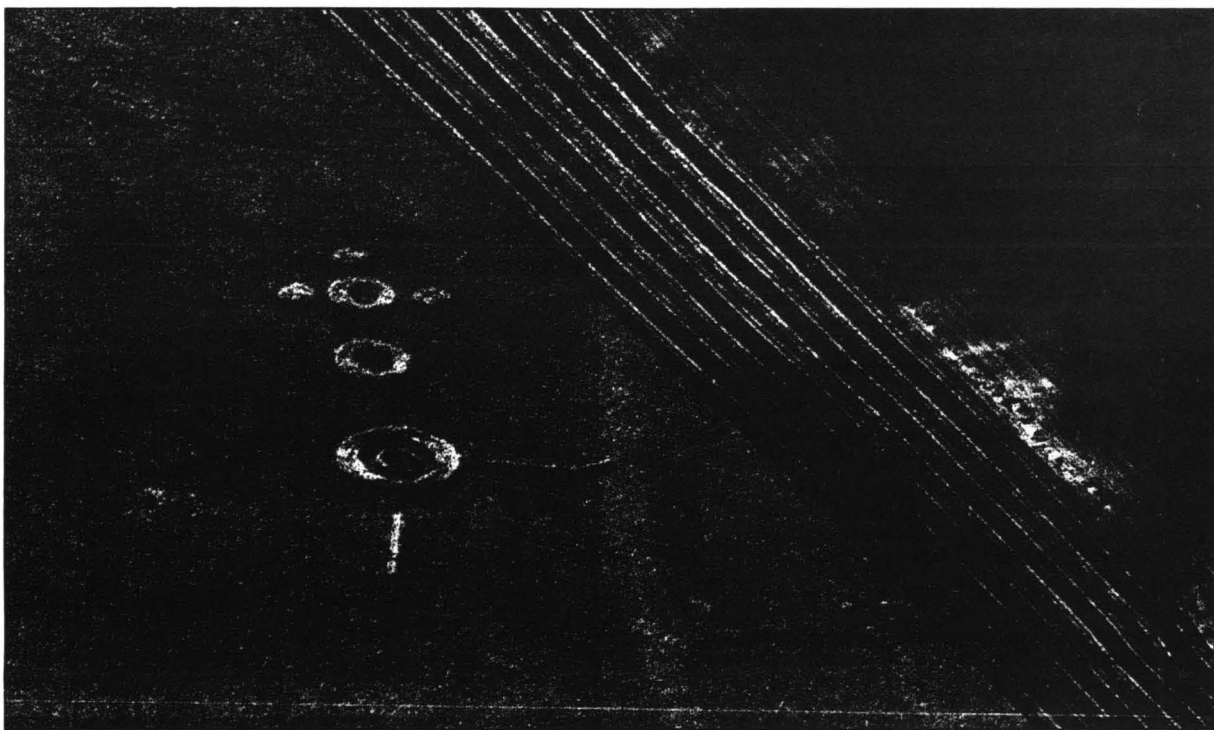


Photo courtesy of DIRK NELSON

Above, an aerial view of crop circles that mysteriously appeared in a wheat field farmed by Phil Reser just east of Foster Road in Walla Walla. Reser spotted the markings while harvesting wheat in another field. Below, Corey Boone, left, and David Stickler investigate Monday.

Cause of markings unknown

By BRODIE FARQUHAR
Of the Union-Bulletin

Mysterious crop circles, which many inquiring minds say are the result of UFO landings, have come to Walla Walla County.

Wheat farmer Phil Reser noticed what he thought were some deer bedding spots on his field east of Foster Road about three weeks ago.

"I didn't think much about it until I started cutting near there on Sunday," he said.

"When I started cutting the wheat close by on Monday, I realized I had something more than deer bedding down in my field."

The site is fully harvested now and there is nothing left to see, but Reser said he's intrigued.

"These patterns are absolutely precise and there is no sign of

footprints or any access on the ground from nearby roads," he said.

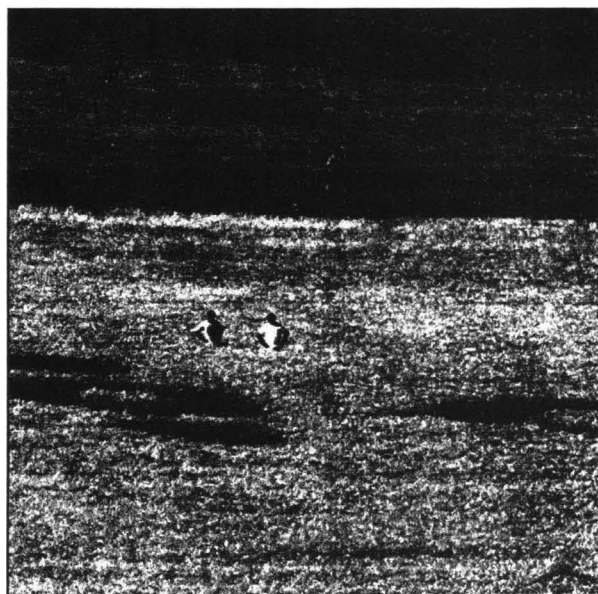
The wheat is fully grown and lays down in one direction in one circle, then the opposite direction in the next, he said.

Unlike deer bedding spots, the wheat in the crop circles was readily picked up by his harvest machinery, he said.

"None of the stalks were broken, which would happen if you stomped it down," he said.

The phenomenon, as believers in UFOs call it, or man-made hoax, as skeptics argue, has happened elsewhere in North America and Europe.

"I've seen stuff like this on TV," Reser said. "If it is a hoax, I'd sure like to know how they did it. This is kind of cool."



U-B photo by JEFF HORNER

But that didn't faze one first-time expo attendee, who was swayed by an array of Friedman statistics and photos of alleged alien spacecraft.

"I'm a victim already," said the man, clad in a newly purchased T-shirt that cost him \$20.

But some attendees were less than thrilled with the alien hype.

"There is a lot of commercialism among the so-called experts that turns me off," said Dawn Abel of Redwood City, at-

tending her first UFO conference in eight years.

Still Abel, who said she has seen UFOs several times, was impressed by the event and the findings of speakers such as former NASA consultant Richard Hoagland, who believes there may be Viking images on Mars.

She said that the \$40 two-day Expo pass was much cheaper than the \$200 to \$300 other expos charge.

A man working the Mutual

UFO Network table who did not wish to be identified praised the Expo, but dismissed Bell and the UFO programs shown on television.

"Television exaggerates and lies. It's more of what the government wants you to hear, and not the truth," said the man, who showed a video of a purported secret government spacecraft project and who said he saw a UFO seven years ago.

CR: J. Deardorff



Bright lights, little city



Topanga resident Eric Andrews describes the UFO he saw while driving his four-wheel vehicle in Topanga Canyon. The local paper The Messenger has a long history of UFO coverage in Topanga Canyon.

Mountain community of Topanga abuzz with talk of extraterrestrial sightings. New book details 80 UFO encounters

Story by Ted Shaffrey

Photos by Ryan Miller

Step up to the bar at Willows restaurant and you might find Eric Andrews, a successful contractor who has lived in the mountain community of roughly 8,000 for most of his 37 years.

If you casually mention unidentified flying objects, he might recount for you an experience he had early one evening a few years ago that still gives him goose bumps.

"I was four-wheel driving with a buddy of mine out by the

firebreaks, deep in the canyon," Andrews said. "The jeep got stuck in the mud. Suddenly we looked up and saw this huge bright light darting across the sky — aiming itself right at us. At the last second, it suddenly pulled a U-turn and shot out of sight."

Andrews' story is just one of many UFO encounters detailed in a new book by lifelong Topanga resident Preston Dennett, 34. It has just been published nationwide by Llewellyn Publi-

cations.

"A lot of people don't want to be connected to it, but they feel obligated to get the story of their experience out," said Dennett, whose book "UFOs Over Topanga" tells of more than 80 extraterrestrial encounters in the area, ranging from bedroom abductions and "missing time" mysteries to streaks of light in the sky.

More than half the encounters took place since 1992, Dennett said, but residents have been

trading first-person UFO experiences up here for years. Even the local Topanga paper, The Messenger, covers sightings and tales of alleged alien abductions with front-page headlines.

"There are a lot of solid citizens up here who've said they see things," said Messenger editor Michelle Johnson.

"It gets dark up here. No street lights blocking out the wide-open sky. No illumination

at all, except for the moon," she said. "Might be these kinds of things are everywhere but normally nobody sees them. Of course, there may be another, perfectly normal explanation."

One of those solid citizens is 15-year Topanga resident and Santa Monica College psychology professor David Phillips.

"I can tick off a half-a-dozen friends who've seen something," said Phillips, 60, who has his own Topanga UFO story.

"I was awakened one night in December four years ago by the thumping of helicopters. I went and looked out the back of my house, which is all windows, and I saw three helicopters chasing this little, archetypal silvery, disc-shaped craft down a fire trail," he recalled.

"The next morning I went to the Sheriff's Department and they said there were no helicopters over Topanga that night."

California Highway Patrol Officer Ron Cohen, who patrols the canyon, said the department gets several calls a year from people who want to report UFO encounters.

Just last month he pulled over a drunk driver who was on his way to one of the canyon bluffs to

UFO Reports

The California Highway Patrol advises anyone who wants to report a UFO sighting or other extraterrestrial experience to contact the National UFO Reporting Center. Write to the center at P.O. Box 45623, University Station, Seattle, Wash., 98145 or call the 24-hour hotline at (206) 722-3000. To report a sighting online go to www.ufocenter.com.

look for UFOs.

"One of our officers even claims to have had an audible, not visual, extraterrestrial encounter in Topanga," he said.

"He doesn't want to be interviewed, though. He's afraid

they'll make him take a psych evaluation."

Some of the tales Dennett recounts in his book are more extravagant than others. Like the tale of Marcelina X (not her real name), who claims an alien

FYI

❖ **What:** Author Preston Dennett signing "UFOs Over Topanga"

❖ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Sept. 23

❖ **Where:** Borders Books and Music, 1415 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica

❖ **Call:** (310) 393-9290 for more information

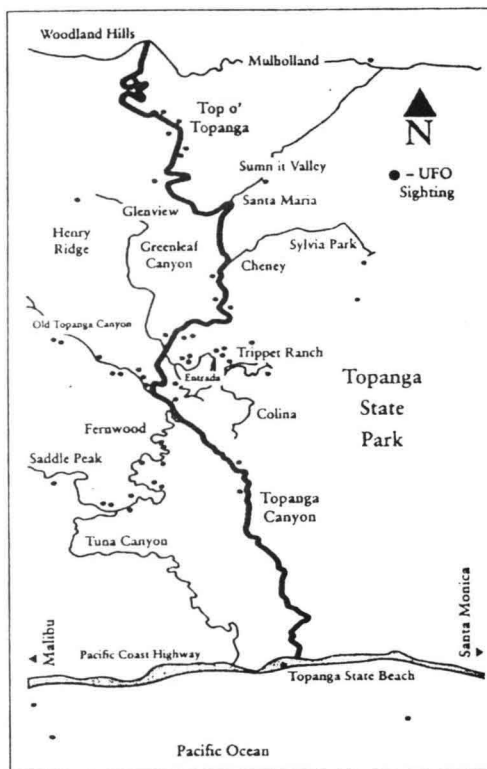
encounter not only caused her to have a miscarriage but also made her suddenly quit supporting businessman and politician Ross Perot.

"Those who've actually seen an alien in Topanga all describe the same creature: short with grayish skin, large dark eyes and a large bald head," Dennett said.

"But I don't have any smoking-gun proof, like a photo. Not yet."

Others in the mountain community enjoy the UFO tales with a grain of salt.

"People talk about [extraterrestrial experiences] more here than they would in Brentwood, that's for sure," said longtime resident Katie Phillips. The people in Topanga, she added, "are looking for that kind of thing. They want to see a UFO."



Topanga Canyon map marked with UFO sightings, from "UFOs Over Topanga."

Surreal Estate

Robert Bigelow, Patron Of UFO Investigators, Is Shooting for the Stars

He Made a Fortune in Hotels And Plans to Expand—In Texas and Outer Space Hunting Aliens on the Side

By NEAL TEMPLIN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
LAS VEGAS — In 1947, Robert T. Bigelow's grandparents were driving through the desert near Las Vegas when a glowing red ball hurtled menacingly toward their car before making a sharp turn and disappearing.

That was the story that his grandparents, Tom and Delta Thebo, told Mr. Bigelow when he was a child. And he's sticking to it.

Over the past several decades, Mr. Bigelow has quietly become one of the world's leading financiers of UFO research. When a Utah rancher found a strangely mutilated cow last year, a Bigelow-funded veterinarian rushed to the scene, and Mr. Bigelow's team eventually published a 45-page report titled, "Investigation of the unexplained death of a cow in northeast Utah, Oct. 16, 1998." He or his researchers have cataloged hundreds of claimed UFO sightings and alleged alien abductions. Now he wants to build a hotel in outer space, and says he is prepared to spend as much as \$500 million over the next 15 years to make it happen.

"It's going to cost a lot of money," he says. "So you'd better offer something stupendous."

His plans might seem laughable—and indeed, some people do chuckle at Robert Bigelow. That's all right with him. The truth is out there, and he has several hundred million dollars to spend pursuing it.

With little fanfare, Mr. Bigelow has built an impressive fortune, employing tactics that are almost as unusual as some of the things he intends to use it for. The heart of Mr. Bigelow's realm is 14,000 hotel and apartment rooms, mostly in Las Vegas. He is the king of the temporary stay: His properties rent by the week, and they target casino workers who pay their rent in cold cash.

Mr. Bigelow, 55 years old, values his real-estate empire at \$900 million. Other estimates range from \$600 million to \$750 million, but no one doubts he is supremely rich. This year, Mr. Bigelow says, his hotels and apartments will generate between \$35 million and \$40 million in profits. He distrusts computers, and until a few weeks ago, his employees wrote 10,000 checks by hand each month to pay workers and suppliers. He is contemptuous of consultants and marketing studies, and makes the final call on where to build his hotels by driving around prospective sites in his car until he's convinced he has the right spot.

Other alleged techniques appear less quaint. Last year, he paid \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit by tenants who charged they were illegally locked out of their apartments after they were late on their rent. In another case, the Nevada Supreme Court said it found "strong evidence" that Mr. Bigelow's operations "engaged in racially discriminating practices."

Mr. Bigelow emphatically denies that, and says his managers are supposed to follow proper eviction procedures. In any event, legal setbacks haven't slowed him down. Mr. Bigelow is opening a new hotel every month under his Budget Suites of America flag, and plans to build 25,000 rooms over the next five years. His biggest push is in the Dallas area, where he plans to open 10,500 rooms by 2004—equivalent to 14% of all the rooms now in that market.

Some people think that plan is just as out there as Mr. Bigelow's UFO theories: "They're out of their minds if they think they can build that number of units in Dallas and make it work," says J. Peter Kline, chief executive of Dallas-based Bristol Hotels & Resorts Inc.

Mr. Bigelow says naysayers don't understand his strategy. By targeting the hybrid niche of extended stay, he draws customers from both the hotel and apartment markets. "We're the Toyota" of extended stay, he says. "We are the kick-a— company that is going to push the General Motors and Chryslers aside. That's why [rivals] are afraid of us."

Mr. Bigelow has long followed a different drummer. His 20-year-old Las Vegas headquarters looks like a giant Tudor house. There's a meandering stream out back. Inside, cats named Taxes and Write-off prowled the halls, occasionally knocking over things in Mr. Bigelow's office. He used to have a cat named Mortgage, but Mortgage died. Visitors wait on wooden park benches in the lobby.

On a recent day, Mr. Bigelow sits at a desk in his inner sanctum with a headset on, fielding a steady stream of calls. Wiry and perpetually tieless, he looks like a radio talk-show host. "My position is if it costs us a deal, it costs us a deal," he declares over his headset to one broker. He is surrounded by a curious collection of personal stuff: a jukebox, a crystal sailing ship, countless family photos. Later, he details his business theories on a white board while a cat patrols behind his desk. "If I were to retire right now, I could still do the \$500 million" for the space hotel, he concludes.

His employees say he's a tough boss. After a meeting with Mr. Bigelow, top executives can "come out sweating bullets," says Gary Gumm, a former Bigelow vice president. Two years ago, three of Mr. Bigelow's four top executives—Mr. Gumm wasn't among them—quit within a span of days. "One individual blew up and said I was pushing him too much," Mr. Bigelow recalls. "He just had a threshold that he wasn't able to go where the company was going."

But Mr. Bigelow also holds a monthly luncheon where he raffles off ten \$100 bills to employees. And he shuts down the entire company every year on July 30, the birthday of his son, Rod Lee, who died in 1992. Police records show Rod Lee died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound; Mr. Bigelow describes it as an accident.

Mr. Bigelow began quietly funding UFO research in 1990, and says he has already pumped as much as \$10 million into the effort. For many years, he wouldn't talk publicly about his role, and it was known only to hard-core "ufologists."

He had been fascinated by UFOs since he was eight, when his grandparents first told him of that red fireball in the desert. Three years later, his grandparents, this time accompanied by Mr. Bigelow's aunt, spotted a huge glittering cigar-shaped object hovering over a nearby mountain.

Mr. Bigelow himself has never had a close encounter. "I've talked to hundreds of people who have had phenomenal sightings," he says. "But I'll be damned if I can find one."

Nonetheless, he frets that the U.S. government has done nothing to prepare the American people for encounters with extraterrestrial life, and he has paid for a Roper poll on the subject. "I think it's irresponsible and a lack of leadership," he declares as he blasts down the highway in his burgundy Mercedes, seatbelt unbuckled, as always. "I have a huge concern how the American people are going to react to the first contact. How many people are going to go to the gun shop? How many are not going to go to work?"

Mr. Bigelow might never have been in position to finance UFO scholarship if he had been a better science student. He put aside his dream of outer-space research, studied business in college and plunged into real estate in the late 1960s. (His father was a Las Vegas real-estate broker.) Mr. Bigelow quickly made a crucial discovery: "I learned right away that this was a city where people lived on their tips, and I could make more money if I rented by the week," he says.

By 1970, Mr. Bigelow owned about 100 apartment units in Las Vegas. He kept building and buying apartment complexes until the late 1980s, then switched to extended-stay hotels. To Mr. Bigelow, the extended-stay hotel had the advantages of an apartment complex without the restrictive eviction laws that complicate bouncing deadbeat tenants. In apartments, he says, "we were stuck all the time with people who had paid

only a week's rent, and it would take us another 10 days to two weeks to get them out."

