

UFO

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Something's out there

Flying saucers, cattle mutilations, Bigfoot, the Taos Hum and *La Llorona* all came together in the 20th century

By Phaedra Greenwood

The Taos News

A year ago around 9:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Margaret LaValley, a former employee at Holy Cross Hospital, went to the door of her apartment in Talpa to let the dog in. She was startled to see a round white light gliding silently past from northeast to southwest toward Mora — then another one.

They're traveling in pairs, she thought.

"Then came a whole flock of them, different sizes," she said. She grabbed the binoculars from the dashboard of her car and watched them pass for about 10 minutes. "They were all silent, not blinking. I couldn't make out any details. They were just bright, glowing orbs," she said.

Over the years there have been numerous reports of unidentified objects in and around Mora, but an old-time resident of Mora said, "I've been seeing those lights all my life, but we always thought they were witches."

In the 20th century, Northern New Mexico has run rampant with mysterious phenomenon like the **Taos Hum, rumors of Bigfoot sightings, strange animal deaths, eerie black helicopters and UFOs of various descriptions**, some of which have been documented on video tape.

Without a camera, how can the observer's report be verified? It helps to have a corroborating witness. Short of that, the question is one of personal perception which tends to be swayed by the cultural context and psyche of the observer.

Since the late 1960s, hundreds of animals, mainly cattle, but also deer, elk and pigs have been found dead in Taos County with no blood or human tracks at the scene and certain organs that appear to have been removed with surgical precision. This weird phenomenon has occurred all over the United States and around the world in countries as far apart as Britain and Brazil.

Five main theories about causes prevail: Predators, the supernatural, obscure cults, government and space aliens. One theory prevalent in the local Hispanic culture is that animal sacrifice is being done by witches or satanic cults, while in Britain farmers are outraged by what they suppose is the brutal sexual abuse of their dead and "mutilated" horses.

One link to the government involves ominous black helicopters, some silent and some not, which have often been reported either before or after so-called "cattle mutilations."

20th CENTURY TAOS

But are theorists talking about the publicly elected government in Washington, D.C., or the so-called "secret government" of "Men in Black"? Few seem able to make the distinction.

In his book, "The Mysterious Valley," Christopher O'Brien of Crestone, Colo., investigated a story reported by a family in the San Luis Valley. On June 5, 1980, they heard a M*A*S*H-type helicopter fly over their house. Fifteen minutes later they watched it rise from a pasture where they kept their bull. The next day they found the bull dead, operated on by the mysterious "cattle surgeons."

Private investigator Gail Staehlin from Albuquerque said when she and an investigating team were checking out a "mutilated" cow in Angel Fire, she was actually pursued by a black helicopter that followed her down the road.

But are the helicopters really black without identifying numbers, or merely blacklit by the sun and difficult to observe? And are they really helicopters? An investigating photographer near Archuleta Mountain in northwestern New Mexico captured images in the rain of a dark helicopter shape he claimed was not visible to the human eye. He said he thought it was a shape-shifting UFO.

The government was implicated in "cattle mutilations" by Carlos Miranda, a former tribal police officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe. In the summer of 1979 he said he responded to a call about two young heifers dead at Santa Clara Pueblo. He noticed that one heifer had her nipples neatly cut off; the tongue of the second animal was cut off at the back of the throat and the anus was cored out, but, as usual, there was no blood on the ground. He said he saw no tire tracks or footprints.

Some people from Los Alamos showed up, made some phone calls, and soon a crane came, loaded the animals and took them away.

"The men who took the cow said they would get back to me with a report," Miranda said. "I called several times about it, but got no answers."

When he called them again two months later he said he was told, "We don't know what you're talking about."

"I was told to hush for some reason," he added. "There was

something going on. I was going around and around with the U.S. government. If they know something, they should let people know what's going on."

He claimed to have chased a red light hovering 40 feet above the ground in the same area close to the time of the mutilations "that moves fast and stops on a dime."

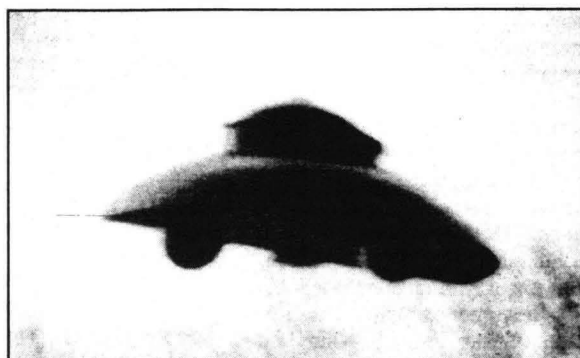
Miranda, who is Hispanic and Navajo, married to a Hopi woman, said that he believes the cattle were killed by flying saucers. He claims there are petroglyph drawings of UFOs on rocks in Nevada that were "discovered by the pioneers when they came through in their wagons." Another claim is that the Hopi believe the UFOs are here, and on one occasion some tribal members went to sit on a certain hill with blankets and binoculars, waiting to be beamed up, "but that fellow never showed up."

"The Bible says UFOs are the armies of Lucifer," he continued. "The end of the world is coming around. The weather has gone crazy, planes are falling out of the sky. They say this country is going to be conquered by its own self."

UFOs became the leading suspects in at least two "cattle mutilations" that displayed evidence of air turbulence and strange mechanical tracks found near the scene. In 1997 in Arroyo Seco, District Attorney John Paternoster and investigating officer Gabe Valdez discovered mysterious tracks in a field where a bull was found dead and "mutilated." Mechanical "V"-shaped indentations were seen all over the field, backhoe size, 18 to 24 inches in diameter, Valdez said. Gouge marks were five to six inches deep in some places and appeared to have uprooted the grass. Valdez said he had seen similar ground markings near a mutilation in Dulce in 1978. Dulce is on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation in Northwest New Mexico and a renowned site of many other such sightings.

The rancher who owned the bull and lived nearby stated he had noticed nothing suspicious the night before, but other witnesses testified that they had seen a green light flying in the area on the night of the bull's death.

UFOs are not the only suspects in "cattle mutilations." One surgically butchered cow in Colorado was found with Bigfoot-type tracks leading away through the snow onto a lake where they disappeared through a hole in the ice. Fanciful theories abound concerning the connection between Bigfoot and cattle mutilations.



This light-enhanced image of a UFO comes from an 8mm film taken by George Adamski in the presence of several others in Silver Spring, Md., Feb. 26, 1965 (from "Alien Base" by Timothy Good).

O'Brien has collected reports of Bigfoot activity near the Colorado-New Mexico state line that include a large, hairy creature spotted by a trucker near the highway, a Bigfoot stalking a herd of elk and a large creature that supposedly ran by a ranch house and threw a dog over a six-foot fence.

Two sightings from reliable local witnesses were made in remote areas of Taos County. A former livestock inspector traveling toward Angel Fire claimed he saw an albino specimen of Bigfoot scrambling up the side of a cliff. A respected Taos resident traveling through Cimarron Canyon said he saw a dark, chocolate-brown Bigfoot standing at the edge of a forest near a cliff, apparently watching the cars go by. Bigfoot reports also come from the Pecos Wilderness east of Peñasco.

We know that animals hear sounds both above and below our normal range, and some sound-sensitive people might, too. A survey by Dr. James Kelly from the University of New Mexico's health and sciences department showed that 2 percent of Taos County residents had heard the Taos Hum which "you would probably find in any quiet mountainous area."

The Taos Hum, made famous by photographer Bob Saltzman, who lived in the foothills near the Stakeout Restaurant south of Llano Quemado, was so annoying that he and his wife, Catanya, moved to Southern California. Meanwhile, in Northern California, a young woman swears she has heard the Taos Hum — exactly the same sound described by Saltzman — all day, every day, for the past four months in her home in Willits.

The hum, which is sometimes described as a pulsing sound, sometimes "like a church organ" and sometimes "like a diesel engine," is constantly present for Taos resident Sara Allen. A sound engineer for KTAO, she said she hears it day and night everywhere she goes, from New Jersey to Florida. She's been hearing it since 1992. "It's not an acoustical sound or physical force that can be measured,"

she said. "It's in the quantum realm."

An intensive set of measurements including acoustic, seismic, electromagnetic, electrostatic and magnetic "failed to turn up anything that correlated with the sound being perceived by the hearers," said the report from UNM. "But the real sound was easily recorded by the very sensitive microphones we were using."

They concluded that the sound was not being imagined, that there was no single external source, and that it could possibly be caused by an excessive sensitivity in the ear which "tunes up," so to speak, to the background noise and produces what is perceived of as objective sound. Tinnitus, which produces disturbing apparent sounds, never occurs at low frequency.

Perhaps the Taos Hum is an affliction of the modern world, which is too much with us in highway traffic, cell phones, cell phone towers, satellites, power lines, and who knows what other electromagnetic fields that converge beside still waters to steal our souls. For all we know, what sensitive people are hearing is a modern version of the weeping woman, *La Llorona*. Or could it be the legendary tunnels that are supposedly being dug from Los Alamos down to Carlsbad and up into Colorado to help nuclear scientists escape from their deal with the devil, as some theorists have claimed?

That might explain the deep humming sound heard by two separate groups of campers Oct. 13, 1999, at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Southern Colorado. According to Chris O'Brien, who tracked down the reports, campers said the sound was coming from the ground so loud it vibrated signs in the campground and "freaked them out."

As Obi-Wan Kenobi said to Luke Skywalker in "Star Wars," "Your senses may deceive you. Don't trust them." But a rip in the fabric of our reality leads us to suspect there may be something going on behind the curtain. In the coming millennium, we hope to solve some of these mysteries — but not all.

