

UFO

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We are alone ... or are we?

BY BRIDGET BRAVE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Have you ever experienced frequent nosebleeds or pain in your joints for no medically explainable reason? Had a waking dream in which you were paralyzed, unable to scream for help? Do you feel as if you are being watched, even when you're completely alone?

If any of the scenarios sound familiar, you may have been abducted by aliens.

Yvonne Smith, certified hypnotherapist and alien abduction researcher, brought her insight into this strange phenomenon to the Morris University Center on Oct. 20. The multimedia presentation included slides and a video of the "evidence."

An alien abduction is defined as the forced removal of

a person from his or her physical location to another place. It may include an altered state of awareness for the purpose of physical, surgical or psychological procedures performed by the nonhuman abductors. After the abduction, the person is returned to his or her original physical location and frequently has little or no recollection of the experience.

Smith began her research into the UFO phenomenon in 1988. She then expanded her private hypnotherapy practice to include abductees in 1990 and in 1991 formed the Close Encounter Research Organization. CERO is an investigative support group that helps abductees work through and cope with their experiences. Smith has been a member of the Mutual UFO Network since 1988 and is

serving on the advisory board as the director of abduction research for several organizations.

Smith says that her investigation into these events is a "life journey down the path of discovery into the reality of UFO abduction experiences."

Through the course of her work with clients and CERO members, Smith says she has seen "many positive changes and much healing."

She states that her primary goal is to help the abductee realize that there is life after an abduction.

Smith is now focused on educating the public both



<http://www.magi.com/~rah/alienpic.html>

and continues to be a guest speaker at conferences worldwide.

The lecture presentation was sponsored by the University Center Board Current Affairs Committee.

UFO fun facts



www.magi.com/~rah/alienpic.html

- A UFO sighting occurs somewhere on the planet every three minutes.

- Hundreds of thousands of unexplained sightings have been reported all around the world, many of which were documented or photographed.

- A Roper poll in 1991 said that 4 million Americans believe they have been abducted.

- A Gallup poll in 1996 said that 71 percent of Americans believe the government knows more than it is telling us about UFOs.

- Millions of people have

seen UFOs, from biblical prophets to astronauts to housewives to astronomers.

- The first documented UFO sighting is in the Bible. The prophet Ezekiel described a "great cloud with fire enfolding itself, a wheel in the middle of a wheel that descended and fired lightning bolts into the earth."

- An incident was reported in Basel, Switzerland, on Aug. 7, 1566.

- The first photograph of a UFO was taken in 1883 by astronomer Jose Bonilla in Zacatecas, Mexico.

- Alexander Hamilton reported a cow being kidnapped by an airship in Le Roy, Kan., in April 1897.

- Winston Churchill reported a strange airship in Kent, England, Oct. 14, 1912. It was the first case of a UFO being "officially" reported.

- On Feb. 25, 1942, a large, dark object over the Los Angeles coastline was mistaken for a Japanese attack and drew a barrage of anti-aircraft fire. Memos to President Roosevelt confirmed the existence of unidentified aerial objects.

- UFOs were often seen and photographed during NASA's space missions in the 1960s.

- UFO sightings have been claimed by former President Jimmy Carter, Clyde Tombaugh (the astronomer who discovered Pluto) and William Shatner (who claims to have been rescued by aliens who pointed him in the right direction when he was lost in the Mojave Desert).

(taken from <http://www.mswell6.com>)

ADVANCE, Staten Island, NY - Nov. 1, 1999

More reports of UFO sightings, more watching skies

■ **New York is becoming fertile ground for people seeking life from beyond the solar system**

By MICHAEL GORMLEY

STILLWATER, N.Y. — April 10: A shiny oval object is reported over the treeline of Saratoga Lake. Witnesses said it moved sideways, hovered, then descended and disappeared over 40 minutes.

April 6, 1978: A police officer and his family report a large oval object hovering near their home in Baldwinsville, Onondaga County. A bright flash of light followed 10 minutes later and power was cut to 3,000 homes. They said a helicopter appeared and the object flew away. Four others in two separate sightings in the county report similar sights the next night.

Oct. 17, 1973: Sixteen witnesses

including a policeman report a rotating object in the sky with alternating colored lights. For 40 minutes it hovered over Gloversville, then darted away.

As the last Halloween of the millennium approaches, the hundreds of members of UFO groups in New York state are watching the skies more than ever and investigating reports like these. The 1990s have produced more sightings in New York than in any decade since a small New Mexico town called Roswell made unidentified flying objects a mainstream topic.

Databases are being compiled to track for the first time sightings nationwide and New York state's more than 200 reports since a Saturn-shaped object was reported flying slowly over Norwood, St. Lawrence, on July 3, 1884.

"More and more people are starting to be open to this," said James Bouck, a state regional director for the New York chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, and a

UFO investigator. "More people believe there is something out there, something visiting us, or something the government isn't telling us."

A Gallup poll in 1996 found 71 percent of Americans said they believe the government is hiding something and that officials know about UFOs. Forty-five percent said they believe UFOs have visited and 12 percent said they have seen a UFO. Immediately after the controversial sighting on a stormy night in Roswell, N.M. in 1947, the vast majority of Americans said they didn't believe in aliens.

UFOs and aliens are linked to the Halloween season by more than costumes and Orson Wells' 1938 broadcast of a Martian invasion that panicked thousands. Bouck, who is compiling the state database, said now is the busiest time for reports. He said that's surprising because more people are outside in warmer months.

But skeptics will tell you there are simple everyday causes for 90

to 95 percent of these reports. Two who will tell you that are Bouck and Mike Scritchfield of Rochester, a UFO investigator with the group Skywatch. Their objective is to prove the sightings are anything but out of this world. They almost always do. But among the cases for which no Earthly cause is determined, a few patterns appear to be emerging:

■ Reports are increasing, to 64 statewide in the 1990s, eight in the '80s, 55 in the 1970s, 46 in the 1960s and 17 in the 1950s. Some are by police officers, engineers, air traffic controllers and military personnel.

■ Reports of possible craft, contact with beings, even abductions come from every part of the state.

■ The greatest number of reports come from an area matched roughly by the Census Bureau's Albany metropolitan area, followed by suburban New York City.

These investigators aren't the techno-geek conspiracy theorists of the "X-Files" or other TV pro-

grams and movies. Bouck is a state auditor. Scritchfield, a retired chief warrant officer in Army Intelligence, is a college tennis coach working on his doctorate in education. They don't say "these are reports of alien ships." They call them as they see them: objects that are unidentified, flying.

"Some say we've been visited for breeding, or to warn us of impending doom, or just studying us. It depends on whose idea you want to consider," said Bouck, of the Schenectady County town of Rotterdam. "We want to stay open to the possibility of whatever we learn — we don't have enough information, we don't have a 'smoking gun.' I want more information before I can say whether or not we're being visited."

Critics from government officials to science-based magazines like The Skeptical Inquirer also point to a lack of proof: Where is even one chunk of hardware? one undeniable photo? a footprint?



Staff photos by Jane Therese

Wendelle Stevens came to New Jersey from Tucson, Ariz., to speak at yesterday's UFO conference in Bordentown Township.

Convention focuses on UFO reports

Host says evidence mounting

By KELLY ROUBA
Special to The Times

BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP

— Governments persist in covering up evidence that extraterrestrials are visiting Earth, speakers at a UFO congress said yesterday.

But that evidence is increasing, said Pat Marcattilio, host of the Conspiracy 2000 Millennium, the 10th Great UFO/ET Alien and Abduction Congress.

"Just about every one of our astronauts has seen UFOs," Marcattilio said. "NASA has photographs of UFOs. We pay for NASA, so we should be able to see the photographs."

The U.S. government, however, refuses to release photos or other information it has. There will be a protest in the near future demanding that the public be allowed to read government UFO files that are more than 10 years old, Marcattilio said.

"I don't think our government will ever admit that there are UFOs," he lamented. "They want to hide it as long as they can."

He said the aliens come from planets that orbit stars in constella-

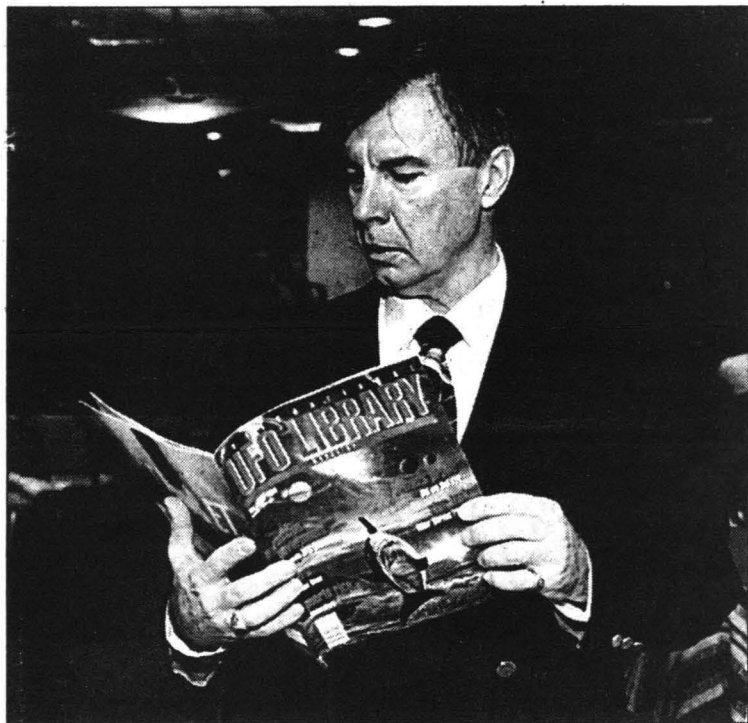
tions such as Orion and Pleiades. People have not yet begun to explore the planets orbiting stars, he said, but he feels that there is at least one planet per star with life existing on it.

Several prominent researchers in the subject of UFOs spoke to a small audience at the conference. One of the speakers was Wendelle Stevens of Tucson, Ariz. Stevens has handled more than 100 cases of alien or UFO encounters. He went into great detail about two of them.

The first concerned a man named Connor O'Ryan who claimed to have seen aliens stored in preservation tubes at a military base. Because of his knowledge, O'Ryan said, he was tracked, threatened and poisoned.

The other incident Stevens recounted involved a woman who had reportedly met with aliens in her home for years. One day the aliens told her they wanted to land six of their aircraft in Tucson, but they wanted her to warn government officials not to harm them.

Allegedly, no one would help the woman with the request, so the aliens told her they would take an airplane in mid-flight by magnetiz-



Pat Marcattilio hosted yesterday's conference.

ing it to their UFO and then dumping it somewhere, keeping the pilot. Sure enough, Stevens said, an airplane from the U.S. Air Force was determined missing five miles from the aliens' landing site.

According to Stevens, officials would not release information on the subject and had people fabricate alibis.

STEVENS later said, "All (aliens) are different from each other. They come from different places in the universe. They have different objectives. Earth seems to be attracting them."

"I am convinced that our existence here is transcendent," he continued. He believes that humans move onto different forms of exist-

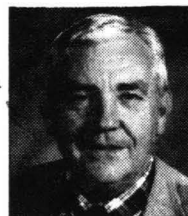
ence and that spirits seek knowledge to prepare for other lives. "Everything is synchronized. Nothing is accidental."

Other discussions at the conference revolved around UFO history, UFO contact, alien life forms and spontaneous combustion of self.

Also on hand were books about alien life and old paintings, such as the 14th century painting by Carlo Crivelli titled "The Legends of the True Cross," which includes a UFO above a religious scene.

Further discussion of aliens and UFOs will continue today from 9:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Days Inn, Route 206 at New Jersey Turnpike Exit 7, Bordentown Township.

And other selected short subjects by Don Peebles



A strange experience

I have always read with interest accounts of difficult-to-explain happenings in the lives of ordinary people, and generally discounted most stories as hysteria or attention-getting behavior.

I can remember the stir "flying saucers" created in the 1940s. The flood of movies

capitalizing on this subject, particularly one called "The Thing", which I watched through the space between the two seats ahead of me as I hid on the floor of the old Clark Theater. We would watch these movies knowing full well we had about 11 long, dark blocks to travel on North Madison; past the shoe factory, the looming towers of King Mill, by the railroad tracks and the park, past the box cars, the fuel tanks, the whey barn, and then a burst of speed up the hill and home. I was not the most gifted runner in the family, but sheer terror made up for my shortcomings in that department.

As I grew older, I could look back on these happenings as a rite of passage. One of those chapters in your mind's book that helps you understand your own children's thinking.

One of the few times I have been associated with something I could not really explain happened in the fall of 1973. My brother Terry and I met two friends, George Goodin and Dale Willard, late one afternoon on the Leinweber farm near Rockport. We were "brushing" two duck blinds for the upcoming season.

We finished up the blinds, visited awhile and prepared to head for home - Terry and I to Pleasant Hill, George and Dale to Pittsfield. George said he had left a saw in a patch of scrub oak and was going to go back and pick it up. We said, "OK, we'll see you later." We drove down the field road a little way when suddenly we noticed lights behind us. Bright lights; but we knew it was George, and we knew he would get as close as he could and turn up the high beams to aggravate us. No doubt we would have done the same to him.

This bright light stayed behind us down Leinweber's driveway, down the gravel to Highway 54. When we turned left on 54, the light disappeared. We

thought George and Dale had turned right to go to Louisiana. Three or four miles down the road, while preparing to turn right on IL 96 heading toward Pleasant Hill, a truck came up, flashed his lights and sounded his horn. We pulled over and out scrambled George and Dale. "Did you see it? What was it? Were you scared?"

"What are you talking about?"

"The light, that light, didn't you see it?" they asked.

"What light?"

"The light that followed you out to the highway!"

"That was you wasn't it?"

"No! we stayed back and watched it follow you, out the field road, down the lane, out to the highway. We were scared and stayed back to watch. The light just appeared as a cone out of the sky, like a searchlight. We stepped out of the truck to watch. No noise, just a light!"

Our friends were visibly shaken. We realized what they saw was real to them. My brother and I didn't know what to think of the situation. Later in the week, I related the experience to a lady whose husband farmed in the general neighborhood of the Leinweber place. She said her husband would be relieved to know it had happened to someone else. The same type of light had illuminated him on his combine. He turned off the machine; no noise, just light out of the sky. He climbed off the combine and walked through the standing corn to the farmhouse. He, like George and Dale, had experienced something unexplainable, and didn't really want to discuss it with anyone else.

I've thought perhaps it was an aircraft hovering, but no noise they said. Foxfire? The light was too bright for phosphorescence of this type. A secret government project? Perhaps, as we are close to one of the leading defense contractors based in St. Louis. I don't believe we will ever know for sure. An extraterrestrial source might be as good an answer as any.

Don Peebles is a retired superintendent of Pleasant Hill Schools.

UFO museum names advisers

The International UFO Museum and Research Center has announced the appointment of three prominent researchers to be advisers to its board of directors.

Stanton Friedman, considered by the museum to be one of the best known and most influential UFO experts in North America, is a nuclear physicist who worked on top secret nuclear rocket propulsion and similar projects for such companies as General Electric, Westinghouse, TRW, Aerojet General and McDonnell Douglas.

"He brings the rigor and expertise of a true scientist to the study of UFOs," said Carol Syska, director of the museum.

Linda Moulton-Howe is an internationally respected filmmaker, journalist and investigator of anomalous phenomena.

Her Emmy-winning film "A Strange Harvest" was her first detailed report on unusual animal deaths involving apparently surgical mutilation of livestock.

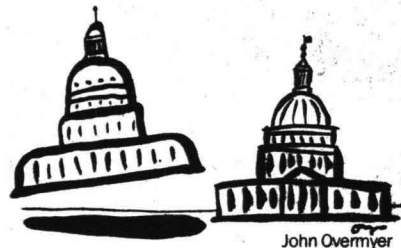
This is a phenomenon she has linked to the activity of non-human intelligent beings and about which she has become the acknowledged leading expert in the world.

Donald Schmitt, co-director for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, is acknowledged as one of the world's leading experts on the Roswell UFO events of 1947.

He personally investigated hundreds of UFO cases throughout the United States.

Syska said Schmitt has written dozens of articles about UFOs and is the co-author of two of the most influential books on the Roswell case, "UFO Crash at Roswell" and "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell."

Observations



Visitors from space?

Joel Achenbach, Washington Post reporter and author of "Captured By Aliens," in the Utne Reader: The biblical book of Ezekiel has a dead-on account of a flying saucer landing and an alien stepping out. Jimmy Carter saw a UFO in 1969; when he became president, he insisted that his aides open up the UFO files to see what was there. Soon after winning the 1992 election, Bill Clinton told Arkansas cory Webster Hubbell to find out two things when he went to work at the Justice Department: Who killed JFK? And are there UFOs? ...Surveys have generally shown that a quarter to more than half of the public believes that aliens have come to Earth in flying saucers. ...A person today can entertain the idea of an alien invasion and still be a member of polite, rational society.

UFO Skywatch

Another September 7, '99 sighting

By Bland Pugh

State Director Florida MUFON

Englewood Beach, Florida

Sighting Account:

The following report and sighting account are directly connected to the sightings of Sept. 7th '99. On that morning many residents of the Tampa/Sarasota area were witness to a sighting of something. At this point I'm not totally convinced that all they saw was Russian Space debris. Our SSD in the Orlando area is somewhat convinced that the majority of what his witness's observed were of space debris. Yet a few miles to the West, in the Tampa area, many say no way this was something besides debris. You be the judge, as you read from the actual report.

"The witness is the owner-manager of a Gulf of Mexico beach side motel south of Sarasota, Florida. During this sighting, the witness was standing on the North side of the motel's second story outside walkway. This location allows an unrestricted and elevated viewing of the beach (which begins about 50 feet away), the water (which begins

about 150 feet away) and the sky. From this vantage position, the witness initially sighted several bright lights from the Northwest estimated to be several miles away. The lights were offshore and moving southward at a low elevation. The witness's first assessment of this sighting was the lights were coming from an aircraft arriving/departing the local airport that is also in that same general direction and distance away. This assessment quickly changed as the object came closer and its detail became more easily observed.

When closer, this vehicle was then clearly seen to be not one but six, moving silently, in close formation and at much greater speed than a typical aircraft flies. The formation was also flying at low altitude with its bright lights projecting forward. This light fully illuminated the lead vehicle with less effect on those behind. However, the entire formation was sufficiently illuminated and close by to see the vehicles were unusually large, triangular shaped and their surfaces were silver in color.