In fact, Mr. Bigelow's company has gotten into some hot water over how it gets people out of its apartments. In 1992, a state court jury in Las Vegas ordered Bigelow Holding Co. to pay \$62,500 in punitive damages to two former employees who alleged that they were fired and evicted from their company-owned apartments in the Rhett Butler complex after protesting against a rental policy that discriminated against blacks. The Nevada Supreme Court agreed that the employees had been wrongfully evicted, but upheld their firing and overturned the punitive damages. Still, the court held that there was "strong evidence" of discriminatory practices at Bigelow.

That charge infuriates Mr. Bigelow. "How is that possible when a third of the people in that complex were blacks?" he says.

In 1993, Nevada Legal Services, an advocacy group, sued Mr. Bigelow, his wife—who jointly owns many of the Bigelow assets—and the holding company on behalf of tenants who said they had been locked out of their apartments without the five-day notice required by state law. Barbara Buckley, a Nevada Legal Services attorney, says the company had employees called "doorknockers" whose job was to hound tenants into paying.

One plaintiff in the class-action suit, Lee Turner, alleged that he came home on New Year's Eve 1992 from an out-of-town trip with his wife and young son to find they had been locked out of their \$124-a-week downtown apartment. They were two days behind in their rent, he alleged. Later, Mr. Turner learned that most of his possessions in the apartment had disappeared.

Mr. Bigelow "wants to spend \$500 million on a commercial trip to the moon, yet he treats people on earth as if they don't matter," Mr. Turner says today.

Mr. Turner got \$30,000 of the \$1.8 million Mr. Bigelow agreed to pay to settle the suit last year. "I don't say there weren't abuses by irresponsible managers," Mr. Bigelow says. But if "they did something unfair, much less illegal, it wasn't sanctioned by me, much less by my company."

After switching to building hotels, Mr. Bigelow took an unconventional approach. Other extended-stay hotels generally have about 100 units, but Mr. Bigelow built sprawling three-story hotels with as many as 800 units that looked like apartment complexes. He equipped his rooms with separate bedrooms, full-size refrigerators and ovens to entice long-term guests. Mr. Bigelow charges about \$179 a week for units up to 50% larger than those rivals offer at similar prices; he says his occupancy rates typically run more than 90%, far above industry norms.

Two years ago, Mr. Bigelow began building his first hotels outside Las Vegas, focusing on Phoenix and Dallas. Some experts believe Mr. Bigelow is asking for trouble because neither city has as large a transient population as Las Vegas. But Mr. Bigelow says the casinos depress room prices in Las Vegas, and he figures he'll actually do better in other cities.

If he's right, it will mean more resources for UFO investigation. Before he began bankrolling UFO study, Mr. Bigelow says, he prepared himself by reading 60 books, scouring used-book sales for UFO literature from the 1950s and 1960s. Starting in the late 1980s, he personally interviewed about 200 people who reported encountering UFOs. Eventually, he built a network of scientists, ranchers and law-enforcement officials who give him tips on UFO sightings and animal mutilations.

"They may say Bigelow is nuts," says John Paternoster, the district attorney for a remote three-county area in northeastern New Mexico that has a history of unexplained cow mutilations. "But I say he's filled a void by providing resources to get to the bottom of all this."

The 1992 death of Mr. Bigelow's son may have increased his interest in the great beyond. A few years later, Mr. Bigelow and his wife, Diane, donated \$3.7 million to establish the Bigelow Chair in Consciousness Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It is a rotating chair that goes to prominent life-after-death researchers. Mr. Bigelow says his wife, who declined to comment for this story, shares his convictions about extraterrestrial life, but doesn't have his zeal for the hunt. "She's a believer," Mr. Bigelow says. "She just says: 'So what?'"

In 1995, Mr. Bigelow got word of a strange cow mutilation in Canada, and hopped on his corporate jet to investigate. Upon arriving, he learned that another cow had been mutilated that day.

"We were elated," he recalls, "because this one was even more fresh for a necropsy." Mr. Bigelow and a local vet took samples, but he says that a laboratory later destroyed them—accidentally, the lab said.

Mr. Bigelow was furious. The affair helped lead him to found the National Institute for Discovery Science that year in Las Vegas. The nonprofit group, completely funded by Mr. Bigelow, employs a veterinarian, an astrophysicist and a molecular biologist, as well as several field scouts who report promising sightings.

They sprang into action when a rancher in Utah's Uintah Basin went public in 1996 with tales of strange lights and UFOs on his property. Mr. Bigelow quickly bought the ranch for \$200,000 and stationed people there. He sometimes accompanies his UFO scouts on spotting missions and usually jokes about his abysmal track record. "Now that I'm here, they won't come," he tells his team.

Still, Mr. Bigelow has little doubt that we are not alone. "Either I'm totally bonkers and they're all yellow balloons," he says, "or there's something to it."

By this year, Mr. Bigelow reckoned he had made enough money to pursue another longtime dream: space travel. One of his first calls was to Greg Bennett, a former Boeing Co. engineer who worked on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space-station project. Mr. Bennett is founder of the Artemis Society, which aims to put a colony on the moon. But when Mr. Bigelow sketched out his idea for a hotel circling the moon, Mr. Bennett says he realized "that made mincemeat of all our plans."

Mr. Bennett joined Bigelow Aerospace, which Mr. Bigelow set up to pursue the space hotel, in April. Between Mr. Bennett and the people he has hired—including a veteran of the Soviet space program—Bigelow Aerospace has 12 employees. Mr. Bigelow is planning an arrow-shaped headquarters outside Las Vegas for Bigelow Aerospace. It will look like a giant spaceship, with pod-like pillars. Construction is supposed to start next year.

To make the hotel feasible, Mr. Bigelow calculates that launch costs will have to drop from about \$2,000 a pound today to just \$550 a pound. "It's going to hinge on whether over the next 15 years the launch industry can get its act together," Mr. Bigelow says.

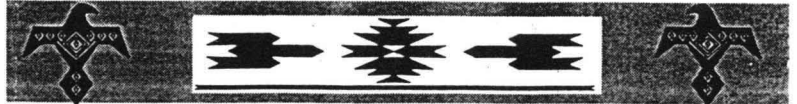
That's a big if, but it hasn't stopped Mr. Bigelow from planning how he would wow people with the hotel. He says the hotel would operate at 40% of normal gravity so guests could still do most of the things they do on earth. He recently drafted a "rough outline" for a spaceship cruise: "First day—identification of your cabin—orientation to the ship—adjust—eat—people would arrive as others are leaving—music—dancing—departure ceremony."

Although Bigelow Aerospace was formed as a profit-making corporation, Mr. Bigelow admits that its chances of making money are slim. So why plow so much money into it? Mr. Bigelow leans forward from his desk. "Haven't you ever had a dream?" he demands.



Robert T. Bigelow

COUNTRY NEW WORLDS



New Worlds: All That Is, UFO's and You, Too! Conversations with "Homo Noeticus" — The Tall Blondes — Part 3

by Sunny S. Wolf

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

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

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 Tall Blondes.
A Native American woman, born and raised on a Creek Indian reservation near Oklahoma who now lives in Arizona has had an experience to relate us. Because she comes from a long line of medicine women, she is skilled in the ritualistic healing of arts of her tribe. Immersed since childhood in the ancient knowledge and traditions of her people, she has lived her entire lifetime aware of the existence of other realities and of strange, magical beings that could traverse the dimensional barriers and enter her world.

These are things that Native Americans rarely speak about to white men, but in 1995, all that changed when a series of experiences frightened and distressed her so badly she needed help and called the national headquarters of MUFON.

Here's the story in this Native American woman's own words:

Last summer I woke up in the night, it was 3:32 am according to my clock, and my room was all lit up, but the lamp wasn't on. At first I thought the light was coming from outside, but then I realized it wasn't. I looked down at my foot and there was a piece about one-inch deep and three inches long missing. The inside of my foot looked silver, but there was no blood. Then I realized that there were two men standing next to me, one on each side. They were standing right through the bed. They had blonde, shoulder-length hair and blue eyes and looked to be about 50 years old. Their skin was a bronze color, like they had good tans. They wore robes. One robe was red and white with gold roping around the collar, and the other was blue and white with gold roping. The man in the blue took his hand and went over my foot, and said,

"You are completely healed." The other man put his hands on each side of my head without touching me and said, "we will be back when you need us." They then disappeared. My foot was back to normal, but the light stayed until around six in the morning, and I felt as if I was being bathed in love.

This was not the first paranormal experience that occurred. When she was a little girl and had scarlet fever, she was kept in a darkened room because her mother believed that if she was exposed to sunlight, she would go blind. During that time, little white children would come into her room through the walls and play with her. They had blonde hair, and would take Shara out of her body to go play outside. Shara has left her body to go places all her life although she hasn't tried to do it. She also saw the blonde men twice, one time saving her life when she was badly injured on the reservation.

Many experiences have repeatedly occurred to Shara during the course of her lifetime. The last one before her meeting with MUFON occurred when she woke up around 11:30pm and there was a man standing in her room. He was wearing a white robe with gold roping around his neck and also had blonde hair to the shoulders and blue eyes. He said, "We are giving you back your memories." That's all he said. He stood there all night as Shara slept on and off. After that she began leaving her body regularly. It was looking into the future and it scared her. They came back about a week later and did some kind of surgery on her back. This time it was hazy like she had been drugged. They told her they had to do the operation because 'she needed it.' One of them showed her a little metal object they were going to put in her back, but it didn't leave any scars.

Shara underwent hypnosis to help with her fears and anxieties:

S (Shara): They healed my foot — they have great power and they want me to know.

M (MUFON): Is this a lesson for you?
S: I know it.

M: How do you know this?

S: Because they gave it to me... when I was born... They were there.

M: Can you go back to a time when you first knew these beings?

S: They have always been there.

M: Can you ask them what their purpose is?

S: They're here to help... They don't live

here.

M: Where do they live?

S: Another place. It's pretty there. The air is good, and there is no disease and it is never dark.

M: Have you been there?

S: (choking back tears) Yes, I was a boy.

(crying) When I lived there I was a boy.

M: What's happening now?

S: (fighting back sobs) They want me to go away. They're sending me away... I have to go to Earth. I don't want to go.

M: Why did they send you here?

S: To help... He's my daddy.

M: Who's your daddy?

S: The man in red.

M: How do you feel about him?

S: I like him.

M: Does he have a name?

S: He has a name, but I don't know it.

M: Do you know what they call that place they come from?

S: ... It had two suns, there's trees and rivers.

M: And how do they get from that place to this place?

S: They come by ships.

M: Have you been on those ships?

S: Yes.

M: When was the last time?

S: Last Week.

M: And who do you see on these ships?

S: They're all blond headed with blue eyes. Some wear robes, some wear uniforms... My father and his father...

M: Was it your father who sent you here?

S: Yes.

M: When they were there at your birth, do you know what they did?

S: They made sure I got here all right... I was five when they sent me here. But when I woke up, I wasn't five... I was a baby...

They brought me here in a tube... I want to go home (tearfully) They say I have to stay.

They're coming here.

M: They're coming to visit you?

S: No, they're coming to take a lot of people away.

M: Are they taking them back to where they live?

S: They're taking them back there.

M: Why are they taking them?

S: This world is no good. It's no good to live here.

M: When they said they would give you

back your memories, what did that mean?

S: I can remember my home... They're going to let me go visit. There are things I have to learn... about how to help the people. They don't understand what they're doing, they're destroying everything... They don't understand nothing. They don't care.

M: Have you ever had contact with other types of beings?

S: Yes, (becoming agitated and crying) They're tall and wear black robes. They don't have a sun... They hate light.

M: Have they taken you?

S: I don't think so. They tried... They called me. I thought it was my mother. I was scared... They can't get me unless I go with them. I saw the grasshoppers. (Later, she said it was the praying mantis.) Their world is dying. They want women to breed with.

They have the head like a grasshopper... with a skinny neck, long arms, skinny legs, big eyes and antennae.

M: When did you see them?

S: With those black men... I don't like the grasshoppers.

M: What is the difference between the blonde beings and what people call angels?

S: There is no difference.

M: Is there anything you can tell us about Jesus?

S: He flies in ships too. He lives on another world... the first world. (The blondes) live in the second world.

M: How do we get to his world?

S: He's coming to take you.

M: What about when Jesus came here?

S: He came in a tube... like a pill... a capsule.

We realized that with all the new research is true, then how could we accept the conventional interpretations of the Bible? The investigations at MUFON were leading to the conclusion that a completely new approach to Bible interpretation was needed — one that included flying saucers and high technology, as well as an appreciation for a strange hierarchy of celestial beings far more complex than that commonly accepted by modern-day religions.

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Boston, MA - Aug. 17, 1999 CR: C. Grusinski

For new UFO lobby, 'X-Files' are real

By Neil Irwin
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Who's going to expose the massive government conspiracy to hide the truth about extraterrestrials visiting earth?

Instead of "The X-Files," Mulder and Scully, it might have to be the House and Senate.

At least that's the hope of some UFO activists, who are taking a decidedly new tack toward bringing out the truth about past sightings and contact with alien spacecraft.

Some of the more vigilant flying-saucer enthusiasts have formed the Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee (X-PPAC), the nation's first official UFO lobby.

Giving up on the men in black, UFO activists are taking their case to the men and women in charcoal gray.

Stephen Bassett, executive director of X-PPAC, is now a registered lobbyist, roaming the halls of Congress to alert members to the supposed coverup of UFO sightings.

"I can assure you there are plenty of people in this town who take this very seriously," says Mr. Bassett of his meetings with public officials.

That is, those willing to brave what Bassett calls the "ridicule curtain," the tendency to dismiss his group as kooky.

Bassett believes that alien life has existed on earth since at least 1947, and that a group of elites in the nation's military-industrial complex are keeping it secret.

'I can assure you there are plenty of people in this town who take this very seriously.'

— Stephen Bassett, Washington lobbyist

But with the end of the cold war, word of the coverup has started to leak out, he says. Former officials, aware of what was going on, have started approaching UFO activists to tell the secrets they have seen — off the record, of course. So the truth, as it were, is out there. But how to get it out?

That's where X-PPAC comes in. It wants Congress to hold hearings on the subject. Bassett is certain that in such a venue, former government officials would talk.

There may be a problem with this strategy, however. Many congressmen may be reluctant to hold public hearings on the issue since, according to the shocking 1994 headlines of the Weekly World News, a supermarket tabloid, 12 senators are space aliens.

Of course, if this is true, these influential lawmakers would probably prefer their true identities not be exposed. The list includes Sen. Phil Gramm (R) of Texas, former senator and astronaut John Glenn (D) of Ohio, and presidential candidate Orrin Hatch (R) of Utah.

Indeed, Mr. Hatch, who is running for the

White House, would be the first alien president of the United States if elected.

"We were assured he could become president of Mars, but the senator's wife does not want to travel," deadpans his spokesman, Paul Smith. "So we're putting our hopes on people voting him in as president of the United States."

Others in Washington take the conspiracy allegations with a bit less levity. "The belief that the CIA has or continues to participate in a governmentwide conspiracy to cover up or withhold evidence of UFOs is patently absurd," says agency spokesman Tom Crispell.

Could Mr. Crispell himself be part of the conspiracy? "I can assure you that I have never seen a UFO or alien body anywhere in the world," he adds. A Defense Department spokeswoman refused to comment on the allegations of a conspiracy at all. Hmmm.

Bassett himself discounts the hypothesis that members of Congress are in on the conspiracy, though. "Deep within the bowels of this intelligence complex are career people who view senators and presidents as mere transients. They keep them out of the loop if they can."

There may be a reason this sounds so much like "The X-Files." Bassett says the television show presents an accurate, if overdramatized, picture of the conspiracy. "I think Chris Carter [the show's producer] has sources on the inside."

Close encounter

... with a Houma connection

DAILY COURIER, Houma, LA - July 11, 1999

By MATT GRESHAM
The Courier

It was early July 1947 and the world was about to begin a debate that has lasted ever since.

Did an extraterrestrial spaceship crash near Roswell, N.M.? Did the government cover up the crash? And are beings from other planets continuing to visit Earth?

Strangely enough, a native of the Houma area, who died in 1984, is regarded by UFO experts as one of the authorities.

His name: Maj. Jesse Marcel Sr., a native of Bayou Blue.

Marcel was the intelligence officer at Roswell Army Air Force Base that summer and was one of the first officials at the crash site located on a ranch near Roswell.

Since Marcel's retirement from the military, he spoke of the events for a television documentary in the late 1970s and told his story to numerous relatives around Terrebonne Parish. His son, Jesse Marcel Jr., 62, an ear, nose and throat physician now living in Helena, Mont., spoke to The Courier recently about the events that took place around July 8, 1947.

With mounting evidence of UFO activity all over the world, skeptics continue to discount stories of alien abductions, extraterrestrial visitors and other unexplained phenomenon.

But, what is the truth? Are they really out there?

THE ROSWELL INCIDENT

During the first week of July 1947, Mac Brazel, a New Mexico rancher, was out checking on a herd of sheep when he noticed strange debris scattered over a large area of his property.

Brazel reported the debris to the local sheriff, who then notified Roswell Army Air Force Base and Marcel.

In the taped interview, Marcel Sr. recounted the day.

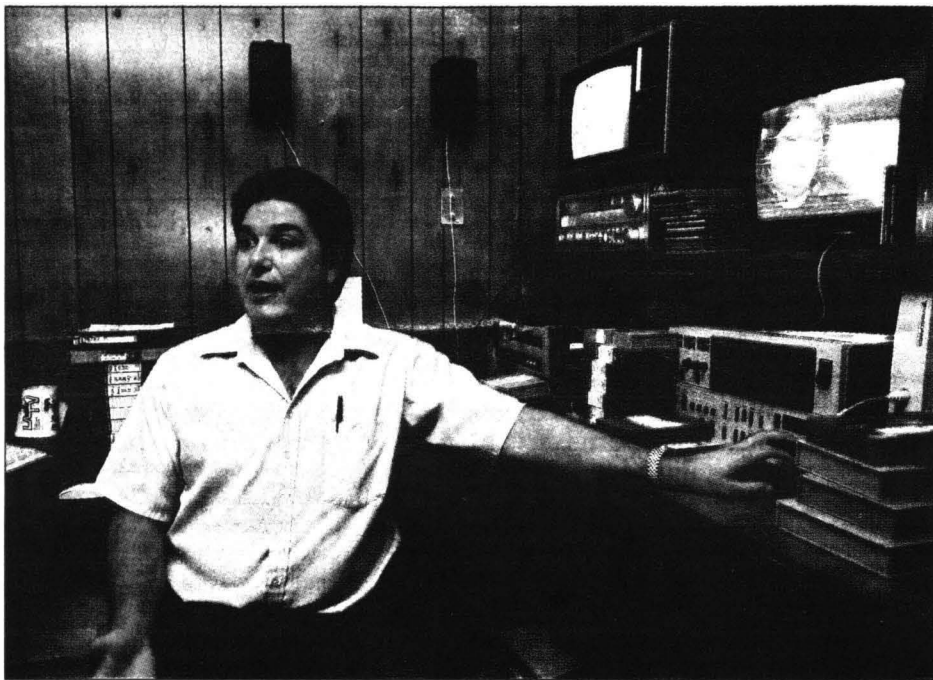
"One thing I was certain of, being familiar with all air activities, that it was not a weather balloon, nor an aircraft, nor a missile," he said through a lingering local accent. "It was something else, which we didn't know what it was."