UFO Sightings

The awakening that life is from space

Each day the earth is bombarded by space dust, spores, meteoroids, interplanetary particles, radiation, fireballs, bolids, meteors, and meteoroids. Some estimates indicate most, if not all of the water on Earth came from space. Periodically even large asteroids and comets find their way to Earth. Fortunately for us, when a meteoroid strikes the Earth's atmosphere, it loses some or all of its mass by ablation, vaporization, sputtering and fragmentation. The fragmented pieces fall relatively gently to Earth. Recent studies indicate bacteria and viruses may be able to survive this ride through space and through our atmosphere.

Science has come a long way since the 1800s, when the French National Academy of Science conducted a study and concluded the entire phenomenon was an optical illusion. Today about five hundred reports a month are received indicating Unidentified Flying Objects are in our skies. Most of these reports are from multiple witnesses and well educated people who use the Internet. According to Dr. Don Johnson, of some 100,000 sightings in the UFOCAT Study the highest number of reports occur between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m. local time. This indicates UFOs operate when they are least likely to be seen by the public and appear to move with the various time zones. Additionally, our satellites are also regularly picking up unidentified objects that



Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org

appear to be intelligently controlled.

Professor and Colonel Donald G. Carpenter's book, "Environmental Space Sciences" taught at the Air Force Academy appears to be correct when it states. "From available information, the UFO phenomenon may have been global in nature for almost 50,000 years." The book also discusses the scientific study of UFOs conducted by the Battelle Memorial Institute of 2,199 UFO reports. The results of the study show 434 or 19.7% were unknowns, 240 or 11% had insufficient information, 479 or 22% were astronomical, 813 or 37% were aircraft or balloons, while 233 or 10.6% were others. Of

the 664 'unknowns' and 'insufficient information' sightings add up to the startling conclusion that 30.6% of the sightings are likely to be UFOs. That is almost a third of UFO reports cannot be explained away even by a respected group of scientists and engineers at Battelle. Colonel Carpenter also writes, "An exciting discovery revealed the better the quality of the report, the greater the probability the report will be classified as an unknown."

These findings agree with my own observation of Eastern MUFON investigations.

I have found sightings over an extended period of time by multiple and qualified witnesses were most

likely to be confirmed as UFOs. The reports frequently state UFOs travel at fantastic speeds with unbelievable maneuverability. Their characteristics show an advanced technology unlikely to be ours. Although these sightings may represent an unknown phenomenon, the evidence seems to point towards alien visitors. If we are in fact being visited, the visitors come for a reason. Carl Sagan often noted one of the primary reasons to visit and spread life to Earth would be some form of missionary zeal.

Many abductees report a kind of religious awakening after being in contact. Others speculate the aliens are here to farm for food, obtain water, refuel and mine our minerals. Later in these files we discuss some theories of what might be happening based on the reports of brave people who have come forward with their stories. Each day you are bombarded with information, I caution the reader we are all searching for the truth.

I'm just one person attempting to analyze the data, so keep an open, but skeptical mind. What frightens me the most is I receive communications from scientists who complain about the closed minds of their colleagues.

Despite this, there is an awakening taking place in France, Chile and all over the world, that we are not alone.

To be continued next week

GAZETTE JOURNAL, Reno, NV - Jan. 14, 2000

Vegas UFO team returns from sighting study

By Kim Smith
LAS VEGAS SUN

LAS VEGAS — Two members of a Las Vegas UFO research organization returned home Wednesday after spending five days investigating a reported Jan. 5 sighting of a UFO near the Missouri-Illinois border.

The National Institute for Discovery Science sent John Velier, a former FBI agent, and Roger Pinson, a retired police officer, to the St. Louis area Friday, Colm Kelleher, deputy administrator for the institute, said.

The institute was founded in 1995 by Las Vegas businessman Robert Bigelow, who wanted to see UFOs, cow mutilations and paranormal phenomena studied by people who would use scientific methods, Kelleher said.

Five retired law enforcement officers and four doctorate-level scientists work out of the Las Vegas office, and an additional 15 doctorate-level scientists who work with the institute are located around the country, Kelleher said.

"Our philosophy is to use scientific methods to get facts. We are not trying to push an agenda," Kelleher said.

Velier and Pinson spoke with many of the people who reported seeing a two-story high, arrowhead-shaped object make its way over the Illinois towns of Lebanon, Shilow, Dupo and Millstadt early Jan. 5. Four of the witnesses were police officers from different jurisdictions, and all reported the object made no noise and hovered between 500 and 1,000 feet above the ground.

"The descriptions were not atypical from the other reports we've gotten, but we did have more eyewitnesses who appear to be more credible than in other incidents," Kelleher said.

"Our telephone investigation from here convinced us the police officers who claimed they had seen the UFO appeared to be sane and that this appeared to be a genuine sighting."

Kelleher declined to comment on the particulars of the investigation but said the institute plans to

release its report within two weeks on its website at <http://www.accessnv.com/nids>. He said Velier and Pinson are busy compiling their data now and conducting further telephone interviews.

Typically investigators get detailed descriptions of what the witnesses saw, particularly details that will may help physicists determine what was seen, Kelleher said. They also ask the witnesses if they've had any other UFO experiences or suffered any psychological effects from the sighting.

Most UFO sightings are actually the result of people "misperceiving normal phenomenon," Kelleher said. What people think are alien spacecrafts are actually missile launches, meteor showers, weather balloons or other normal occurrences.

"Over 90 percent are usually tracked down and explained by misperceptions or delusions," Kelleher said. "Of course, we also get hoaxes, some morning deejays calling us as pranksters."

Institute members only go to

those sites that can't be explained immediately, Kelleher said. Over the past five months, members have gone to only three or four UFO or cow mutilation sites.

The institute has gotten between 200 and 300 calls during that time frame, he said.

The institute takes pains to ensure the privacy of people who report unusual occurrences because the media has often either ridiculed them or trivialized the reports, Kelleher said.

Surprisingly, in this case, "very few jokes have been made about little green men," Kelleher said.

Bigelow, who owns the Budget Suites of America hotel chain, also has pledged \$500 million to build a 100-passenger luxury tourist cruise ship that will orbit the moon. The headquarters for his space tourism company is being built near Red Rock Canyon and is expected to open in May 2001.

Bigelow also is well-known for being the benefactor of UNLV's Consciousness Studies program, which studies the paranormal.

Many Strange Encounters In 1999

1999 was an active year for mysterious encounters, as reported by residents from across Pennsylvania.

UFO sightings, strange sounds, odd sky glows, hauntings, beams of light from the sky and Bigfoot were among the phenomena that came to the attention of Stan Gordon of Greensburg.

Gordon, who has been pursuing such accounts since 1959, continues to investigate and document these reports as an independent researcher. The researcher, who previously founded and directed three volunteer UFO investigating groups in the state, continues to receive many reports on his UFO Hotline. Gordon also maintains contact with various agencies, organizations and researchers to keep update on the latest information.

The researcher utilizes his elaborate electronics communications center to receive current information on UFO sightings and unusual events from across the world. Gordon has been involved with the investigation of thousands of strange cases from across the state during the last 40 years. He finds that UFO sighting and other phenomena are reported by people from all walks of life and age groups. Many UFO sightings have been reported by professionals such as state troopers, pilots and air traffic controllers.

During 1999, reports that originated from 28 counties in the commonwealth came to Gordon's attention, along with other incidents from nearby states. Gordon maintains that majority of UFO

sightings and other phenomena reported, when properly investigated, are determined to have a natural or man-made explanation.

Some events occur each year, however, that are reported by competent observers and can't be so easily explained away. Some UFO sightings during 1999 were explained as the misidentification of bright planets and stars, meteors and advertising searchlight beams.

The UFO case for which Gordon is most recognized is his detailed investigation of the alleged UFO crash which occurred in December 1965 near Kecksburg. A strange, metallic, acorn-shaped object is said to have fallen slowly from the sky that day and reportedly was recovered by the military. Years later, a shroud of mystery still surrounds this Pennsylvania event. In 1998 Gordon released an award winning 92-minute video documentary on the case called "Kecksburg, The Untold Story" which he produced. Gordon is still pursuing information about the 1965 event, and is looking for other witnesses who have information about what occurred that day.

Some of the interesting Pennsylvania events from 1999 include: January-February — Odd, early-morning sky glows were reported. On the morning of Feb. 8, a witness near Turtle Creek, Allegheny County, looking southeast observed the entire skyline lit up like a large fire. After a few minutes from the center of the glow, a bright, white,

diamond-shaped light appeared, giving off a bright flash. Instantly after the flash, the fiery glow vanished and the sky became normal.

April 27, Fayette County — Researcher Jim Brown investigated a UFO sighting that appears to have coincided with the activation of a magnetic field anomaly detector. Around 1 a.m. two people reported seeing a bright circle of light, similar to a donut shape. The center of the object was glowing blue. As the object passed overhead, an odd sound could be heard.

June through August — The National UFO Reporting Center and the Pennsylvania UFO Hotline received numerous reports of UFO sightings from across Pennsylvania. Observations of spherical, rectangular and triangular objects were common. While much of the activity seemed centered on the eastern region of the state, sightings were reported from many widespread locations. On the afternoon on Aug. 16, a husband and wife in Butler County were relaxing in a swimming pool when they observed two circular objects of a dull gray metallic color moving across the sky in their direction. The objects appeared to be joined together side-by-side. The objects suddenly stopped, made a sharp 90-degree turn to the north and soon were lost from sight. Only a few hours before, another daylight sighting of a silver disk was reported near Reading.

October — Near the village of Pleasant Unity in Westmoreland County, a

family driving down a rural road, claimed to have had an encounter with a Bigfoot. The witnesses said it was just getting dark, when the large, hair-covered, manlike creature crossed the road in three giant strides, about 40 feet ahead of them. The creature had long arms extending below the knees, was very broad-shouldered, and appeared covered in smooth, dark, reddish-brown hair.