The formation continued its track and began flying through a



few offshore small scattered low level clouds until finally disappearing southward. The total time of the observation was estimated to be between thirty and forty-five seconds while no sound was ever heard. The witness only required minor repositioning to the Northwest corner of the building to retain visual contact during the entire observation."

Interview and Interrogation:

"I was standing on the (north side of the) second story walkway of the motel at about 5:05 a.m. when I first saw some very bright (assumed) aircraft headlight right over there (pointing northwest over the water at about 20 degrees of arm elevation while standing at the point of observation.) The airport is also

Book shelf

MULDER WOULD BE PROUD

Think the truth is out there? So does Craig Glenaday, author of "The UFO Investigator's Handbook" (Running Press paperback, \$14.95). Glenaday will help you pack your UFOlogist's field kit, identify common alien and craft types and evaluate incidents based on famous sighting and abduction stories of the past. Nothing is too outlandish for this heavily illustrated guide. A photo of men in fedoras and belted trench coats, supporting a spindly being between them, carries this caption: "This bizarre creature, supposedly fished out of a UFO crash near Mexico City sometime in the 1950s, died shortly afterward. Little else is known about the image, although researchers have theorized that the image is a composite, and that the alien is, in fact, a shaved monkey."

— Dallas Morning News



nearby right over there (pointing northward) a few miles and that entire area is within the normal flying pattern of its aircraft. I first thought a plane was either coming in for a landing or taking off.

I soon changed my mind. This thing was coming too fast for that, and then I realized it was several vehicles in formation. The one in front was big and triangular in shape. There were five others following behind with, I believe similar shapes. It was easy to see the lead vehicle because those following behind it were in close formation and were shining their lights on it. I could clearly see its unusual triangular shape and the surface looked like shiny metal or silver color. As the formation came closer, it still remained out over the water. Then I walked (about fifteen feet) over here (to the northwest of the building) to be able to continue keeping them in

sight. When they were right out there (perpendicular to the coastline-westward) I knew I was seeing something very different from normal aircraft. They were going so fast I felt sure I would hear a shock or see their afterburners lit up, but it was completely silent. It was eerie.

I felt strange, as if the hairs were standing up on the back of my neck. As they continued southward, the formation stayed right together, but I would see space between the vehicles. I never saw anything change or heard any noise.

They quickly flew on by and went out of sight that way (pointing southward.)

I didn't know what was going on, but it didn't seem normal. So, I later reported it to the news media. Well, I guess that's my story. I still don't know what to think of it and would like to know more about it, since the news media took pretty light of it. "

UFO eludes Navajo cops

By Jim Maniacci
Diné Bureau

WINDOW ROCK — Not one, but two Navajo police officers chased an unidentified flying object seen in the night sky over northern McKinley County on Saturday.

According to Capt. Daniel K. Thomas, acting chief of police of the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, Sgt. Tommy Rogers tried to reach the unusual light. But each time either he or Officer El Reno Henio approached it, the mysterious object would take off and run away from them.

Thomas, who is commander of the NDLE's Crownpoint Police District, said his men described the UFO as a circular disc that projected a cone of light to the ground, with the light being exceptionally bright at the bottom of the cone, where it met the ground.

Unfortunately, NDLE patrol cars do not have cameras to provide photographic evidence of the event.

Photographs, Thomas said, would have answered a lot of questions.

He said reports describing the sighting were received from residents of Bicenti Chapter, Dalton Pass and Standing Rock, which are north and west of Crownpoint and east and north of Gallup.

The first report Monday from the NDLE came from Henio, who was headed toward Tohatchi when he first spotted the light around 8 p.m. On Tuesday, Navajo police officers added to the original report, noting that Rogers had also seen the light.

Numerous other calls were received by dispatchers at Crownpoint, and the lights also were seen in the Window Rock area.

After two hours, the UFO moved off and disappeared.

Signs in the sky

UFO investigations a mix of passion and doubt

By SEAN L. MCCARTHY

Scripps Howard News Service

BREMERTON, Wash. — James Clarkson is searching for E.T.

He investigates UFO sightings in the Bremerton, Wash., area for the Mutual UFO Network Inc., an international volunteer organization studying the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects.

The husky 48-year-old retired police officer hasn't seen a UFO yet, but about once every six months he gets a call from someone who has. For example:

11:30 p.m. July 9, Seabeck, Wash. (received July 10 by the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle): "It was a nice, clear night and we were stargazing from 2330 to 0200. We saw some very unusual flashes of light and in one case, an object leaving the area of the flash. The first one was inside the Big Dipper — it looked like a bright explosion! The second flash

HAVE YOU SEEN A UFO?

The National UFO Reporting Center accepts calls on recent sightings through its 24-hour hot line at 1-206-722-3000.

Sightings more than a week old should be reported on the Internet at www.ufocenter.com or by mail: National UFO Reporting Center, P.O. Box 45623, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145.

Reports should include an exact time, date and location of the sighting, along with a full description.

— Scripps Howard News Service

object (like a satellite) was observed leaving the area of these flashes. We also observed many objects moving in irregular patterns, changing directions and disappearing. Anyone else in our area see anything?"

This call didn't result in an in-depth investigation, but many more do.

Based on reported sightings to the National UFO Reporting Center, one of the best places to see a flying saucer is Puget Sound. In fact, Washington state trails only California in the number of reported UFO sightings since December 1996 (382 and counting).

It was in the skies near Mount Rainier 52 years ago that a private pilot, Kenneth Arnold, helped give birth to the term "flying saucer" when he saw nine shiny disks skipping through the air.

occurred in the southwest night sky; it was very high above the Earth's atmosphere and 'flashed' four times. The third flash was in the southeast sky and consisted of five flashes. An

Force bomber group. The military blocked off and cleared the site.

Then a curious thing happened. First, the Air Force dispatched a press release saying it had recovered the wreckage from a downed disk or flying saucer. Hours later, after callers bombarded the base from around the world, the Air Force "corrected" its earlier release, attributing the wreckage to a weather balloon.

But the damage had been done. As the front page of the Roswell Daily Record screamed, "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region."

Thus began the public's distrust of the military — at least when it comes to the possible existence of UFOs.

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center since 1994, believes the government knows about the presence of UFOs and chooses not to acknowledge it. Or, as others believe, what people think are UFOs in fact are experimental mili-

tary aircraft. In either case, the government refuses to cooperate, Clarkson said.

"Part of the problem is they have some really good reasons to not tell the truth," he said.

Pentagon spokeswoman Susan Hansen said the Defense Department has no policy regarding UFOs and doesn't answer questions about them. "No, we have people watching 'The X-Files' instead of asking us these questions," Hansen said.

Air Force spokeswoman Gloria Cales said she has "never had an opinion one way or the other" about UFOs.

The Air Force did investigate 12,618 UFO sightings from 1947 to 1969 in an operation called Project Blue Book. The project, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, still had not identified 701 sightings when it was terminated on Dec. 17, 1969 — a few months after humans first landed on the moon, our own "alien" invasion.

The official statement now says "nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of UFO investigations by the Air Force.

"Interest in and timely review of UFO reports by private groups ensures that sound evidence is not overlooked by the scientific community. Persons wishing to report UFO sightings should be advised to contact local law enforcement agencies."

But few people go to the police station or sheriff's office to say they saw a spaceship in the sky.

"In 19 years, 16 years on the street, I can't recall any reports of UFOs," Bremerton Police Chief Rob Forbes said. "But that's my own personal recollection. We've had people represent themselves as beings from another planet, or having contact with beings from another planet."

Forbes said those people are simply trying to get out of being arrested by concocting a story. No one really comes into the police station to report a UFO.

"I think there's perhaps a reluctance to talk about it to anyone, not just law enforcement, because it's something that's generally considered kind of, I don't know, impossible or not realistic," Forbes said. "Frankly, we have people who come in with stories that are even more incredible than seeing a UFO."

Don't say that to someone like Davenport.

Davenport, who said he saw his first UFO when he was 6 years old in 1954, wonders why the media and the military are ignoring "the most bone-crushing story, if it's true. And it appears to be true in spades."

When you talk about the National UFO Reporting Center, you're generally talking about Davenport. Davenport calls his tenure as the center's director "the most incredible job I've ever had." Working the hotline phone from his Seattle apartment, he can field anywhere from three to 300 calls on a given day.

This year, the 25th anniversary of the center's founding, Davenport said he's been getting more calls. But he stressed that the reason the center gets more local calls is simply because the phone number is a local call. "We're more well-known here than in Mississippi or

Maine," he said.

That's starting to change with the increased use of the Internet — and UFO-philes do a lot of chatting and reporting via the information superhighway. Still, though, Davenport said there are many groups and investigators across the country who look into these phenomenal cases. Some even specialize in niches such as alien abductions, crop circles or animal mutilations.

"My message is to get the truth out to the American people with regard to the UFO phenomenon," Davenport said.

"If there's one thing that keeps me going ... it is to combat the apparent position that the U.S. government has taken ... to mislead the American people on this. It is dead wrong."

Clarkson takes his job with a flying saucer of salt. He said he has to, because the nature of the phenomenon brings out people who want to ridicule believers or foist their own hoaxes on them.

"There are some people who want a lot of attention, and there are some people who are just in for the money," Clarkson said. "But if you go into it with a degree of skepticism, sometimes you come across credible stories."

In investigating reports for MUFON during the past 10 years, Clarkson said he calls upon his detective skills from his police days to determine the credibility of a UFO eyewitness. The tough part about that, though, is the fact that very few witnesses actually can present evidence of what they purported to see.

He has heard stories he found too incredible to believe. Clarkson said he usually knows something is amiss with a sighting story if "every time they tell it, it gets a little wilder."

Part of what fuels the UFO phenomenon is the desperate hope among many humans to know that we are not alone in the universe. The thought of alien life excites, intrigues and often scares us.

It's been 25 years since the "Arecibo Message" was broadcast 21,000 light years into space from a radio telescope in Puerto Rico. The SETI Institute began its search for intelligent life 15 years ago this November.

In the meantime, lonely UFO investigators such as Clarkson give lectures and preach their message.

Clarkson said he just hopes to raise the level of awareness toward UFOs. "I say, 'Don't believe me. Go and do the reading. Talk to people. Go and ask questions.'"

He acknowledged that "people make mistakes" when reporting UFOs, often seeing spacecraft in place of satellites, astronomical events, military aircraft or even illusions.

But out of all the tens of thousands of sightings through the years, only one needs to be proven to convince Clarkson that aliens are out there — and they're watching us.

"I believe there is evidence that somewhere along the way, we have been contacted by a nonhuman intelligence," he said. "Now, as far as saying what the origin is, I don't know."

□ Sean L. McCarthy writes for The Sun in Bremerton, Wash.



James Clarkson, a Mutual UFO Network investigator from Aberdeen, Wash., is giving a series of talks about UFOs. He says he takes his job with a flying saucer of salt. "There are some people who want a lot of attention, and there are some people who are just in for the money," Clarkson said. "But if you go into it with a degree of skepticism, sometimes you come across credible stories."

STEVE ZUGSCHWERT / The (Bremerton) Sun

Was UFO an AF missile?

By Malcolm Brenner
Staff Writer

GALLUP — Although it's being called an unidentified flying object, the brilliant light seen by many Gallup-area residents on the evening of Oct. 2 may have an earthly explanation.

The U.S. Air Force's 30th Space Wing launched an unarmed Minuteman-2 intercontinental ballistic missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at 7:01 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, or 8:01 p.m. local time — just when the "UFO" became visible to Navajo police officers and others who reported it.

The launch was a historic event, said Jennifer Canaff with the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, be-

cause it resulted in the first-ever successful interception of a ballistic missile's warhead. The Minuteman was the target vehicle. Before its warhead re-entered the earth's atmosphere, an interceptor rocket launched from the Marshall Islands destroyed the Minuteman's warhead over the Pacific Ocean.

The test showed the feasibility of protecting the United States from ballistic missile attacks by hostile nations, Canaff said.

The Associated Press reported the Minuteman launch was visible from Las Vegas, Nev. Sgt. Lloyd Conley, a public relations officer with Vandenberg, said his office had received e-mail reporting the missile was vis-

ible from as far away as Iowa.

The launch was also accompanied by a spectacular "twilight phenomenon," caused when a missile launched in darkness climbs out of the Earth's shadow.

A USAF press release describes the twilight phenomenon as occurring "when unburned missile propellant particles and water left in the wake of an intercontinental ballistic missile or space booster freeze in the less dense upper atmosphere. These frozen fragments reflect the high altitude sunlight, typically producing a green, blue, white and rose-colored luminescence."

On Oct. 2, the Associated Press carried a photo of the glowing smoke trail, distorted into zigzags by high altitude winds.

John Yazzie, an employee of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, said he saw the UFO in the western sky as he was headed to his home in the New Lands area that night. Yazzie, who served in the U.S. Navy, said the brilliant object he saw resembled the missile launches he had observed while at sea.

A similar Southwestern UFO sighting in January 1997 also occurred at the same time as the launch of a Minuteman missile from Vandenberg.

Experts on UFOs in area today

Staff report

GALLUP — Despite explanations from the U.S. Air Force about the unidentified flying object seen on Oct. 2, scientists with the National Institute for Discovery Science plan to be in the area this afternoon to meet with people who said they saw the lights in the reservation skies that night.

Representatives of the institute, who routinely investigate UFO sightings and other strange phenomena, also plan to be guests on the Samson Jim show on KGAK Radio (AM 1330) beginning at 2 p.m. today, talking about the sighting as well as possible alien abductions of earthlings.

Don Gonzales, KGAK station manager, said phones at the station didn't stop ringing Tuesday after his station and the Gallup Independent reported the UFO experts were coming to town.

Not only will the station allow time for the scientists from the institute to be interviewed on air, he said, but office space is being provided after the show for institute representatives to meet with people who said they saw the lights.

The Air Force has said it launched an unarmed Minuteman-2 intercontinental ballistic missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at the time the alleged UFO became visible to Navajo police officers and others.

Spotters of UFO asked to speak up

By Bill Donovan
Diné Bureau

GALLUP — A former state police officer who investigated reports of mutilated cattle in New Mexico says he's trying to find people who saw these strange lights in the sky over the Navajo reservation on Oct. 2.

"I'm interested in talking with people who saw the lights to see if these sightings are similar to what we saw in the cattle mutilation cases," said Gabe Valdez, who served with the state police in the Dulce area for 19 years and who now helps investigate UFO sightings for a Nevada organization.

Hundreds — and possibly thousands — of area residents saw strange lights in the sky the night of Oct. 2 with tribal police saying they

received numerous calls from a number of chapters, including Becenti, Dalton Pass, Standing Rock and Window Rock.

The lights were apparently visible in the area for 90 to 120 minutes. Police said that the two officers who tried to get close to the lights weren't able to because whenever they got close to it, the object would move away to another area.

Don Gonzales, general manager for KGAK Radio, said his station conducted a call-in program after the stories appeared in the *Independent* and received the same story from a number of listeners — the object giving off the light would move away whenever anyone got close to it.

He added that the callers also

agreed that the light seemed to be a cone shape, with the smallest and brightest part of the cone at ground level.

About 35 people called in to the Samson Jim program on Oct. 12, Gonzales said, and many more tried to get on the air and couldn't because the phone lines were jammed.

"Some people got tired of trying to call in and came by the studio to talk about what they saw," Gonzales said. "We had people lined up in the hallway wanting to get a chance to speak."

Normally, the Samson Jim call-in show lasts an hour but Gonzales said that because of the enormous interest in the subject, he allowed it to go on for an extra 45 minutes and then had to call it off so the station could get in its commercials for the day.

Gonzales said that since the station went to an all-Navajo format last year, the afternoon call-in show has become very popular "but we never saw anything like this before."

Valdez said he called up Gonzales to see if show officials got the names of anyone who called in or came by to speak (they didn't). He's now planning to come to Gallup, possibly as early as this Tuesday, to appear on KGAK and ask anyone who saw something unusual that night to give their names and phone numbers so they can be contacted.

The reason is that the National Institute for Discovery Science, which is headquartered in Las Vegas, Nev., has been studying sightings like this throughout the world for the four years it has been in existence.

For Valdez, it's a little more personal.

During his career as a state police officer, he was called upon to investigate a number of cattle mutilations in the Dulce area between 1976 and 1980 and then again when it started in 1992 for a year or two. None of these mutilations has been solved.

But in many of the mutilations, people in the area reported seeing a strange blue-white light in the sky that would disappear when they got close to it.

"I want to talk to some of the people and especially to the two tribal police officers, who said they saw the light to see if it had any connection to these earlier sightings," Valdez said.

The cattle mutilations received national attention and got the interest of a number of UFO investigatory groups. Valdez said one theory that is still being considered is that the mutilations were done by aliens who wanted the cattle blood because it is so close to human blood.

Gonzales said that anyone who called into KGAK and wanted to talk to Valdez should call the station (863-4444) and give his or her phone number to the receptionist and it would be passed on. This also goes for people who saw the lights and didn't get a chance to call in the program.

The Valdez interview is now tentatively scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, but Valdez said on Sunday he wasn't sure he could make it then. If it has to be postponed, Gonzales said that although the Samson Jim show is booked up for the next couple of months, he would try to get Valdez on as soon as possible because of the interest in the subject in the area.

INDEPENDENT, Gallup, NM - Oct. 18, 1999

UFO Skywatch

More sighting reports from Florida

By Bland Pugh
State Director Florida MUFON

This report is the latest sighting report I have, it came from the National UFO Reporting Center. I have contacted an Investigator for that area to look into this sighting.

In other reports if you remember, we were contacted by a woman in Tennessee who allegedly had buried some "Alien" coins on her homestead in Florida as a child. She wanted MUFON's help in retrieving them. After much research and many dollars spent on telephone calls, we have determined this was a waste of MUFON's time and efforts. It would have been great had it worked out.

Occurred: 11/14/99 04:30

(Entered as: 11/14/99 04:30)

Reported: 11/16/99 06:11

Posted: 11/17/99

Location: Stuart, FL

Shape: Oval

"Bright light appearing suddenly...then a large saucer like craft with a translucent like skin

appeared over our head!"