Marcel Sr. said there were fragments of debris scattered over an area about three-quarters of a mile long and "several hundred feet wide."

"So we proceeded to pick up the parts," he said. "A lot of it had little numbers with symbols. To me, I call them hieroglyphics because I could not interpret them. It could not be read."

Marcel Sr. said the debris was like nothing he had ever seen before.

"That stuff weighs nothing," he said. "It's not any thicker than tin foil in a pack of cigarettes. I even tried to bend the stuff and it would not bend ... We even tried making a dent in it with a 16-pound sledge hammer. It still didn't dent it."



Jamie Johnson in the offices of his Corporate Drive company, Eager Eagle Productions. Johnson worked two years on the Fox Network's program "Sightings," which explored the UFO phenomena. He was also a neighbor of the Marcel family in Bayou Blue which has ties to the famous Roswell incident.

Marcel Sr. knew he had something unique and wanted to share it with his family.

Marcel Jr. remembers the night well.

"He realized it was pretty unusual stuff and swung by the house and woke my mother and I to look at this stuff," Marcel Jr. said. "It was a lot of foil-like debris and I-beams. It was pretty strange stuff, and I'd like to know what it was."

Marcel Jr. said the most unusual aspect of the debris were the hieroglyphics on the pieces.

"He was excited enough to bring it by the house very late at night," Marcel Jr. said of his father.

From there, Marcel Sr. escorted the debris back to the base and flew it to Fort Worth Army Air Force Base July 8, where General Ramey, the commanding officer of the Eighth Air Force, was waiting.

An official press release from the Army Air Force had already been released stating that a "flying disk had been found." The front page of the Roswell Daily Record the next day read "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region."

According to Marcel Sr., military officials quickly stopped the transmission of the press release and said the debris was nothing more than that of a weather balloon.

"The newsmen saw very little of the material," Marcel Sr. said. "A very small portion of it and none of the important things like the hieroglyph-

ics. They wanted me to tell them about it and I couldn't say anything, and when the general came in, he told me to say nothing about it - that he would handle it."

The official Army explanation of the crash site and the debris was it was part of a "MOGEL" balloon, which was used to fly into the stratosphere to detect Russian atomic blasts during the beginning of the Cold War.

"Even though the balloon was top-secret, it was made out of ordinary material," Marcel Jr. said.

Two years ago, Marcel Jr. said he traveled to Roswell for the 50th anniversary of the crash. While there, Air Force officials arranged a meeting with Charles Moore, who had been in charge of the "MOGEL" balloon project in the '40s and '50s. They showed Marcel Jr. one of the existing balloons and asked him if that is what he saw.

"That was not it," he said. "I'd like to say it was for their benefit, but it wasn't. Parts of the balloon were made of balsa wood, for instance. The writing was much different. There were too many differences."

Marcel Jr. said that night in 1947 has become a major part of his life.

"It has stuck with me for more than 50 years now," he said. "It's because it made such an impression. From that time on, I realized we're not the only people in this galaxy, and they have the technology to get here."

Marcel Jr. said the Roswell incident also made a believer out of his father.

"He believed this was an extrater-

restrial craft," he said. "There was never any doubt in his mind and I have to go along with him because of what he saw."

And others believe Marcel's story, as well. Jerry McCormack, who has worked at the Roswell Daily Record for 30 years and spent the past 12 as editor, said most people who come to Roswell for research purposes take Marcel Sr.'s testimony seriously.

"It's gone beyond a news story," he said. "It's an event that happened. It's something that's part of our history, so we certainly take it very seriously."

McCormack said the "flying saucer" headline of the paper is still requested frequently.

"It's a very familiar headline," he said. "We get requests for copies of it all the time from all over the world."

Since the famed Roswell incident, the community has become a mecca of UFO research, McCormack said.

"We have a lot of people in the field that come here and lecture and do research," he said. "Roswell has sort of become a mecca of the UFO phenomenon, and the (local UFO) museum has done an incredible job. All the research material is there, and it gives visitors the opportunity to come to their own conclusions."

Another local man who takes the phenomenon seriously is Jamie Johnson. Johnson worked as a freelance photographer in Los Angeles for many years and worked for the FOX Network's show "Sightings" in 1990 and 1991. A long-time neighbor

of the Marcells, Johnson, 40, who owns Houma-based Eager Eagle Productions, has his own story to tell, also.

One of the most documented projects Johnson worked on was a reoccurring UFO in the central California desert called "Goldy."

The UFO appeared frequently near the town of Anza, Calif. just outside Palm Springs.

"We were trying to get a shot of the UFO, whether it was from alien origin or from a military base," Johnson said from his Houma office on Corporate Drive. "The people in Anza wanted an answer, and no one in the military would give them one."

Johnson and his crew interviewed several witnesses. He said when they found out he was from Houma, something strange happened.

"They found out I knew Jesse Marcel, and they literally backed me into a corner," he said. "They were very inquisitive about him. He was like the ultimate subject of UFO buffs because he had first-hand knowledge. I told them he lived on my street in Bayou Blue, and he had a flat roof and a shed and he sat outside a lot ..." he said jokingly. "They really absorbed everything I said about him, because he was the man."

Johnson said his crew did get a chance to see "Goldy" while working in Anza.

"We worked all night, so we slept in shifts," he said. "... at about 2:30 a.m. it was my shift to sleep. One of my production people came and banged on my window, and he was white as a ghost. I immediately knew something was up UFO-wise."

Johnson said he looked in the direction the crew was looking and saw a glow above the mountains.

"It was orangish white, and the light rose from the mountain about 1,000 feet or so and stopped abruptly," he said. "It hovered for a few seconds, then broke into two different colored lights. One stopped flickering and hovered, and the other went out completely. The remaining light did a little dance and then stopped and floated back down behind the mountain."

Johnson said hearing testimony from the many eyewitnesses he interviewed and experiencing an unexplained sighting, himself, has changed his thinking on the UFO matter.

"I think my interest will always be there for unexplained sightings," he said. "It doesn't have to be alien oriented to be a UFO, because we haven't seen everything the military is involved with that could be mistaken for a UFO."

"But, yeah, I have to say I believe there is something out there worth investigating," he said.

Matt Gresham is a staff writer at The Courier. He can be reached at 857-2204 or by e-mail at hdc-news@nytimes.com.

JOURNAL SCENE, Summerville, SC - Aug. 13, 1999 CR: C. Gilmore

Mysterious trails... Is the truth out there?

by WILLIAM RILEY HALL
Staff Writer

Roswell. Area 51. Crop circles. UFOs. Alien visitations. Abductions.

Many Americans have seemingly been fascinated with the prospect that beings from another world could be visiting planet Earth. During the recent 50th Anniversary of an alleged crash of a flying saucer at Roswell, New Mexico, we were inundated with images and theories from the media that the possibility was there.

For skeptics, the phenomenon of UFOs are explainable — elaborate hoaxes created by pranksters, weather balloons, normal aircraft, astral anomalies, space debris, and even "black projects" — advanced aircraft developed in secret by the government.

But for others, the "believers," they say... the truth is out there.

For Cheryl Gilmore, a resident of Summerville and state director of MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.) her belief that extra-terrestrial beings could be visiting Earth began many years ago, when she was just a girl of 14 in 1958.

It was on a clear, sunny day that Gilmore and her cousin were playing in the pastures of Fresno, Ohio.

"We were out walking, we weren't looking up at the sky, but something made me stop, turn around and look up," she said.

What she saw on that sunny day, one could say, changed Gilmore's life forever. There was a bright, shiny saucer hovering in the sky, in plain view.

"We ran back down to the house to where my grandmother and aunt were, and we told them we saw a flying saucer shape in the sky," Gilmore said, recalling the incident.

With her cousin, aunt and grandmother in tow, they all returned to the pasture, where they continued to observe the "saucer" for several more minutes.

"Then, it just suddenly disappeared," she said. "It was gone."

That was just the first of two incidents in Gilmore's life.

In 1980, as she was traveling up Interstate-70 in West Virginia with two other people to attend a meeting, came her second sighting.

"We were just driving along, not paying attention, and I just happened to look out the window,"

Gilmore said.

Again, in the middle of the afternoon, with a clear-blue sky, she saw another UFO — this one larger and crown shaped.

"The craft was hovering, it was slightly tipping and rotating, and it was moving slowly away from us," she said.

All of the occupants in the car witnessed the UFO, and Gilmore immediately tried to find what possibly could cause what they were seeing — a hot air balloon? or something just reflected off the ground?

(continued on page 6)

"Your mind tries to find a rational explanation of what you've seen," she said. "But there was nothing."

From then on, Gilmore was a believer.

"Once you have a sighting like that, you know something exists," she said. "I firmly believe we are being visited by something, and I think this planet has been visited for thousands of years."

It was these experiences that led Gilmore to join MUFON. Headquartered in Seguin, Texas, MUFON is the largest international organization of its kind, with more than 5,000 members worldwide. The organization's literature states that it's an international scientific organization composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon known as unidentified flying objects by combining their mutual talents, areas of expertise, and investigative efforts.

Gilmore, who's spent 10 years in the organization, joined so she would "be able to discuss it with other people and not be laughed at."

"We try to be very scientific in our studies," she said. "It's a very legitimate organization. We have scientists, physicists, and just regular citizens."

As director of the organization for the state of South Carolina, Gilmore holds meetings with members, once every two months over the summer, and collects reports of sightings from all over the state. Just recently, she said, a man and his niece traveling from Myrtle Beach reported seeing a "triangular-shaped" UFO.

Gilmore said that there's been another phenomenon in the area recently, that has also been reported around the country and in Canada.

According to Gilmore, during a period of two months, and on a daily basis, she saw white or silver aircraft flying at high altitudes leaving "contrails" in their wake — spraying an unknown substance. The contrails were not those left by normal jets, she said, as they are not straight as in normal jets, but appeared rippled.

Early in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening, Gilmore has witnessed these craft, and photographed the "contrails" they leave — sometimes straight lines, sometimes in rather elaborate criss-cross patterns.

"It's a project of some sort," Gilmore said. "It could be a weather-altering program, or possibly biological spraying."

After several hours, she said, the contrails will dissipate. A clear, blue sky will soon appear cloudy from the affect of the contrails dissipating, she said. In other parts of the country, these craft, which appear to be jets, are sometimes seen in conjunction with white and silver "orbs" — possibly UFOs.

"No one really knows who's doing it," Gilmore said. "The people in this country walk around with their heads in the sand for the most part."

Gilmore said people in other parts of the country have reported becoming ill after similar spraying — colds, upper-respiratory infections and flu-like symptoms.

When contacted by The Journal Scene, a spokesperson from the Charleston Air Force Base denied any involvement.

"First and foremost, the Air Force and the government is not spraying anything in this area, or any other area in the country that I'm aware of," Sr. Master Sgt. Bob Tobias said.

Tobias, reviewing photographs of the craft and contrails, say they appear to be standard contrails left by jets. "The contrails are caused by the hot exhaust of the engines mixing with the cold air," he said.

The aircraft in question, he said, are probably large, commercial aircraft and not from the Charleston Air Force Base. Aircraft coming into and leaving the base would not be at a high enough altitude to produce such contrails.

Tobias said Charleston is used as a central vectoring sight for aircraft traveling in the Southeast. The numerous contrails, and criss-cross patterns, are probably caused by multiple aircraft flying into the area.

"It's an act of nature that those contrails are formed," he said.

Whether the "contrails" could possibly be alien in nature, or a secret government project, Gilmore says she doesn't have a theory. But there have been other cases of UFOs locally.

"At one time, sightings were very prevalent in this area," she said. There's even one rather famous case of a man from the Lowcountry who reported alien contact several years ago. Two different books were written on the man's story, Gilmore said, which included a tale of being abducted by aliens.

Gilmore said she has met hundreds of people who claim to have been abducted, although she does not recall being abducted herself.

"It's a world-wide phenomenon... it's everywhere," she said. Perhaps millions of people, in every country on every

continent of the earth, have reports of abductions.

"In most cases, the people are confused, they don't know what's happening to them. They think they are having mental problems, they have no control over it," she said.

"It sounds incredible until you've studied the phenomenon. People ask how this can be going on, but it can be going on."

"These people are not just winos in the street that come in babbling about being abducted... these are people just like you and me, and they usually don't want to talk about it. They just want answers."

"It's so outlandish that it's going on, but it is going on — it's a phenomenon that's happening. To some people, it's fearful, to others, they become more spiritual after the incident," she said.

Gilmore admits that many UFO reports may be false. "It's getting harder to distinguish nowadays, because we have such exotic aircraft now," she said. But there is still a small percentage of sightings and reports that can never be explained.

"People in power don't want this phenomenon reported or believed in, because they could lose control," she said. "They want to debunk it, ridicule it, so everybody can sleep better at night."

"I don't believe in UFOs per se... but I do believe that something is interacting with the peoples of this planet. What it is, I don't know. Who they are, I don't know. This isn't a religion for me," she said.

As for Roswell, probably the most famous case of a UFO incident, Gilmore says she believes a flying saucer did crash in the desert of New Mexico so many years ago.

"I believe it happened," she said. "I believe a lot of the technology we have today was back-engineered from that crash, and other crashes that happened during that time."

The report of crop circles around the world, Gilmore said, is further evidence of alien visitation. Although some crop circles have been hoaxed, others are legitimate, and have been unexplainable through scientific study.

"I think this is a message of some sort," she said. "A message for all the people of the

planet, and we just haven't figured it out yet. That's my theory, at least."

As to why aliens, or UFOs, may be visiting the planet, there have been many different discussions: keeping watch of what we're doing to the planet, to see how we as a human race are developing, or for some type of genetic experiment. Many theories have been discussed, but as humans, there is just no way to know for sure, Gilmore says.

Gilmore says anyone interested in the serious study and research of UFOs is welcome to attend a meeting of MUFON. Meetings are held at 7150 Cross County Road in North Charleston. To attend a meeting, or even to report a "sighting" of your own, contact Gilmore at (843) 688-4615.

Until then, consider this... do you believe?

Close encounters

Something's going on at Area 51 — but no one's talking

By PAT CHRISTIAN
The Daily Herald

RACHEL, NEV. — Heading down a dirt road out of Rachel, Nev., 115 miles southwest of Cedar City, no flying saucers were hovering over me yet and I hadn't been shot dead, either.

I was searching for tokens of the forbidden top-secret Area 51, where guards are authorized to kill you just to keep you from seeing what you're not supposed to see.

Mystery flying machines have been secretly tested here since the 1940s, including the U-2 spy plane starting in 1955.

The U-2 was so secret it was not initially flown by U.S. Air Force pilots, but by Central Intelligence Agency pilots like Gary Powers, who were suppose, to kill themselves rather than risk divulging secrets.

Powers eventually cracked-up his U-2 in the former Soviet Union.

But he couldn't bring himself to chew the fatal pill he was supposed to swallow if captured and there was an international scandal.

The rumor today is that the latest top-secret reconnaissance plane at Area 51 is the supposedly wedge-shaped Aurora.

There are even people like Joe and Pat Travis who run the Little A'Le'Inn (pronounced alien) at Rachel who say close encounters of the third kind have been happening at nearby Area 51, with alien UFOs and visitors from other world being studied.

Look at most maps and you will never see "Area 51" marked on it.

But you will see a shaded area marking restricted government air space.

The segregated area is basically a swath starting north of Las Vegas and running northwest

nearly to Tonopah, 50 miles wide and 100 miles long.

Inside is Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada Test site, and Indian Springs Gunnery Range.

On the Air Force Range is marked Groom Lake and that's where Area 51 is supposed to be, if it really exists.

I thought it's curious that whatever is going on at Area 51, there are a lot of people with ties to Utah and even Provo who know the answer to different pieces of the Area 51 puzzle.

Untouched
A plume of desert dust stretched out in the drawn-out distance behind me. An expanse extended if front of me.

I might as well been driving on the moon, because much of the stretch I was driving seemed

untouched by human intervention except for the road itself.

I thought it's curious that whatever is going on at Area 51, there are a lot of people with ties to Utah and even Provo who know the answer to different pieces of the Area 51 puzzle.

But they are sworn to secrecy.

Most of these Utah-connected people don't live in Rachel, a 20-mailbox rural town on Route 375, sometimes called the loneliest stretch of highway in the country.

The road now has a new name that shows Nevada has sense of humor about UFO rumors.

It's now known as the Extraterrestrial Highway, named a few years ago in a ceremony that included actor Jeff Goldblum.

Signs even include drawings of flying saucers.

The Utah-connected people live at Alamo, a town 25 miles from Rachel founded in the 1800s by Mormons.

Many young men who attend church here graduate from Pahrangat Valley High School at Alamo and then go to BYU.

Many find work elsewhere after graduating, but some return with various academic degrees, and like some of their parents, start working at Area 51.

There are few non government jobs in Lincoln County, where

temple, a relative of his told me.

Air Force Maj. Jeff Vick, whom I met at his trailer in Rachel, said there are practical reasons for workers at Area 51 keeping a low profile.

The dark windows also protects workers, he said.

Vick told me if too many people know who works where, it could be viewed as a security threat and end up costing the worker their job.

The enigma

Vick was an enigma.

He told me he was an Air Force engineer somewhere in the swath. And he could be risking his career talking at all.

He wouldn't actually say he worked at Area 51.

Yet he openly talked, albeit in circles, about what might

or might not be going on there.

I heard about him while munching down an alien burger at the Little A'Le'Inn.

Gayle Williams, a waitress, told me he was worth talking to if I wanted to know more about Area 51.

She didn't know much herself, she said. But Williams said she thought at least secret flying machines are being tested there.