November 16 — At approximately 7 p.m., witnesses from across Pennsylvania reported observing a number of luminous objects moving in a single formation across the sky. One report from Butler County indicated that 10 to 12 round objects, each with a luminous trail and moving one behind the other, crossed the sky in about 4 to 8 seconds. The National UFO Reporting Center also received numerous similar sightings reports from a number of other states. This observation appears to have been related to the passage of a fiery meteor.

To report a UFO sighting or any strange occurrence, call Gordon's PA UFO Hotline (24 hours) at (724) 838-7768. If you want to write to Gordon, his address is PO Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. A SASE is appreciated. Contact Gordon for information on how to obtain a copy of the Kecksburg video, and for his lecture availability. Gordon's Website is <http://www.westol.com/~paufo>.

They're coming to take you away, ha, ha!

This is getting weird, folks.

A few weeks ago, some people on the East side saw a UFO about 4 a.m. You say, but Scotty, people on the East side at that time of the night are liable to see about anything.

True, but I know what they saw. They're not making this up.

Before you call the men in the white coats and have me locked away (the Little Missus has the number on speed dial, if you need it), you should know that I've only seen one unidentified flying object in my whole life, and it was 20 years ago. I'm not one of those crackpots who see UFOs every other night and try to pass off pictures of garbage cans as flying saucers.

The police officer who witnessed the UFO gave a description of the object that came eerily close to the one I encountered.

I've always been fascinated with stargazing. As a youngster, one of my favorite pastimes was to watch meteor showers from my

back yard.

One night the family was in the yard enjoying a star show when we witnessed something very strange. Directly over our heads, maybe 200 feet up in the air, an object as wide as a football field passed silently and quickly into the darkness.

The best way to describe it is to say that it looked like it had thousands of dim, tiny lights decorating the bottom surface. It was almost as if the object was disguising itself as a night sky.

My family and I jumped out of our seats and tried to follow the object through the sky. It disappeared from view as quickly as it had appeared.

I remember asking a science teacher about it, thinking he would give me a logical explanation for what I witnessed.

"Yes, I have a logical explanation for what you witnessed," he told me. "You saw a UFO and should report it to the authorities right away!"



Scott Beck

A DIFFERENT
WORLD

He went on to say that the United States government knows about UFOs, but that it buries all the reports under a mound of red tape and refuses to comment on sightings.

My father wrote it off as nothing.

"It's just one of those weather balloons, son," my father said matter-of-factly.

I think my mother believes it was an alien spacecraft that came to Earth to suck the brains out of the most supremely intelligent humans. That would explain why it passed over our house at a high rate of speed.

To this day, whenever I talk about what has become known as "The UFO Encounter," people smile and slowly scoot their chairs away from me.

That's fine. I know what I saw, and I think many people, on both sides of the river, may have had similar experiences. The rest of you can keep on being skeptical.

Just don't come crying to me with your brain all sucked out.

Scott Beck of St. Charles is public relations director for the United Way of Greater St. Louis. He writes a semimonthly column for the Journal.

UFO baffles observers

Large, lighted object cruises the Metro East skies

FROM STAFF REPORTS

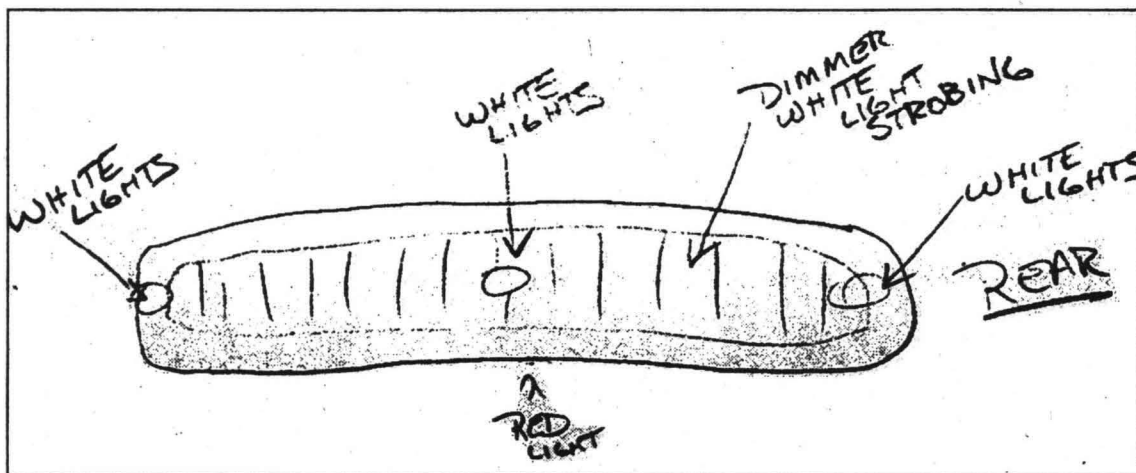
What is shaped like an arrow head, as big as a football field, two stories tall and flies slowly through the air?

If you don't know, don't feel bad. People across the Metro East saw an object fitting that description float slowly overhead early last Wednesday morning, and no one yet has been able to explain what it was.

The UFO was first reported in Highland. That was soon followed by reports from Lebanon, Mascoutah, Shiloh and Millstadt, where a police officer produced a photographic image.

"About 4:28 a.m. Wednesday, Officer Craig Stevens was patrolling in the northwestern part of the town," Millstadt Police Chief Ed Wilkerson said. "He had been alerted by radio communications from nearby communities that an unusual object had been seen flying in the direction of Millstadt.

"When he reached the vicinity of the municipal swimming pool, the object flew right over him. It was floating slowly across the sky from east to west. He noted it was moving so slowly he won-



Millstadt police officer Craig Stevens drew a picture of the UFO and took Polaroid photographs that showed three points of light surrounded by darkness.

dered how it could stay in the air."

Its passage was slow enough to allow him time to exit the patrol car, open its trunk, remove from a case a Polaroid camera he kept there and to take one photograph of the object. The image produced shows a series of blurry lights on a black background. No distinct outline of an aircraft appears.

Stevens described the aircraft as being "about the size of a football field and two stories high, with the shape of an arrow head," Wilkerson said. The only noise was a low humming sound similar to that emitted by an electric

motor. As it flew overhead about 500 feet off the ground, Stevens noted a series of lights down its centerline. As it passed by, the craft banked and headed northwest.

Wilkerson said Stevens likened the view from the rear as being similar to a view familiar to Star Wars movie fans of the "Millennium Falcon," the hero's space craft, flying away — a series of white lights in a row across the back of the craft with a strobe-like light in the center.

Wilkerson also said all who have sighted this object described it similarly. According to the National Institute of Discovery

Science in Utah, which was contacted by local police agencies, the descriptions are similar to sightings of other UFOs around the country.

As the object moved away from Millstadt, Stevens alerted police in Dupo it was heading that way.

Dupo police officer Matt Jany said he looked at the object through binoculars.

"I have no idea what it was," Jany said Monday morning. "It was so far off in the distance...it was just dark."

Editor's note: Mark Raeber and Jason White contributed to this report.

Possible Extraterrestrial Activity Nothing New To Area

By Adam Roe

When a pair of area police officers claimed to have seen a UFO last week, Pete Bostrom wasn't really very surprised.

Bostrom, a resident of Troy who keeps up with extraterrestrial goings-on, explains that sightings really aren't all that uncommon. In fact, he claims that there have been several unexplained occurrences in this area.

"One thing about this is that you hear about bizarre sightings but it's really not very rare," Bostrom said. "These things happen continuously, all over the world."

Bostrom has been on the receiving end of some of those things. Six years ago one of his wheat fields had three perfect circles laid in the wheat. People have also claimed to see things hovering over his fields.

Bostrom also points to couple other cases in the area. A few years ago a cow was found in Edwardsville completely drained of its blood. A local dog also had a leg instantaneously severed. Luckily, its owners were able to get it to the veterinarian and the dog is now walking on three legs.

Bostrom believes there are two explanations for this. Either the government has technology so advanced that the general public could easily

mistake it for something else or there are actually aliens.

"If you study GM (General Motors) or any other technological industry, you'll find that they are decades ahead of everyone else," Bostrom explained. "Imagine how far advanced the government must be. They could be designing things that would make us wonder just what it is that our eyes are seeing. Of course, the other is also a possibility."

Regardless of whether last week's UFO is from another dimension or from our very own government, Bostrom clearly believes there is intelligent life beyond our universe.

"I was talking to a very prominent scientist from the Smithsonian the other day and he said he absolutely believes there are other worlds with intelligent life," Bostrom said.

Bostrom goes on to warn that people who are interested in the topic might want to think twice before going into in depth study.

"The average person has no idea where studying UFOs will go," he explained. "It'll take you places you don't want to go. It can get pretty creepy...I hope I never see a UFO. After everything I've learned I have no desire to ever see one."

UFO exhibit to visit NASA Space Center

ROSWELL — You can picture the headlines now: UFOs coming to Space Center.