Like someone turned on a light switch in the night sky. A bright white light appeared in the sky and we watched it for several minutes. We were unsure if it was a bright star or an airplane's landing lights...but it didn't twinkle like a star and seemed to hover and move side to sideways and exhibited strange characteristics unlike any other light source...natural or man-made.

It was easy to see it was immolating from the bottom of the object since the glare was directed downward. As we questioned its origins, it responded by gyrating in circles...kind of like a spinning top when it starts to wobble.

Then like a flash the object responded to our curiosity in its size and in an instant went from being a bright light in the distance to a large craft (maybe a half mile in diameter)...it is at this point I grabbed my girlfriend and started to run like hell! Terrified, I turned to look over my shoulder, at the same time the craft jumped back up into the sky

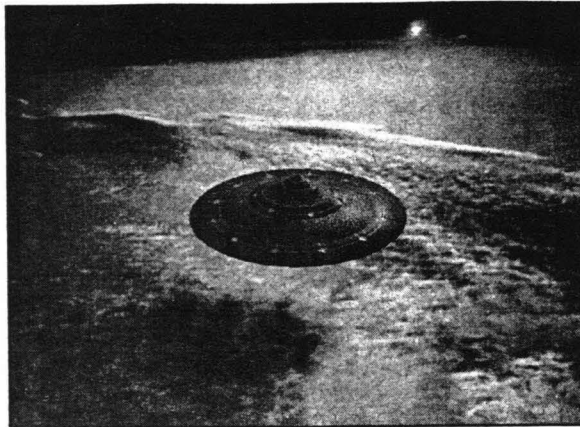


Photo source: www.spiritweb.org

and disappeared behind some clouds.

As I looked over my shoulder one last time, I saw the same bright white light popping in and out from behind some clouds. We got in the car and started home...but our curiosity got the best of us, and we

went back to see if it was still there. When we returned the sky was very dark...we could hear a very low pitched hum and smelled an odd burning scent like fuel but not gasoline. We were so terrified we haven't been back since. What was this?? PLEASE HELP!"

UFO team gets an earful on radio show



Caleb Kenna/Independent

Station manager Don Gonzales, left, and host Sampson Jim, right, listen to a caller during a call-in show about recent UFO sightings with Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D., the deputy administrator for the National Institute of Discovery Science based in Las Vegas, Nev. Tuesday afternoon at KGAK Radio in Gallup.

By Malcolm Brenner
Staff Writer

GALLUP — A team of Nevada-based UFO investigators got more than they bargained for Tuesday when they took calls on radio station KGAK's "Navajo Live Line" program.

"Listener response exceeded our expectations," said Dr. Colm A. Kelleher, deputy administrator of the National Institute for Discovery Science. "My impression was the Navajo people are somewhat reticent to come forward with these experiences. Given that, it was really positive."

Kelleher and field researchers Gabe Valdez and Roger Pinson came to Gallup Tuesday to investigate the widespread sighting of a brilliant light in the evening sky on Oct. 2. On the air, KGAK general manager Don Gonzales fielded calls and deejay Samson Jim interpreted, when necessary.

While Kelleher talked with wit-

nesses, Valdez and Pinson sat in a back room, scribbling their names, phone numbers and stories as fast as they could on what Kelleher called a "level 1 questionnaire." The program, normally an hour long, proved so popular that Gonzales got permission from his advertisers to run it for two hours with no breaks.

Station staff said the ufologists were still talking to late callers as 5 p.m. rolled around. The result, a satisfied Kelleher said Tuesday night, was over 50 interviews.

"We've done radio shows all over country," Kelleher said, "and the response rate here was higher. Usually we get eight to 10 calls per hour."

The similarity between callers' descriptions of the event showed they were reporting the same phenomenon, Kelleher said. He was aware of the launch of a U.S. Air Force missile from the coast of California at the same time as the

Oct. 2 UFO was first sighted, but didn't want to draw any premature conclusions as to whether the missile might be the source of the UFO sightings.

"We have to take a look at everything obviously when we get back to Las Vegas," Kelleher said cautiously. "With this number of calls, it will probably take a couple of weeks to analyze the data. We probably won't know where we are with the number of witnesses that we have. Everything was taken down in a hurry, we have to be sure."

While most of the calls related to the Oct. 2 sighting, other listeners called in to report UFO sightings as far back as 1960. "That makes it possible to get a baseline on type of sightings people report in this area," Kelleher said. He praised Gonzales for maintaining a positive, upbeat attitude. Other, less-charitable radio hosts on whose shows Kelleher has appeared have trivialized the subject and ridiculed their callers, he said. The investigators spent Tuesday morning in Crownpoint, interviewing Sgt. Tommy Rogers, one of two Navajo Police officers who reported the sighting. Although the *Independent* asked to sit in on Rogers' interview, Kelleher denied permission to preserve the integrity of the scientific method, he said.

After the interview, Rogers told the *Independent* he was late to testify at a court case. He said he would speak on the record some other time.

Kelleher said he hoped to interview the other officer, El Reno Herio, today at the locations where he made his sightings.

Founded four years ago by hotel magnate Robert Bigelow, the NIDS describes itself on its web site as a privately funded research organization focusing on the scientific exploration of emerging, novel and unconventional observations and theories. It has a special focus on life after death and "aerial phenomenology," another name for UFO sightings and encounters.

The Oct. 2 incident was not by far the strangest that NIDS has investigated. In response to callers' questions, Kelleher mentioned one incident in which a Georgia woman said that an odd creature kept appearing in her bathroom night after night, leaving footprints on the bath mat. Unfortunately, by the time she got around to reporting the encounters, the bath mat had been thrown away, Kelleher said.

In another case, a woman who encountered an apparent alien at her front door said the creature seemed to be as frightened of her as she was of it.

The National Institute for Discovery Science can be reached at its web site, <http://www.accessnv.com/nids/index.html>, which contains a questionnaire for reporting unusual events, or by phone at (702) 798-1700.

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 17, 1999

UFO Skywatch

Florida triangle with blue ionization near Gulf Breeze

On October 9th, the witnesses were Red fishing in Pensacola Pass when a strangely configured craft came into view over Fort Pickens State Park at an altitude of 200 feet at a quarter of a mile. The witnesses are an ex-USAF Security Policeman and a retired US Army Chopper pilot, presently a city police officer.

The UFO was traveling west over the Gulf of Mexico in a Zig Zag fashion at 7:57 p.m. The craft flew slow, 100 to 300 knots, sliding south and back to north in a continuing forward motion.

The craft moved in a Z pattern, erratic with no sound. It seemed to be suspended in flight at various positions. The craft was silent with high intensity blue arcing lights that fluctuated around the entire craft. These lights resembled electrical charges coming off an alternator's brushes.

Further observation revealed

three larger lights in a triangle configuration, dimly lit with variable output glowing blue to pale yellow. The UFO appeared triangular in shape, but this might be a deception, as skin structure could not be seen. The FM radio receiver suffered extreme static during the event. The craft changed locations in split seconds, covering distances of approximately half a mile to over two miles instantaneously. At least four times it hovered for thirty seconds, with longest delay of about a minute and a half over the southwestern boundary of Pensacola Naval Air Station.

One aircraft was launched from Sherman Field about three minutes into the event, but seemed unaware of the UFO, and turned away in an easterly direction. When the UFO was first observed, a trailing sound of a helicopter could be heard, but never could be observed. The UFO left the area after fifteen minutes at



8:12 p.m. local time, moving west along the coast.

One witness suffered from nausea for about ten minutes, but the other was fine. "I have never seen a

conventional craft operate in this manner, nor has my friend." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFO Reporting Center, <http://www.UFOcenter.com>

ISLANDER, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 24, 1999

UFO Skywatch

More Tampa Sightings

By Bland Pugh
Director Florida MUFON

Again the reports continue to come in concerning the September 7th sightings.

This particular sighting has quite a bit of background history and is much too complicated to duplicate here, so I am going to attempt to overview it for you. The original report as sent to me will be within quotations.

I now have seven formal reports concerning this sighting, I have thus far reported, I believe, seven of those sighting accounts to *The Islander*. Thus far, I am somewhat skeptical of some of the reports, as to what has been reported. I feel a lot more witnesses have not come forward to report their sighting experiences. Many of these reports can be directly related to

the Russian space debris that fell that morning, other reports are somewhat explainable with the debris, yet they can't be because of the evidence presented by the witnesses. I will call the witness Pastor X for many obvious reasons.

Sighting Background

"Pastor X reported his sighting to the UFO Center in Washington, Peter Davenport, and he was then interviewed on the Art Bell, Coast to Coast program that night and the program was repeated on Sat 9/11/99. It was then that Lorraine Gerber taped his testimony and started the search for other witnesses and other sightings of that morning. Pastor X is a pastor for the Fire Department and the Methodist Church in Tampa."

Sighting Account:

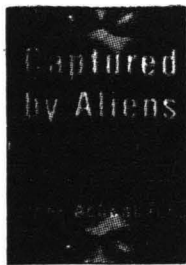
The witness said he saw an object traveling from west to east in the southern sky when he went to get his paper from his driveway and returned to the house. It is in the area of Tampa International Airport and McDill AFB. He thought it was a big tanker coming apart in the sky. He saw blue lights, blue flames, it then changed directions at least three times. It went south, then north, then east. All of a sudden it vanished into a cloud. The blue streaks moved

Photo source: www.spiritweb.org

with the mass, and all of the lights moved together like a formation.

He said from his sources, he was told emergency vehicles were deployed, that six or eight F-16's were in the air and three of the F-16's developed a total blackout loss of electronics.

He said in a period of five to eight seconds their planes completely shut down. He did not wish to divulge his source, but he said 'we are connected and work in accordance with the AFB and with Tampa International Airport, at times.'



Invasion of alien matters

"Captured by Aliens: The Search for Life and Truth in a Very Large Universe"

by Joel Achenbach
Simon & Schuster, \$25

By DAVID WILLIAMS
Special to The Seattle Times

Judging from Washington Post reporter Joel Achenbach's humorous and insightful new book, the crux of the UFO movement and its related disciplines is whether you are a skeptic or a believer. For example, is the government covering up the fact that aliens landed at Roswell, N.M., in July 1947, or was the mysterious object in the sky above Roswell merely "an innocuous military balloon?" Or, given the fact that the universe consists of hundreds of billions of potentially inhabitable planets, are there other planets with intelligent life . . . or is Earth the freak of the universe by having thinking beings?

Achenbach spent a couple of years explor-

ing every conceivable niche of alien science and science fiction. He traveled to various UFO congresses and conventions, interviewing people who claimed they had been abducted, had seen aliens, and/or believed that aliens already inhabited Earth. He even allowed himself to be hypnotized as a way to ferret out his past alien encounters. It was a failure.

Some of the abduction stories may sound incredulous, and Achenbach does not mince words when he thinks people are a little bit off in their views. But he also writes: "Only in a few isolated cases did I ever feel that in talking to a UFO believer I was in the presence of a crazy person. Most of them are merely wrong." His discussion of the believers is fair and entertaining.

Over half of the book is devoted to the more scientific side of extraterrestrials and space travel. Carl Sagan is the standard bearer for this group, known as exobiologists, and is featured prominently by Achenbach. Sagan did not believe in "little green men," but actively promoted the idea that alien life was out there for us to find. Achenbach also investigates Mars meteorite ALH84001 and its hints of Martian life; whether we will construct a spacecraft with the ability to leave our solar system any time in the near future; and whether Homo sapiens is a unique life form.

Achenbach comes across as an open-minded skeptic with a healthy sense of humor about the UFO movement. He writes: "The most serious failure of UFO stories is that they aren't really that interesting. The aliens rarely have anything novel to say. They're a bunch of motivational speakers, urging humans to make something better of themselves."

In the end, Achenbach concludes that "The alien question is bottomless for today, and

probably for years to come. There's no firm ground here." This in part is what makes the topic so compelling; it is hard to be absolutely wrong on most aspects of the alien question, so we all can participate and believe what we want.

One final point. The Puget Sound region figures prominently in the alien believer world, for this is the birthplace of the UFO movement. On June 24, 1947, amateur pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine mysterious flying objects cruising in the sky near Mount Rainier. His description of the discs moving "like a saucer skipping across water" prompted reporters to coin the term "flying saucers." Unfortunately for us, the world learned about Roswell and its "actual" landing of a UFO only two weeks later, and we lost our rightful place as an important spot for strange encounters with alien beings.



DAILY NEWS, Woodland Hills, CA - Oct. 23, 1999

Author relates local alien tales

Topanga Canyon sightings from 1992 backbone of book

By Robert Monroe
Staff Writer

CALABASAS — The truth is out there.

And, according to author and UFO researcher Preston Dennett on Friday, it has hovered many times over Topanga Canyon, the San Fernando Valley's own mini-Roswell.

Dennett's latest UFO book, "UFOs over Topanga Canyon: Eyewitness Accounts of the California Sightings" is filled with stories of strange lights in the sky and abductions by aliens, who have performed unwanted medical procedures and imparted sage advice to some of Dennett's interviewees. To a small crowd at Barnes and Noble, Dennett contended that the flood of local sightings is a sign.

"This UFO wave activity is a new phenomenon. They want to be seen," said Dennett, 34.

The backbone of Dennett's book are sightings reported by dozens of people of strange lights in the

Topanga Canyon skies on June 14, 1992. Dennett brought tape recordings of calls to Los Angeles County sheriff's dispatchers from that night. All the calls began with disclaimers along the same line.

"We are almost ashamed to tell you what we saw," said one caller. "My girlfriend and I have no psychotic illnesses whatsoever."

That summer of 1992 was a banner time for sightings. One woman interviewed by Dennett said aliens advised her that Ross Perot was no good for the country. Perot was running for president that year.

The woman said she dropped her support for Perot.

Another woman told Dennett that aliens abducted her and cut her arm, leaving a scar.

"I examined it just days after and there it was," he told the crowd.

Dennett was a skeptic until a publicized UFO sighting got him asking family members about UFOs. To his surprise, he said, several of them, and friends and co-workers all related their own

UFO stories.

"I can't believe they had all these stories to tell me," he said.

The book chronicles classic UFO phenomena — lights that disappear in the blink of an eye, aliens with big heads, big eyes. But what does he make of it? Maybe the rugged landscape of the canyon is an ideal place for aliens to observe humans while avoiding large-scale detection, he offered.

"One of the most common questions I get is, Why Topanga? — and I honestly don't know," he said.

Dennett's audience represented all points along the spectrum of credulity. Karna Hanson of Oak Park wanted more substance, fewer creepy accounts.

"It was more hype than a real communication of where we should be at," she said.

But Fred Luff, a member of some of the same UFO organizations that Dennett belongs to, believes. He's been following UFO phenomena since 1945, he said.

"You keep an open mind and approach it at face value," he said.

Something in the Air

Topanga Canyon is the kind of place where, due to its physical and cultural isolation, one can still bump into a levitator or a past life regressionist at Joe's Market.

True, the nature of the community is changing, having been discovered by people with big bucks who are building gleaming white estates—mansions about as out of place in the mountains as cat houses in Vatican City.

But it's still the type of community where transcendental meditationists thrive alongside cranial sacral therapists, and where psychic healers and *feng shui* consultants are safe to walk the streets at night.

Just the other evening I was in Rocco's, the neighborhood Italian restaurant, when I overheard a local swear he had hired a day laborer who used telekinesis to transport a pile of lumber from one part of his yard to another. It cost a little more but the effect was worth it.

I mention this spooky stuff because of a new book by Preston Dennett called "UFOs Over Topanga Canyon," in which he interviews people who say they have seen, heard, felt or *perceived* flying saucers.

The dreamier among them claim to have actually communicated with the saucer people or in some cases been kidnapped by them. The abductees now walk around in white robes banging tambourines.



AL MARTINEZ

works as an accountant for a collection agency. In the astral world he is a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network and has published several books and magazine articles on the subject.

My interest in this book rests in his contention that many of the sightings have occurred right in my own neighborhood. They began shortly after a film director moved in and, while I don't hold him directly responsible for the odd goings-on, I am made uneasy by the coincidence.

People in show biz often emit strange magnetic impulses likely to attract pretty odd individuals.

Dennett tells of one neighbor whose pregnancy

Dennett, who is convinced that there are alien spacecraft hovering about the Santa Monica Mountains, is less theatrical in his beliefs. He doesn't wear a white robe and, at least during the course of our conversation, didn't bang a tambourine.

He is a slightly built, balding, soft-spoken man of 34, who in the real world

with twins was apparently responsible for drawing the attention of some other-world aliens. One presumes they do not have multiple births on their own planet.

They landed their craft right outside her window. She became aware of them in a twilight dream-reality state during which she found herself in a round room being examined by strange-looking figures who were not from around here.

"I know this sounds funny," Dennett said with a nervous laugh, "but they told her not to get politically involved. She was supporting Ross Perot at the time."

With Jesse Ventura, Warren Beatty and Donald Trump all making sounds like they want to run for president, advice from another planet might be well worth listening to.

The book cites several dozen instances in which Topangans have seen UFOs. Dennett, who once wanted to be a science fiction writer, admits there is no way of proving or disproving what he's told but believes the sighters and alien abductees are telling the truth.

I know one of the sighters in the book. His name is Eric Beckjord. I met him a few years ago when he ran a Bigfoot museum in the back room of a Malibu bar and talked about communicating with one of the big, hairy creatures telepathically, which, I guess, is how all strange creatures communicate.

As Beckjord tells it, he was in a remote section of Northern California looking for Bigfoot when: "I received a mental message that said, 'We're here but we're not here.' I said, 'What the hell are you?' The voice replied, 'We're not real.'"

How he determined it was a Bigfoot was never clearly established, but somehow, given his paranormal abilities, he knew.

Beckjord seems to have an affinity for things unreal, and I suspect others in Dennett's book are possessed with similar powers. That's fortunate, because the canyon, as the author tells it, is a "hot spot" for UFOs.

They could learn from us. We coexist beautifully in Topanga. Writers drink with oracles at Willows. CPAs dine with hypno-visionists at the Inn of the Seventh Ray.

We all believe in different things. And if the people in Dennett's book want to believe in space fairies, that's all right with me. I saw the face of the Virgin Mary in a martini glass once and it changed my life. I was so shaken, I switched to scotch for a week.