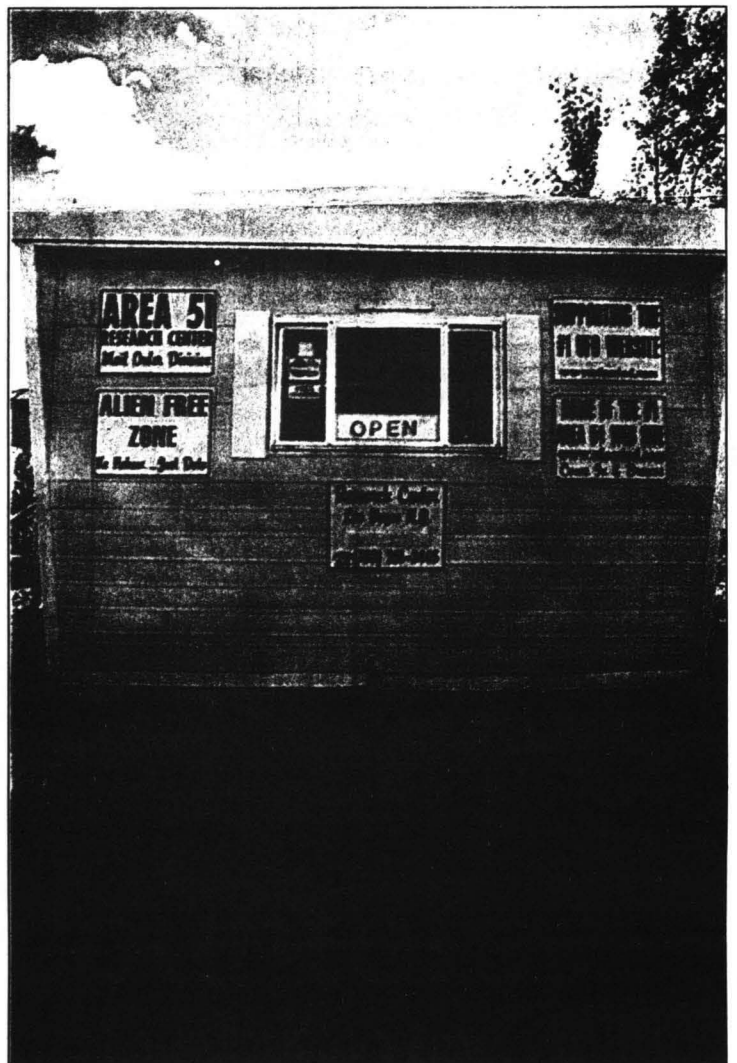
Vick had his head under the hood of his truck when I drove up to his small house trailer with an array of antennas and a satellite dish on top.

"Are you Jeff?" I said.

"That's me," he replied.

I told him I was a reporter from Provo, Utah, there to research for a story.

"There is no Area 51," he said.



PAT CHRISTIAN/The Daily Herald

All aliens, all the time: A bookstore in Rachel, Nev., housed in this trailer, sells UFO-related materials.

Mormons are in the majority.

It was interesting that when I visited at the LDS chapel, no one I asked admitted to working at Area 51.

Yet almost everyone I talked to volunteered that their friend or relative works there.

"A member of our bishopric works out there," a member of the congregation told me.

One member of the Alamo Ward even drives THE bus.

All its windows are painted dark so you can't see who is or isn't on it.

It picks people from Alamo up in a remote place and drives until it disappears into the desert each day.

The driver has two or three children who live in Provo or elsewhere in Utah County and he frequently visits Provo to attend the

Vick hinted that was actually true because that's not what any area that might be near Rachel might be officially called by government

Area 51 & Rachel, Nev.

County: Lincoln (Nevada)

Getting there: I-15 to Cedar City; Route 56 west to state line; Route 319 to Caliente; Route 93; Route 375 AKA Extraterrestrial Highway.

Climate: Hot in summer, cold in winter.

Comments: Stop for lunch at Little A'Le'Inn (pronounced Alien) and chew on an alien burger or other faire.

workers who might be working there.

Speaking in hypotheticals,

Vick he said if such a place exists there are no flying saucers or aliens, only the developing and testing of so-called black projects.

The officer said it's getting more difficult to fly test missions without foreign satellites snooping in.

"All the missions have to be flown at night," he said.

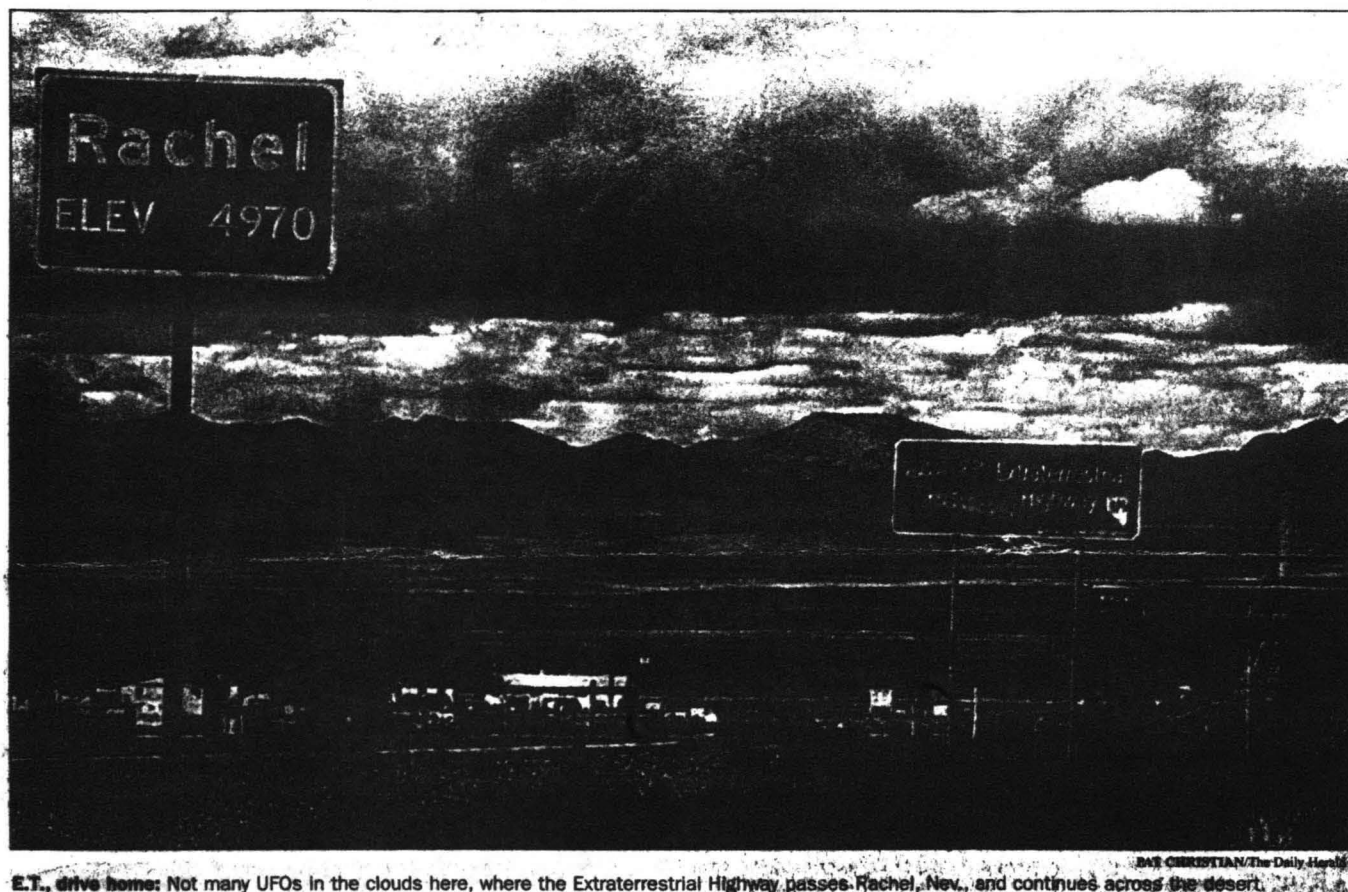
He spoke hypothetically of an underground runway with a shorter above-ground run-out where aircraft can actually take to the sky.

I doubted that.

"Everything might soon be relocated to Utah," he suggested.

But talking to Joe Travis last week of rumors of a move to the Beehive State, he said, "No way!"

(continued on page 8)



E.T., drive home: Not many UFOs in the clouds here, where the Extraterrestrial Highway passes Rachel, Nev., and continues across the desert.



Small town: Count these mailboxes, factor in a few spouses and kids, and you have an idea of how big the town of Rachel, Nev., is. Some of the population here works at Area 51, where top-secret military work is carried on — but no one talks about it.

At his Little A'Le'Inn, he rubs shoulders with workers coming from and going to Area 51 and while he says they never tell him anything even when they drink too much, he still has a feeling there is no move to Utah in the works.

The longer I talked in hypotheticals with Vick, the more I wondered if his job with the Air Force isn't really to spy on others in Rachel and to deal in harmless truth and disinformation.

Finally down the road I could see the end of the line for me.

In a desolate valley, I halted at a stop sign bolted to a horizontal pole that could be raised or lowered to allow

those who are authorized through.

Nearby was a white Fiberglass air conditioned pod with a white Jeep Cherokee parked next to it.

It had windows, but I couldn't see in. I nevertheless, felt confident there were armed security guards watching me.

Nearby signs read "Warning, Restricted Area," "Warning U.S. Air Force Installation," and they warned "the use of deadly force is authorized."

A final sign said, "Photography of this area is prohibited."

I started taking photographs of the signs and pod. I had told Vick I wanted to

photograph something actually associated with the restricted areas.

And he had offered me directions to the checkpoint.

Somehow I had confidence in Vick telling me I could photograph the checkpoint without being arrested.

He has said they used to arrest people for that. But he said a subsequent court decision had interpreted the sign as meaning you can't photograph from the restricted area but can if you are outside the swath.

I've been to many military bases including the chemical testing facility at Dugway Proving Ground.

Almost always I have gone through a more open, less-

secretive-looking checkpoint than this one.

This one had a different feel about it. It had the feeling of something more secretive than a military installation.

Turning and starting to drive away, I noticed in my rear-view mirror three men in short pants exit the pod and motion with their raised arms.

I immediately stopped and waited, until I figured they were just waving good bye to me.

These guys were not military security and I doubt they were civilian rent-a-cops.

They had a look about them I had seen in Vietnam with American Spooks who were not military, but were

well-trained, highly-technologically agents working with the CIA or some other security or intelligence agency.

Something important is going on beyond that checkpoint in the Nevada desert besides an aerial gunnery range.

It's a bigger mystery than that.

How about some of you brothers from Alamo, e-mailing me or when visiting Provo drop off a plain-brown envelope cluing me in. And as Connie Chung said, we won't tell anyone.

UFO report reveals deep rifts at CIA

By MICHAEL SMITH

LONDON • The CIA has released a secret history of its investigations into sightings of unidentified flying objects, revealing that there is more truth in the popular television series *The X-Files* than is often believed.

The highly critical report describes often-bitter debates between real-life *X-Files* investigators who believed "the truth is out there" and their skeptical bosses. It records tales of bumbling un-

dercover agents whose activities fuelled a widespread belief that the government was covering up what the agency described as "extra-terrestrial visitations by intelligent beings."

The problem was eventually passed to the agency's physics and electronics division, where in true *X-Files* style, just one analyst investigated UFO phenomena.

But the 1960s equivalent of Fox Mulder was constantly undermined by his boss, described by the CIA history as "a non-believer in UFOs," who tried but failed to declare the project "inactive."

While the CIA investigations eventually concluded that all the sightings could be explained, the report concludes that "misguided" attempts to keep them secret led to widespread belief of a government cover-up.

The report, written by Gerald K. Haines, the official CIA historian,

was commissioned by James Woolsey, CIA director at the time, in 1993, in the wake of renewed claims of a CIA-led cover-up.

It calls, for the first time, on documents that the agency hid from UFO enthusiasts who obtained thousands of more mundane files under the Freedom of Information Act. The report, completed in 1997, was released at the request of the British academic journal *Intelligence and National Security*, and is published in its summer issue.

U.S. intelligence began investigating UFO sightings in 1947, when a pilot claimed to have seen nine discs travelling at more than 1,600 kilometres per hour in Washington state. The claim was backed up by additional sightings, including reports from military and civilian pilots and air traffic controllers.

The first investigation, Operation Saucer, was carried out by U.S. Air

10 great places to ...

Looking to spice up your travels with a glimpse of something out of this world? The new *UFO USA: A Traveler's Guide to UFO Sightings, Abduction Sites, Crop Circles, and Other Unexplained Phenomena* (Hyperion, \$12.95) shows the way. This state-by-state guide to prominent UFO points of interest includes sites of alleged crashes, abductions and close encounters of many kinds. Project editor David Borgenicht illuminates some favorites:

Rachel, Nev.

Nicknamed the Extraterrestrial Highway by clever state tourism promoters, Highway 375 cuts through tiny Rachel and some of the Mojave Desert's most desolate turf. Nearby, the off-limits Area 51 is the site of a "supposed secret military base near Groom Lake, about 90 miles north of Las Vegas, and ostensibly where scientists have studied fallen alien spacecraft." Don't miss the Little A'Le'Inn, Rachel's only motel/bar.

Roswell, N.M.

In July 1947, officials from a nearby military base announced that a UFO had crashed outside town. The next day, officials updated the statement, saying the object was an experimental weather balloon. That didn't stop UFO buffs, not to mention local promoters, from making the most of the incident — whatever it was. Today the town throws a yearly UFO festival and draws tourists with its UFO museum and shops peddling T-shirts with messages such as "I was abducted by aliens and all I got was this stupid T-shirt."

Hudson Valley/Pine Bush, N.Y.

Waves of UFO sightings, "including saucers and boomerang-shaped objects hovering over the nearby nucle-

ar power plant," make the region "one of the best sky-watching areas in the northeast." Unlike in Roswell, however, locals haven't embraced UFOs as a civic theme. Best vantage points are on Searsville and Drexel roads.

Sedona, Ariz.

The massive rust-colored swirls of rock that make this area so visually stunning are said to contain high

amounts of electromagnetic energy. "It's thought these same forces attract UFOs. A good place to watch for them is on the road to the airport on a high mesa." Along the way, you'll likely encounter new agers, crystal-gazers and other devotees of woo woo. "You're odd in Sedona if you haven't seen a UFO."

Los Angeles

Head straight for Griffith Park Observatory, where a range of telescopes provides ideal stargazing on clear nights. "There's been on-again, off-again UFO activity around Los

Angeles." Even if you don't get lucky with a saucer sighting, "you'll definitely see a lot of unidentified walking objects in L.A."

Gulf Breeze, Fla.

In 1987 a contractor took some snapshots of what was purported to be a UFO. The photos' authenticity is still debated, but they haven't been debunked, either, and Gulf Breeze has become "one of the hottest UFO hot spots." Watchers routinely meet at Shoreline Park in search of the otherworldly.

La Grange, Ga.

UFO sightings date to 1938, when a local teen reported seeing a domed saucer in broad daylight. "There have been dozens of photographs, videos and witness reports of saucers or tube-shaped ships, as well as fireballs moving across the sky." Among the prime sky-watching spots: Roosevelt State Park in Pine Mountain, around the lakes near West Point Dam and along the Troup-Heard county line. Viewing is best after 10 on weeknights.

By Jayne Clark



Aliens among us: Highway 375, which cuts through Rachel, Nev., and some of the Mojave, has a more engaging sobriquet.



Welcome earthlings: Sedona, Ariz., has a high rate of otherworldly sightings. If you don't see a UFO here, something might be wrong with you.

... have a close encounter

Siler City, N.C.

About 10 miles south of town is the Devil's Playground, a 30- or 40-foot circle that is stripped of vegetation. "(Some) believe nothing will grow there because it was a well-used UFO landing spot. Others say nothing will grow there because people keep trampling over it looking for a UFO landing spot."

Cincinnati

Reports of saucers cruising above the city date to 1947 (the same week as the Roswell incident!). Other alleged alien craft sightings have been reported over Cinergy Field, home of the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals. "If you're interested in UFOs and are a baseball fan, you're in luck."

Actually, Ohio is rife with UFO activity. "It's easier to list the Ohio towns that haven't reported a UFO than those that have."

Elmwood, Wis.

Residents commemorate a spate of presumed UFO encounters from the '60s and '70s with the annual UFO Days during the last full week-end in July.

"In one incident, a resident was allegedly chased by a starlike object that followed her home, landed on the hood of her car and then flew off. Also, a fireball was seen there that essentially hit a local police officer's car and burned out all his plugs and points."

Arsenic and Old Lace. Analysis of a "code" that the women believed aliens were using to make contact with them while they listened to their favourite radio program showed it was Morse from a U.S. radio station. But when UFO enthusiasts heard of the "air force" officer's visit, they became immediately suspicious he was a member of the CIA trying to cover up the affair. One enthusiast pursued the CIA conspiracy theory and was visited by another CIA officer, who claimed to be in the air force and even wore an air force uniform. The ruse failed, making the conspiracy theorists even more suspicious. The refusal to release 57 documents on the investigation in the 1970s, to protect sources, also fuelled the cover-up theory. Mr. Haines concluded.



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

PRESS & JOURNAL,
Aberdeen, Scotland
- Feb. 6, 1999

Watch out there could be a UFO base about

Paul on the UFO trail

Series of strange sightings in area

By LANA BEST

Someone leaning out of a window smoking a cigarette, two ex-airforce personnel and a person standing in a driveway talking to a friend are among more than 30 Western Victoria residents who have reported seeing a UFO on 8th June about 5.35pm.

Described by most as being cone-shaped with a long white tail the sightings are what brought Victorian UFO Research Society investigation officer Paul Norman to Ararat on Monday as he traces a trail of startled and curious sky-watchers who at the time didn't realise many other people were observing a strange object.

Such was the accuracy of the reports which flooded first a meteorology facility near Sale and then the answering machine at the Society headquarters in Moorabin, that a distinct path has been mapped by Mr Norman.

Sightings were also reported at Warrnambool, Colac and Geelong.

Now Mr Norman wants to know did anyone in the Ararat District spot something unusual in the sky on the same night.

He said anyone can call him on his mobile 0412 129 319, while he's travelling around.

"It seems that the object was viewed at its closest not far from Ararat and one person was even able to describe four sections of the UFO including sparks flying off the body," he said.

"Reports indicate it did not have a vapour trail, but rather a light trail which could be an energy beam of some kind."

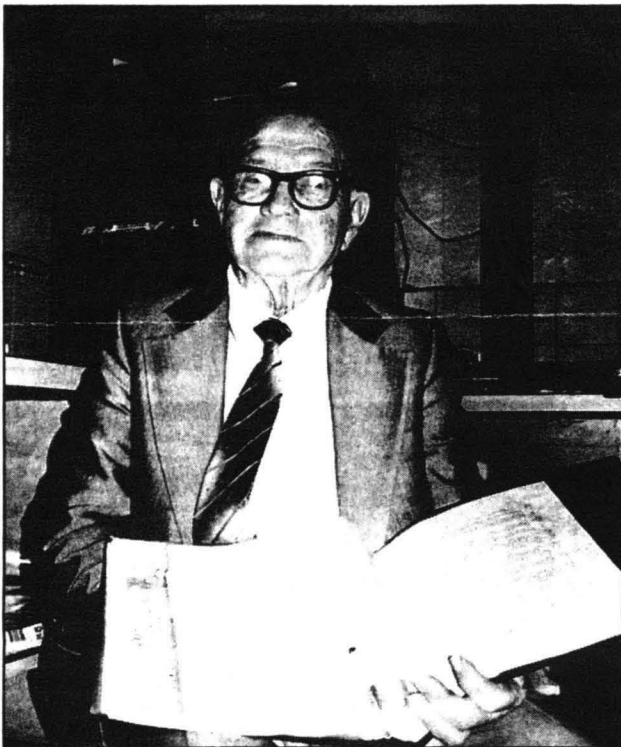
"The light seemed to change colour and looked bright white through to yellow to orange depending on how close the viewer was."