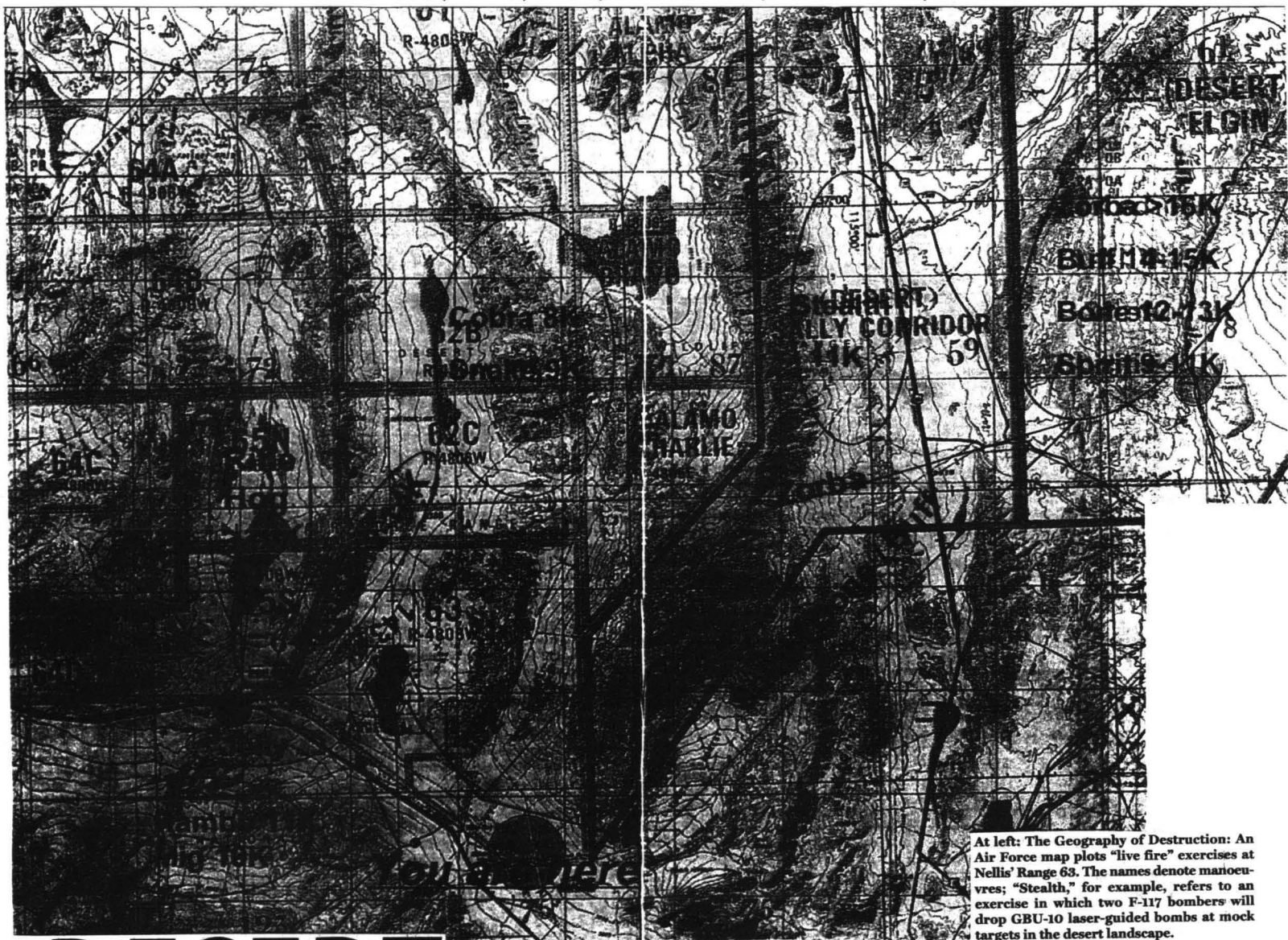
As, indeed, they are.

The UFO Festival, an event held each summer in this town whose name is synonymous with space aliens, is sending models and art to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston for a two-month exhibit, said Stacy Wolkwitz, UFO committee chairwoman.

Space Center representatives came to Roswell about a month ago, along with marketing experts, to look over potential items to be included in an exhibit on the impact of UFOs on popular culture, Wolkwitz said.

"They said it's the first time that NASA has ever given permission for them to display anything on UFOs or aliens," she said. "But they feel that it has so saturated pop culture and that it's so much a part of the movie and TV industry that they felt it was time they addressed it and showed how we view aliens as a culture."

The exhibit opens at the Space Center in March and ends in mid-May.



At left: The Geography of Destruction: An Air Force map plots "live fire" exercises at Nellis' Range 63. The names denote manoeuvres; "Stealth," for example, refers to an exercise in which two F-117 bombers will drop GBU-10 laser-guided bombs at mock targets in the desert landscape.

DESERT VISIONS

DEEP IN THE NEVADA DESERT, CLOAKED BY MOUNTAINS AND GUARDED BY A PHALANX OF SECURITY SENSORS, IS AMERICA'S TREASURE CHEST OF SECRETS, A MILITARY COMPLEX AS LARGE AS CONNECTICUT AND MYSTERIOUS AS SHANGRI-LA. WRITER TOM VANDERBILT TOURS THE EDGES OF THE PLACE THAT NOT ONLY CANNOT BE SEEN, BUT UNTIL RECENTLY WAS NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED TO EXIST

GROOM LAKE, NEV. • "I hope you didn't pay a lot for that vacation." The voice, megaphone-amplified and gently sardonic, crackled out across the sand and creosote from a high ridge 100 yards away, where a white Jeep Cherokee — the favourite choice of government security types — sat parked, its two occupants peering through binoculars at the group assembled below, who in turn looked back with their own binoculars.

Welcome to the "landscape of conjecture," the delicious phrase conceived by the Center for Land Use Interpretation, a Los Angeles-based group dedicated to, as the Center's archly dry literature states, the "increase and diffusion of knowledge of the nature and extent of human interaction with the earth's surface."

This particular phrase refers to the Nellis Range Complex, some 1,300,000 hectares — the size of Connecticut — of land in the Southern Nevada desert that for five decades has served as a proving ground for any number of hot and cold wars waged by the United States.

The place has its defined co-ordinates and physical features (it is, as the Air Force says, "almost a state of its own"), but it exists as much in the geography of the imagination as it does on any map, a secret landscape that compels those who view its perimeters to project their own fantasies on what might be occurring inside. It is a kind of Cold War theme park, a physical manifestation of that conflict's secrecy and paranoia, the endless watching by stalemated sentries across Checkpoint Charles and 38th parallels, wondering just what was happening on the other side.

The guards have a point. There is a certain latent absurdity in the fact that a group of rational adults has paid to take a tour of a place that not only cannot be seen, but until recently was not even acknowledged to exist. The tour has climaxed here, on this dusty desert tract that borders Groom Lake, a.k.a. Area 51, Dreamland or Paradise Ranch; the ground zero in the popular imagination about what governments can get up to behind closed doors — or, in this case, behind a cloak of rugged mountains, restricted airspace and a variety of near-invisible security sensors.

As the group shuffles legally about on Bureau of Land Management terrain, a few eventually summon the nerve to take photographs — mostly of the threatening-sounding sign that reads, prominently, "Photography Prohibited." Soon, the forbidden perimeter is at risk of turning into a Kodak Picture Spot, and to paraphrase Don DeLillo's *White Noise*, the "No Photography" sign is on the verge of becoming the world's most photographed "No Photography" sign. The guards remain in the shade of their Jeep, in tacit recognition of the obvious: that in fact there is nothing to photograph here, except the sign.

There is plenty to see at Nellis, however, if one knows where to look. For years, a ragtag assem-

blage of conspiracy theorists, aviation buffs, military enthusiasts, ufologists, and other obsessed souls would haul themselves up to an area such as "Freedom Ridge" (now off-limits) where they would look down on the arid plain at the scattering of anodyne buildings and runways — so distant as to be mere shapes — like C.I.A. analysts poring over grainy satellite photos.

Or, more importantly, they would look up, where on certain nights they would see shapes that corresponded to nothing in their planespotting portfolio. With night-vision goggles and blurry photographs they sketched the evolving contours of the F-119 "Stealth" Bomber, to the point where the Testor corporation — maker of beloved-by-boys plastic model planes and cars — was able to release an "F-19" Stealth at the same time Congress was denying such a thing existed.

This is an area where the sky is often filled with unusual things. Reading one dispatch in the *Pahrump Valley Gazette*, which serves a good portion of the area bordering the Nellis Range, I came across this line, rather startling in its matter-of-factness: "Residents of Pahrump and her surrounding communities are routinely blessed with unusual lights in the night sky from missile tests."

Not surprisingly, years of unannounced nocturnal emissions in Nellis' restricted airspace turned the area into a haven for the UFO community, and the planespotters suddenly had to contend with saucerspotters; the stretch of highway closest to Area 51, meanwhile, was renamed the "Extraterrestrial Highway," and the otherwise forlorn burgh of Rachel — a wind-blown grid of mobile homes — was drawing crowds to places like the "Little A'LeInn" and Glen Campbell's "Area 51 Research Center."

Now, however, most of the "Interceptors," as the Groom Lake denizens were called, have packed up and left, as have most of those with more otherworldly interests. Rumours have surfaced that Area 51 has moved, a victim of its own "secret publicity" or Pentagon cost-cutting. Or as author Phil Patton notes in his book *Dreamland*, perhaps there was simply no real estate left in Area 51: "We needed it empty to function as a container for speculation. You could fill it up with whatever you wanted. Or maybe we had all emptied it, squeezed out every bit of speculation, overtaxed that humble collection of Butler metal buildings and big hangars and military issue dorms, demanded too much meaning from it. Perhaps Dreamland was full now and could hold no more of our speculations or fantasies."

Indeed, with the Cold War concluded, the military is rather upfront — at least when it comes to technology that is already known to exist. On one bright morning, a small group of CLUI's anti-tourists drive to the southern end of Nellis' Range 63, past a small group

(continued on page 6)

of cinder-block buildings that bear labels like "Combat Arms School" and a sign that reads "Threat Condition Alpha."

We are here for a "live fire" demonstration, which the Air Force conducts several times a year for the benefit of top brass and other dignitaries. The atmosphere seems somewhere between a country fair and a high school football game: a set of aluminum bleachers looking out over the desert, white-haired ladies carrying lemonade and cookies, rock music pumping out of amplifiers.

Suddenly, a Jumbotron parked to the left fires into action with an Air Force promotional film. The tone is equally mawkish and hawkish, balancing comments about our children enjoying "blue skies and starry nights" and how, thanks to U.S. air superiority, "they'll never have to be afraid again," with a more brusque, business-like tone — language like "core competencies" and the "synergy generated by air and space assets" seems lifted from a stockholder's meeting. This is the new face of the Air Force: Just another multinational (albeit one whose favoured slogan is "lean, light and lethal") operating in a world without borders. One video uses the phrase "reach out and touch an enemy," as if it were referring to long-distance phone service.