Al Martinez's column appears Sundays and Wednesdays. He can be reached online at al.martinez@latimes.com.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Oct. 5, 1999

Artesia couple observes UFOs moving through the night sky

JANE WIGGINS
RECORD STAFF WRITER

"They weren't high enough to be airplanes, they made no noise."

Joyce Cole
Resident of Artesia

Bright, glowing very white circular and triangle shaped objects made at least two Artesia people shiver Sunday night as they watched them traveling from north and northeast toward the southwest.

Joyce Booker-Cole and her husband, David, who live in Artesia reported seeing the objects when they came out of the house to enjoy the cool night air between 10:30 p.m. and midnight.

"They weren't high enough to be airplanes," Joyce Cole said, "they made no noise."

She said she had not seen anything like this before, and the objects traveled slowly and dropped to the ground or disappeared below the horizon.

Uncertain what people would think, she hesitated before reporting what she saw. The sighting gave her chills.

The first object was round in shape, with lights, she said, and dropped out of sight when it reached the horizon. A set of six huge triangular objects arranged in a straight line with a very white glow moved from the northeast to the southwest.

A second round object moved from the northwest followed by five more very white triangular shapes seeming to drift to the ground.

Representatives from area law enforcement agencies said they received no reports of sightings in the area.

Jennifer Brady, Roswell Industrial Air Center office manager, said the airport tower closes at 9 p.m. and that any aircraft flying after that time receives instructions from the Albuquerque airport.

Albuquerque air traffic controller Tom McKenzie said he knew of no military aircraft flying at that time, however a weather balloon mission was launched from Fort Sumner Sunday at 7 a.m. He explained these balloons are unlike the common weather balloons as they are bigger and longer.

"With prevailing winds toward the southeast they could be mistaken for something else," he said.

They fly between 70,000 and 80,000 feet up in the air with a payload hanging from them to measure weather, he added. These balloons do not have lights, but after the sun has gone down they still pick up the sun's reflection.

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - Oct. 16, 1999

Pendleton claims flying saucer connection

PENDLETON — In many ways, Pendleton is considered the birthplace of the UFO era.

There had been unexplained sightings before 1947. But that's when Kenneth Arnold, a 28-year-old pilot and businessman from Boise, emphatically and publicly insisted he'd seen high-speed aircraft that could not be explained.

While flying mid day near Mt. Rainier, Arnold saw "a chain of nine peculiar looking aircraft" that he later calculated zoomed away at a speed of as much as 1,700 mph.

Later that day he landed in Pendleton and shared his observation with East Oregonian reporter Bill Bequette. In the article, which was picked up by the wire services and made news around the world, Bequette and Arnold unwittingly coined the phrase "flying saucers." Arnold described the objects as appearing "like a saucer if you

skipped it across the water."

The late Bill Schuening, who was working on a ranch in the Pendleton area at the time, later said he saw objects similar to those Arnold talked about on that very same day.

Schuening says he saw a saucer-like object suspended five or six feet off the ground some 200 to 300 feet away in a field.

Both Arnold and Schuening stuck to their stories throughout their lives.

The *Thomas* files: Investigator probes UFO sightings

By HAL McCUNE
of the East Oregonian

T rue believers don't care what others think. "I do have people say I'm a nut," admits Richard Thomas of Pendleton. "But a lot more tell me, 'Yes, I saw something too.'"

Thomas insists he didn't just see "something" while working on his uncle's cattle ranch near Fossil in 1971, he also touched a "dome-shaped thing" that was about 50 feet in diameter.

That's all he remembers from the incident. After touching what he's concluded was an Unidentified Flying Object, the next thing he knew he woke up three hours later and the UFO was gone.

"I don't know what the hell happened to me for those three hours," he says.

But one thing is certain. He was converted. Thomas is convinced "we are not alone."

The Wheeler County native is hardly alone in his conviction. He spent much of the '70s performing field investigations for the International UFO Registry. It's one of dozens of organizations around the world dedicated to document-



Staff photo by Don Cresswell

MUFON investigator Richard Thomas of Pendleton keeps an open mind when it comes to examining UFO phenomena.

ing UFO sightings and studying the phenomena.

In 1979, health problems shifted Thomas' focus much closer to home — from celestial secrets to his kidney. A kidney

transplant in 1982 gave him a new lease on life, but it took an unexplained crop circle last year near the Pendleton airport to revive

his investigative fervor in the unexplained.

Thomas investigated the report for MUFON — the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., based in Sequin, Texas. He took soil and wheat samples, radiation readings and photographs.

While his "complete" investigation was inconclusive, the experience got him back on track doing what he loves: seeking the truth about UFOs.

This summer the international director of MUFON, Walter Andrus, appointed Thomas the "state section director for Umatilla and Morrow counties and a field investigator trainee for MUFON."

So Thomas is putting the word out. He wants people who think they've seen a UFO to contact him. He's particularly interested in current sightings — like the one reported in Hermiston last month by a teen-ager and

apparently reiterated by a caller to the Sheriff's Office. But he certainly doesn't mind listening to any UFO experience people have had — regardless of when.

Thomas works at a local retail store, and he says it's not unusual to have people drop by to tell him what they saw, even if it was decades ago.

"I had one World War II veteran tell me about seeing UFOs while he was on a ship," he says.

Some people are scared by what they've seen and don't understand, Thomas says, others are simply curious and perplexed.

Thomas knows a large share of UFO sightings aren't authentic. That's part of MUFON's goal, he says, to weed out the explainable and put light on the as yet unexplainable.

But for Thomas, the mystery is in the details. He has no

doubt there are intelligent beings out there who are curious about our little green planet.

That doesn't unnerve him. On the contrary.

"I have a different view than people who say 'Oh my God, there are aliens out there!' If anything they'd be more of a savior to the world rather than a threat."

He figures that's because if they've got craft that can maneuver and speed around like people have reported, they are clearly far more advanced than humans.

Thomas figures that when there's conclusive contact between the pilots of a UFO and earthlings — which the 55-year-old says could very well happen in his lifetime — it will be more like the portrayal in the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" rather than "Mars Attacks."

Until then, he's eager to investigate the possibilities.

MUFON

HISTORY: The Mutual UFO Network, a non-profit organization based in Sequin, Texas, was founded in 1969 and has grown to an international effort by people serious about studying and researching the phenomena known as Unidentified Flying Objects.

MISSION: Provide the ultimate answer to the UFO enigma through the scientific study of dedicated investigators and researchers.

MEMBERSHIP: By invitation only, although membership applications are accepted.

MUFON ON THE WEB:

//www.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/MUFON/index.html

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - Nov. 7, 1999 CR: W. Theriot

Planned watchtowers may lure tourists and UFOs

SAGUACHE, Colo. (AP) — A plan to build UFO watchtowers in the rural San Luis Valley of south-central Colorado has made a former convenience store clerk a veritable celebrity.

Judy Messoline, who worked at a store near the area's Great Sand Dunes National Monument, has been inundated with calls since she won approval for her project from the Saguache County Commission in October.

Messoline and her companion,

Stan Becker, a retired roofer, bought a 164-acre ranch north of Hooper four years ago. Then, after watching countless episodes of *The X-Files* and *Sightings*, Messoline got the idea of cashing in on the public's fascination with inexplicable flying objects, weird lights, underground rumblings and other strange phenomena in the valley.

The San Luis Valley is primarily a farming and ranching region, but the 120-mile-long valley is steeped in UFO lore.

Messoline plans to build two 10-foot-tall UFO watchtowers, a UFO-themed gift shop and a landing pad. She hopes to have the gift shop and adjoining watchtowers open by Memorial Day, in time for the summer tourist season.

For their part, her neighbors have been low-key about the venture, although one farmer told Messoline she was "going to make us all look like a bunch of loonies down here."



NEWS/NORTH YK, Yellowknife, N.T., Canada - Oct. 25, 1999 CR: G. Conway

Strange sightings

Investigator releases report on UFO claims

by Dane Gibson
Northern News Services
Whitehorse

Martin Jasek thinks they're out there.

In his mind there is no doubt that the 22 people he talked to from three different Northern communities saw an unidentified flying object.

Along with his duties as husband, father, and Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development water-resource engineer, Jasek is a UFO investigator.

"We know some of these craft are large and encounters are close," Jasek said from his home in Whitehorse, Yukon.

"They also exhibit behaviour that's not explainable through human technology."

Jasek has compiled testimony from 22 witnesses who saw something in the air on Dec. 11, 1996, that was "larger than a football stadium." The sightings took place along a 216-kilometre stretch of the Klondike Highway in the Yukon.

The witnesses were located in three major areas along the highway: Fox Lake, the village of Carmacks and the village of Pelly Crossing.

After researching the incident for three years, Jasek has released his findings on the Internet and is preparing a hard-copy report for the RCMP.

"What I hope is that the report will encourage acceptance from mainstream science. I also hope it will help provide an atmosphere of legitimacy so people will feel more comfortable coming forward if they see something they can't explain," Jasek said.

Jasek said the sightings from witnesses were consistent, corroborating what was seen in each different area. All but one witness requested their names not be used in the report.

In the Fox Lake area, the

report states two friends were following one another home from Whitehorse to Carmacks in separate vehicles. They both spotted the UFO and slammed on their brakes.

According to the report, one of the men got out of his vehicle to better observe the craft. The UFO proceeded to drift silently towards them and stopped directly over where they had parked.

He described seeing a "white light in the centre of an elliptically-shaped object." The object continued to travel over him and eastward out of sight.

In total, there were six witnesses in the Fox Lake area from different points along the lakeshore. In Carmacks,

the UFO was seen by nine witnesses, including a family of five.

The last seven recorded sightings were in Pelly Crossing. One witness was tending his trapline northeast of Pelly when he observed a long row of lights drifting over the hills.

In a matter of seconds, it was hovering at an estimated 275 metres in front of him. He ran away from the object and when he turned back, it was gone.

A little later, four women who were taking an evening course at the Pelly Crossing Community College spotted the object from the school's front deck where they were taking a break. "They were out on a break

on the front deck of the one-storey building looking west when they observed a row of lights," the report's event summary states.

"The lights were travelling slowly towards them and slightly towards the north. They recall the object being huge and there was no sound at all."

Jasek said comparing the size of the UFO to a football stadium is not due to exaggeration on the witnesses' part.

"On the contrary. This comparison is conservative as it was shown in the report that the UFO was likely much larger than a football stadium," Jasek said.

He said a reasonably accurate estimate of the size of the UFO (or UFOs) was accomplished by a technique known as triangulation.

"Triangulation relies on the observation of an object from

different vantage points at the same time. This method was employed six times to obtain six estimates for the size of the UFO," he said.

Jasek said by using this technique, he estimates the UFO to range anywhere from .88 of a kilometre to two kilometres in length.

After reviewing all his research, he's convinced that there was something in the sky that December night that can't be explained.

"I think the evidence is overwhelming. It's just a matter of acceptance and getting used to the idea," Jasek said.

"To some people, it may indicate there's extraterrestrial involvement. Based on the evidence I've seen, it's the most logical explanation. As to what they're doing here, we're not sure. But that's one of the things we'd like to find out."



Merle Robillard/NNSL photo illustration

They exhibit behaviour that's not explainable

UFO spottings on the rise

There is more than the aurora borealis up there

by Dane Gibson
Northern News Services
Whitehorse

Whitehorse-based UFO investigator, Martin Jasek, recently released a detailed report about a multiple-witness UFO sighting that took place on Dec. 11, 1996, just outside of Whitehorse.

What he may not know is that around the same time, residents in NWT's Deh Cho region were also seeing unexplained activity in the sky.

"Almost everybody in Trout Lake saw something in the sky in 1996,"

said Ruby Jumbo of the Samba K Dene Band.

"We had major sightings here during that time, but it's slowed down since then."

Exactly one month before the 1996 event that Jasek's report documents, the Deh Cho *Drum* newspaper in Fort Simpson ran a front page story about an elder who saw "mysterious lights" in the sky.

Liidli Kue elder Leo Norwegian was one of many area residents who reported seeing lights that hovered then sped away "faster than anything

known on this planet."

The newspaper's editor at the time, PJ Harston, wrote an editorial a week later because cynics were coming out to joke with him about the story, which he didn't think was funny.

He said in his Jan. 18, 1996 editorial: "How can a reporter so easily laugh away a strange sighting seen by dozens of people, video taped AND under investigation by the Department of National Defence?"

More recently, in the July/August 1999 edition of *Canadian Geographic*, the magazine's Geo Map section iden-

tified UFO hot spots in Canada.

Yellowknife was one of the areas identified on the map.

"In the latest (Ufology Research of Manitoba) report, British Columbia and Ontario each have about 30 per cent of the sightings and there is also an unusually large number from the Yukon, with reports from the North increasing over the last few years," states the *Canadian Geographic* article.

For more information on sightings in the North, check out the Internet Web site, <http://www.ufobc.org>.

Mother reports strange sky lights

Strange lights in the sky have caused a UFO alert in a Shropshire village.

The red and white lights were seen hovering over Highley, near Bridgnorth, in the early hours of yesterday.

One of the witnesses, 35-year-old Katrina Lewis, said the unexplained object was silent, and hung in the sky before zooming across her house and out of sight.

The bemused mother of two was on her way to work at Bridgnorth Leisure Centre, just after 5am, when she and neighbour Tracey Walford were transfixed by the strange sight in the sky.

Mrs Lewis said: "I didn't know whether to tell anyone, but someone said we should tell the police in case anyone else had reported it."

"I know it might sound mad, but we are convinced it wasn't a plane or a helicopter. It was probably about half a mile away, just sitting there, and it made no sound at all. Not even when it moved."

"It was in the direction of the Cleve Hill, but moved over our house towards Alveley and disappeared into the clouds. We couldn't even make out any kind of shape, but there was a strange feeling in the air, almost like the kind of electrical buzz you get from a power station."

Now Mrs Lewis is desperate to hear from anyone else who may have seen the same or a similar sight, or has any explanation for it.

She added: "It wasn't a plane or helicopter. It disappeared when a small, two-seater aircraft appeared, and we could see and hear that fine."

A spokesman for Bridgnorth police confirmed that the sighting had been reported by Mrs Lewis but said no other accounts had yet been received.

Farmer's secret

FOLLOWING your corn circle mystery article, when I was in the Women's Land Army as a pest control operator during the war, I came across an odd situation.

I was sent to a tenant farmer adjoining Lord Brocket's land in Hertfordshire. The farmer had received complaints from the Hertfordshire War Agriculture Committee about the state of his cornfield.

The farmer said the damage in the middle of the field was not his fault but was caused by rabbits and pheasants.

However, I found no signs of this, although the corn in the form of a large circle seemed to have been 'flattened' in a spiral fashion.

The farmer then told me an amazing tale. He believed there was a secret underground development, constructed from within the Brocket Estate.

He believed that high-ranking Germans flew into Britain to land near the house. He said he had seen Von Ribbentrop and others, and that they had been frequent visitors before the war.

Later, when stories of circles in fields appeared in the Press, I did wonder if all this bother on the Brocket estate was just another corn circle phenomenon.

Mrs LOUISE WILSON,
Swanley, Kent.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Aug. 16, 1999 CR: S. Gerrard

The MP who is opening up Britain's own X-files

By Rachael Tinniswood
Daily Post Staff

FOR years they have been hidden away in dusty filing cabinets at a secret office at Whitehall.

They are packed with classified information on suspected sightings of UFOs and other strange phenomenon being probed by a small team of civil servants.

But now these documents - Britain's very own X Files - will finally be revealed to the public, thanks to a Liverpool MP.

Defence Minister and Walton MP Peter Kilfoyle is to throw open the doors within the next three months so that the public can inspect the papers on thousands of cases of UFO sightings which have for decades been shrouded in mystery.

Although Mr Kilfoyle has told colleagues that he is "not convinced" about the existence of aliens, we are now being given the chance to make up our own minds.

Sightings

Nationally, since 1959, the MoD has dealt with 9,000 UFO sightings. Every year, around 300 incidents are reported to the small team of MoD agents currently housed with the small team of dedicated Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 officials who sit in the MOD's giant Whitehall building.

But rather than prowling the country investigating the incidents, Mulder and Scully style, they simply write out a note of suspicious sightings that are channelled to the office from police forces or RAF bases.

They will then check if the mysterious



□ X-FILES: Mulder and Scully

lights in the sky tally with known aircraft in an effort to explain the occurrence.

However, once checked, the records are simply stowed in a filing cabinet.

Although some details of UFO sightings in the Fifties and Sixties have been made public under rules which lift restriction on documents after 30 years, this is the first time that contemporary sightings have been revealed.

Facts which have been kept under wraps until now could include the truth about claims by former defence chief, Lord Hill-Norton, that RAF Feltwell in Suffolk uses its space-age radar to track UFOs.

Another closely guarded secret came when US airmen from two bases in Suffolk reported sightings of a triangular three-legged spaceship in Rendlesham Forest. They claimed the object rose hovering out of the trees before blasting into space at an incredible speed in 1980. RAF investigators cordoned off the area, but their findings have never been revealed.

The truth of NW sightings may be there

UFO spotters in the North West will hope to discover what has been behind some local sightings when the secret files are made public.

These include a case in Burnley where a zombie-like man in black calling himself the Commander interrogated a young girl to such an extent that she was traumatised for years.

Another strange incident occurred

when a woman was followed by a disc towards Runcorn. She actually drove at 90mph to get away from it in the hope that she would be stopped by the police and they could help her.

Twenty-five years ago, farmer Hugh Lloyd, of Llandrillo, North Wales, was a prime witness to a crashed spacecraft containing the bodies of several alien-like figures in the Berwyn mountains.

suspicious as to why a defence minister is now opening the door to British intelligence after they've lied to me time and time again.

"For instance, the government say the Merseyside area is a non-military aircraft zone - but if it is, so it is clear that they still lie."

Anthony, an archaeologist who works in the anthropology department in Liverpool Museum, said that of the 20-30 cases reported on Merseyside each year, only one or two remain unexplained.

Whenever a report is made to Mr Eccles he starts his investigations by contacting the military and civilian air authorities to check for aircraft in the area.

He said: "I then consult Bidston Observatory for weather conditions before making a final analysis to compare the position of lights in the sky with things like planets."

Anthony explained that these basic checking procedures are vital in ruling out sightings which could be explained.

REPORTER, Sechelt, B.C., Canada - Oct. 31, 1999 CR: G. Conway

COMMUNITY



Was a UFO seen over Sechelt recently?