"A section of the cone-shaped object showed sparking at intervals, and these are not fire sparks but more like static electricity or an electromagnetic effect."

"That is the phenomenon which causes car ignitions to conk out and power lines to fail — an experience often connected with UFO sightings."

Mr Norman was quick to point out that he doesn't chase every light in the sky — in fact it takes a fairly big sighting to drag him away from his home in remote country Victoria.

From Benalla to Geelong to Halls Gap, the collation of information is carting the American-born gentleman all over the



Victorian UFO Research Society investigation officer Paul Norman with the folder full of UFO sighting reports.



The path of a mysterious flying object.

country this week. But it's something Mr Norman is used to.

For 45 years he's been investigating UFO sightings covering Norway, Sweden, the UK, China, Zimbabwe, North America and Australia.

At first it was part time but since retirement he's taken on the job on a full-time basis.

He estimates only 10 percent of reports cannot be explained by everyday aeronautical and atmospheric occurrences.

Even then further investigation can erode the unexplainable sightings down to just a few.

Surprisingly Mr Norman's background is more conducive to the ocean, not the sky, due to a Navy career which bought him from America to Australia in 1941.

Before joining up Mr Norman was on the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Tennessee.

"Australia looked like a great big country with not many people holding it down and the outback really appealed to me," he said.

"Ex-servicemen from America were invited to settle in Australia after the war and although it took a few years to get organised — that's what I decided to do."

But does he believe in UFOs — the type guided by extra-terrestrials?

"I can only say that I think someone, somewhere has technology beyond our own, and that sightings in New Zealand and midwestern USA before even the days of aeroplanes let alone space junk and satellites, are hard to account for."

"What explanation is there for recordings that Alexander the Great's army was panicked by flying shields?"

"Investigation of UFOs is a serious business and many people don't realise it's not always nonsense — of course many report-

... I think someone, somewhere has technology beyond our own ...

ings are but they're broken down easily."

Mr Norman said his most memorable and disturbing case study was investigating the disappearance of a pilot in 1953.

A pilot from Ken Ross Airforce Base detected an unknown object on radar and then closed in to see a flying object which caused a lot of static — both the plane and the object were visible on radar for 20 seconds, then both disappeared.

Soon after Mr Norman was told another pilot had disappeared while flying over Bass Strait and he was amazed that the new report was a carbon copy of the one he was investigating.

The mystery disappearance of 20-year-old pilot Frederick Evalentich more than 20 years ago while flying his Cessna 182L aircraft to King Island off Tasmania has gone down in the history books as one of 20 strange aircraft disappearances around the world.

The pilot's last words on radio were "that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again, and it is not an aircraft ..."

THE Scottish glens could hold a top-secret military base to hide sophisticated UFOs, a leading academic has claimed.

Ron Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research (SEMR), said large areas of rural Scotland might have been used by the military to store sophisticated alien life away from the public.

He said research suggested secret bases were in operation to experiment on extra-terrestrial technology, such as crashed UFO discs, in a similar way to the American Area 51 in the heart of the Nevada desert.

He claimed one such compound could be located in Argyll where a former Nato base already exists.

The top-secret Area 51 is believed by some to house a base for testing alien spacecraft.

Set in the middle of the Nevada desert, the key military installation is officially an air force base and nuclear testing site.

The base was made famous by the film Independence Day, when it became the nerve centre for the battle against invading aliens. But Ministry of Defence officials denied the existence of any such base for housing aliens.

Mr Halliday's controversial views are outlined in his new book, UFO Scotland: The Secret History of Scotland's UFO Phenomenon, which documents accounts of close encounters over the last 50 years.

Mr Halliday, who is a senior academic at Stirling University, says in the book: "In Scotland the MoD owns huge areas of land where any activity could be carried out."

"These are parts of Scotland where people just never visit because access is so difficult."

"ET flying discs could be

stored here as geographically we're in a good situation for communication with London, the US and Western Europe."

Mr Halliday claims the village of Machrihanish could hold one of Scotland's secret bases.

The airfield close to the village was once an important Nato air base. Over the last few years locals have reported seeing flying saucers and other unexplained phenomena.

Mr Halliday, who has been investigating paranormal activity for 20 years, said:

"Machrihanish would be an ideal spot from which to operate aircraft technology that the Government wanted to keep secret, including devices allegedly developed from captured alien discs."

"It's definitely possible, even probable, that the latest in aviation technology has been brought to Machrihanish. It's not easily accessible and so is protected from prying eyes."

But yesterday locals living at Machrihanish said they were sceptical any alien activity was taking place on their doorstep.

They say the village, which has a population of 200, is better known for the Highlands and Islands Airport and its golf club than any close encounters with the alien kind.

One woman at the golf club said: "I doubt this is happening. The airport may explain flying objects in the night. There are no aliens here."

MoD officials yesterday denied they had any involvement in storing or testing UFOs.

A spokesman said: "We do not have any such bases. And if we are talking about UFOs the only interest we have is in how their presence would allegedly impact our defence of the UK if they were to exist."



■ Ron Halliday ... controversial

STANDARD, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia - July 20, 1999 CR: P. Norman

UFO group tracks strange sighting

UFO investigators are "intrigued" by a series of reports of a strange sighting across Victoria on June 8.

Victorian UFO Research Society public relations officer Paul Norman was in Warrnambool yesterday to continue his review of the reports. He will visit Horsham and Mildura later this week to follow up sightings.

The reports indicate a long object was sighted travelling on a south-west arch across Victoria about 5.30pm.

Its route indicated it would have crossed the shore east of Portland. Mr Norman said there had been sightings reported in Portland and Warrnambool, but the most notable report came from Benalla.

The report described the object as long with a bright white rear, yellow-to-orange midsection and a long white cone at the front.

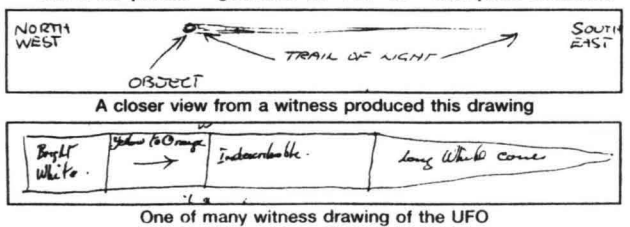
Most interesting to the research society is the report of sparks coming from the object.

"It was sparking like static electricity which indicates some form of electromagnetic effect," Mr Norman said.

"It has got us intrigued. It has some of the characteristics that tie in with other cases."

"I've been on the road since this happened. We haven't identified it yet." The society can be contacted on 0412 129319.

ADVERTISER, Ararat, Victoria, Australia
July 29, 1999 CR: P. Norman



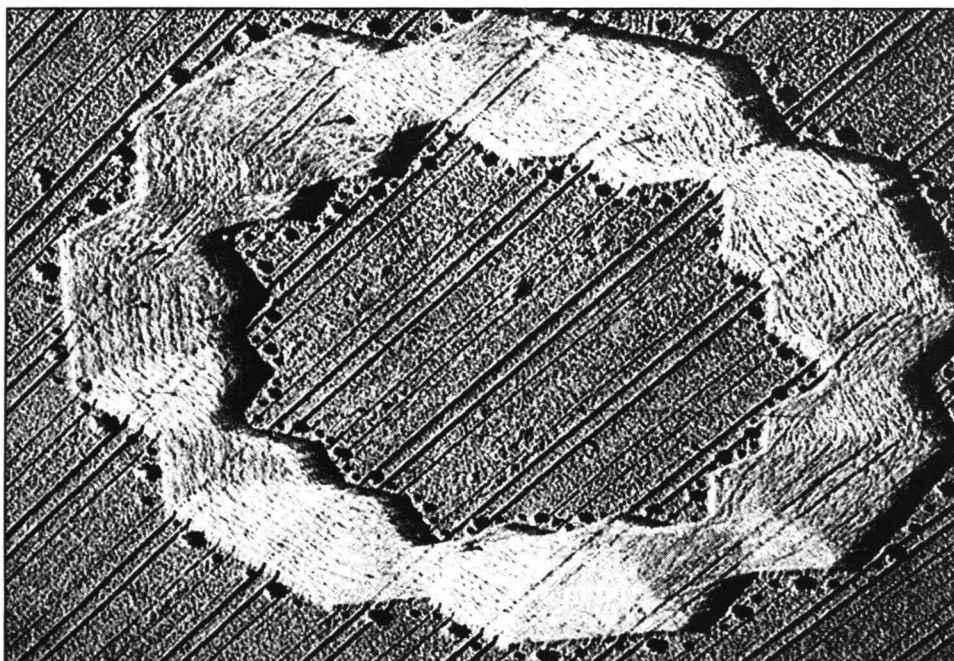
One of many witness drawing of the UFO

MORE TO CROP CIRCLES THAN SIMPLE HOAXES

Gather around to find answers



Unexplained crop circles have fascinated people for centuries. Paranormal devotee **Ernie Sears** asks whether there could be a link with UFOs.



EXPERTS on the crop circle phenomena are very fond of quoting examples dating back to the "mowing devil" woodcut of 1678, for instance.

The now-extinct Today newspaper carried an item on July 20, 1990, by Charles d'Orban of the School of African and Oriental Studies, London University, who said that a massive pictogram at Alton Barnes, Wiltshire – still an ongoing site for crop circle enthusiasts – looked like an ancient Sumerian script of 300BC.

The "message" read: "Fill up your wells. There will be a drought." One can hardly argue with that!

Just another "explanation" in a whole chain of such by various "experts", and still there is no breakthrough – or is there one, unrecognised by the blinkered ones?

My own investigations – sparked off by my many experiences of what we call the paranormal which began in 1960 but was discovered to go back to 1933 when I was nine years old with an "out-of-body" experience – convinced me against the claims by

FIELD OF DREAMS: Crop circles usually appear overnight.

"hoaxers" – particularly Southampton's Doug Bowers and Dave Chorley. Such people comprise a tiny minority of those who cannot always boast of the damage they have done since it is still illegal.

Also contrary to the threats of prosecution, a recent letter to me from the Chief Constable of Hampshire, Sir John Hoddinott, explained that no prosecutions were ever brought against Doug and Dave, even after they had quoted chapter and verse where they put their designs.

Colin Andrews – in Rachel Lamb's excellent Daily Echo Weekend Magazine article of July 31 – says he is "excited" about current discoveries of a magnetic disturbance around crop formations.

The magnetic changes and its effect on the molecular composition inside those crops is the basic difference between man-made and genuine formations.

Of course, for many years UFOs have displayed their advanced technology of anti-gravity or control of magnetic fields. It is why they can hover and then vanish beyond sight, why they can levitate abductees through windows let alone brick walls by "re-arranging" the molecules. Anecdotes of such are legion in UFOlogy so crop formations are easy peasy!

Which leads me again to deduce that somewhere behind all this lies an authority, government, military, or otherwise, which has pursued a policy of tight-lipped secrecy, misinformation, intrigue, and obfuscation for many, many years. UFO reports get standard "no defence significance". Course not. There is "no defence".

Two friends I took on a 2am tour around Avebury stones described such things as "being shown pages of a book", or their hands "sticking" to the still-warm monoliths. I used the "back against" method and found my hands sliding up slowly, unable to stop, until my "mind" did the trick. No! I don't care one way

or the other whether you believe it. It works! Try it! I know that this energy exists and can be "tapped" by many of us and is therefore a "tool" that can be used to form crop formations in split seconds, as has been found over the years.

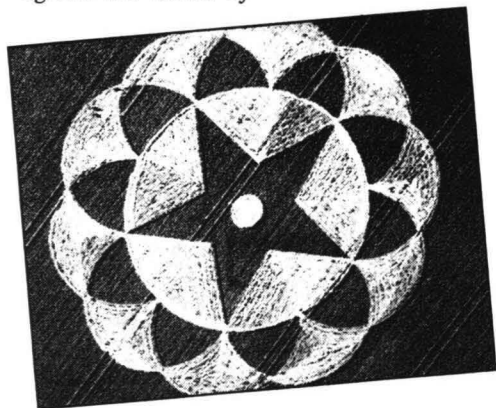
Sometimes unheard and unseen by those on watch, even in the next field, and in mist or fog to boot. Far beyond the ken of Doug and Dave!

I am further convinced that ancient peoples knew of this energy hence they gathered at such places. They did not understand it so tended to worship it, even use it. Thus formations are, not surprisingly, found around archaeological sites, more often than not. Silbury Hill, Avebury, Bishop's Waltham, Cheesefoot Head, et al.

I think we are slowly being "educated" for whatever reason, still unfathomable, except that these "lessons" quite often seem to be preparing us for some kind of cosmic event that we may be able to control or we may not.

Speak to any genuine crop circle investigator or a UFO abductee, and you will find they possess "knowledge" which they didn't possess hitherto. Ask what it is and they don't know.

Steve Gerrard, of the Southampton UFO group will vouch for the fact that before our Avebury crop watch/UFO excursion, I told him I felt we were going to be there for something working up to some sort of climax. Even before the UFO sighting we had, I was impressed to say that there would be something memorable to go home with. I knew we had to be there.



The night those UFOs didn't land

Who - or what - made this corn circle? Aliens? An ionic plasmic vortex? The CIA? Without giving away any secrets, the Mail conducted an experiment that will change your understanding of such phenomena for ever

ACORNFIELD can be an eerie place in the dead of night, especially if it lies on sacred ground. The ancients trod this place thousands of years ago and a mere spear's throw away is a great, ramparted, lichen-encrusted stone circle whose scale dwarfs celebrated Stonehenge, just a few miles south across the shadowy downs.

Only a few hours before, on one of the hottest days of the summer, modern druids in their white robes had become another sightseeing attraction at Avebury as they made preparations for the pagan festival of Llammas.

Now, however, there was a bitter chill in the Wiltshire air and strange rustlings in the wheat. Even the ocean of corn ears looked menacing under a magnificent full moon.

The margin between nightfall and daybreak is a mere five hours in late July; not very long, but time enough.

By sunrise on the morning of Thursday, July 29, poised like a painting on an easel, a gigantic circle almost 400ft in diameter had appeared in the field.

Was this another inexplicable phenomenon that, like the hundreds of circles before it, would be ascribed to the supernatural?

Within the circle was a vastly complex design incorporating what is known to mathematicians as the 'impossible triangle' and elements taken from the so-called sacred geometry of the ancients.

Not one stalk of wheat had been cut; each had been magically laid down to a pre-ordained pattern.

LONG before the heat of midday hundreds of people had descended on this curious new addition to Avebury - and a Japanese TV crew was busy filming everything in sight.

One visitor, Annie Morrison, from Sussex, spreadeagled herself on the flattened corn and pronounced that its powers had cured her of a kidney complaint.

An American scientist opined: 'The crop inside the circle has been genetically altered by forces beyond our control.'

Clairvoyant Ian Matthews struck a sombre note: 'It has been pushed up through the earth to warn us.'

A seasoned observer of crop circles, Rodney Carr Smith, was adamant about one thing: 'There's no way that this is man-made. It's just too perfect.'

The Chittenden family, from Devon, thought they knew who the perpetrators were. 'We believe it's the work of fairies,' they ventured.

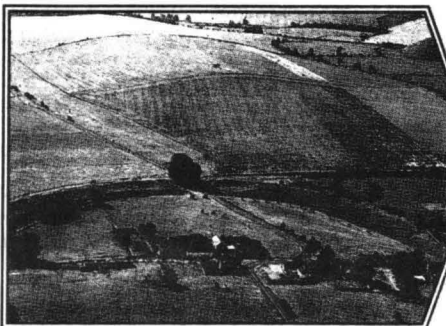
Another person had a modern but no less unusual theory. 'It's a plot engineered by the CIA,' he insisted.

Nearby, two women, arms raised



Astonishing landmark: The crop circle above the ancient stone circle that dominates the village of Avebury

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE ...EXTRAORDINARY THEORIES



Untouched: The delightful village of Avebury before the circle added to its attractions



Dowser: Rodney Carr Smith thought it 'just too perfect to be man-made'



International exposure: A film crew from Japan was among the circle's many visitors



by Sam Taylor

above their heads, walked in and out of the circle proclaiming to have detected a force field at its boundary.

For 25 years or more crop circles have excited reactions such as these and led to an array of bizarre theories. Are they made by UFOs, supernatural entities or forces of nature that still elude science? Or merely by man?

One mainstream theory, which has received tens of thousands of pounds in funding from the Rockefeller Institute in America, is that crop circles are made by energy that causes a genetic change in the crops.

This energy force - an ionic plasmic vortex - is said to be invisible

to the human eye and whizzes through the crops in an instant. The result: staggering designs!

Laboratories in America are currently examining the genetic make-up of crops from both inside and outside circles.

BUT now I must reveal the terrible truth. The Avebury crop circle was not created by a UFO or even the CIA.

It was created for the Daily Mail by two London artists as part of an elaborate but intriguing experiment which would reveal the extraordinary willingness of people to believe the impossible.

It was made to finally explode the myths about the crop circle phenomenon.

Our project involved avant-garde artists Rod Dickenson and John

Lundberg, their five helpers, and farmer Tony Farthing.

Rod Dickenson and John Lundberg, who have always been fascinated by the areas of our lives for which there is no explanation, learned their crop circle skills from Doug Bower, the man who, with partner Dave Chorley, admitted in 1992 that he had been producing circles two or three times a week every summer for almost 20 years.

Bower's tools? A plank wood with a stretch of rope attached, a ball of string for measuring and a baseball cap with a sight line made out of picture wire. (It is thought that there are currently upwards of 16 different secret teams making crop circles around the country working with these basic tools.)

No sooner had Bower and Chorley confessed than they were immediately denounced as frauds by crop circle researchers. One in particular, Andy Thomas, claimed

in his book *Vital Signs* that their 'mechanical technique could never have left the layered weaves of splendour inside...and they clearly didn't have the mathematical grasp to achieve it'.