As a narrator's voice sounds the requisite "ladies and gentlemen," the show begins: A thin, silvery B-2 bomber comes flying in low from the right. As it passes the bleacher's range of view, perhaps half a mile away, a small cluster of white dots emerge from just below its tail, like white Tic-Tacs spilling across the surface of a table. They drift through the air, falling further apart, hitting the ground with a flash of light and bushy brown smoke; seconds later, the bleachers are rattled by an enormous thump.

The show proceeds apace, with a variety of planes —

'RESIDENTS OF PAHRUMP AND HER SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES ARE ROUTINELY BLESSED WITH UNUSUAL LIGHTS IN THE NIGHT SKY FROM MISSILE TESTS'

some flown directly from bases in Texas and South Dakota, only to return directly after dropping their load — swooping in on imaginary targets and dropping 500-pound bombs, laser-guided missiles, cluster bombs and any variety of "no frag" ordinance. With a light speed-metal riff racing away on the amplifiers, the narrator continues in his military drone, blithely detailing seemingly cataclysmic explosions as the delivery of "a strike package to sanitize the area."

Watching the bulbous clouds of smoke rising from the ground, or seeing the white contrails of "Smoky Sams" sketched against the blue sky, I feel the narrator's voice taking on a sonorous, poetic cadence, as I let his terminology wash over me: "Austere runways." "Truly interactive battlespace picture." "Precision engagement." "Successful egress."



There is nothing secret in this — cars routinely pull off the road on I-95 to watch the pyrotechnics. Even so, this is only the perimeter of the range, and most of what is inside remains open to speculation. For the majority of cars driving past, the range is simply an abstraction of sheer inhabitability. With the guidance of CLUI director Matthew Coolidge, who sits in the front of the bus offering clichéd tour-bus observations of utterly un-tour-bus-like installations, one begins to discern subtle human markings. Occasionally, on high mountain ridges such as Tolicha Peak, one makes out small white structures. They sit like small castles defending feudal fiefdoms, a metaphor made appropriate by the fact that these almost invisible buildings are in fact the military architecture of the late 20th century: radomes, or radar installations designed to conduct any number of functions, ranging from tracking electronic warfare exercises to communications.

A typical radome looks like a soccer ball, with hexagonal panels stretched across a ball-like shape; it also recalls Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes. But rather than being model housing in a World's Fair they sit like ciphers on the horizon, maintaining boundaries that are naked to the eye but all too visible on the computer-graphics pictures that radars "paint," as the military likes to say.

For a place that matured during a conflict that has been called "the imaginary war," it is appropriate that much of what goes on inside the Nellis Range is simulated. This is most apparent at the Tonopah Electronic Combat Range, which CLUI describes as a "purely electronic landscape of video tracking stations, radar facilities, electronic threat emitters, electronic countermeasure facilities, and control and communication sites, all wired together through fiber optic links and microwave relays." As the bus passes through the gate of the Range, Mark Farmer (a.k.a. Agent X), an ex-military man turned defense journalist and sometime Interpreter, muses, "It's the spookiest thing — you can fight the battle without ever firing a shot. It's the greatest video game in the world."

As the bus completes a turn just inside the gate, the driver bottoms out on a roadside gully, the bus lodging on to the sand like a beached whale. We are stranded inside a restricted area. As we leave the bus,

the security guard, clearly unaccustomed to dealing with disoriented tourists, radios for help. Hours pass before a military truck arrives. We sit in the shade of vehicles, listening to Agent X spin stories of "Red Flag/Green Flag" air exercises and of the rich assortment of foreign military technology, either bought on the black market or captured outright, that lies over the blinding mountains. We watch a tarantula walk across the gravel. The guard tells one woman that while she is free to use the bathroom inside the guard's post, she cannot photograph the "Tonopah Electronic Combat Range" sign. Once again, photography is prohibited in this place where there is nothing to photograph.

Later that evening, we arrive in Tonopah, which as a carved wood sign outside the fire station announces, is "The Home of the Stealth." The government largesse associated with the Stealth is no longer trickling to Tonopah, as reflected in the number of shuttered shops and hotels lining its main strip. Nevada is filled with ghost towns that rose and foundered on the mercurial fortunes of mineshafts, while today's towns rely on the equally erratic post-Cold War defense budgets, with each desert war or treaty signing filtering back to these distant locales.

In one small-town newspaper, I am surprised to see the name of the Russian defense minister invoked, as if he were a local selectman being quoted on his property tax stance. This is a landscape where geopolitical realities leave a distinct mark, even if one has to look closely — as Agent X tells me, one can discern military goings-on in the area by studying the patches worn on caps outside the base. In Rachel, I am made aware of an even more invisible legacy the Cold War has left on what Reynier Banham called *America Deserta*: a mobile radiation monitoring installation, tucked just behind the gas station where, I am not surprised to see, the gas pumps feature faded and cracked paintings of a small saucer hovering over what could be Area 51.

National Post

Tom Vanderbilt is a contributing editor of I.D. Magazine and The Baffler, and is the author of The Sneaker Book (The New Press, 1998). He is currently in the process of writing a book on Cold War architecture

Lebanon Officer Witnesses UFO

By Sarah Derr

SUMMERFIELD - Many people throughout the years have reported seeing an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) in the sky at some point. Who would have thought that one would appear in the sky above Summerfield.

When Lebanon Officer Ed Barton was called to Summerfield to search the sky for an object the size of a two-story house with bright lights around it at 4:10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, he was somewhat skeptical. As he neared the point where Old Rt. 50 meets New Rt. 50, he saw this object up in the sky above him.

Barton quickly turned off his squad car and lights and anything else that made noise, and there was no interference from other cars on the road. He got out of his vehicle and watched the massive triangle hover over his head. The object was approximately 2,000 to 3,000 feet above his head and made no sound.

At first he watched it to find out if it was a military plane. Being overseas for 12 years taught him what military aircrafts normally look like. He came to the conclusion that the object that appeared to have two lights together

at what he perceived to be the rear was not an airplane that he had ever seen.

At this point, he radioed for CenCom to inform the dispatcher that he had located the object. While on his radio, the object appeared to change from having two lights to one light in the rear. He knew then that he didn't know what this thing was. The object was floating above the bridge on the East end of Lebanon outside of city limits. It then appeared to turn from a triangular ball into an "elongated cigar shape," and pointed itself toward Summerfield, Barton said.

The object moved steadily towards the officer and he was able to get a view from the bottom. According to Barton, the object was "darker than the sky and blotted out the stars above it...it made absolutely no noise." The view from the bottom showed three intensely bright lights causing him to squint his eyes and one red blinking light slightly in front of the two at the back.

Barton again got on his radio to find out if Scott Air Force Base had picked up anything on their radar only to be told that nothing had appeared.

In less than three seconds

the object performed a flat turn as if rotating, and shot through the sky to the southeast end of Shiloh. Barton got on his radio for the third time to tell the dispatcher to have officers at Shiloh look at the sky above them.

When the object turned away from Barton, he said the only way he could think to describe the view was using a reference to the first Star Wars movie. "It looked like the Millennium Falcon, slightly concaved in the middle of the rear," Barton said.

There was a bright white light running lengthwise across the back with a string of multicolored lights in the middle. According to Barton, "The lights were all blurred together, I couldn't tell where the border between each light was."

"I went to work on Tuesday at eight and didn't sleep until Friday. I didn't have any strange feelings, I was in awe," Barton said in reference to the incident he had witnessed.

Barton didn't want to say one way or the other whether it was aliens or something else, just that "it was unidentified, it was flying and it was an object."

This same object was

sighted in Highland, and other officers in Shiloh, Millstadt and Dupo around the same time on Wednesday morning.

There are many different people interested in the subject of UFOs or other unusual phenomena. According to the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), thousands of people in the United States witness UFOs and the like every year and most of them don't report it for fear of criticism or not being taken seriously.

NIDS consists of a full time staff of retired law enforcement investigators and Ph.D. level scientists with the capabilities to investigate anomalous phenomena using the best police methods and scientific laboratory testing in the country.

NIDS encourages people to report any unusual activity in their communities from UFOs to other "paranormal" phenomena to their organization by calling 702-798-1700. You can also use e-mail, nids@anv.net, or visit their web site at <http://www.accessnv.com/nids> for more information on the paranormal phenomena and a questionnaire about the like.

UFO Sightings

The awakening that life is from space

DNA MOLECULES MAY BE FROM SPACE

Francis Crick won the Nobel Prize for helping to discover 'the structure of DNA,' the master molecule of life. He now believes the 'origin of life' was from space. He and Leslie Orgel of the Salk Institute may have also discovered the 'origin of all life' on Earth. The two scientists theorize life came from a distant planet, and was brought here aboard an ancient space ship or meteorite. Their theory is called "Directed Panspermia" and it may explain how life arose spontaneously on Earth. The scientists point out virtually all terrestrial life on Earth is based on a single type of genetic code. If creatures sprang to life in some great "primeval soup," as many biologists believe, it is surprising organisms with many different kinds of genetic codes do not exist. Crick and Orgel feel a single code seems to be entirely compatible with the theory all life descended from a single instance of 'Directed Panspermia.' It is likely the building blocks of DNA could have formed in space providing a starter kit of genetic material for life to evolve rapidly on Earth.