IMAGE FROM UFOBC WEBSITE

JAMES EKE
EDITOR

Ruth Myer says she has never given UFO sightings much interest.

"To be honest I thought all the people who saw these things were just making them up or something," Myer said. But her opinion has changed for good now.

Oct. 22 at about 12:55 a.m. Myer and her husband were woken by their son who said he had something they needed to see.

"What we saw was amazing. There in the

southeast over the tree tops of East Trail Bay Island was this...craft...it was 80 to 100 ft. long and about 50 ft. wide. It was huge—like nothing I've ever seen—just hovering there. It was saucer shaped, bright red on its right side, amber in the centre and a brilliant green on the left side. The lights were very bright."

They watched the object hover quietly for about a total of 10 minutes before it lifted off and made its way towards Vancouver.

"It was a beautiful night, totally clear—except for this bizarre thing. We all

went back to bed feeling like this couldn't have possibly happened until the morning when we were hit with the fact it had."

Graham Conway, president of UFO BC, a group which compiles sighting records for UFO events told *The Reporter* that while there haven't been any other reports from the Coast, "we have had an unusual slew of UFO reports in the Lower Mainland over the past two weeks," he said adding that if you saw anything odd in the sky, report it at 604-878-6511.

□ Have you seen anything strange in the skies of the Sunshine Coast?

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Dundee, Scotland - March 12, 1999 CR: S. Gerrard

Carnoustie Disc Remains A Mystery

An unidentified flying object sighted in the Angus skies near Carnoustie this morning [March 12] has left a number of people mystified.

One Carnoustie resident, who wishes to remain anonymous said he had been fairly sceptical about such things, but wanted an explanation for what he saw,

He and several members of his family, along with a Forfar couple, saw a strange red disc moving about the sky between 6.30am and 6.55 am this morning.

Neither the Coastguard nor members of staff at RAF Leuchars could shed any light on the sighting.

The man said that the object, which moved about the sky, was "like nothing I've ever seen before except on the film Armageddon".

"I was out walking the dog with my wife and child near the black slab car park this morning," he said.

"We saw this red oblong shape in the sky, and it couldn't have been the moon or the sun because of the way it was moving. It then just disappeared. A car drew up and the man inside asked us if we'd seen it and we said yes. The man in the car said he was from Forfar and had seen the light earlier, and we could see he was visibly distressed."

The family continued their walk along the beach and the object reappeared at about 6.56am.

"I'm neither a believer nor a non-believer in UFOS, but this time it had changed from bright red to orange, and it was much bigger," he continued.

"Anybody looking at the sky would have seen it - it was that big you couldn't miss it."

A member of the Fife Coastguard said there had been no reports of flares or other lights. "It's been fairly misty this morning, and there is no meteorite activity as far as I know," he said.

A spokesman at RAF Leuchars discounted any official aerial activity by personnel from the Fife airbase. "I know of no operations in the area by any of our flights," he said.

So it seems the strange red object will have to remain a mystery for the time being.

LEADER-POST, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada - Oct. 13, 1999 CR: G. Conway

UFO sighting

WHITEHORSE (CP) — Don Trudeau was hiking his trap line under a dark sky one December evening when he spotted a row of lights among the stars in the west.

It was between 8 and 9 p.m., and at first he thought it was a large airplane about to crash.

But he quickly realized the object was moving too slowly and steadily for it to be any type of aircraft. And he said it didn't make any noise.

Trudeau reached to cover his flashlight, and as he did the unidentified flying object rushed toward him, stopping just 300 metres away.

"I had to turn my head from one side to the other to view the whole thing," Trudeau told UFO investigator Martin Jasek.

Jasek's report, with Trudeau's account, is available at www.ufobc.org/yukon/22index.htm.

Witnesses sighted Yukon UFO in 1996

By SEAN MCNEELY
Star Reporter

Skeptics of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) can often dismiss most sightings as a distant plane or satellite or a weather balloon that went astray.

But when 22 witnesses provide similar accounts, with similar sketches of an object as large as a football stadium, it's fair to say this was no weather balloon.

On Dec. 11, 1996, witnesses from Fox Lake, Carmacks and Pelly Crossing - an area stretching 216 km (134 miles) along the North Klondike Highway, sighted what they believe to be a UFO.

A detailed report of the sighting was completed by Martin Jasek and released last Wednesday.

An engineer by trade, Jasek researches and studies UFO sightings in the Yukon and B.C. as part of the non-profit organization UFO*BC.

His research took three years to complete because Jasek wanted a report that

was both thorough and credible, requiring extensive calculation in an attempt to determine the UFO's size.

Jasek collected testimony of 22 witnesses. Their reaction to what they had seen left some feeling totally exhilarated and others numb with fear, he said.

Perhaps the best account is the one by the only witness who has agreed to be identified. His name is Don Trudeau, a trapper born and raised in the Yukon.

His trapline runs east of the Klondike Highway in a large loop, about nine kilometres northeast of Pelly Crossing.

Between 8:00 and 9:00 that evening, Trudeau was travelling on foot and recalled it being a very dark, moonless night, with a clear sky and plenty of stars.

Looking out over the hills to the west, he spotted a huge row of lights moving in the distance. At first, he thought it was a large airplane about to crash.

But he quickly realized the object was moving far too slowly and steadily for it to be any type of aircraft. Also strange is that it didn't make a sound.

Eventually considering it might be a UFO, Trudeau thought it best to cover his flashlight, thinking whatever it was would spot him.

As his hand covered the bulb, the UFO rushed toward him, stopping an estimated 300 metres from where he stood.

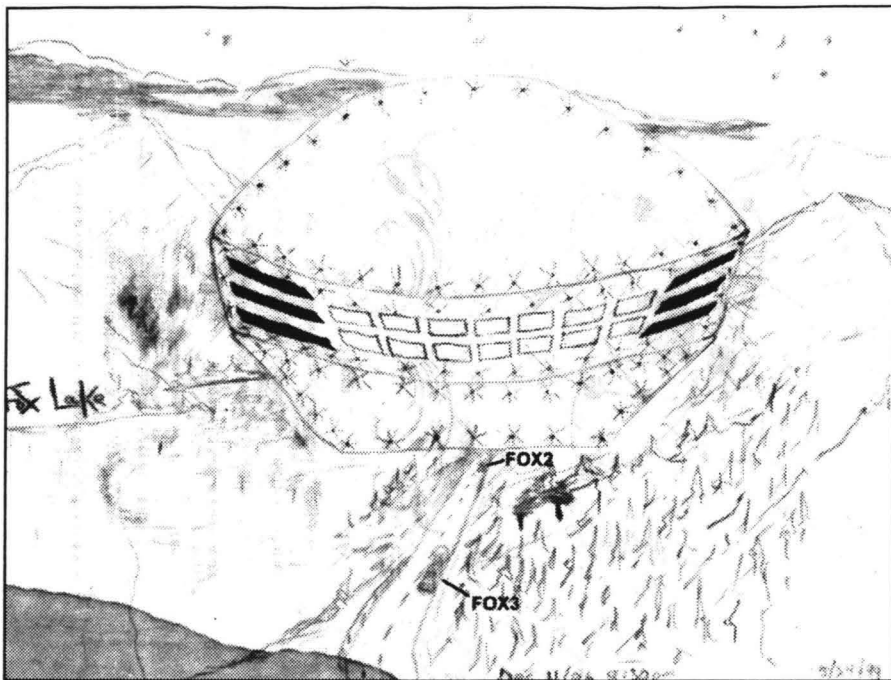
"I had to turn my head from one side to the other to view the whole thing," he told Jasek. "It must have been about a mile long.

"For some reason, I wasn't frightened - I just stood there and watched it."

He estimated the bottom of the craft was about 229 to 274 metres (250-300 yards) off the ground.

He described the object to Jasek as having a long row of about 100 or more rectangular lights, each an estimated two by six metres (seven to 20 feet) in size.

Centred above these lights were approximately seven larger rectangular



CLOSE ENCOUNTER - On Dec. 11, 1996, 22 residents of Fox Lake, Carmacks and Pelly Crossing saw what they believe to be a UFO along the Klondike Highway. This sketch is one of a collection found in a report compiled by UFO*BC researcher Martin Jasek.

lights, each roughly six by nine metres (20 by 30 feet.)

All the rectangular lights were white or slightly yellowish in colour.

Though he could not make out the exact shape of the object, its massive size covered much of the sky's stars, he recalled.

Shortly after the UFO stopped in front of him, a single beam of white light suddenly emanated out of the bottom of the craft and swept across the ground, from right to left.

Keeping his flashlight covered, wondering if the beam of light was possibly searching for him, Trudeau recalled asking himself, "How does it stay there? No

noise, no humming, nothing."

The object then proceeded to drift to his right, as slow as nine to 16 kilometres (five to 10 miles) per hour, he guessed.

Other beams of light shot out of the craft horizontally and at a 45-degree angle. The ice crystals in the air made these beams easily visible, he said.

With the UFO drifting behind some trees, Trudeau dashed across a small clearing of woods to get a better view, but to his astonishment, the object suddenly vanished.

He estimated he had watched the UFO for four minutes.

Returning home to his family, he told

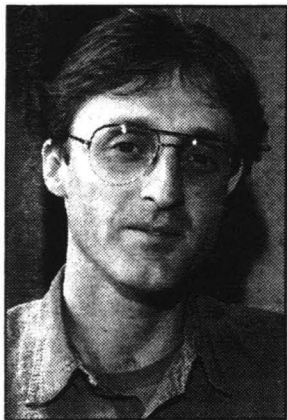
them of what he'd seen.

Ironically, his children were watching the movie Independence Day, the story of an alien invasion of the planet. His children were so frightened by the story, they refused to leave the house for the next five days.

Trudeau accomplished little the following day, stating, "I never got one lick of work done. I must have told my story 20 different times."

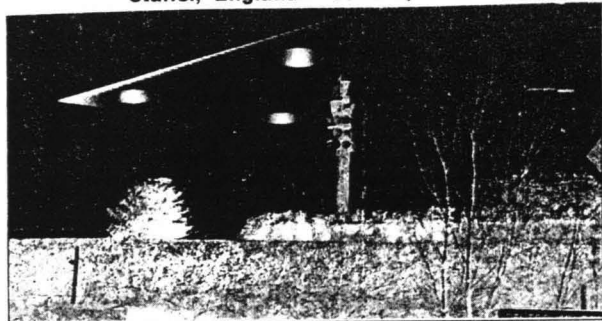
The remaining 21 accounts, as well as Trudeau's, can be seen at a Web site at www.ufobc.org/yukon/22index.htm.

The site includes testimony of all witnesses, as well as sketches of the UFO, photographs and maps of the site.



MARTIN JASEK

CANNOCK CHASE CHRONICLE, Staffs., England - June 3, 1999



Graphic by John Brown

●Artist's impression of craft seen over Rugeley Power Station

UFO sightings rocket over Chase region

TRIANGULAR shaped crafts have been seen hovering over the Chase and the sightings, a top UFO investigator has revealed.

Mark Haywood, who has seen a similar shaped object himself in America, says he is due to receive a photograph within the next few days of a UFO hovering over Rugeley Power Station. The craft, with bright lights blazing, is the most frequent UFO sighting over our skies.

In last week's Post he appealed for people who have seen unusual objects to contact Mark.

Inundated

He has been inundated with calls from people who want to share their experiences, confidentially and free from ridicule.

Mark told The Post: "People are ringing me on a regular basis saying they have seen something unusual. They feel they can talk to me because I will take their experiences seriously."

Report by
Andrew Richardson

Mark aged 30, has studied UFO phenomena since 1982 and has lectured on the subject all over the world.

He says the Chase has been a hotspot of UFO activity in the past with traditional saucer shaped objects being seen.

But now the sightings are increasing, with the hottest beacon of activity stretching along the Penkridge Bank Road, through Brindley Heath.

Mark is eager to hear from anyone who has seen any UFO activity on the Chase to contact him on 01543 263638. Your calls will be kept strictly confidential.

●Or you can tell all to The Post. Ring us on 01543 574141.

EPSOM & BANSTEAD INDEPENDENT, Egham, Surrey, England - May 13, 1999

UFO sighting in garden was 'out of this world'

The truth is out there

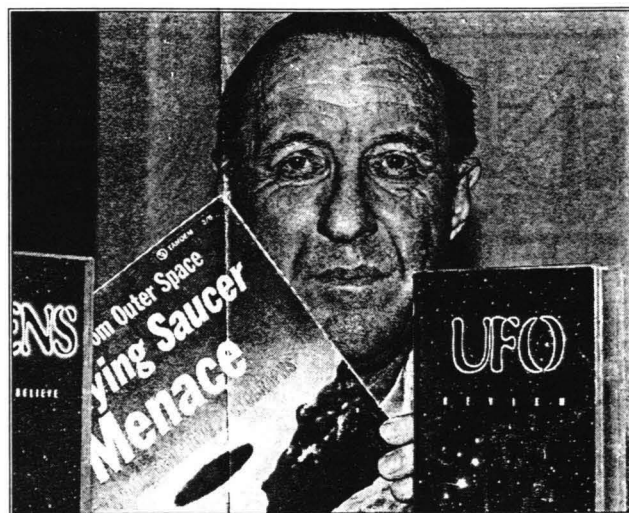
A SPOOKED Ashted resident is warning neighbours to be extra vigilant, after claiming to have witnessed a UFO flying around his back garden.

Malcolm Mudford, 61, of Hillside Road, Ashted, is convinced there are ghostly forces on in his street, and is worried about possible health risks emanating from what he describes as "terrestrial activity."

The retired draughtsman, who has lived in the Ashted area all his life, has even enlisted the help of a local paranormal investigator, to help prove his eerie claims.

He said: "I was out the back of the house, washing up in the kitchen at 12.55pm on March 8, when I saw this strange, orange-coloured moving object.

"It was hovering three feet above the ground, mov-



Looking for answers: Malcolm Mudford trawls through UFO literature

Photo: 991149

ing sideways across the garden. Then it just disappeared into the trees."

Insisting that he was absolutely sober at the time and in a perfectly normal state of mind, Malcolm continued: "I was definitely not hallucinating. I know what I saw, and this was out of this world.

"Who knows what the consequences of these things are? It could give off radiation, so I stayed inside

and watched from the kitchen window. It might sound incredible, but I was wide awake and stone cold sober."

Malcolm has been using his draughtsman's skills to construct an architectural sketch of what he saw. His story has also attracted the attention of local paranormal investigator, Barry Mildon.

Mr Mildon, who has been investigating supernatural

activity for the past five years, recently visited Malcolm.

He said: "UFOs are very difficult things to track down at the best of times, but I cannot just dismiss Mr Mudford's claims. What he saw may well have been earth light, which is static electricity generated from a build up of electricity in the atmosphere. But we'll just have to find out when I see Mr Mudford."

DOCUMENTS and photographs detailing UFO investigations in Britain over 50 years are at last being made available for public scrutiny under New Labour's policy of greater openness in Government, according to reports at the weekend. Here, NICK POPE, the Ministry of Defence official formerly responsible for investigating extra-terrestrial visitations, previews the eagerly awaited contents.

OFFICIAL interest in UFOs has always had more to do with the Russians than any impending visit from Martians.

But in keeping an eye out for the Soviet aircraft that routinely probed our air defences during the Cold War, it soon became clear that there were other more exotic craft operating in British airspace.

There has been a steady stream of UFO reports sent to the Ministry of Defence over the past 50 years — between 200 to 300 each year. They fill more than 200 files, files to which I have had access. If, and when, they are made available publicly, I can promise some exciting revelations.

For three years it was my job in Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A at the MoD to investigate such reports, to determine any potential threat to the UK. I found explanations for 90pc of sightings, which turned out to be misidentifications of ordinary objects or phenomena; aircraft lights, satellites, meteors and airships.

However, there has always been a hard core of sightings that couldn't be explained in conventional terms, where trained observers such as police officers and pilots have seen unidentified craft doing speeds and manoeuvres way beyond our capabilities.

Britain's most sensational UFO case occurred in 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near the USAF/RAF airbase at Woodbridge in Suffolk. UFO activity was witnessed over a series of nights, then on December 26 at 2am two patrolmen on a tour of the camp perimeter saw bright lights among the trees and went to investigate.

Initially, they thought an aircraft had overshot the runway, although there was no accompanying noise. But what they saw was like no aircraft they had ever encountered before; a large metallic, triangular object which they chased before losing it among the trees.

JUST two nights later, there was a similar sighting. This time the deputy base commander, USAF Lt-Col Charles Halt, led a team out to investigate. He submitted a report to the MoD, describing the UFO as 'metallic in appearance and triangular in shape'.

There is also an eerie 18-minute tape, which reveals conversations between Halt and his men as they moved to within 150 yards of the moving red and yellow lights.

The report says that suddenly the lights appeared to 'explode' in fragments of white light. Immediately, Lt-Col Halt observed three objects in the sky, like stars, but giving off red, green and

Britain's X-Files (and yes, the truth is on this page)



by
NICK POPE

blue lights, darting off in all directions in sharp, angular movements.

The objects were visible for two to three hours, occasionally flashing down beams of light or energy. Radiation readings were subsequently taken from the landing site in the forest and were found to peak in the three indentations where the craft had touched down in a clearing.

There are a number of intriguing aerial encounters in Britain's so-called X-files, too. One of the earliest took place in August 1956, when a UFO was tracked on radar systems at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk.

Two RAF jets were scrambled to intercept the mystery craft, and an energetic game of cat and mouse ensued as the pilots attempted to lock-on to the target. But the UFO was too quick and agile, and managed to elude the pilots, who eventually ran low on fuel and were forced to return to base.

Almost 40 years later, a number of RAF Tornado jets were overtaken by a UFO over the North Sea in November 1990. No adequate explanation was ever forthcoming.

Last year, also over the North Sea, a 900ft UFO was pursued by two fighter jets before it took off at 17,000mph.

More disturbing are the reports to the MoD that detail near-misses between UFOs and civil aircraft. There were two such cases in 1991, both over Kent.

In 1995, the pilots of a Boeing 737 encountered what they described as a brightly lit UFO while on their approach to Manchester Airport, and

believed that it had passed only yards from their aircraft. This incident was investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority but remains a mystery.

One of the most fascinating cases that I investigated related to an incident that occurred in the early hours of March 31, 1993.