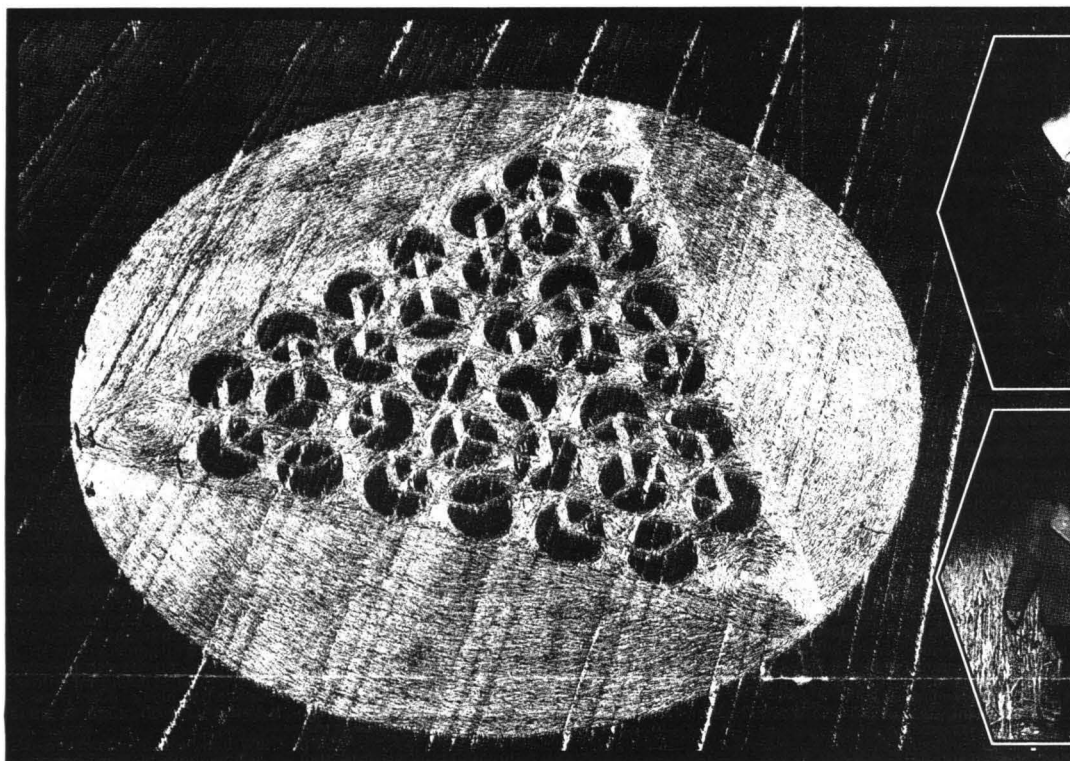
Rod Dickenson and John Lundberg agreed to try to prove that Doug's old methods really did work. With our team in place, the next task was to find the perfect location. Tony Farthing farms 1,100 acres in the natural amphitheatre of downs in which Avebury sits and he agreed to play ball. We chose Wednesday, July 28, the night of the full moon, for the operation...

BY THE time I arrived at nearby Silbury Hill with photographer Nick Holt, sightseers were out in force at the top to watch the glorious sunset.

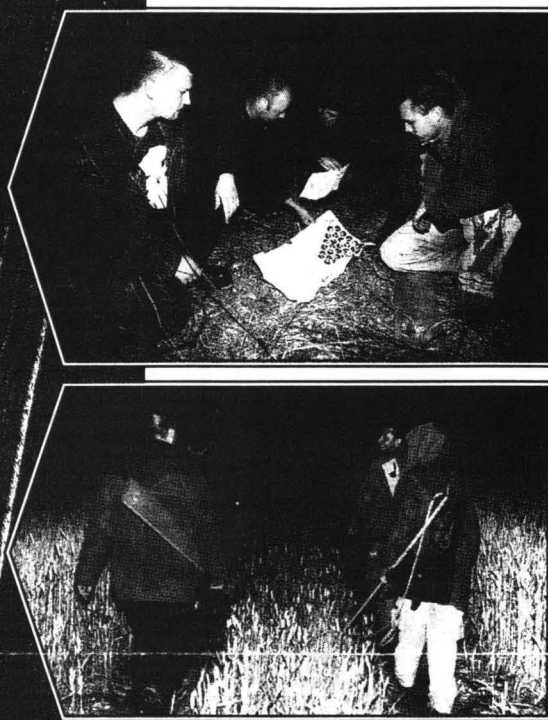
Our chosen field, where we would

PICTURES: NICK HOLT AND STEVE ALEXANDER

(continued on page 13)



Impossible triangle: The cornfield pattern incorporated elements from the sacred symbols of ancient civilisations



TOP AND ABOVE: The team members get to work creating the complex geometric design

DOWSING RODS AND THE SUBLIMINAL ENERGY DETECTOR



Readings: Barry Fanburn and Emma Manjas with their energy machine



Taking samples: Eltjo Hasselhoff, cousin of Baywatch star David



Fairy warning: Susan and Peter Chittenden saw the circle as a message from the little folk

spend the hours from nightfall at 11pm to dawn at 4.30am, was clearly visible from the village, Silbury Hill and the surrounding farmland. It was difficult to see how we were going to pull it off without being spotted.

Since the influx of money from the Rockefeller Institute, and the growing interest in the circles themselves, the lanes and fields of Wiltshire are increasingly patrolled by crop circle investigators such as Matthew Williams and Paul Daimon of the The Truth Seekers' Review.

They keep a low profile during the day, hanging around in pubs such as the Barge Inn at the village of Honey Street, the acknowledged centre for enthusiasts, tuning in to the muttered conversations that denote a coming operation.

Then, by night, they don camouflage gear and, with radios and night-vision scopes, they go on patrol, on the lookout for anything or anyone;

extra-terrestrial or otherwise. To date, their largest 'catch' has been a BBC team attempting to film a crop circle in the making.

In a convoy of three cars, we travelled to designated 'drop off' points like some SAS patrol. As we neared our point of entry to the field, the car did a violent U-turn, pulling up in front of an eight-bar gate.

WE JUMPED out, carrying the tools of the trade — planks of two-by-four wood and surveyor's tapes — and dived head first into the scrub on the edge of the field. There we lay in silence as the two other cars followed suit.

The rule is that the cars should never be visible. If they are parked outside the field, or in an empty car park or layby, they will be spotted.

The cars have to be parked in an obvious place, say a high street; there is safety in a crowd.

Once the drivers had scurried back along the lanes to join us, we were ready to move. Taking the lead, Rod and John navigated us through the field in the darkness. At the slightest sign of danger, they would wave a warning and we would duck down deep into the wheat until the coast was clear.

The last half of the journey was up hill and made while bent double. This was serious physical work and it became obvious why they planned it so precisely.

Time was precious and, even with five assistants, Rod and John had never attempted such a complex design before. They had another artist with them — Will Russell, a recognised geometrics expert headhunted from another team.

I was led into what John explained would be the centre of the design

and told to crouch down. John held the surveyor's tape while Rod took the other end and began to map out the circle. The tape had to be kept taught; any slack meant that the circle would not be symmetrical.

In the dark, I began to have my doubts — would sunrise reveal only a curious lump of crushed crop? The design was so complex, the light so bad — it didn't seem possible that it could grow out of so little.

John, Rod and the team used their wooden planks to 'sweep' the wheat forward, laying it down as though to bed. And the complexity of the design meant they often had to push other swathes of corn in other directions, thus producing an 'overlapping effect' that believers of the paranormal claim is one of the most mysterious features of a circle.

By 3am, shapes seemed to be moving all around us but Rod assured me that they were optical illusions. It was possible, he said, to lose one's

grasp on reality under the canopy of summer stars and planets.

I asked one of the team, a model-maker called Doug, why circle-makers all seemed to be men.

'It's a silly boys game,' he whispered. 'One or two women get involved but mostly they get bored and, sensibly enough, wonder what they're doing in freezing cold when they could be tucked up in bed.'

'Most of them can't understand why we don't do it in the daylight.'

The women had a point. It had felt like the longest night of my life. I was soaked, freezing and desperate for sleep. But, as the sun starting creeping over the horizon and we gathered our belongings ready to leave, the formation slowly revealed itself.

If I hadn't actually been there I wouldn't have believed it. The scale and beauty of it was super human.

NEXT morning, after a few hours of sleep, Nick Holt and I returned to the circle, which had temporarily become more popular than Avebury's ancient stones. The word was already out.

A Japanese TV unit with four cameras and a ten-man crew was crouched over the centre of the circle, cameras whirring, in the hope of relaying home some meaning behind the pattern.

By the time farmer Tony Farthing had set up his young neighbour Robert Hughes with deck chair and a collecting box at the entrance to the field, we were told that the enthusiasts had already claimed it as their own.

On the board in The Barge Inn, together with myriad pictures of other circles, someone had written the discovery time as 5.30am — one hour after daybreak and a mere two hours after the field had been confirmed as 'empty' by a passing patrol of 'crop watchers'.

By mid-morning almost 50 people

an hour were happily paying £1 each to go inside the circle.

Sandhurst-trained former British Army officer Rodney Carr Smith was one of the first to ponder on its creation. 'No human could have conceived of such a magnificent piece of artistry,' he declared.

Rodney, who now dedicates his life to visiting sacred sites around the world, was suffering a little interference soaking up the energy levels that day. His dowsing stick, essential for picking up the vibes, had been lost in a field and he was having to make do with a bent coat hanger.

By the time John, Rod and Will re-entered the field, Rodney Carr Smith was trying to help other visitors understand why the circle was not man-made.

I told him that someone had assured me that it was indeed man made but still he was having none of it.

We encountered more and more people coming to pay homage to this overwhelming creation.

Eltjo Hasselhoff, cousin of Baywatch star David, had travelled from his native Holland in order to help collect crop samples from inside circles to send to laboratories in America.

'I am looking for silvery deposits that will give us a clue to what energy force caused it,' he said.

He was sending the corn to a

group known as BLT, headed by American biophysicist Dr Leven-good and his colleagues Nancy Talbott and John Burke.

Were they receiving funding from the Rockefeller Institute? 'Oh, well, scientists are very cagey about where they get their money,' he demurred.

MR AND Mrs Sewell and their children (Amy, four, Katie, seven, and William, nine), had travelled with their relatives the Morrisons (and their daughter Sophia, four) on a day trip from Sussex.

Mr Sewell, the director of a software company, said that before visiting the Avebury crop circle he had always been a sceptic. Now, though, he was mesmerised.

'I have a positive feeling about this circle,' he explained. 'There is no way that it is man-made and my sister-in-law, Annie, has been very affected by it.'

Annie Morrison was laying on her back in the centre of the circle, soaking up the vibes.

'I feel I can pick up the Earth's energy,' she murmured. 'When I came into the circle I had a constant pain in my kidneys but it has completely disappeared. It's a miracle.'

The belief that the circle was too complicated to have been made by man was echoed time again.

Some, like clairvoyant, Ian Matthews and his friend Francine Blake of the Wiltshire Crop Circle Group, were adamant that the people who claimed to make them were just lying.

'We're just in the fields patrolling all the time,' Francine insisted. 'And no one has ever been caught. If there were men who could make them they would have been caught by now. It just makes me cross when they go round saying this stuff.'

BUT IAN went further in his damnation of what he saw as non-believers. 'I can see the psychic energy in this field,' he said. 'It's coloured red all over. The creator of this circle was a very powerful force of energy.'

'I'd like to see a team of 50 men attempt to get this done and they still wouldn't be able to do it.'

So what did he think was behind the mystery?

'I feel it is a message being sent to us about the way we treat the planet. A message being pushed up from below, to tell us to stop messing around with the Earth.'

There is a growing belief that

corn circles are sending us messages about the way that we treat the environment. Every week throughout the summer coach parties descend on Wiltshire to stare in wonderment at the latest patterns.

Barry Fanburn and his friend Emma Manjas had brought with them a 'subliminal energy level' machine for measuring the circle's energy. Barry carried the box while Emma held on to its two energy-conducting metal tubes.

'The reading on the meter is very high,' he told me. 'It suggests that there are some energy levels here that we could communicate with but it is hard as there are so many people around. I really need to come back when it's quieter.'

In the corner of the field, keeping well away from the other spectators, was a middle-aged man who didn't want to tell me his name. He said it was best that we didn't know each other's name as the area was probably bugged.

WHAT would it be bugged I wondered? 'Because the security forces, in conjunction with the CIA, are placing these circles here in order to catch out anyone who has special powers.'

And what would these special powers be? 'ESP mainly,' he sighed. 'You probably think I'm crazy but it's real; the only people who could have done this were the Army. And they're only doing it to cause unrest: counter-anarchy to the anarchists.'

Did he like the circle? 'The circle is a device,' he answered. 'It's best not to engage with it.'

At the crop circle enthusiasts' pub, The Barge Inn, Susan and Peter Chittenden, a middle-aged, middle-class couple from Devon, were in no doubt about who made the circles.

'If you go into the circles you can feel the presence of fairies. They are trying to reach out to us. It's just a matter of looking for them.'

'They dance around, lightly, spreading good, and they are making the circles to send us messages that we need more goodness in the world.'

Susan and Peter are aware that there are some people who are sceptical about their beliefs. 'But we think they shouldn't dismiss us and the fairies until they can prove to us otherwise. If the fairies don't make the circles, then show us who does.'

Back at the Avebury field, young Robert Hughes was still manning the gate with his collecting box

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13 -
DAILY MAIL, London, England
- Aug. 7, 1999)

and sun umbrella as the curious kept arriving. It had been a profitable day, with the Japanese TV company paying £50 for the privilege of filming the formation.

WHAT an extraordinary experiment it had been, from the careful planning to my freezing night in the wheat as the circle took shape in the gloom around me. Then there had been the deluge of amazing theories.

All around Robert Hughes, people were still experiencing cosmic feelings. I wondered if he, too, felt something. He thought long and hard for a while. 'Yes,' he said finally. 'I feel a bit richer.'

But, in the world of circle-makers, there is no such definite distinction between the normal and paranormal — even for our crop circle artists Rod Dickenson and John Lundberg.

In a spooky postscript, they admitted that increasingly they have witnessed unexplained flashes of light and unfathomable shapes in the night sky. In fact, one recent experience had been terrifying.

'We were working fast to complete a circle,' explained John Lundberg, 'when, suddenly, a huge lozenge-shaped beam of light appeared above us.'

'It's force was so bright that it literally lit the field up as though it were daylight. I could see Rod as clearly as if he had a group of spotlights turned on him.'

'We lay on the ground, shaking, waiting for it to pass. Eventually it moved off. It was very frightening.'

'We have no idea what it was. It was too low to be a plane and I can only say it looked just like a huge lozenge of light. God only knows what is really out there.'

TIMES, Derbyshire, England - Feb. 11, 1999

UFO ALERT

CLOSE encounters with aliens in Derbyshire are proof that extra-terrestrials are colonising our planet, according to a new book.

UFO expert Timothy Good's latest work suggests there is evidence alien races not only visit our world but that they have set up hidden camps here.

Alien Base features reports and sightings from eye-witnesses ranging from ordinary individuals and families to trained airline pilots and military top brass.

And it includes incredible stories

New book says aliens are colonising planet

by
Phil Bramley

ties from Britain, Europe, Australia and South America.

One of the book's most detailed accounts tells of a supposed UFO landing in Derbyshire which led to regular meetings with members of an alien race.

It took place near to Castle-ton's famous Blue John Cavern in 1963 and has only emerged after the recent death of the 'witness, known only as Joelle.'

She tells how she saw a strange disc-shaped aircraft landed in the Derbyshire valley

and how she met its alien pilot and his English contact.

Joelle claimed that over 15 months she learned of the aliens, who looked very similar to humans, saw their technology and their ability to read minds.

The book also claims that the aliens were working with Earth scientists and that they have a number of bases on our planet.

Mr Good says although he does not believe all of Joelle's story, and that it contains some inconsistencies, 'it is a compelling case for contact.'

Published by Arrow Books, his book is priced £6.99.

ALIEN BASE

THE EVIDENCE FOR
EXTRATERRESTRIAL
COLONIZATION OF
EARTH

TIMOTHY
GOOD

Bestselling author of *Alien Liaison*

● The truth is out there: *Alien Base* has a detailed account of a supposed UFO landing in Derbyshire.

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, Bradford, England - April 10, 1999

Boffin blasted by believers

UFOs *do* exist ...

we've seen them!

FLYING SAUCERS:

"We were confronted with a huge disc, hovering," said Tony Dodd of his unidentified flying object sighting

by LYN BARTON
T&A Reporter

Flying saucers are regular visitors to Bradford, claim a group of skywatchers who have poured scorn on a boffin's claim intelligent life is confined to the Planet Earth.

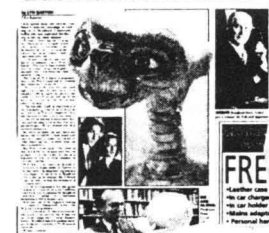
According to Bradford University's Professor Peter Excell, the chances of life existing anywhere else in the universe is ridiculously low.

Prof Excell, of Bradford University's Electronics and Electrical Engineering Department, is an expert on the work of Sir Edward Appleton, the Bradford-born scientist who first proved the existence of the ionosphere.

He said in the Telegraph & Argus yesterday that the chances of intelligent life existing on other planets was much more remote than was currently believed — possibly as little as one in a hundred billion.

But local folk say they have witnessed events which can only be explained by aliens star trekking their way to West Yorkshire.

Excell-Files show the truth isn't out there!



ET CETERA: Yesterday's T&A

"Make no mistake, they are out there," said Tony Dodd, a retired police officer and author of the book *Alien Investigator*. "UFOs are coming to Earth every day."

▼ ONE spotter's story

Tony Dodd's search for the truth began in the early hours of a cold morning in Skipton during 1978 when he turned a corner in his police patrol car and came face to face with a flying saucer.

"I slammed the brakes on and we just got out of the car and stood there looking, with our mouths hanging open," said the former police officer. Mr Dodd was stationed at Skipton and had been called out with a colleague when he saw the object which changed his life.

"We were confronted with a huge disc hovering about 100 feet in the air. It just hovered there glowing bright white. Then it started to go off into the distance."

The event proved pivotal in his life.

"Before, I had never really thought about it, but afterwards I started to think about it more and more."

Mr Dodd, of Grassington, has spoken to many people who have witnessed alien visits and some who have actually been abducted in the course of the research for his recently published book, *Alien Investigator*.

He is convinced that intelligent life forms have not just visited earth but have made contact with governments.

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - March 11, 1999

UFO expert has never seen one

ALAN Baker is still waiting to see his first UFO. He once saw strange lights in the sky near Reading, but upon further investigation this turned out to be a searchlight being operated by students at the town's university.

Nevertheless, he is an expert on the subject. Baker has been reading about UFOs since he was six years old, his interest sparked by an uncle who had undergone a close encounter with an unidentified object.