The Darwinian theory has shown there is change within a species, but it has been difficult to find much evidence the various species slowly evolved from primitive life forms to eventually become Homo sapiens. There is obviously also the problem of how inanimate objects became alive. Crick and Orgel, who have studied the building blocks of life, note the element molybdenum plays a key role in many enzymatic reactions

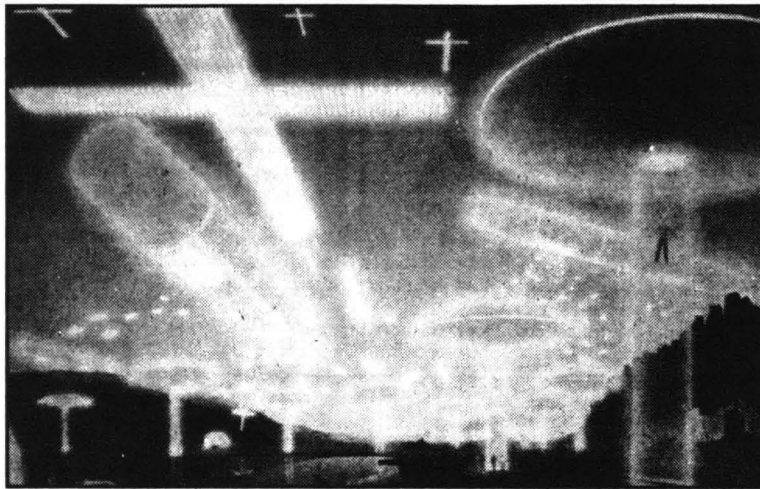


Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org

that are important to life. Molybdenum is a very rare element on earth and seems unlikely to be part of a system that developed by chance here on Earth. The human DNA code is amazingly complex and is still being unraveled with some of the most powerful computers in the world working for years on the problem. It appears fairly obvious life is likely to have developed first on another planet where molybdenum was plentiful. Molybdenum, a lustrous brittle silver white metallic chemical element, is used in alloys and points for spark plugs. The Atomic number is forty-two and its symbol is MO. So even Nobel Prize winners are looking to space for the spark of life.

FLU VIRUS MAY BE FROM SPACE

New studies indicate even the flu virus may come from outer space.

Additionally, the flu virus may have worse in store for us, according

to scientists who claim to have discovered an alarming explanation for the epidemic. Dismissing as dogma the conventional medical wisdom that flu is a virus passed by human contact, the distinguished astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle, and his colleague at Cardiff University, Chandra Wickramasinghe, warn we may be on the brink of a global epidemic. In a report to be published in the journal "Current Science," they claim the outbreak was caused by dust deposited high in the atmosphere by passing comets being forced down to earth by energy generated by cooler patches on the sun's surface, known as sunspots. They reach the peak of their activity, the maximum, every eleven years, coinciding, the scientists say, with all major flu outbreaks since 1761, including the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic blamed for twenty million deaths worldwide. The latest cycle

began to peak in September, and its peak is due sometime this year. Thanks to Stuart Millar. http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/Distribution/Redirect_Artifact/0,4678,0-12,4154,00.html.

NEW JERSEY DIGITAL PHOTO OF UFO

JACKSON - Michael Rogalski writes, "Last week's article about seeing a UFO on digital camera images taken at Great Adventure theme park may be significant." This could be a meaningful UFO sighting technique at hand.

With the new digital cameras people are starting to use, there may be magnetic, thermal, or infrared influences in band widths that only video or still camera sensors are able to see. They may show up when people do not know they've taken a picture of a UFO. It is not a secret some of the "night vision" camcorders companies are simply removing their infrared filter from in front of the standard solid state image sensors. They have always been sensitive to infrared, and it had to be filtered out. You can take a camera, remove the filter, blow out a match in the dark, and still videotape it's thermal signature. I just thought you'd like to know about this, and add it to your book of tricks in analyzing sightings. This could change the level of validation on some of these pictures. NOT seeing it, and taking a picture of it, could lend credibility to a sighting, especially when subjects do not know UFOs can be photographed under these conditions.

Thanks to: Mike Rogalski rdrdisco@worldnet.att.net.

To be continued next week

SUN, Las Vegas, NV - Jan. 24, 2000

Probe of UFO continues in Illinois

By Kim Smith

LAS VEGAS SUN

The mystery of the "floating house" remains.

It's been more than two weeks since four Illinois police officers and a miniature-golf course owner saw an unidentified flying object in the skies over western Illinois, and still no answers have been found.

"We still have no idea who flew it. We don't know if it was a military plane or if it was something else," said Colm Kelleher, deputy administrator for the National Institute for Discovery Science. "But the investigation is ongoing."

The National Institute for Discovery Science is a Las Vegas-based research organization founded in 1995 by hotel magnate Robert Bigelow, who was interested in having UFO sightings and cow mutilations investigated by scientists.

Two members of the organization, which is made up of doctorate-level scientists and retired law enforcement professionals, spent five days in Illinois in the hopes of identifying the object.

Witnesses' statements compiled by the investigators and the flight path of the object have been posted on the organization's website (www.accessnv.com/nids).

One of the witnesses, who has not been identified by the organization, told investigators he saw an object like a "floating house" with very bright internal lights flying at a low altitude about 4 a.m. Jan. 5.

Shortly thereafter, a handful of police officers also reported seeing the object, which generated little, if any, noise. The officers all said the object hovered between 500 and 1,000 feet off the ground and eventually took off at a high rate of speed.

Kelleher said investigators are impressed with the quality of the witnesses they've interviewed and thanks to a huge amount of media interest, an additional 10 or so witnesses have come forward.

What's interesting, Kelleher said, is that some of them have reported seeing UFOs in the same area after the Jan. 5 incident. Some said they saw something as recently as Jan. 14.

"Now we have to distinguish between the people saying 'Me too!' the copy cat syndrome, and genuine sightings," Kelleher said. "It's going to take some time."

Another trip to Illinois by investigators has not been ruled out, Kelleher said.

Officials at Scott Air Force Base, which appeared to be in the flight path of the UFO, have said no one at the base saw the object, Kelleher said. They also said no rare or unusual aircraft fly out of the base.

Kelleher said as more information becomes available it will be posted on the organization's website.

What could it have been? Unidentified object invades area skies

By Sherry Kirk
PROGRESS STAFF WRITER

A few hours before dawn on Wednesday, Jan. 5, a local truck driver was returning home after work.

Little did he know that what he was about to see on that clear, cold, and still morning would become the topic of conversation in households, police departments and media reports throughout the metro area for days to come.

Melvorn Noll, a Highland resident and part-time truck driver for G & S Truck Services based in Pocahontas 10 miles east of Highland, was returning after delivering dry goods to Bloomington.

His 15-minutes of fame began by chance. He glanced up at the night sky after stopping to check on his miniature golf course business called Funland on the north side of Highland.

"There was no traffic that morning and it was very quiet," he said. "I thought I saw a star, but it was moving northeast to southeast toward Highland."

It was 4 a.m. when the object slowly hovered above the trees about 500 to 700 feet from the ground. Noll said it was almost as if "the object had slowed down to take a look at me."

Noll described the object as large as a football field with red and white lights that looked like a house with a series of three

sections almost like windows.

He watched it for about five minutes as it slowly moved in the direction of Lebanon. He just stood there looking into the sky for a few moments trying to take in what it had just seen.

"Nobody is going to believe me," he said to himself.

He decided to ask the Highland Police Department if they had seen a strange looking object in the sky.

At Noll's request, police dispatcher Nancy Edwards called the Lebanon police department to see if any of their officers spotted the object.

"At 4:23 a.m. they received a call from a St. Clair County Sheriff's Department officer who had spotted the object over Summerfield and checked with Scott AFB officials to see if it was one of their aircraft," said Highland Police Chief Mike King.

Within the next 20 to 30 minutes, Lebanon police officer Ed Barton, Shiloh officer Dave Martin, Millstadt officer Craig Stevens and Dupu officer Matt Jany all reported seeing the object. By 4:30 a.m. Jany was the last to see the object slowly fade out of sight.

All reported that the object was large with bright lights. Some saw white, red and blue lights. Others thought it was made of metal.

No phone calls were received from

O'Fallon residents and none of the officers on patrol that morning reported seeing the UFO said Police Chief Don Slazinik.

"The first thing that came to my mind when I later heard about the incident was the huge C-5 aircraft that land at Scott," he said. "During the daytime they look like they're standing still as they approach the base."

An avid sailor, Slazinik said he was not a "big believer" in UFOs but has always been fascinated by stories about the Bermuda Triangle. He has sailed in Bermuda several times and enjoys reading books or hearing tales on the subject.

Scott Air Force Base did not receive any official calls regarding the UFO sighting in the installation area said Col. Allan Dahncke, 375th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Director.

"The Air Force no longer investigates UFOs," he said. "There is no agency, office or people to follow up on sightings Air Force-wide or at Scott."

The base has received no reports or calls from military or civilians who live or work on Scott. None of the base's 24-hour agencies, the Security Police, medical personnel, fire department or emergency services reported seeing the object that evening, he said.

The base runway and control tower are not 24-hour-a-day facilities. The base also

has no radar but relies on the FAA radar approach system at Lambert International Airport.

"The tower was closed at the time of the sighting and no aircraft were in the air," said Dahncke.

Later that morning, Scott began receiving calls from the media soliciting information about the UFO sighting.

Lambert Airport reported that the object did not appear on its radar.

One of the area officers called the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) based in Las Vegas, NV to report the sighting.

Working out of a Fairview Heights hotel, Both John Velier, a NIDS investigator, and NIDS deputy director Colm Kelleher worked 12 hours-a-day, interviewing, photographing and gathering drawings and descriptions from a dozen eye witnesses.

Velier, who retired from the FBI in 1994, and Kelleher arrived Friday evening and left Tuesday gathering initial incident information.

"I would love to have a good photo of the object," said Velier, referring to a blurry Polaroid image that the Millstadt officer took but did not develop well because of the cold weather. "But, we have confirmed that something was there because of the number of credible people who saw it."

Velier said his organization didn't come

to convince anybody about the existence of extraterrestrial life.

"NIDS is not a typical UFO-buff organization," he said. "I'm not here to prove or disprove the existence of extraterrestrial life. I'm here to gather facts through a scientific approach. I could care less if the object was a civilian or military aircraft or something alien."