There had been a wave of UFO sightings that night, culminating in the direct overflight of two military bases, RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury in Shropshire.

The UFO was described by one of the military witnesses as being a vast, triangular craft only marginally smaller than a jumbo jet. It flew slowly over the base at a height of 200ft, firing a narrow beam of light at the ground, before flying off at high speed.

These then, are the sorts of incidents to be found in the MoD's UFO files.

But the files also contain reports of alien abductions, the appearance of crop circles and animal mutilations, all of which have been linked with UFOs.

THE MoD was drawn into the crop-circle debate in 1985 — five years after they first started appearing — when a farmer in Middle Wallop, Hampshire, found a quintuplet of crop circles and blamed the local Army air corps base.

A Lt-Col Edgecombe investigated and submitted photographs and reports to the MoD, a routine procedure but one which gave credence to the UFO link and allegations that then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had asked for a report on the phenomenon.

I have reviewed all the theories about crop circles and, while many are hoaxes, there are those which have yet to be explained; for example, why do crop samples taken

from these 'genuine' circles show distinct cellular changes.

Some details of UFO sighting in Britain have, of course, already been made public under the 30-year rule which applies to sensitive documents, but by releasing files from more recent years the Government clearly hopes to end speculation that it has been covering up the truth about the phenomenon.

Unfortunately, releasing the files is a tactic that some people think could backfire.

A similar initiative in the U.S. simply fuelled interest in the subject, and led to accusations that other more highly classified papers were still being withheld.

The U.S. government's denial was not helped by the claims of a former U.S. army colonel, Philip Corso, who said that the so-called Roswell incident from 1947 — in which alien corpses were allegedly seen at an air force base in New Mexico — really did involve the crash of a UFO.

Colonel Corso claimed that he'd seen the bodies, and that his job at the Pentagon involved finding ways to use the technological secrets gleaned from the debris of the craft. He died of a heart attack shortly after going public with these claims, so took the secrets to his grave.

Conspiracy theorists love this sort of thing, and are unlikely to be satisfied by any release of papers that doesn't support their own theories.

But there really isn't any cover-up in the UK, although a letter sent from the MoD to the U.S. government in 1965 admits that MoD policy 'is to play down the subject of UFOs'.

My three years of official research into the UFO phenomenon changed my life for ever. I'd come into the job as a sceptic, but came to believe that some UFOs might well be extra-terrestrial.

If these files are to be made public, I think people are in for

a big surprise, and I believe that, like me, they will come to see that this is a serious subject which raises important national security issues.

As far as these files are concerned ... the truth is in there!

NICK POPE's latest book is Operation Thunder Child (Simon & Schuster, £9.99).

MEDWAY NEWS, Kent, England
April 9, 1999

Truth isn't out there after UFO sighting

POLICE have no explanation for an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) seen flying round the M2 close to Chatham last Friday (26 March).

Motorists on the road reported seeing flashing lights at Bluebell Hill at about 11pm, before they disappeared soon after.

Mrs. Pauline Davis (51), from Gravesend, had her attention drawn to the strange phenomena when her sister noticed the sky looking strange.

She said when they were returning from the coast, they saw the object circling close to

their car just past the Faversham turn off.

She said: "I was dozing off when my sister said she saw it in the sky. When I looked, I knew I had never seen anything like it before. A lorry was in front of us and he was swerving all over the road, so I think he may have seen it."

"It just kept swirling like the bottom of a jelly-fish, you couldn't see an object, just lights."

Maidstone Police had a number of similar reports, but a part from a lights show at Detling, had no explanation for the lights in the sky.

Riddle of UFO at Heathrow

A PASSENGER jet's close encounter with a mysterious, fast-moving craft seconds after taking off from Heathrow had experts baffled yesterday.

The crew of an MD-81 reported an object 'like a bright light' passing within 20ft of them at 3,500ft.

Air accident investigators were unable to shed any light on the mystery as radar records show there were no other planes in the area at the time.

A dossier on last month's incident is thought to have been passed to the MoD to see if the UFO could have been a radar-invisible foreign spy plane or stray British test craft.

DAILY MAIL, London, England
Oct. 26, 1999 CR: S. Gerrard

A FASCINATING BOOK CASTS NEW LIGHT ON ONE OF THE MOST MAGICAL AND MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA OF OUR AGE ...

WRITER and broadcaster LUCY PRINGLE is Britain's leading expert on crop circles which, despite elaborate and widely-publicised hoaxes, continue to intrigue. For the past ten years she has been taking stunning aerial photographs of these strange and beautiful formations — as well as recording eyewitness accounts of ordinary people with extraordinary tales to tell about them. Now Lucy, an expert on the effects of electromagnetic fields on living matter, has written a fascinating book about her work. Here is an exclusive extract ...

AT 5am on a beautiful June day, actress Sarah Miles and I visited a crop circle formation in Hampshire. We entered it with a deep sense of reverence at the magical stillness and wonder of being part of the awakening world. We were wet from the moisture in the air and, despite warm clothing, could feel the chill.

But once inside the formation, which was called the Upham Insectogram and near to Bishops Waltham, Sarah and I lost ourselves in the majesty of the sunrise, the awakening birds and the scuttling of field mice, voles and large insects.

The larks were the latest risers, not proclaiming their existence until shortly after 6am. By then the mist had gone and the sun was beaming down on us. It seemed as though the whole world was smiling.

But suddenly Sarah — who was fascinated by crop circles — jolted, feeling instantly and acutely nauseous. We immediately left the formation and went back to the car. As soon as we did so, Sarah felt well and came home for breakfast. I put her nausea down to getting up early and having had nothing to eat.

The next day I took a Canadian woman called Michelle Veseau to visit the formation — and about 20 yards from the edge of the circle she stopped short, as though she had met a solid wall. Then, when we reached the perimeter of the 'body' of the Insectogram, she keeled over and lay prostrate on the ground.

I thought something dreadful had happened, but she said she needed to lie quietly for five minutes.

Ten minutes later Michelle was still lying there, oblivious to everything. Eventually, she stirred and got up. As she did so, such violent nausea overtook me that I made a dash out of the formation.

THE immediate and violent nature of my illness took me completely by surprise... until I remembered Sarah's identical reaction the previous morning.

Why should all three of us experience such negative reactions?

It seems to me that people react according to the way their body's own energy interacts with whatever energy is inside the circle and the energy aura immediately outside it.

I believe that our natural energy is drained away, and a replacement energy of varying strength and order is introduced — and the physical effects vary from the unpleasant, such as headaches, nausea, dizziness and tiredness, to many cases of healing and increased well-being.

Feelings of disorientation and confusion are relatively common in people entering formations — as witnessed by one woman who had what I call a 'suspension of mind' at the Upham Insectogram that same June in 1991.

I had driven the woman — I'll call her Mrs X — with her friend and one of my neighbours to the formation one damp afternoon. I left soon after arriving, as I had a persistent feeling of distaste and unease.

But the others stayed for about two hours while I waited in the car — and when they came out I noticed that Mrs X, normally a bright and witty conversationalist, was silent.

Inside the circle, her friend told me, she had 'gone walkabout', said nothing and did not reply to any comments. Mrs X herself says she felt her thinking processes had been suspended — although focused on engagements she had that evening.

Ten days later she telephoned to say that she'd had no energy since the visit. Mrs X felt the visit had triggered a collapse of her energy system, which took six months to correct — and she has since refused all my invitations to visit a crop circle.

Happily, as I have said, not all experiences are negative, and there are many cases of healing involving crop circles, such as that of Lesley Clementson, who has suffered from arthritis since 1969.

On May 25, 1992, Lesley entered a crop formation at Lockeridge in Wiltshire with her husband, Steve, and their dog.

'As my joints were so painful, I sent Steve on ahead,' Lesley recalls. 'I was walking very slowly and in so much pain that I was in tears at times. But after ten minutes in the circle I began to feel the pain seeping out of my toes, and I walked around almost pain-free.'

by Lucy Pringle

'As I walked out of the circle my shoes felt as though they were too big. When we reached the road, my shoe-laces needed tightening because the swelling in my feet had gone down almost to normal size.'

After ten days the beneficial effects started to wear off, but despite continuing arthritis, Lesley's feet have not swelled up again, even during the hottest days.

After almost four months the swelling of her feet and ankles was still reduced by between one-and-a-half to two inches.

Another sufferer (with two severely arthritic hips and a 'crumpling' knee) was determined to enter the Windmill Hill formation in Hampshire in the summer of 1998.

Afterwards, she reported that as she approached the formation she felt as if she had walked 'into a field of well-being', and coming back she was 'walking buoyantly'. Anyone with experience of arthritis will know just how astonishing this is.

Another woman, suffering from a condition similar to Parkinson's disease, which results in continuous shaking, visited the Torus Knot formation which appeared at Alton Priors, Wiltshire, in July 1997. After sitting in the centre for about 20 minutes, she stopped shaking, and did not shake for 24 hours — an 'enormous' physical relief.

FINALLY Diana, a friend well into her 80s and suffering from severe osteoporosis, had begged me to take her into a formation to experience the 'energies'.

In 1997 the Pastry Cutter formation appeared at East Meon in Hampshire, near to where she lived, and early on an overcast, sultry morning Diana and I walked slowly into the formation.

There was an overwhelming sense of awe and peace, as though we had entered a sacred place, which silenced even the normally talkative Diana. By 8am I had dropped her home, and a couple of hours later she rang me in great excitement — she was totally free of pain. What's more, she was still pain-free more than a year afterwards.

How can such 'healing' be explained? It seems that the crop circles and their energy might be acting as some sort of anti-inflammation agent. Rheumatism and arthritis both have a core effect of inflammation.

And although research needs to be done on this aspect of crop formations, it may be that, by reducing the inflammation, the 'energy' reduces the pain and stiffness caused by these particular diseases — just as mineral copper does.

Experiences in or around crop circles might be labelled by some as the result of suggestion, expectation or wishful thinking. But reports about the strange behaviour of animals are more difficult to dismiss.

One report concerned two unusual formations — one resembling a sceptre, the other a frying pan containing two fried eggs — which appeared one night in July 1991 at Ogbourne Maizey, Wiltshire, an area rich in folklore and legend.

The farm's sheepdog, which normally slept in the kitchen, became so agitated during the night that he almost scraped a hole through the thick wooden door. And horses in

the yard were awake and alert when the farmer's wife saw them at 7am, during their normal sleepy period. 'They were clearly longing to tell me something,' she says.

What had the horses seen or heard that had left them so alert, and had so disturbed the dog? Were they affected by subtle changes in the geomagnetic field caused by the formation's creation?

Birds, too, can be affected, and one unusual case features a flock of Canada geese feeding close to the Watmough formation near Lethbridge, in Canada. Groups would leave the flock and head off towards the formation. But as they approached it they detoured round the circle, veering off to one side or the other, before continuing on their original course.

Sometimes a group would split up, some geese flying to one side, some the other, only to regroup after clearing the formation. Not once did any fly directly over it. They seemed to sense, and avoid, some energy rising vertically from the circle.

One man who observed them reported: 'After the birds passed the site, they flew over people and moving vehicles with no indication of fear or unusual caution.'

Crop formations appear all over the countryside, and Andre Tong is a true countryman, born in the Kent village of Boughton, where his family has lived for generations. But as a former bomb-disposal expert in Ireland, he has been trained to have a highly logical, analytical and critical mind.

SO ANDRE, now a farmer specialising in fruit-tree grafting, was more than mystified one morning in September 1979 when he discovered many apples missing from trees in an orchard, with leaves stripped from their branches.

'At first I thought it might have been children,' he said, 'but it was such a large area, about one acre, that it would have taken them a week. It couldn't have been the weather, because there was no fruit on the ground — everything had been sucked away.'

'The area that was bare was a complete circle, and of those trees on the edge of the circle, half the tree was all right and the other was stripped bare of fruit.'

'As I examined the damage at 9am, I noticed three people, all the same size, walking between the trees. They were dressed in what looked like grey shell-suits. I called out: "What are you doing?" thinking they had something to do with the missing crop. They didn't turn round.'

'As I got closer, I could not breathe.

I felt a pressure as though I had been stopped by an invisible wall. It was pushing me back as though I was trying to move in a dream, but couldn't. Then the people just faded away. I looked at my watch and it was lunch time. I could not account for those three lost hours.'

'I was very worried because the fruit had not been insured and the loss was around £4,000. I called on a friend in the local police force and we inspected the damage, but could throw no light on the occurrence.'

'My friend didn't make out a report, as he had no more ideas than I had, and we agreed to keep quiet about it for fear of ridicule. I never told my friend about the strange people, again for fear of local ridicule. If you have lived on the land all your life, 90pc of things can be explained. It's the other 10pc for which there is no explanation.'

An interesting footnote is that for 24 hours after this, everything Andre ate or drank tasted of almonds. He also developed red itchy blotches on his skin, for which no medical explanation was found.

Another curious case involving Andre occurred in January 1997, when he and his men were pruning apple trees near Canterbury and noticed large holes in an adjoining cabbage field.

'We found three circles — one large and two smaller — in which all the cabbages had gone,' he said. 'I told the farmer, and when we went back to the field we noticed all the stones, large and small, had been sucked out without disturbing the soil.'

'In the large circle there were six holes, about four inches across and quite smooth inside, as though a pole had gone in. We don't know how deep they were. We dropped a four-foot stick into one hole and it just vanished.'

Like Andre, policemen are trained to have logical, analytical and critical minds, and so the report concerning two of them near Cheesefoot Head in Hampshire — a beauty spot at the heart of the crop circle phenomenon — is of more than usual interest.

The two constables were driving from Winchester between 1am and 2am on a dark, clear night in 1980 when they suddenly saw something like 'an illuminated horse' which appeared to be chasing their car.

Very frightened, they stopped to let it pass — and as it did they saw it was no horse, despite having four legs. It made no sound and seemed shrouded in a cloak of evil. Within seconds it disappeared as quickly as

it had come, into terrain which was impassable.

Filled with horror, the constables sped off. Had they not seen the 'thing' together, each would have doubted their eyes and

put it down to imagination.

When I spoke to one of the constables I was surprised to hear the fear in his voice, even after a lapse of 14 years.

He could give no explanation for their experience, except to say that the atmosphere as the 'thing' went past them was 'dreadful' and they couldn't leave the area fast enough.

So how could crop circles be connected to what the officers saw? Formations are becoming more elaborate and now consist of complex geometric patterns with many different elements.

They have appeared not only in cereal crops but in fields of potatoes, vegetables, sugar cane, sunflowers, grass, thistles and heather, in fruit orchards, rice paddies, snow, ice and sand all over the world... from Russia and Japan to Australia.

And although the numbers are concentrated in the UK, with 2,000 reported circles, the Netherlands have had 97 cases, the U.S. 50, and Japan and Germany more than 30 cases each. But they are not a recent phenomenon. The earliest representation of a crop circle was in a (English) woodcut of 1687, which depicts the famous 'Mowing Devil' reaping a field of oats into a flattened circle.

It's said to relate to a farmer who refused to pay the amount asked by a reaper, muttering that he'd 'rather the Devil took his oats'.

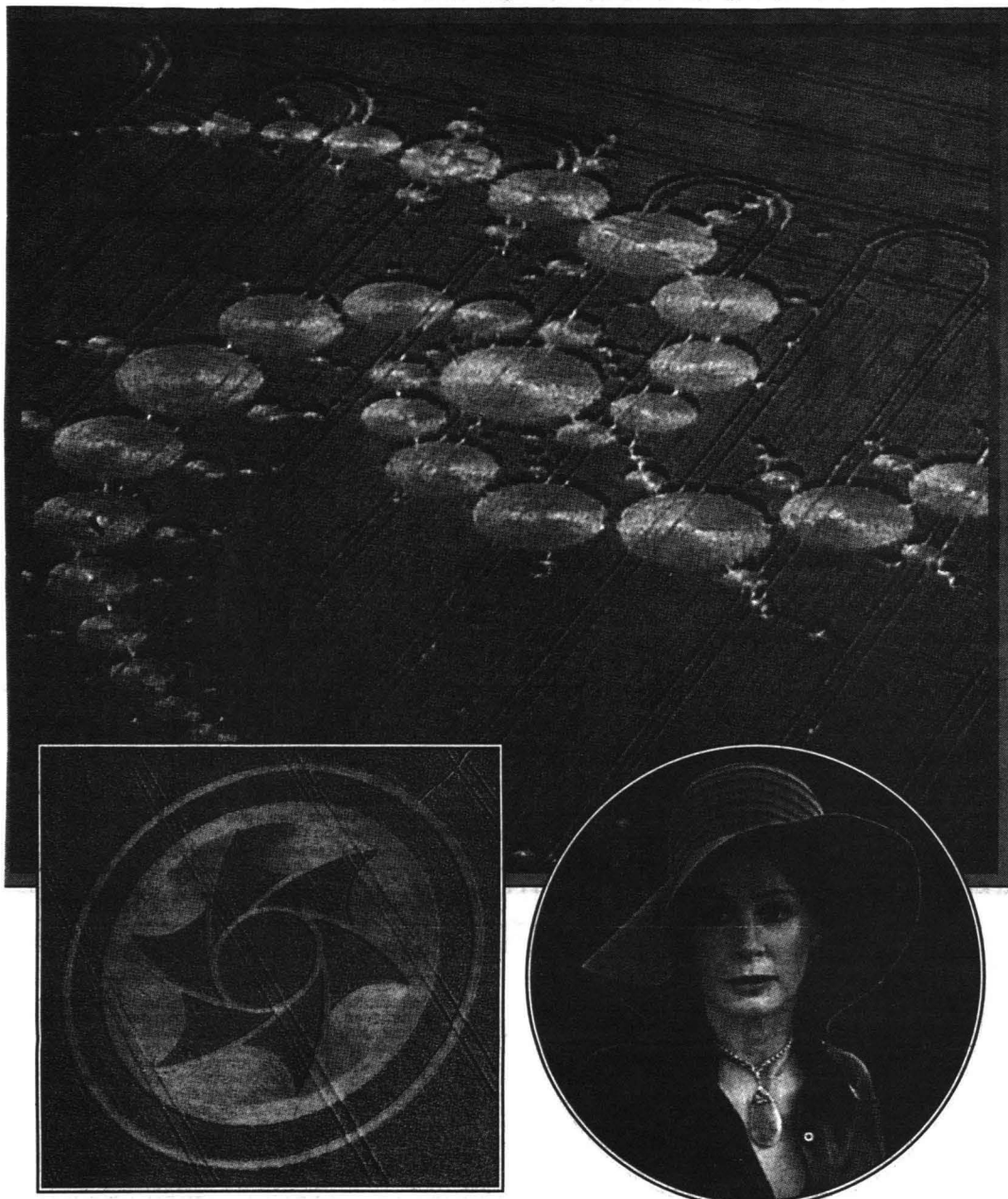
Next day he found part of his crop lying in circles. More recently, there are reports from people who remember playing among circles in the 1920s and 1930s — and they all say that the formations were regarded as nothing unusual.