And now he has put all that research into one authoritative volume, *The Encyclopedia of Alien Encounters*.

Baker combines an open mind with a level head. He loves The X Files but finds Mulder and Scully's explanations for the phenomena they

said Baker, 34. "I think it's feasible that some UFO sightings represent the activities of one or more alien races."

His encyclopedia is a thorough and fascinating book covering everything from ancient legends that mirror modern UFO stories to the most famous incidents like the 1947 Roswell "alien autopsy".

It even includes notable hoaxes.

And it is published at a time when interest in the subject has never been greater.

"Interest in the paranormal, and UFOs in particular, tends to rise and fall. It goes in waves."

"There was a great interest in the 1940s and 1950s — that was the beginning of the modern era of ufology."

"We are on a crest again now in terms of public interest."

"It could have a lot to do with the new Millennium which is around the corner, and the age of Aquarius which is supposed to bring about various alterations in consciousness and spirituality."

We have teamed up with publishers Virgin and have three copies of The

Encyclopedia of Alien Encounters, price £20, to give away.

Just answer this question: In what year was the Roswell incident?

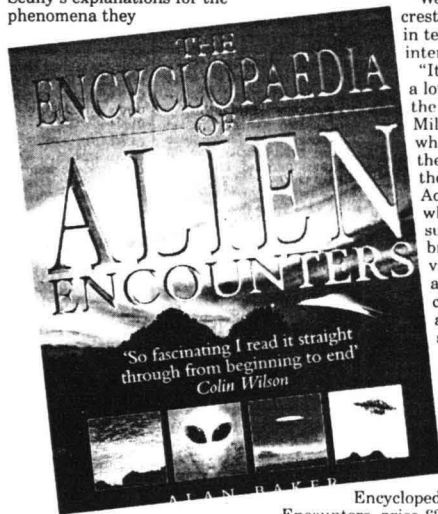
Put your answer on a postcard and send it to Chris Titley, Aliens Competition, The Evening Press, 76-86 Walmgate, York YO1 9YN, by March 19.

investigate irritatingly neat.

He is a believer in UFOs — any unidentified object in the sky is, by definition, a UFO. And he is sure in a universe this size that there is alien life out there.

On one crucial issue, however, he is not fully convinced.

"It is very much open to debate whether they are coming here,"





The circles appear from a distance to just be trampled down wheat but on close examination, the wheat forms patterns within the circles and is not broken.



Interest in the crop circles that have appeared at New Credit is garnering interest from all over. People are converging on the site and that has the owner Ken King concerned about security for the site, until investigations are complete. (Photo by Lynda Powless)

U.F.O. markings, crop circles appear at New Credit

By Lynda Powless
Editor

NEW CREDIT- The appearance of mysterious crop circles and geometric figures in a wheatfield here is drawing hundreds of visitors to the site. Even New Credit Band council Chief Carolyn King visited the site recently and was impressed with what she saw.

Toronto planetary Connections said the New Credit crop markings have many similarities with crop circles in Europe and even some found out west.

He said the reports of lights in the sky are similar to reports in Europe and the braiding of the wheat has been seen in Europe. But he was surprised by intricate patterns, and he says its the largest crop markings ever seen before in Canada

Meanwhile many people have different interpretations of the markings.

May Cheung from Toronto came to the site last Thursday with her friends from Toronto after hearing of the markings. She said the

marks were made "by the mother in the sky."

She said the circles describe a human's path to glory. Working from right to left, Cheung says there is a human standing above the Earth. The human has a marking in the middle of its head. Cheung says the marking is a window to the soul. Locating the soul allows the human to move beyond an earthly existence.

Beneath the human is Earth. From Earth we can choose to go right to Hades or left into space. Next is a gateway to heaven, symbolized by a line before a much larger circle. The large circle represents mother spirit, or enlightenment.

She says it means "their souls are

going to be rescued."

Anderson says there are many explanations for the markings but for him, after 25 years of investigating the markings, he's heard a thousand different theories. "Some are man-made but the ones that aren't, are too complex to be natural. There's some kind of intelligence that they come from. He says a lot of people have a hard time dealing with the idea of life in outer space. "People have a hard time accepting that idea."

He said Canada actually gets quite a few crop markings. He said there were 14 reports across the country last year, mostly in Saskatchewan but, he said they usually don't start until August. "They're starting early this year.

We usually get some in Manitoba and Alberta and there have been a few in aboriginal communities, before-including here in B.C.. It's almost a trend, it's almost the same as in Europe, a lot cluster round monuments like Stonehedge."

The markings in a field owned by auto mechanic Ken King were first discovered last Thursday when his brother Clint took the forestry departments A.T.V. out to test it.

The patterns form circles connected to more circles with some containing peace-like symbols and others stars.

The wheat has been bent down, not broken, and forms the shapes in two different directions with the wheat facing clockwise in a pattern and the inside of the circle facing counterclockwise.

The largest of the patterns measures 302 feet long by 40 feet wide and even includes a star pattern in the wheat. A second pattern can be found in an adjacent field and is smaller in size about 75 by 55 feet.

Long lines, appearing almost like sweet grass braids, join the figures and circles.

King said officials from the

"It's really something," she said. "When you first hear of it, you don't really believe how detailed it is, until you come here." New Credit Band council has agreed to pick up the tab for security around the 302 foot configurations after field owner Ken King said he was being inundated with visitors. "They're coming at all hours and we're trying to keep it intact."

Chief King said she had heard about the crop markings a few months ago from a Toronto writer. "This woman asked me to come see her when I was in Toronto so I went and she told me she had a dream and in her dream she saw these markings. She said they would be coming here." The crop markings are generating alot of interest and Paul Anderson, of the

Royal Ontario Museum of Science were down taking magnetic readings, density reading and heat readings of the circles and an investigator with the Toronto Society Planetary Connections and National Crop Circles Investigations is coming to investigate.

Paul Anderson, of the National Crop Circles Investigations said most of the circles eventually are plowed under by the farmers but re-appear the next year. "You may get the whole thing back again or a ghost outline of it."

Anderson said others usually line up with monuments like Stonehenge.

The King's markings don't appear to line up with anything in particular however when Turtle Island

News visited the site last Tuesday the night of the lunar eclipse and stood at the end of one of the lines coming from a circle, it appeared to line up with the rising moon.

Anderson said there have not been anyother reports of the markings lining up with celestial bodies.

He said investigators look for anomalies in plants, flattened down, if they've changed at all, often, he said the nodes will be swollen and its caused by energy.

He said there have been incidents of charred plants before, similar to the ones seen at the New Credit circles. "It's not typical, but it happens occassionally that they are charred. He said the braid is quite common in England.



New Credit Band Council Chief Carolyn King visited the site last week and was surprised by what she saw. "It's so detailed," she said.



An unidentified researcher from the national centre for investigations took soil samples among other things from the site last week.

Are UFOs cruising our skies?

BY MICHEL COMTE
RECORD REPORTER

Aliens may have visited the Royal City this month.

New Westminster police received two calls to their 911 emergency line in the early morning of July 14 from people who claimed to have seen a UFO.

"They reported seeing a circular object hovering in the sky above New Westminster Secondary School with multicolored lights around it and it wasn't moving or making any noise," Sgt. Ivan Chu said.

The first call was made just after midnight from a Queensborough residence. The caller woke up her brother to confirm what she saw before calling police, Chu said.

The second call came in at 1 a.m. from the uptown area.

Officers were sent to investigate immediately after both calls, but reported seeing nothing, Chu said.

The last recorded UFO sighting in New Westminster occurred in January, 1998. A woman driving west on Columbia Street

towards the Pattullo bridge said she saw a boomerang-shaped craft with seven lights. She described the object as being the size of a Stealth bomber (69 feet long, 172 feet wingspan) and she had it in view for five seconds. The Vancouver airport's radar did not pick up the object and to date, it has not been identified, UFO B.C. president Graham Conway said.

His organization tracks UFO sightings and tries to find explanations for what people see in the sky.

In the past five years, UFO B.C. has logged 300 reports of UFO sightings throughout the province. Twenty-five per cent were dismissed, turning out to be aircraft from Calgary coming over the mountains, meteors and satellite debris burning up in the atmosphere, rescue helicopters dropping parachute flares in the mountains, or helium balloons that someone had inadvertently released, moving slowly through the afternoon sky and glistening in the sun.

Seventy-five per cent of UFO sightings in B.C. remain unexplained.

"The public seems more accepting of reports of sightings. Socially, it's more acceptable to discuss what you saw in the sky that you could not identify compared to 20 years ago when you would be laughed at," Conway said.

Over the past 52 years, he has noticed an increase in reported sightings, but admits the increase could have something to do with pop culture's recent love affair with science fiction.

"Or, it could be that people are less afraid (of being labeled a lunatic) for reporting UFO's," he said.

As for the credibility of sightings, he said, "you have to accept that people living in Burnaby, Surrey, or New Westminster are familiar with airplanes flying overhead (and so would not confuse an airplane with a UFO)."

When asked why at 72-years-old, he chases UFO's, Conway said, "I like a good mystery." B.C. UFO can be reached at 581-1209.

Seventy-five per cent of UFO sightings in B.C. remain unexplained.

JOURNAL, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada - July 31, 1999 CR: G. Conway

Strange things in the midnight sun — like flying saucers

THE CANADIAN PRESS
Whitehorse

There are more unidentified flying objects sighted in the Yukon than anywhere in Canada, a UFO investigator says.

Just last weekend, two sightings were reported to Martin Jasek, one of two UFO investigators in the territory.

Jasek and his neighbour both belong to Vancouver-based UFO B.C. and both investigate sightings.

"The people I interview are very sincere and they seem normal to me," said Jasek. "What's so nice about the Yukon is that everybody knows everybody, so you often get one story, and then they say, 'Oh, I know so and so, who saw something,' and it just keeps going and going."

Jasek works for the federal water resources branch by day. But in his spare time he chases stories of the unknown objects.

"When I was growing up as a kid, I was always fascinated by

outer space, and then I went to university and became a little bit more skeptical," he said.

But some television programs on the subject sparked his interest again.

He has been a UFO investigator for two years and has investigated about 40 sightings, but only recently did he see what might have been a UFO during a trip in Manitoba.

"I was driving down the freeway, and this white ball came up between the trees," said Jasek.

The ball was about a third of the size of the moon, and it disappeared behind the trees.

"That's pretty minor compared to some of the stories we do get," he added.

Jasek recalls one man who was working on Montana Mountain near Carcross in 1988.

The man was staying on the mountain with his dog when, one night, a big saucer came upon him casting blue light all over.

The man's dog got scared and hid under a bed, and after the saucer left, the man wrote the incident up in his work journal.

This account, along with other Yukon stories, can be found on the Internet at www.ufobc.org/yukon.

"I think the world should know what's actually going on, how extensive the sightings are, how common they are," he said. "They're not just lights in the sky. There's really up-close stuff happening."

STRETFORD & URMSTON MESSENGER, Stockport, Cheshire, England - Feb. 18, 1999

THE TRUTH IS UP THERE



UFO questions...Stephen Mera.

PARANORMAL investigators are probing the latest UFO sighting in a spot that has been dubbed 'The Carrington Triangle'.

There have been an incredible 36 reports of UFOs in the Irlam, Carrington and Flixton area in recent years.

Most of the sightings are of balls of green light - and last week a couple from Partington

were the latest to see the mystery objects.

They saw them moving slowly across the sky towards Irlam, before swinging around over the Shell Refinery in Carrington.

They watched for three minutes before losing sight of them. The Civil Aviation Authority says it had no aircraft in the area at the time.

A few weeks earlier a man in Irlam had a similar experience when he also saw green lights.

Green lights amaze UFO watchers

Report by Chris Griffin

A stream of UFO sightings in the area has led to it being dubbed 'The Carrington Triangle'.

The reports are being investigated by the Manchester Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Team (MAPIT).

While most of the reports are of green lights, there have also been sightings of triangular aircraft.

The reports date back to 1976, when seven people on a bus near the Shell refinery and two policemen on Washway Road saw an identical mystery craft.

Mystery craft

For many years from the 1970s onwards there were a few UFO sightings a year in the area. But there has been a massive increase in the number of people spotting something strange in the sky since the mid '90s - with 36 reports in the last three years.

These include a couple who were on Carrington Lane three years ago, when they spotted a triangular craft moving slowly towards Flixton, with a beam of light shining down.

Stephen Mera, chairman of MAPIT, says: "Something is being seen regularly in the Carrington Triangle."

"Most of the sightings are of green balls of light. Often the lights just disappear. My personal belief is these lights are a natural phenomena - natural gases igniting in the area over the refinery."

He believes some of the sightings of structural crafts may either be cases of identification errors or experimental aircraft, possibly from Barton Aerodrome. But a small percentage of sightings can't be attributed to either of these, he adds.

Anyone who wants to report a UFO sighting should call MAPIT on 374 2978. Confidentiality is given to callers.

• MAPIT is running a comprehensive course on UFOs, the paranormal, supernatural and ESP. Lasting for 20 weeks, the three hour sessions are being held at Manor High School, Manor Avenue, Ashton on Mersey. The course, beginning on March 30, costs £30 - for further information contact Stephen Mera on 374 2978.



Man follows on the heels of Bigfoot

■ NO YETI YET:

An Elma man continues his 30-year search for the elusive creature.

By D. Eric Jones

The Olympian

ELMA — He could be the most famous celebrity never photographed by the paparazzi.

Or, he might not exist at all.

He's Bigfoot, and learning more about him has captivated Elma resident Fred Bradshaw for 30 years.

Bradshaw, a retired police and corrections officer, spends most of his spare time studying the behavior of the elusive creature, also known as Sasquatch, Yeti and by other names.

Bradshaw became interested in Bigfoot research as a teen-ager when he saw 14-inch long prints while camping near Mount St. Helens. Almost a decade later, he saw the so-called "Patterson Film" of a 7-foot tall hairy creature ambling into the woods.

That's when he became convinced he'd find a Sasquatch.

Since then, he says, he's seen the creatures a few times while he was camping south of Aberdeen and while driving toward Wynoochee Lake in the Olympic Mountains. The creatures are deceptively human in nature with black, leathery faces, long bodies and flattened noses, he says.

Despite the difficulty in proving they exist, Bradshaw says he'd rather hear naysayers for the rest of his life than have a Sasquatch shot in the name of science — the plan of some researchers.

"To me, it's something that doesn't need to be taken down that way," he said. "If you ever got to see one of these things, you would understand."

Bradshaw runs a small business that specializes in finding evidence of Bigfoot. He's helped the television shows "Sightings" and "Evening Magazine" try to track down Bigfoot. He takes other curious people on camping trips into the wilderness to see Bigfoot's habitat.

"If you don't know what you're looking for, you probably wouldn't



For The Olympian

SKETCH: Artist Wayne Moore's rendition of a Bigfoot, from sighting information.

see anything," he said.

Though Sasquatches are avid swimmers, they tend to stick to rocky bluffs and tree-covered mountainsides that people can't penetrate, he says. They're also extremely shy, but will protect themselves by making false charges, much like a gorilla, Bradshaw says.

He says he suspects they are actually a species of ape that has escaped scientific detection. Adult Sasquatches may have the intelligence of a 13-year-old boy, he says.

"They know the woods, but they're aware of humans," he said. "They're sort of playful. They like to tease."

Bradshaw is also one of hundreds of Bigfoot enthusiasts who gather in Vancouver, British Columbia, every autumn for the annual Sasquatch Symposium. The event attracts serious Bigfoot experts as well as slightly curious observers.

Bigfoot-like creatures have been spotted from Russia to the Philippines and from the Himalayas to the Everglades, says Steve Harvey, sponsor of the symposium.

"Most places in the world have something that they have different names for," Harvey said. "The one place that doesn't have as many reports is Europe, but they do have legends of the 'hairy wild man.'"

"Most tribes of native people in



Steve Bloom/The Olympian

BIG FOOT: Fred Bradshaw holds a plaster cast of a 16-inch footprint found by a northern California logger in the Bluff Creek area in 1972 that is reputed to belong to the creature known as Bigfoot.

the Americas know about it and have a name for it," he added, noting the word "Sasquatch" is derived from a Salish Indian word.

While legends abound, finding the reality always will be difficult because there are so few Sasquatches, Bradshaw says. He says his best guess is that there are

fewer than 2,000 across the United States — including about 15 in Western Washington.

"A lot of people don't report them," he said, "because they don't want to get laughed at."

D. Eric Jones writes for The Olympian. He can be reached at 754-5445.

Earthlings descendants of Martians, conference told

'Maybe life didn't really start on Earth, but on Mars'

BY ANNE MARIE OWENS

Earthlings are actually Martians, descended from microbes that crashed into Earth, a celebrated Australian thinker told a gathering of science enthusiasts and professionals last night in Orillia, Ont., about 100 kilometres north of Toronto.

Professor Paul Davies, a physi-

cist and cosmologist whose ideas once had his peers regard him as "a crackpot," said scientific evidence increasingly points to life on Mars, and with rocks from Mars being discovered on Earth, it is no longer a stretch to assume that Martian microbes would have made a similar trek by hitching a ride cocooned in rock.

The dynamic thinker, whose latest book is titled *The Fifth Miracle: The Search for the Origin and Meaning of Life*, gave the keynote speech at the annual Couchiching Conference.

In his talk called, "Are We Alone? The Search for Life Be-

yond Earth," Prof. Davies speculated that "maybe life didn't really start on Earth at all, but on Mars."

On the surface, the fact that we descended from Martians "is no more bizarre than the notion that we're descended from fish," he said.

"Although scientifically it would be quite fascinating if it turned out we were all Martians, philosophically it would be more interesting if life occurred simultaneously on both planets. Then there is the very real sense that the same thing could be happening on other planets... that the universe would be teeming with life."

He said there has been a dramatic ideological shift in the professional science community and the broader public now rendering these ideas acceptable.

The weekend conference on the

shores of Lake Couchiching has drawn about 200 people to ponder these topics and more under the theme of science, ethics and human destiny.

The conference, which for six decades has been one of the country's foremost gatherings for the contemplation of ideas, settled on this year's lofty, esoteric topic in honour of the approaching millennium — an opportune time "for a big think," said Liz Dowdeswell, the conference chairwoman.

Other sessions over the next two days will feature Ismael Serageldin, vice-president of the World Bank, talking about governance and stewardship of science, and a panel of ethicists and philosophers pondering humanity's response to scientific and technical advances.

National Post

Strange cattle deaths continue in Taos

By Phaedra Greenwood
The Taos News

Taos County has had two more strange animal deaths that might be so-called "cattle mutilations" — one in Arroyo Seco and the second near the Taos Country Club.

The first one was discovered by the owner in Arroyo Seco after it had been dead for about 10 days. According to Seth Brown, a nearby neighbor who examined the animal, the black Angus bull was lying in a small grove of trees at the end of a pasture in a badly decomposed condition.