NIDS has on staff, seven full-time scientists, four investigators and has numerous contracts with laboratories throughout the country to analyze objects and data. In existence for more than three years, NIDS is funded by a multi-millionaire hotel developer in Las Vegas with interest in aerial phenomena.

For more information on NIDS or to report a UFO sighting write: 1515 E. Tropicana, Suite 400, Las Vegas, NV 89119 or call 702-798-1700 or fax 702-798-1970 or e-mail at nids@anv.net. The NIDS homepage is at www.accessnv.com/nids.

Noll said he was not one to have ever wished to see a UFO or believed in the existence of extraterrestrial but on occasion listens to the syndicated radio talk show host Art Bell to keep him company during his over night runs driving the 18-wheeler.

"I remember hearing Art talk about unidentified flying objects but never gave it a thought that I might actually see one someday," he said.

PRESS TELEGRAPH, Long Beach, CA
Jan. 4, 2000

Possible meteor lights up skies

Southland: Green streak in night sky reported Sunday throughout area.

From staff and wire reports

A bright green light streaked across the Southern California sky late Sunday, startling residents and pilots.

The light likely a meteor, was seen about 9:30 p.m. and prompted dozens of calls to the Federal Aviation Administration's regional office in Los Angeles.

"Evidently something really fantastic must have happened out

there," said FAA spokeswoman Diana Jouberty.

James and Becky Horsage returned to their Rens Street home in Bellflower to find "black goop" had splattered the roof and driveway. No meteor culprit here, however. It was likely an expended bottle rocket found on their roof, Bellflower Public Safety Director Lee Mingle said.

"There was one big piece as large as a softball," James Horsage said. It was the large piece that hit the edge of the roof, pulling the rain gutter away from the roof line and bending the steel rods that held the

gutter in place. Mingle suspected the bottle rocket as well.

Still, the meteor sighting sparked more than a little interest in the Southland. The FAA received calls about the lights from as far south as San Diego and Lake Elsinore. Calls also came in from Downey and Woodland Hills, in the San Fernando Valley.

"It's interesting. The people in L.A. say the lights look like they are overhead. In San Diego, they say it looks right over their head," Jouberty said.

No problems were reported with any aircraft. Pilots called in to

controllers to report the bright flash, but nothing showed up on radar.

Officials at Griffith Observatory said the spectacular streak was likely a fireball, or bright meteor.

"All we can do is tell you what we heard," said Troy Powers, a museum guide. He said nobody at the historic observatory saw the light, but people called in to report what sounded like a fireball.

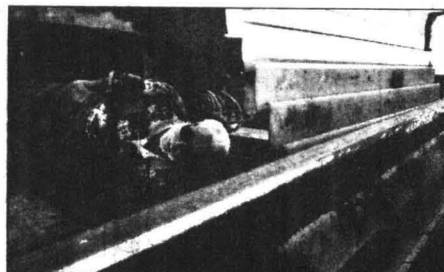
Elaine Hulsey of Sylmar witnessed the spectacle.

"We were just sitting here watching television, glanced out the front window and it was a bluish-greenish streak. It was mov-

ing much slower than a shooting star and much lower," she said. The light appeared to break into two or three pieces after coming down slowly in an arc, she said.

"I actually went out front to see if I was going to hear a crash somewhere, and there was nothing. It just disappeared," Hulsey said.

Officials at both Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc and Camp Pendleton north of Oceanside said they had not received calls about the light and were not aware of any military operations that might have caused the bright streak.



James Horsage's Bellflower home was hit by "black goop," Stephen Carr / Press-Telegram

• No explanation found for what people saw

By MARSHALL YARP
Staff Writer

STAR DEMOCRAT, Easton, MD Dec. 8, 1999 CR: R. Swiatek UFO is reported over Preston

PRESTON — Early Tuesday morning around 6 a.m., Kathy Dink, a Federalsburg woman, was delivering Christmas trees and wreaths when she saw what she described to be a "bright, blue flame that looked like a missile or a rocket."

Dink was about one mile from her house, driving toward Preston, when out of the corner of her eye she spotted what she described as "a bright blue flame falling in the dark sky."

At the same time, Dink said, she also spotted another light, in the shape of a missile or tube and 20 to 30 feet in length. She said she saw the flame and the missile-shaped object moving in different directions — the flame was headed toward her while the missile-shaped object was headed directly for Preston Ford.

"The blue flame seemed to hit the rocket," Dink said. "If the blue flame hadn't hit the rocket, it looked like it would hit me."

Dink didn't hear any noise from the rocket but the windows of her vehicle were rolled up.

No reports of any kind have been reported following the incident but Dink was not the only person to see an unusual light in the sky Tuesday morning.

Jim Henderson of Princess Anne was hunting when he saw something similar to what Kathy Dink saw.

Henderson said, "I was facing away from it, but I turned toward the west and saw what looked like a comet tail, with colors of yellow and orange. It was beautiful."

Worried that he might have seen a plane crashing, Henderson called the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

Dink said that several people at a Preston convenience store where she went later in the morning also claimed to have seen the same thing.

When asked what she thought the lights might be, she said, "I was afraid it was a missile, especially with what's been going on in the news with Cuba and the 6-year-old boy," referring to Fidel Castro's campaign to have Elian Gonzalez returned to his father in Cuba.

Dink said she was frightened by the incident. She had to return home to repair one of the wreaths she was delivering because she had nervously twisted it out of shape.

No one from the public Affairs office at Patuxent River Naval Air Station or the NASA Wallops Flight Facility could explain what Dink might have seen, nor could they confirm the existence of any aircraft in the area around the time the blue flame was sighted.

Maj. Mike Birmingham, spokesman for NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) and U.S. Space Command, said whatever it was that motorists saw early Tuesday morning, "it was not one of the nearly 9,000 objects tracked by the Cheyenne Mountain Operation Center in Colorado."

The center tracks all man-made objects in the sky, even those as small as a softball. Birmingham, who hails from Baltimore and was a frequent visitor to Salisbury State University when his wife went to school there, said he was familiar with the Eastern Shore and with the location of the reported sighting. But he could offer no explanation for the incident.

When asked if it could have been something another country launched, Birmingham said, "We're rarely surprised on launches world wide."

Birmingham said the job of NORAD and U.S. Space Command is to track what's returning to the Earth's atmosphere, primarily for the purposes of protection. He said anything returning to the atmosphere at 17,000 miles per hour would likely explode.

When asked what he thought it might have been, Birmingham responded, "I don't know."

UFO Sightings

The awakening that life is from space

From the hip

By Kevin Henseler

Kevin is co-publisher of the
Crofton Journal and Niobrara Tribune



Do you believe there are space travelers? Do you think beings from other planets or solar systems have passed through our galaxy or perhaps have visited Earth? Have you seen a UFO?

Now that's a question folks do one of two things with: (1) they answer in great detail and precise imagery, or (2) they clam up, never saying a word about sightings they may have witnessed.

According to the National Institute for Discovery Science, "thousands of people in the United States witness UFOs and other unusual phenomena every year."

"Many people do not wish to report their experiences because they worry they will not be taken seriously. Well, the NIDS wants to hear about what you've seen in the sky (or on the ground, for that matter). The NIDS wants people who have seen strange phenomena to give them a call and report what they've seen. They are particularly interested in UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

They also want you to report sightings that you've heard about. They'll investigate them, but someone needs to pass the information along to them.

So if you've seen a UFO or some other kind of unexplainable sighting, call the NIDS at 702-798-1700, or email them at their web address nids@anv.net. You can even visit their Internet site at www.accessny.com/nids.

The news release from NIDS hit home for me, and prompted some childhood memories to come flooding into my minds.

As children, we used to lie out in the backyard, or later on when we lived at the lake, on the deck of our home, and stare into the starry sky -- waiting for something to create the blackness.

Looking for "movers."

Often we were rewarded with a flurry of falling stars, "shooters" as we called them. Sometimes we'd see an object moving across the sky that defied the description of an airplane. Usually they were satellites, but sometimes, they simply defied logic.

The "movers" that created the biggest stir, and brought out all kinds of observations concerning space travel and life on other planets, were the ones that started across the night sky in one direction, and then switched directions. Not just a gradual, wide curve, such as a turn an airplane might make, but a sharp turn.

Sometimes they even stopped! And you wanna talk about wide-eyed watchers -- if one of those "movers" stopped dead in its tracks, and then retreated in the direction from which it came.

It didn't count if no one else saw your phenomenon, double witnesses were a must. So if you saw a "mover," you quickly pointed it

HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA CASE INVESTIGATION

David Nelson saw the car in front of him weave on and off the road, and realized the driver was looking at a V shaped UFO hovering five hundred yards ahead of him. It was hovering one hundred feet above a pond on the south side of Temple Avenue on November 2, 1993. The bottom of the object was a dull aluminum color with five circular, fluorescent green lights. The sides were gray-black and appeared to be about ten feet thick. He estimated its size to be seventy-five feet from wing tip to wing tip. When he was almost beneath the UFO, it tilted its sharp nose up at a forty-five degree angle and shot almost straight up and was out of sight in a second. It left a puff of dark gray smoke. The case was reported to the Colonial Heights Police and the Hopewell News. They covered the original story and a follow up story that brought in more reports. The police noted there had been a similar sighting a week earlier. Thanks to investigators Mark Blashak and VA State Director Ricardo Atristain.