ONE Sussex woman said: 'I remember them from 50 years ago, when we spent hours playing in them. We pretended the circles were made by German parachutists... the grown-ups never took any notice, and it would never occur to anyone to take photos or involve the media.'

It's possible that crop circles have appeared since the dawn of time, although perhaps not in their present, elaborate form.

They seem to be linked to hill carvings (such as the chalk horse at Uffington), ancient monuments (such as Stonehenge and the great stone circle at Avebury), and the

(continued on page 16)



Phenomenon: The forms are becoming more elaborate, top and left; while actress Sarah Miles, above, fell ill after a visit

many prehistoric barrows and sacred places which occur, for example, round Wessex.

Were our Neolithic ancestors the first witnesses of crop formations? It is possible that they tried to record these unusual happenings with stones.

The biggest question is how are the circles made? Some investigators believe that whatever 'force' causes circles to form hits the ground vertically, creating a huge electrical discharge. This results in microwave activity which softens the base of the corn stalks, allowing them to fall over but not break.

The electrical discharge then travels up the interior of the plants and, when the force gets too great, escapes through 'explosion cavities' in the stem joints, similar to the effect of a jacket potato in a microwave oven without first pricking it: the potato will explode.

The majority of crop circles in this country occur on the chalk lands of the Wessex triangle. Under the chalk lie aquifers — underground water sources — which almost certainly account for the high incidence of formations in this part of the country, as water attracts electricity.

There are also many 'energy' or geodetic stress lines here. These lines move in harmony with the Earth's tectonic plates, and release electromagnetic fields when they shift. All genuine crop formations appear on these energy lines.

The fact that the formations simultaneously represent perfect aspects of many disciplines, from mathematics through to engineering, music and astronomical symbols, lends credence to the suggestion of the involvement of some external, unknown intelligence.

But in recounting here just a few of the hundreds of reports I have come across — submitted by ordinary, sane, sensible and normal people — I have not attempted to look for any answers, merely to record what those people know to be facts.

I have but one request of the reader... be open-minded.

■ **CROP CIRCLES** by Lucy Pringle is published by HarperCollins on September 20 at £14.99. To order a copy (p&p free), telephone 0870 900 2050 quoting ref. 825X.

EVENING POST, Wigan, England - April 22, 1999

Wigan's Ashurst Beacon may be a pointer to a flying saucer invasion

By RICHARD BEAN

WE ARE not alone ... if the number of UFO sightings over a West Lancashire beauty spot are to be believed.

Since the New Year there have been more than 110 reports of a mysterious singular blue light "flying" over and around Ashurst Beacon, that ancient pile whose blazing fires signalled the advance of Cromwell's Model Army during the English Civil War.

And chairman of the Lancashire UFO Society, Tim Matthews, said today: "I have never known such a lot of activity reported over Ashurst Beacon ... while some of these sightings have been explained, many have not and cannot."

The sightings, some of which have been noted by the society members themselves during vigils mounted on the Beacon, tell of a light which appears to "fly under intelligent control" but not in the manner of an aircraft.

Both feet-on-the-ground ufologist Mr Matthews is refusing to get over-excited about the sightings, which are significant enough in the UFO world to have been posted on enthusiasts' web sites all over the world.

Nor will he be drawn on the significance of the huge number of



THEN AGAIN ...if those little green men are pretty blue aliens like this then Wigan's menfolk won't complain!

sightings since the start of 1999.

But the peripatetic music teacher does consider some of the sightings worthy of serious scientific study. He said: "While the vast majority of the calls I have had could well have a rather mundane explanation such as passing civilian or military aircraft or atmospheric effects, some are certainly quite difficult to explain."

"The police have also been at a loss to explain them and they have been unable to tell us of any unusu-

al experiments which could have been responsible.

"I am very sceptical because I don't think that you can approach the subject any other way because otherwise you end up believing everything you are told."

"We are not getting too hysterical about it yet but we are taking the phenomena seriously enough to have a small research team collating the reports and looking for common ground from which to draw conclusions."

Strange

Tim, author of *UFO Revelations: The Secret Technology Exposed* (Blandford) admitted: "For whatever reason, Ashurst Beacon seems to have become a focal point although the reason for the increase in calls to our society of late could also be that our name and phone number is getting better known and people feel better able to report unexplained sightings."

"Reports of sightings in the region of Ashurst have been well documented over the years."

"I remember an elderly Ormskirk couple telling us about a strange cigar-shaped object they had seen hovering over the Beacon."

"Then there was a couple who were driving near the Beacon when they spotted an unexplained light and their car engine cut out as it passed overhead."

INDEPENDENT, London, England - May 19, 1999

Rockefeller seeks crop circle answers

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

ONE OF America's richest men is funding a former Hampshire local government officer to investigate crop circles. Laurence Rockefeller, a businessman and philanthropist member of the fabled political dynasty, is backing research by Colin Andrews into the mysterious shapes that sometimes appear in cornfields.

The 89-year-old brother of the late Nelson Rockefeller, vice-president of the US under Gerald Ford from 1974 to 1976, is known for his interest in unexplained phenomena. Last year he funded an investigation by nine prominent scientists into UFO evidence. (They concluded there was Something Out There.)

Mr Andrews, who started studying the shapes in the wheat fields of Wessex as an amateur 10 years ago, has become a successful author and full-time researcher, making his home in Connecticut.

"Mr Rockefeller asked me if I would like to submit some re-

search projects to him which he might be able to help finance," said the former borough council engineer for Test Valley yesterday. "With his help we engaged staff in my Connecticut offices and we have flown regular observation flights over Wiltshire and Hampshire."

"The office is now equipped with seven computers and staff are working on crop circles data from around the world. Global positioning technology has helped us via satellites to locate each formation and to be able to return after harvest to carry out measurements."

Mr Andrews declined to reveal the extent of Rockefeller generosity but said it was "significant". Fraser Seitel, Mr Rockefeller's spokesman in New York, said: "Mr Rockefeller has given a modest amount to Mr Andrews for research into these phenomena. He is an eclectic man who is interested

in many things, especially matters spiritual and philosophical. He is not necessarily a believer, but he is interested to see if we can shed light on some of these things we don't have answers to."

The puzzling patterns in the crops have spawned a host of theories embracing everything from alien spacecraft to freak wind conditions.

Mr Andrews, who now has a database of 10,000 crop circles all over the world, admits he is largely a sceptic.

"Many crop circles — perhaps 80 per cent — are hoaxes," he said. "But there is that remainder of perhaps 20 per cent that remain inexplicable, such as complex patterns that appear in a field in a short time, when a farmer had seen the field was empty. I don't think they're the skidmarks of UFOs. Our research is to discover what they are."

He plans more observation flights over Hampshire and Wiltshire this year.



Will a shadowy cult unlock the last secrets of the pyramids?

Last week, the amazing attempt to use a robot to discover the secrets of the Great Pyramid was described by Egyptologist Robert Bauval. He believes the new Millennium may begin with startling revelations about a past civilisation. Today,

he tells how the search for a fabulous Hall of Records, said to contain 'writings of the gods' described in relics from the age of the Pharaohs, is being led by secretive followers of a modern cult with motives – and bizarre beliefs – of their own...

By Robert Bauval

from the mythical lost civilisation of Atlantis. These records, he suggested, were left after Atlantis was destroyed in 10,500 BC and the survivors emigrated to the Americas, western Europe and the Nile valley in Egypt.

Whether anything that Cayce predicted will be found in the chamber, only time will tell. But if a Hall of Records is found, the discovery could turn on its head all the assumptions made about the origins of Egypt.

Egyptologists and the Egyptian authorities have long been resisting any ideas that another people may have sparked off the ancient developments around the Nile before the rise of Egyptian civilisation.

But if any records predating Egypt are found, then the whole history of the region will have to be rethought. And, maybe, an insight can be made into what – and where – Atlantis actually was.

The organisation's involvement in the search for the Hall of Records came to light in 1976

Was the 'sleeping prophet' a fraud?

when an expedition was mounted at Giza by the Stamford Research Institute, the US's second largest think-tank and research facility.

This was found to be a front. Behind the Stamford Institute was the Association of Research and Enlightenment (ARE), whose backstage entrance at Giza would mark the start of rumours of weird connections, conspiracy plots and archaeological machination.

Since 1973, when the Association covertly started its bizarre and daring plan to find the Hall of Records, the organisation has been able to secure several official exploration licences to probe the Giza plateau with radar and other sonar equipment.

Financial muscle comes from the thousands of Cayce followers who continue to pour money into ARE, providing funds for the publications which the organisation puts out every year.

One of its principal funders is life member Dr Joseph Schor, a Jewish businessman from New York, who has bankrolled several expeditions at Giza. He paid for the expedition which found

the chamber underneath the Sphinx thought to be the Hall of Records. Although it was fronted by Florida State University, Schor maintained full financial and managerial control.

The influence the association enjoys in the region has brought Dr Zahi Hawass, the Egyptian Under-Secretary of State for the Giza Monuments, under the spotlight. Last year, Hawass announced that the Millennium would be celebrated at Giza with a golden apex being placed on to the top of the Great Pyramid. Interestingly, John Van Auken, a long-time member of the Cayce foundation, said that Cayce had predicted that the Millennium would be celebrated in this way.

Also, in 1932, Cayce predicted that the Hall of Records would be rediscovered between 1998 and 2000. Last year, Dr Hawass sanctioned an expedition under the Sphinx to look for a hall.

Cayce followers are also preparing themselves for the fulfilment of another prophecy. Cayce predicted that 1998 would see either the Second Coming of Christ or the beginning of the preparation for it.

Another part of Egyptian civilisation which has often been linked to Christ is the deity Osiris, whose tomb was announced last year to have been found at Giza. The man who announced the find was, again, Dr Hawass.

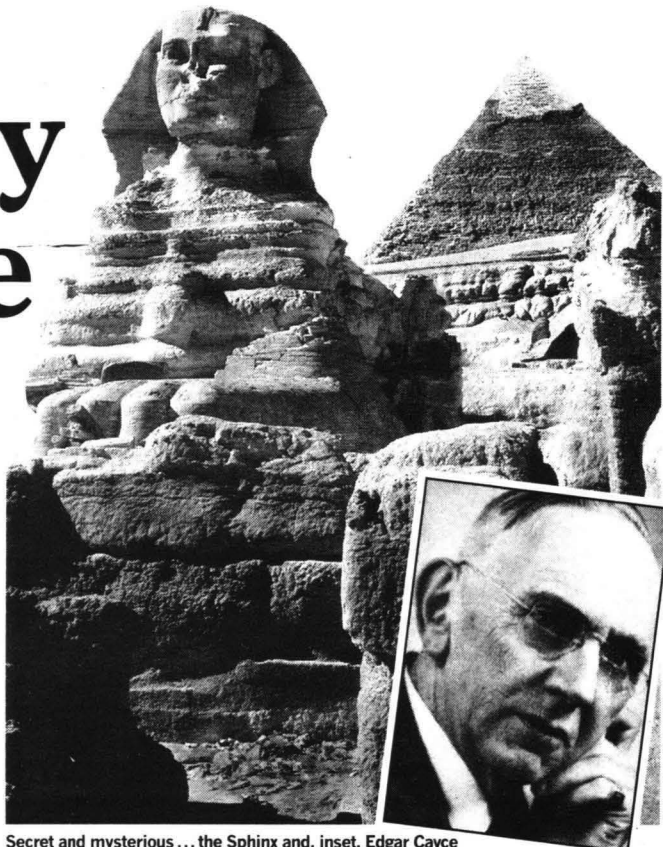
And it was also in 1998 that Hawass announced that a secret chamber in the Great Pyramid – thought to contain more 'writings of the gods' – would soon be opened.

Is it all coincidence? Or are these prophecies in the making? Or, more likely, are we seeing the making of prophecies? Members of the Association of Research and Enlightenment are now determined more than ever to prove that Cayce was a seer, and not a charlatan or fraud, and events at Giza are gathering at a frightening pace.

Giza was built for a purpose in the past and, possibly, a purpose in the future as well. But today, it seems to have been hijacked by a group of people intent on promoting something for which it was never intended.

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● *Secret Chamber: The Quest For The Hall Of Records*, by Robert Bauval, will be published by Century this Friday, price £16.99. To order your copy, call the Review Bookstore on 0870 165 0870.



Secret and mysterious... the Sphinx and, inset, Edgar Cayce

STAR, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 23, 1999 CR: M. Deschamps

Canadian zoologist seeks elusive Cadborosaurus

Ed Bousfield shares his research on sea serpent with a Sudbury audience

By Lara Bradley
THE SUDBURY STAR

Every day for the last decade, Ed Bousfield has stared out through binoculars at the Pacific Ocean looking for loops of a sea serpent breaking the water.

The invertebrate zoologist, who has spent his entire career finding and classifying some 400 new species of crustaceans at the Ottawa Museum of Natural History, doesn't like the name sea monster.

"It has negative connotations," Bousfield said.

Instead he's named the "mega aquatic serpent," Cadborosaurus, after the Bay of Cadboro where many sightings of the reptile have been recorded.

Bousfield was in Sudbury this week, presenting half a century's worth of research on the sea monster, as part of Science North's Explore Science Series.

"It is very large, very elongated – about 50 to 60 feet long – with a long slender neck and a two-foot-long head in the shape of a horse or camel," Bousfield said.

Cadborosaurus also has two jaws full of sharp teeth and red eyes that face forward. He believes that it uses the needle sharp teeth to chomp down on sea birds or fish.

"Every year there are five or six sightings," he said.

However, scanning the newspapers of the 1920s and 1930s, a sighting appears almost every week. Bousfield surmised that, like whales, these large reptiles have diminished in numbers.

In 1937, whalers found what Bousfield believes to be a Cadborosaurus, in the belly of a Sperm Whale. He points to a black-and-white photograph taken by the whalers of the creature stretched out on the docks. The camel-headed snake has front flippers as well as larger back ones, near the tip of its tail.

When it does break the surface, it shortens and strengthens its body by curving into loops. The back flippers then propel it forward at great rates of speed, he said.

In fact, the pilot of an air taxi spotted one recently but it outran the plane.

The reptile has also startled a ferry boat captain and his passengers by pulling off a "periscope" manoeuvre – rising up out of the water straight up like a 14-foot telephone



Lara Bradley/THE SUDBURY STAR

Ed Bousfield was at Science North this week, to share his findings on the 'mega aquatic serpent,' Cadborosaurus.

pole and staring at the them with its two red eyes. Ten seconds later, it vanished below the surface, Bousfield said.

According to the zoologist, the creature lives 300 to 1,000 metres below the surface and breathes through its skin. There have also been reports of it in deep fresh water lakes in British Columbia's interior.

Since the rivers running to these lakes have been stopped up by dams, he estimates these mega aquatic serpents must be between 70 and 100 years old. While this sounds incredible for a snake, many reptiles, such as turtles, can live well into their 100s.

Another place the creature has been spotted is on the beach. Bousfield said that Cadborosaurus is a "live bearer" like an a garter snake. However, the females drop their young at night on the sands.

There have been two instances of babies being captured, he said.

In one case, an ex-whaler and his son hauled one up in Pirates Cove, off the coast of British Columbia. Unfortunately, in both instances the reptiles were released back into the water.

"He's still wringing his hands," said Bousfield. "He could have got any price he wanted for it."

Despite the decade of research he has put in and the 300 sightings he has documented, many of his colleagues disregard his findings. "Most of my colleagues are skeptical, a few outright hostile," he said.

It will take a specimen to convince them, Bousfield said.

SEARCHING FOR BIGFOOT



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune

Keeper of the legend: Al Hodgson, curator of a Bigfoot museum in the Humboldt County town of Willow Creek, stood before a 15-foot-tall redwood statue of the mysterious creature.

Elusive Sasquatch still scares up believers

By Steve Schmidt, STAFF WRITER

MUD SPRINGS — It's 3 o'clock in the morning and I'm deep in the woods, looking for Bigfoot.

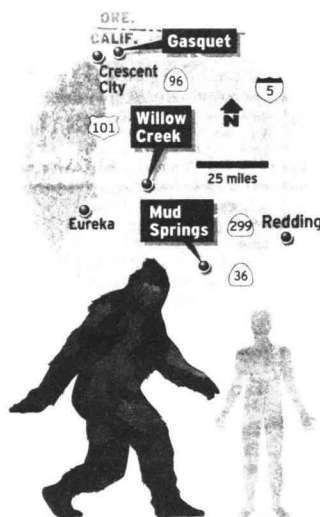
You know, Sasquatch. The Ape Beast. Omah, as some Indians call him. Qah-lin-me. Matlox. The Hairy Humanoid. The Earth Chewbacca. *Pie grande*. He-Who-Looks-Like-Some-Guy-In-A-Gorilla-Suit.

"Foot.

On this same patch of dirt a year ago, on this same mountain ridge near the Oregon border, an auto mechanic from Redding swore he spotted the creature. The sighting was reported to the state Department of Fish and Game.

"I would say to those people who don't believe me to go to Mud Springs and spend the night there," Tim Ford told a reporter with *The Redding Record Searchlight*. "They would be traumatized."

So here we are, me and a photographer, inside a dome tent, on our own Blair Bigfoot Project. I've got my notebook. The photographer's



A beastly profile

Sasquatch at a glance, based on decades of alleged sightings and centuries of American Indian stories.

- **Height:** 6 to 12 ft.
- **Weight:** Up to 2,000 lbs.
- **Footprint:** Commonly 15-22 in. long and 7-10 in. wide
- **Diet:** Omnivore
- **Habitat:** Primarily the Pacific Northwest, including the forests of Northern California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia
- **Population:** Possibly up to 2,000
- **Behavior:** Considered shy, elusive, migratory and gentle, but they can be provoked to violence. There are a few tales of them kidnapping, attacking and killing humans.