The hide had been removed from the nose and jaw, exposing the bone. The up-side ear and eye were missing, but could have been taken by predators. Two smooth, circular holes about three inches across were seen in parts of the neck. The anus appeared to have been cored out. A band of hide around the left back leg had been cut in an obviously serrated edge, as if with a large pair of pinking shears.

The animal was lodged against a small tree. On the opposite side of the tree, the

ground was blackened as if it had been burned, but the substance in the grass was, on closer inspection, melted animal protein in roughly the shape of the bull. The animal was too far gone to collect samples for the investigating agency, the National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDS) in Las Vegas, Nev.

NIDS has updated a report on a cow found inexplicably dead in Oct. of 1998 in Utah, which had some blue gel around the eye. Though at first they thought it might be embalming gel, analysis of the substance revealed a synthetic compound in the gel, BHT (butylated hydroxy toluene), which has multiple uses in industry.

"But we still can't tell who or why this was used on the cow," said Dr. Colm Kelleher, who is in charge of chemical analysis at the lab. Unfortunately, they have not found any other dead cows with similar blue gel for comparison.

Veterinarian Dr. George Onet said microscopic examination of hair and tissue that had been cut from the cow clearly showed that it had been

done with a sharp instrument by "special intervention," and not by predators.

A second mysteriously dead animal was discovered on June 18 by Bernice Murry during her daily walk near the Taos Country Club, a short distance from a popular hiking trail to the edge of the Rio Grande Gorge. She said the calf was in rigor mortis; it had a huge hole in the side with "seamless edges," and the genitals, anus, ears and eyes, were missing. She also noted a piece of wire tied around the calf's neck, but not constricting it. She went straight to the state police, in person, and reported the dead calf, she said.

For some unexplained reason, the state police did not respond. The report was investigated several days later by Jose Trujillo of the District Attorney's Office who said he thought the yearling calf had been dumped there. It was too late to collect tissue samples for NIDS. Murry said, "They really blew it with this one."

Tissue deteriorates quickly in hot summer weather, and samples are useless if the ani-

mal is not reported to either the livestock board or investigating officer Gabe Valdez within 48 hours.

Valdez said ranchers in Oregon have been having cattle mutilations recently. In England, farmers have been plagued by horse mutilations. In the 20-odd years of strange animal deaths, many of them in the San Luis Valley in Colorado, no one has ever been caught in the act, though large rewards have been offered from time to time. Cattle, horses, pigs, deer, geese and even cats and dogs have been victims of these strange, bloodless mutilations.

If you discover an animal that you suspect might be a so-called "cattle mutilation," report it as quickly as possible to the local livestock inspector, the District Attorney's Office or Valdez at home in Albuquerque: 505-275-5943; pager: 505-875-1717.

Corn leaves mysteriously fall from sky

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Aug. 20, 1999 CR: G. Fawcett

By RANDY HAWKINS
LTN Staff Writer

It was raining fodder Wednesday afternoon in downtown Lincolnton.

Corn stalk leaves up to three feet in length fell from the sky around 2 p.m., according to several witnesses.

"It wasn't like they blew off a truck," said Lincoln County Sheriff's Detective Kelly Clemmer, who noticed something falling and looked up to see more objects floating down.

"They were really high in the air," sheriff's Lt. Ronnie Matthews said. "You could barely see the specks."

"It was pretty amazing," said Assistant District Attorney Rick Shaffer.

The corn leaves fell around the Courthouse and in other sections of the city.

"I saw them all over the place.



LTN photo by Joseph Brymer
A corn leaf that measures nearly a yard in length was found on the Courthouse after witnesses reported seeing fodder falling from the sky.

They were all over town," said Lincolnton Police Officer William Vaughn, who didn't see the leaves falling. "I just saw them all over the street."

"I really don't have a good explanation," said Kevin Starr, director of the Lincoln County Cooperative Extension Service, which assists farmers.

"I really can't think of any meteorological reason why that would happen," said Doug Outlaw, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service regional office in Greenville, S.C. "That is highly unusual."

Winds were generally light in the area Wednesday afternoon, Outlaw noted. "If there weren't any strong thunderstorms, there wouldn't have been any mechanism to sustain (the leaves) in the air for a long time."

Terry Benthall, data program

manager with the Greenville office, said no storms had occurred in the region or in Tennessee that could have carried the leaves aloft.

"Really we don't have any explanation," Benthall said. He speculated that a dust devil — a miniature whirlwind — might have been responsible for the phenomenon.

Starr said some farmers in the area may have been harvesting corn.

Corn stalk leaves were found earlier in the week deposited a few miles from Lincolnton at homes on Bethel Church Road and Buffalo Shoals Road, according to residents. Those leaves also apparently fell from the sky.

Said Starr: "Just be glad it wasn't ears of corn."

"Chemtrails" sighted at ANO

By Loretta Weston

Although multiple people witnessed this phenomenon, two of those e-mailed me an account of what they saw.

"Here it is about 5:20 PM 08,17,1999 and I'm leaving the plant and look up into the sky and notice what appears to be contrails in the sky. There are some that are crisscrossed and others that are running parallel with each other. There are also large wide fluffy ones that look as if they have been there for a while. Oh, by the way, this morning, and also past noon, the sky was quite clear but now, so many of these trails have built up, it is making the sky almost semi-overcast. Check them out!"

—GT

"The other day, Wed, some people brought to my attention the fact that there were numerous contrails in the sky. Some people recognized them for what they were, but most did not. A large area that appeared to be centered over the nuclear plant had several contrails from jets. Since we are in a flight path to Little Rock, it is not unusual to see contrails from passing jets. What made these contrails different was the fact that they crisscrossed and had an apparent pattern to them. It was very disturbing. By the time I got home, about 6:00 PM, the sky had become overcast.

"On Thursday, a larger than usual amount of people called in sick. Most complained of headaches, upset stomachs and diarrhea...typical flu symptoms. Several people went home

sick from work."

—BB

Odd grid-like contrails common sighting in US

Contrails is the visible exhaust left by passing jet airplanes. For several years, reports have been surfacing across the country about odd patterns, crisscrosses or grids, in the sky made by these contrails. Even more odd, many reports also claimed that, not only did the vapors not dissipate, but grew into puffy cloud-like trails which actually produced a gel or spider web-like substance that clings to houses, cars, etc. Further allegations suggested that this "fallout" was directly connected to multiple cases of illness among exposed individuals. Most cases involved headaches, upset stomachs, diarrhea or other flu-like symptoms.

"Chemtrail fallout" contents analyzed

"The most publicized incident occurred in August, 1994, when gelatinous globs began raining on Oakville, Washington about 80 miles southeast of Seattle," said writers William Thomas and Erminia Cassani in their report "Sky Samples Analyzed." Their findings also claim that afterwards, "local residents became sick with vertigo, lethargy and severe shortness of breath." A shocking discovery made by a lab technician was that the sky goo contained human white blood cells. A registered microbiologist at the Washington State Department of Health also found the sample, "swarming with *Pseudomona*

fluorescens and *Enterobacter cloacae*.

Used as a tool against oil spills, *Pseudomona fluorescens* is a bacteria which can consume jet fuel as a primary food source. The downside is that it also causes upper respiratory illness and serious blood infections in humans.

According to the report, on November 17, 1998, about 45 minutes from the Harrisburg International Airport in Pennsylvania, Cassani videotaped a house covered with goo and took samples, then became ill with flu-like symptoms which continued for four days. The gel sample was passed to a marine biologist at a nearby university who immediately developed upper respiratory symptoms. After turning his microscope to high power, he discovered "a protozoan life form" which he described as "very resilient to very cold temperature." He also noted that, "Cell cultures normally take several days to grow; ours flowered into brilliant colors within 48 hours of being placed in petri dishes." He labeled the sample "bio-hazard" material.

As stated in their report, "...the TNT and fuel-eating *Pseudomonas fluorescens* found in our sky sample is listed in 163 Pentagon patents for bioremediation."

Other bacteria found in sky samples is streptomycetes, which is used to make several antibiotics. Again, the downside is that this fungus can cause severe infections in humans. Still another bacteria contained a "restriction enzyme" used

in research labs to cut DNA material for transfer to other organisms. This one seems to have a curious connection to American Type Tissue Culture Corporation. According to US Senate documents, this Maryland company "...made at least 72 shipments of germ warfare cultures to Saddam Hussein's scientists between October 1984 and October 1993."

Black yeast (a mold) has also been found in samples. Stockpiled by the US Army as a "bioremediation organism," this mold thrives on TNT and petroleum spills, but also causes upper respiratory infections.

Cassani obtained a similar brown gel sample from a farm on the US eastern seaboard on January 17, 1998. The farm owner recalled planes making "tic-tac-toe clouds" and "weird designs" prior to the goo falling. This also took place in the vicinity of a disused commercial airfield recently renovated for military flights.

Government dismisses evidence

To compound problems, the substance is not easily gotten rid of. It appears resistant to power-washing as well as months of weathering. Despite this fact, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) dismissed the goo as "corn meal."

Aqua Tech Environmental Inc. compiled a report on a sample in September 1997 labeled "Jet Fuel." Numbered MEL 97-1140, the report identifies over 15 toxic petroleum products, including traces of a banned pesticide, ethylene dibromide (EDB). In the late 1970's, the EPA labeled and banned EDB as a "known carcinogen capable of causing severe upper respiratory reactions at repeated low-level exposures."

Among the concerned Congressmen is Senator Joseph I. Liberman who addressed the anxiety of his constituents in a letter to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. At the time of this research, no response was posted.

Despite the mounting evidence collected by Thomas and Cassani, as well as other concerned individuals, the experimental lab material found in samples remains unexplained. As the outbreaks of flu-like symptoms as well as staph, recurrent pneumonia and meningitis continue to be reported in hospitals across the US, (and now right here at Arkansas Nuclear One), the federal government remains silent.

Sources: www.louepont.com
www.carnicom.com
netowne.com/environmental/contrails

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Sept. 3, 1999 CR: J. Fry

tifically proven — has been taking photographs day and night for laboratory analysis. The Global Underwater Search Team (Gust 99) has also deployed an underwater tracker, equipped with a special microphone, to "record possible calls made by the animal," said the project leader, Jan-Ove Sundberg, from Sweden.

"Last year, the Gust 98 team searched for the Norwegian lake monster 'Selma' without finding any substantial evidence of the creature," he said. "However, readings on both sonar and an ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) miniature submarine show that there is something unnatural in the lake, and that's why we are trying once again."

The expedition was first refused permission by the Seljord town council because August is the official "mating season" of the monster, when all the alleged sightings have been made. But the Norwegian aviation authorities OK'd an aerial surveillance.

Many local people agree that there is something unnatural in the lake. More than 100 sightings have been recorded since 1750, when the first sighting of a mysterious aquatic beast was made. In that year, Gunleik Andersson-Verpe from nearby Bo was "attacked by a sea horse" while rowing on the lake. In 1880, Bjoern Borge and his mother, Gunhild, reportedly killed a "strange-looking" lizard on one of the lake-side beaches.

As a young boy, retired farmer Torge Linstol remembers being warned about the monster when he

went swimming in the lake. It was a long time, however, before he saw it with his own eyes. When he was working in the forest one day, he says he saw a creature rising above the surface of the lake.

"For about a minute, I saw the animal's head clearly, in profile, and one of its eyes, before it dived back into the lake," he said.

More conclusive documentary evidence of Selma would fetch a high price on the international market. Every year, Seljord attracts monster-hunters armed for the search with hi-tech cameras, telephoto lenses and night-vision goggles.

"Tourists come here for a week, they don't do anything else, they just sit by the lake, 10 or 12 hours a day, trying to get a good picture. This all started back in 1977 when one German newspaper offered a reward for a monster-photo. Now we get a lot of Germans here," said hotel owner Terje Wasbraten.

The local council takes great pride in its resident celebrity; the Seljord lake serpent is featured on the town's coat of arms. However, the authorities are resisting any commercial exploitation of Selma, in the way that Nessie has become a commodity for Scotland's Loch Ness.

"This shall never be a new Jurassic Park," said Bernt Solvull, Culture Consultant of Seljord town council. "We don't want a big, water-blowing thing made of plastic standing in the river here."

Experts seeking Norway's monster

■ Residents of a lake town have been reporting Loch Ness-type sightings since 1750.

By Flora Botsford
The Guardian

SELJORD, Norway — International efforts are under way to prove the existence of Norway's version of the Loch Ness monster after an expedition last year failed to make any "conclusive discoveries."

An international team of experts has been keeping the supposed home of the monster, a picturesque lake by the town of Seljord, 110 miles west of the Norwegian capital, Oslo, under aerial surveillance.

Using a light aircraft to fly low over the lake, the team of crypto-zoologists — who study creatures whose existence has not been scien-

Answers actively sought in bizarre cattle mutilations

Patterns are being found — but not explanations

By Lezlee E. Whiting
Deseret News correspondent

Last fall when a Duchesne County cattle rancher made a routine check of his herd, he found one of his prized registered polled Herefords dead.

The day before he had seen the cow in perfect health. But on Oct. 17, 1998, he discovered the animal lying in an unusual position and missing an eye and part of an ear. There was no sign of a struggle, and there were no tracks around the animal, which was found in a water-logged pasture about 20 feet from a paved road with frequent traffic.

There were no sick cows in the herd. The rancher's discovery and his quick decision to contact local representatives of the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), an organization dedicated to the scientific study of extra-terrestrial phenomenon, launched an extensive investigation into the cause of the cow's death.

"What was intriguing about this particular case is it was relatively fresh and a good amount of tissue and blood were able to be taken and that's rare," explained Colm Kelleher, NIDS deputy director.

So far research efforts have turned up even more bizarre findings and posed questions that are attracting a great deal of interest.

A few months ago, NIDS posted its preliminary research findings in the unexplained death on its Web site, (www.accessnv.com/NIDS). The public report marked the first time NIDS had made such specific details about its research available for public consumption.

Over the past three years, since NIDS purchased the 480-acre Sherman Ranch between Fort Duchesne and Randlett, in Uintah County, it has investigated less than half a dozen unexplained animal deaths in scattered locations, said Kelleher. The ranch is the site of documented, but unexplained, cattle disappearances and reported UFO sightings.

NIDS, based in Las Vegas is headed by millionaire Robert M. Bigelow, who reportedly spends several million dollars a year on research and scientific study of anything related to extra-terrestrial phenomena.

In this case, the rancher requested anonymity. He had not contacted NIDS before the unexplained death, nor after he reported the mutilation, said Kelleher.

Several of the findings in the cow's unexplained death in an unincorporated area northwest of Roosevelt match or are similar to other instances of unexplained cattle mutilations in the Uinta Basin and elsewhere, said Kelleher.

For starters, the cow was found lying in a north-south pattern with its front legs tucked under and rear legs splayed behind — the same way 16 other cows in the Uinta Basin, dead from unexplained mutilation, were found over the past several years. Other than the fact that the placement is not random, its meaning is unknown, Kelleher reported.

The cow, estimated to have been about 90 days pregnant, did not have a fetus. Blood tests confirmed the presence of a placenta, leading researchers to believe the animal was indeed pregnant very close to the time of death, said Kelleher. Although the fetus was missing, there were no signs of an aborted calf, another similarity to other mutilation cases.

Tests conducted by two separate veterinary laboratories at university research facilities confirmed the animal's left eye and the portion of its left ear were removed with a sharp instrument and not by scavengers. The eye and ear are typically removed in such animal mutilation cases.

The full necropsy yielded a heart that appeared "to have been blown apart." The heart disintegrated when touched, although the pericardium (outer sac surrounding the organ) was intact.

The decimated heart is a recurring factor in animal mutilation deaths that continues to puzzle researchers because the heart is normally the last organ to decay when an animal dies.

One exceptionally unusual occurrence was the presence of a "blue gel-like substance," which continues to be analyzed with results due out soon. Kelleher said although he is aware of one report in the 1970s of a "blueish-greenish" substance found on a mutilated cow, there has been no precedent in the Uinta Basin.

Blood tests revealed a copper deficiency, which further analysis found did not appear to be the case with the herd, and a possibly toxic level of potassium chloride in the blood. Potassium itself has the potential to be toxic, and the cow had a level 10 times higher than normal, although NIDS investigators and the veterinarian who performed the necropsy agreed the animal appeared to be in excellent nutritional condition.

Investigators have questioned whether an injection of potassium chloride may have killed the animal. Potassium chloride is easy to obtain, hard to trace in a postmortem and kills rapidly, the NIDS report explains.

Dr. Blaine L. Whiting, the Roosevelt veterinarian who conducted the necropsy for NIDS, said he could not determine a "distinct cause of death," although he reported that some of the findings — including hemorrhaging around the neck — were similar to Blackleg Disease, an infection caused by organisms in the soil. Although cows are usually vaccinated for the disease, the inoculation isn't a guaran-

tee.

He does admit that many of the findings are puzzling and unexplainable. The weather wasn't a factor, since there were no storms or associated lightning strikes in the area before the cow was found dead.

Animal mutilations have been reported worldwide since the 1960s. Reports became even more common in the 1970s and occurred in clusters. From 1975-77 in two Colorado counties alone there were nearly 200 reports. Most of the incidents reported in Utah have occurred in the eastern and northeastern parts of the state.

Ryan Layton, who has immersed himself in the study of extra-terrestrial phenomena and is very familiar with the Uinta Basin's history of UFO sightings and reported extra-terrestrial activity, calls the unexplained animal deaths "one of the most incredible mysteries of the day."

Popular theory and mere conjecture leads one to believe that extra-terrestrials descend on helpless cattle and other livestock to conduct biological experiments that may benefit their own species. Whether this belief will ever be a borne out, cattle mutilation researchers estimate the actual cases far outnumber those that are reported.

In spite of investigations by law enforcement officers, including the FBI, no one has ever been arrested or charged with animal mutilations, said Linda Moulton Howe, author and award-winning TV documentary producer.

Howe has spent the past 20 years researching unusual animal deaths and mutilations. In 1993 she won an Emmy for her documentary "Strange Harvest." Howe said when she read the NIDS Web site report she was immediately struck with the fact that the animal mutilations she had researched had a common chord with the Duchesne County case.

"In reading the NIDS report on the Utah animal my mind was flooded on with the many reports I had done with sheriffs' deputies and vets... dealing with the intact pericardium and no (heart) tissue."

From her years of study Howe has concluded that the government knows far more about extra-terrestrial phenomena than it will reveal. Howe has produced seven works specifically related to what appears to be physical evidence, governmental knowledge and cover-up about the interaction of nonhuman intelligence with our planet.

She alleges massive cover-up by U.S. government intelligence and even the media, designed "to keep the public ignorant" of the reality and pervasiveness of such phenomena.