SOURCES: "The Field Guide to North American Monsters," by W. Haden Blackman; "Sasquatch/Bigfoot" by Don Hunter with René Dahinden; Union-Tribune research

6ft. human to scale

PAUL HORN / Union-Tribune

Nikon is locked and loaded.

Go ahead, you Halloween spook. Traumatize us.

I can smell the Pulitzer Prize from here.

Three o'clock in the morning and the moon hangs in the southeastern sky.

Come on out, big guy.

■ ■ ■

There aren't a lot of hard facts, but this much is known:

■ Hundreds of people in the West — mechanics, teachers, lumberjacks, shopkeepers — have reported seeing Bigfoot, or some sort of elusive man-ape, over the last century. The sightings tend to increase in the fall.

■ American Indians in the Pacific Northwest have told Sasquatch stories for generations.

■ Scores of alleged Bigfoot tracks — bigger than any bear's — have been found in forests and along riverbeds. Some are clearly fake; other prints go on for miles and are inexplicable curiosities.

■ The hunt for Bigfoot has gone high-tech. The Internet crackles with the latest sightings and searches.

■ Al Hodgson has a question.

Hodgson used to run a general store in the tiny town of Willow Creek. At 76, he's no wild-eyed believer. He's more a reluctant convert to the idea of a Sasquatch.

"I have to believe it's true," says the mild-mannered Navy vet. "If it isn't, you've got hundreds of people who are carrying out a hoax who don't even know each other."

"Doesn't sound very likely, does it?"

I was looking to do research on the beast. Willow Creek seemed like a good place to start.

The former logging town, set in the hills about an hour's drive east of Eureka, is the home of the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum, a magnet for Bigfootologists.

Outside the museum is a 15-foot-tall redwood statue of the creature, carved with a chain saw.

Inside is one of the sweetest treasure troves you'll find on the subject: Nearly two dozen plaster casts of footprints, written records of Bigfoot sightings, a new research center for trackers eager to chew over the latest twists in their hunt.

For the moment, the center sits empty. Hodgson, one of the museum's curators, wants it to become a base for serious scholarship.

Few academics, however, take Sasquatch seriously. Slaves to science and reason, they insist on hard, irrefutable proof. A Bigfoot corpse. A leg bone. Something.

But starting in the 1960s, Hodgson saw what he saw — and don't try to tell him otherwise.

He says he saw giant footprints in the dirt and snow that would make Michael Jordan's look shrimp.

He talked to those who said they had spotted Bigfoot, and saw fear on their faces.

In 1967, Hodgson ran into an acquaintance, Roger Patterson. Patterson and a friend claimed they had just filmed a giant ape-beast striding along a creek bed.

To believers, the grainy footage — known as the infamous Patterson-Gimlin film — shows what looks like a giant, hairy biped with pendulous breasts and an awkward step.

To skeptics, it looks like a guy in a gorilla suit.

Hodgson is a believer. Patterson, to the day he died, was apparently a believer.

But I needed something more. I needed an eyewitness I could look in the eye.

I needed Granny's Snack Shack.

Hodgson and I drove to the heart of Willow Creek and he introduced me to a woman in a yellow apron and a bonnet: Darlene Mesunas, proprietor of Granny's Snack Shack.

The sandwich shop is inside a Unocal 76 station, not far from the Bigfoot Rafting Co., Bigfoot Chevron and the Bigfoot Golf and Country Club.

(continued on page 19)

Mesunas, who is in her 60s, isn't eager to talk, especially to some reporter. When she tells the story of what happened to her as a little girl, people look at her funny.

She reluctantly does anyway.

The scene is a lonely backcountry road near Willow Creek. It's a sunny afternoon in the late 1940s.

Mesunas is 11 years old.

"I was coming back down a road when I heard the horse in our corral kicking and making all kinds of noise. It kind of scared me. Then I saw this big thing going across the road. This great big thing just walked across the road and into the bushes. . . I had never seen anything like it. I ran home and told my mother. I said, 'Mom, it's a great big gorilla or ape or something.' . . . It smelled like rotten eggs."

It wasn't a bear, she knows that much.

But knowing how people react to her story, she's not quite willing to declare it Bigfoot either.

Many believe there's not one Bigfoot, but Bigfeet, an elusive species of ape-beasts squirreled away in the vast forests from British Columbia to California.

The idea seems less outlandish when you consider that new species are discovered all the time. Scientists didn't know about the Okapi or giant panda a century ago.

Even so, you'd think somebody would have found a skeleton or at least a Bigfoot skull by now.

Not necessarily, says John Freitas, noting that bones and other organic material quickly decompose in the dank forests of the Pacific Northwest.

If anyone can sniff out a hoax, it should be 44-year-old Freitas. The former police officer is a welfare fraud investigator for Del Norte County.

At night, he uses his detective skills deep in the Klamath Mountains, hoping to pick up the trail of the beast.

The day after our stop in Willow Creek, the photographer and I join him. I sit shotgun in Freitas' pickup as he wheels up a dirt road near the town of Gasquet.

He brakes on the lip of a secluded valley and switches on a 400-watt audio system, playing an eerie wail that echoes for miles.

"AAAAAAHHHHHHHHH-HH."

Then again.

And again.

Freitas sets out the aural bait a couple of times a week, hoping to flush out Bigfoot. He says it's the sound of a Sasquatch-type creature recorded in 1994 in rural Ohio.

It hasn't worked. Not yet anyway. But he and other trackers believe they're inching closer. "I'm 99.9 percent sure that the creature exists," he says.

Freitas also checks out Northern California sightings reported to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, a group run by fellow tracker Matt MoneyMaker.

Freitas believes that some of the Sasquatch sightings are legitimate.

But some reports stretch reality, he says. Sometimes alleged eyewitnesses will claim they saw Bigfoot drop to earth in a spaceshi.

Yeah, right, Freitas tells himself.

But he believes the truth is out there, if you look hard enough. Many trackers find hair in the woods that they say defies analysis. Others find swaths of trees with broken high branches, suggesting that a Bigfoot loped through the area.

Freitas dreams of the day when he comes face to face with one.

And when that happens, he already knows what he'll do: run, as fast as possible, toward the beast, with a camcorder running, to finally prove that the great spook story of the West is true.

"Every day," he says, "we're getting closer."



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune photos

Call of the Sasquatch: John Freitas adjusted loudspeakers on his pickup truck that he uses to play what he says are Bigfoot mating calls. He then listens with a microphone in hopes of hearing a response.

"This great big thing just walked across the road and into the bushes . . . I had never seen anything like it."

Darlene Mesunas, recalling Bigfoot sighting

...

I'm at Mud Springs and it's 4:47 a.m. and I'm writing in my notebook that this whole Blair Bigfoot Project thing has been a bust.

I was promised Bigfoot. All I've got is a sore back from lying in a tent and a nasty case of halitosis.

Like I ever really expected to see 'Foot in the first place.

I'm turning over and getting some sleep.

I'm . . . turning . . . over . . . and . . . getting . . . some . . . sleep . . .

There's this annoying noise outside. A constant rustling sound. It's probably the wind hitting a flap of the tent. I wish it would stop, whatever it is.



Part of local lore: Bob Henderson displays his chain-saw art outside his Trinity Oaks store. He says his chain-saw Bigfoot is quite popular and he has sold several of his artistic renderings.

JOURNAL, Collinsville, IL - July 28, 1999

Ghost hunter convention scares up 150 kindred spirits

By Sanford J. Schmidt
Staff writer

Ghost hunters found each other in Alton Saturday after meeting on the Internet.

ALTON

"The Internet is what has really brought everybody together," said Paula Murphy of Arlington, Texas.

Murphy was part of a gathering of 150 ghost lovers at the American Ghost Society National Conference, held at the Stratford Hotel downtown. Murphy was with friends from the organization S.P.O.O.K.S., which stands for Supernatural Phenomenon Organization of Kindred Spirits.

Event organizers said that by posting a Website, people interested in the supernatural can meet and communicate while still alive and without the expense of a telephone.

"We get about 200,000 hits on

our Website each year," said Troy Taylor of Alton, the president of the society.

Ladell Pelzel of Pilot Point, Texas, the S.P.O.O.K.S. president, said she became interested in the supernatural because she lives in a haunted house. She and other members of her group wore T-shirts emblazoned with the S.P.O.O.K.S. name.

"After I bought the place, the owners told me they had seen a man at the top of the stairs, and a woman was seen wearing Victorian clothing," Pelzel said.

She said she never had seen a ghost, but she felt one tug at the seam of her shorts while visiting the site of a desecrated graveyard near her home.

Her friend, Gilma Durham of Corinth, Texas, said she has a tape recording of a little girl ghost saying, "Mommy."

Durham said the little girl ghost came home with her

from a children's home near the Gettysburg, Pa., battlefield, which has a high population of spirits.

"It's a rich area," Durham said.

Taylor said he never had seen a ghost, but he feels it is possible they exist.

"A lot of strange things have happened to me that defy easy explanation," he said.

The S.P.O.O.K.S. were interviewed Saturday during a break in the AGS meeting, which featured lectures by experts in the field of ghost hunting and other supernatural phenomena.

One of the lecturers was Taylor, the president of the society. He told about some of the celebrated ghost hunters, like Harry Houdini, who were as interesting as the ghosts, themselves.

Taylor is a writer and bookstore owner who loves to partake of his own products.

Much of the reading material he enjoys involves as much history as supernatural topics, Taylor said.

His love of books is what led him to the supernatural.

"I was always interested in the stories. I use to live in Decatur, and I collected stories from that area because nobody else had ever done it," he said.

The weekend meeting was filled with lectures and tours of haunted sites around Alton.

One of the presenters just published a book, "Cryptozoology from A to Z."

Author Loren Coleman, a sociology professor from Maine, has written on Big Foot, the Yeti and our own Piasa Bird.

"I believe the Piasa was a type of thunderbird," he said. A thunderbird is a condor-like bird reported throughout North America since prehistoric times.

The strange stories never stop for author

By RILEY WOODFORD
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Sasquatch creatures, lost gold mines and weird artifacts - Juneau author and historian Ed Ferrell has found all these and more - in old newspapers.

Ferrell is the author of "Frontier Justice," "Dangerous North" and "Strange Stories of the Yukon and Alaska," as well as three collections of biographies of Alaska-Yukon pioneers.

He has a new book of strange stories ready for publication and this time he's not limiting himself to the northlands. Ferrell will share stories of his research and his experiences as a writer and historian at 7 p.m. Friday at the downtown library.

Ferrell orders archival newspapers on microfilm and has scanned through thousands of issues spanning from 1850 to 1967, but primarily from the period between 1880 and 1940.

"There may be only one good story in a whole roll of microfilm," he said. "You get a clue about something, and try and run it down. Now I'm on the trail of a story of a rainmaker, (which) should be a good sto-



There are some things we could probably explain away nowadays. (But) there's a lot of things possible in this old world.

- ED FERRELL

ry if it's true."

True doesn't necessarily mean Ferrell needs proof the man actually made it rain, but he rules out stories that seem to be hoaxes and promotions. He's suspicious of stories that are vague, and focuses on those that report names, dates, specific details and seem to be reported in good faith.

"I keep an open mind. Some, if I think it's really a

yarn, I'll not use it," he said.

Often, he said, a number of credible witnesses are cited and there is no apparent motivation for a hoax.

His new book is a collection of the unusual stories that caught his eye. Stories of Sasquatch and other strange creatures. Stories of miners unearthing weird objects, or stories like the discovery of Egyptian-style hieroglyphics and artifacts in a cave in Ohio in 1880.

"I've come across so many strange creatures in stories," he said. "Now the observers may be misinterpreting what they saw. There are some things we could probably explain away nowadays. (But) there's a lot of things possible in this old world."

Some may have plausible explanations, Ferrell said. Reports of wild kangaroos in Wisconsin and Oklahoma in the late 1800s could be escaped circus animals. An account of petrified bodies of "giants" - people 7- and 8-foot-tall unearthed in a Minnesota quarry 100 years ago - could be simply unusually large Native Americans.

Other stories are more mysterious. Ferrell simply

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - Nov. 12, 1999

Nice kettle of fish: It rained fish Oct. 27 in Sausalito, Calif. Kate Duckworth of that community noticed the piscine precipitation when she got home from work and discovered about 50 small fish scattered around her yard and roof.

Luckily, reports Leah Garchik in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Duckworth works at the Exploratorium, a hands-on science museum in San Francisco, where the oddity was explained by physicist Paul Doherty, who said the fish probably were anchovies.

The rain was related "to a waterspout which 'vacuums' up water and fish from near the surface of the ocean into a cumulus cloud. The cloud then blows over land and drops its load of rain and

fish," he says.

Sometimes the updraft catches pennies, snakes and frogs along with the fish, concurs science writer Mary Miller.

Charlie Carlson, the museum's director of life sciences, says the fish might have been picked up out at sea at the "coastal ocean upwelling thermocline" (now there's a mouthful), where the spout would have encountered fish.

All three, however, also mentioned the possibility of a Halloween prank. Sounds pretty fishy to us.

Partially compiled from Democrat-Gazette wire services, Eric E. Harrison's *Tattle Tales* column appears Fridays and Sundays. Send e-mail to:

eric_harrison@adg.ardemgaz.com

recounts the stories in his books, without explanations.

"I'm sure there's things out there we don't know about," he said.

Ferrell first came to Alaska in 1947, and has lived in Juneau since about 1951, he said. His wife, Nancy, is also a writer.

Years ago, Ferrell began reading Alaska and Yukon newspapers published between 1880 and 1940, gleaning the obituaries, and publishing them in compilations as biographies of pioneers. Many of the obituaries were well-written accounts of pioneer lives. Some he edited, rewording cumbersome Victorian phrasing and emphasizing the historical and biographical aspects.

Along the way, he ran across

other interesting articles, accounts of frontier crimes, tragedies and dramas. They became "Frontier Justice" and "Dangerous North."

Other, weirder stories drew his attention as well and went into the collection called "Strange Stories of the Yukon and Alaska."

"Stories of the supernatural, ghost stories, stories of creatures and that type of thing," he said. "Of course, Alaska and the West are full of lost mine stories."

After the publication of "Strange Stories," Ferrell expanded his research to include newspapers across the United States.

Ferrell's books are published by Epicenter Books of Seattle and Heritage Books of Maryland. Copies will be available at the presentation on Friday.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 28, 1999

'Weird things' going on raise goose bumps at county museum

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORREST CITY — At the St. Francis County Museum, more than history is coming to life. Objects move mysteriously from one place to another. Unexplainable noises echo in the historic building, and doors open on their own.

"I don't know about haunted, but there's a lot of weird things that go on here," said Brian Hicks, the museum director. "I do not like to come up here late at night."

The museum moved into the historic Rush-Gates House after six months of renovation. The 1906 building once housed Dr. J.O. Rush's office and surgery room before Forrest City had a hospital. The country doctor did everything from deliver babies to act as undertaker, embalming bodies in the home.

"You never know what kind of spirits may still be here," Hicks said Tuesday.

The odd events began after museum staff moved into the building.

Once Hicks put a spoon on top of a microwave oven in the kitchen as he was talking to his sister. When he turned his attention back to the oven, the spoon was gone.

"Somehow it managed to move from one corner of the room where the microwave is to another corner of the room where the sink is," he said. "Somehow it miraculously moved. We're not exactly sure how."

A few minutes later, his sister put a cookie down and it disappeared, only to reappear in the same corner where the spoon was found.

On another occasion, Hicks said,

he was speaking on the telephone and noticed something out of the corner of his eye.

"I was the only one in the building. The doors and windows were closed," he said. "We keep a door to an exhibit area latched and closed, but I saw the door opening by itself. When I grabbed the door handle to close it, there was a force on the other side holding it. I had to pull harder than I expected to in order to get it to close."

Hicks said he knows of no horrific crimes that happened in the old home, but said some people did die there, including a man hit by a train.

Another time, after the museum staff moved into the house, a former assistant was working upstairs by herself, when she heard some noise downstairs, Hicks said.

"When she went downstairs, there was no one there, and immediately noises began upstairs," Hicks said. "She checked out those noises, and again, no one was in the house."

After the museum put in a security system, the alarm began going off once or twice a month in the dead of night, Hicks said. "It always seems to be in the middle of the night, and it's always an internal motion sensor that goes off ... so it's something inside the house setting it off."

Staff members have found no signs of raccoons or other animals that like to come indoors.

For Halloween, the museum is conducting candlelight tours through the house Friday and Saturday.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 5, 1999

Reverse-time region possible, physicist says

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The universe may contain regions where milk would stir itself out of coffee and eggs would unbreak, according to a physicist in New York state. The idea that there may be regions where time runs backward could explain invisible dark matter. This kind of matter, invoked by cosmologists to explain the movement of galaxies, could originate in a future contracting phase of the universe.

For coffee to unstir or an egg to unbreak requires monumental coordination — all the pieces of egg shell would need to follow the exact trajectories to reform into the

egg, for instance. This is why theorists thought that the slightest interaction with a region having normal time would destroy the opposite arrow of time.

But calculations by Lawrence Schulman of Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., suggest that this might not be the case. "The problem in thinking about opposite arrows of time is to define the question sensibly," he says. "Once you have the right context, statistical physics shows that opposing arrows are actually compatible."

So how would a reverse-time region arise? Schulman suggests that they may be relics from the

far future. This possibility requires that the expanding universe eventually starts to contract into a "big crunch."

In such a situation, the so-called "thermodynamic arrow of time" may reverse during the contraction, creating order out of chaos — an idea first proposed by Thomas Gold of Cornell University. "Because of the opposite-running time, anyone around in this phase would actually see the contraction as an expansion," Schulman says.

A bizarre consequence of this is that reverse-time regions from the contracting phase could be

around us today, perhaps as close as a few tens of light years. Since they are from the far future, any stars would have long burnt out, but not yet reignited under the reverse-time effect. "But we would still feel their gravity," Schulman says. "Such matter would have all the attributes of dark matter."

Schulman's calculations will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Physical Review Letters*. Except, of course, in a reverse-time region, where, having been published, they are now being unwritten.

This article is excerpted from New Scientist, a weekly science and technology magazine based in London.