FLORIDA UFO SIGHTINGS JANUARY 15th and 21st

MELROSE - Tonda Nooney writes, "On January 15, 2000, my husband and I were having dinner on our deck. The night was clear and my husband noticed what he thought at first was a plane at 7:00 p.m. The object did not move closer or depart during the next fifteen minutes. It hovered above the pine trees with red, blue, yellow, green and white lights. When he pointed the UFO out to me, I went inside and got our camcorder. When I started filming the object I had trouble at first focusing it in. I had to focus 50x to get the image. On camera, the object appears round in shape, darting all around in and out of the viewing area. During the

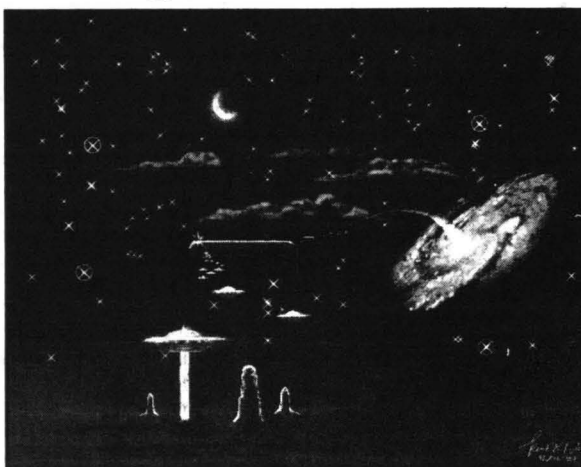


Photo Source www.au.sprintweb.org

next three minutes of filming, the object changed size five or six times. The colors that were very clear to the naked eye are like sparkling diamonds on film. When you looked with the naked eye, the object appeared to be stationary. I became nervous at one point, and decided I had enough on film and went inside the house.

During the next hour, we observed the UFO from our dining room window. It moved approximately two hundred yards from the original position above treetop level east of our porch. When we looked for the last time, the object had departed. The UFO was about three hundred feet in diameter, but I'm terrible with measurements. This is the first time we have seen something this strange this close. Thanks to Tonda Nooney. Editor's Note: I asked the family to watch each night about the same time to make and to determine if because sometimes the UFOs will return to the

same area. We also wanted to make sure they were not observing a celestial object such as Venus.

Tonda wrote again, "We have been watching every night since the 15th and nothing appeared until January 21, 2000. The same object returned again around 7:00 p.m. This time there were two more objects just like it, but these seemed smaller and further to the east. I also have these UFOs on film, along with the original object including a shot of the full moon for size comparison. Thanks to Tonda Nooney. Bland Pugh, the Florida State Director, indicates MUFON is investigating the sightings.

ALABAMA

JASPER -- I just read a small article on the sightings web page where you reported a bright object streak across the sky from south to north in Alabama on January 7, 2000. I just wanted to let you know my husband and I saw it too near Jasper. It was a very bright object

moving fast, sort of like a meteor. But we both thought it looked strange, and we were pretty excited about it. I'm glad we weren't the only ones to see it. Thanks to Jenny Butterworth.

ARGENTINA UFO SPAWNS A TORNADO

PUERTO BELGRANO NAVY BASE - On January 18, 2000, a retired sailor Marcos Herminio Faini saw a shiny object at an estimated altitude of 2,000 meters (6,600 feet) and simultaneously the presence of a powerful whirlwind on the ground surface below. The weather station Commandante at Espora Air Base stated atmospheric conditions at the time were not conducive to the formation of tornadoes. The sailor said, "I can tell you after spending half my life at sea, I have seen something very special which I believe to be of scientific value." Faini took a bus at 12:45 p.m. from Mitre, and was startled by a whirlwind on the ground above the future Fleet Junior Officers School now being built. "The whirlwind was concentric and wasn't moving. Completely out of the ordinary." He stated, "When I usually tried to locate the column of dust, I noticed a glowing object stationary in the southeast."

I showed it to the sergeant in charge of the base hospital's military command. "It's a flying saucer," he replied laconically, and the other passengers stared at it as well. More curiosity seekers joined the group.

The object showed some slight movement, always in the same direction." (See the La Nueva Provincia newspaper 1/19/00). Thanks to Scott Corrales, author of Chupacabras and UFO Roundup Vol 5, #4, 1/27/00. Editor: Joseph Trainor.

To be continued next week

REPUBLIC-TIMES, Waterloo, IL - Jan. 12, 2000

The truth is out there somewhere

By Wally Spiers
For The Republic-Times

See anything strange in the sky Wednesday, Jan. 5, between 4 and 4:35 a.m.?

Then the National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas would like to talk to you.

So much so that the institute has sent two investigators to the area to seek witnesses to an apparent UFO appearance in the metro-east.

Colm Kelleher, deputy administrator of the institute, said he is excited by a sighting confirmed by so many dependable witnesses and wants more information.

"If so many people in different

police departments saw this thing a 4 a.m., there must be somebody in the public who saw it," he said.

If you would like to report your sighting, call the institute at 702-798-1700. They would love to talk to you. Kelleher said the sighting was one of many across the country in the last few weeks.

"The description seems to revolve around a pretty long object, flying low, almost silently, hovering and then moving pretty quickly with bright lights and certainly no attempt at stealth," he said.

The object was spotted first near Highland, then seen by a Lebanon Police Officer and a Shiloh Police Officer before Mill-

stadt Police Officer Craig Stevens took a picture of it. Dupo Police also reported spotting the UFO.

"With the quality of the eye witnesses and its fairly close occurrence, there probably was something real flying there," Kelleher said.

The institute, which has been in existence about four years, hires mainstream scientists and ex-police officers to investigate as many sightings as possible.

"We figure about 80 to 90 percent of the calls we get (200-300 in the last four months), we can usually track down with phone calls. They usually involve some kind of explainable phenomenon," Kelle-

her said. "About 10 percent that we are much more interested in involve multiple eye witnesses. We will send people to the location."

Officials at Scott Air Force Base claim to know nothing of the incident. A spokesman at Scott said all their calls have been from media outlets and he refers them to the people who actually saw it.

The base control tower was shut down at that time and any investigations would be by the Federal Aviation Administration. An FAA spokesman said he knew of no investigations of the sighting.

out. With the millions of stars that were shining across the wide expanse of night, it wasn't always easy to specify directions.

"There's one!"

"Where?"

"See that big star just off the Big Dipper?"

"Yeah."

"Go about two inches left of it, right there, next to that red star."

"Which red star?"

"There! Right off the Big Dipper! Can't you see it?"

"No."

"Look! Look! You can't miss it. Now its passing by that cluster of stars and going through the Dipper's handle."

"Which Dipper, big or little."

"Oh the big one you dummy!"

(Things got intense occasionally, especially if nobody could find your mover.)

"Okay, okay. Where is it now?"

"Wait! It stopped. Yes, yes, it really stopped!"

"Where is it now?"

"It's right where I told you before; only now it's standing still. It looks like another star. I think it's blue."

"I can't find it."

Oh geez, you must be blind. It's right there by the Big Dipper's handle. Out by the end of the handle. It's right there, and it's -- now wait, it's not blue, it's green. No, that's the star next to it. It's blue -- I think."

"Sorry, can't find it. Must not be a real mover."

"Hey it's real all right. Just cuz yer so blind you can't find it right in front of your nose!"

"Wait, I see it!"

"You do?"

"Yeah. It's moving again."

"It is? Where?"

"Right where you said it was."

"Are you sure, I can't find it."

"Yes, yes -- it's right there. Wait! Now it's moving past the handle and going left."

"Okay, okay, I got it. Yeah, that's the one I saw. See, I told you it was orange."

And on it would go late into a lazy summer night. My brothers

and I, sometimes with neighborhood friends (we all believed there were space travelers), and even my parents would lie on our backs, watching the sky, waiting and hoping something would "move" through the star-kissed black.

There are "movers" out there; I believe it. You just have to watch the sky.

Seeing is not always believing

Most folks are amused when reading about the latest sighting of an unidentified flying object.

Perhaps it's because we're usually mugged by the UFO stories while standing in line waiting to pay for groceries. Yet we tend to appreciate a little flight of fancy pitched by the tabloids before receiving the sobering grocery bill big enough to pay for a space shuttle mission.

"Aliens or Air Force?" asked one recent front page headline, then added, "Illinois UFO Stumps 'em."

"Cops in 4 towns describe same flying arrowhead," a sub-head added.

But this was no screaming tabloid. Nope, it was a wire story in the staid Mail Tribune referring to an unknown aircraft seen flying at 4 a.m. Jan. 5 in southwestern Illinois.

It seems the thing had a triangular shape, was two stories high and was as long as a football field. Lights could be seen on its belly and rear.

Moving slowly, it floated along about 1,000 feet overhead, emitted a low-level buzz and followed a southwesterly course for about 20 minutes, witnesses said.

A spokesman for the nearby Scott Air Force Base was clueless. And the Federal Aviation Administration, noting that air traffic controllers detected nothing unusual that night, didn't have the foggiest.

Yep, the buzzing UFO has UFO buffs all abuzz.

But Ashland resident Dean Ing is dubious. Of course, he is no UFO buff looking for little green men — or women — in unidentified flying objects.

What he is, in addition to being an internationally known novelist who has made the New York Times best-seller list, is a recognized authority on aeronautics and space technology.

The 68-year-old engineer turned techno-thriller author figures the answer may be terrestrial, not extraterrestrial.

"It might be the government's attempt to build a delta dirigible, say something about 300 feet long," he muses. "If that's the case, it would not have been a private affair since they would be all too happy to have press coverage. The government would not."

The science fiction writer has solid credentials to analyze such reports: A former research engineer at Lockheed, he served on the the Citizens' Advisory Council on National Space Policy during the Reagan administration. Another member of the prestigious panel was a fellow named Buzz Aldrin.

Many of Ing's nearly two dozen books have focused on futuristic aircraft technology.

For instance, "The Big Lifters" included delta dirigibles used to haul freight more cheaply and efficiently than big rigs rolling on the interstate.

In "The Nemesis Mission," an aircraft dubbed Nemesis flies in the thin atmosphere 12 miles aloft, driven by an electric engine powered by a large photovoltaic solar cell.

Paul Fattig



Off the Beaten Path

Of course, each aircraft encountered plenty of manmade turbulence in the thrillers.

His interest in flying craft was launched in his childhood.

"When I was about 5 I saw the Graf Zeppelin in Austin," he says of the famous German airship that visited the United States in the late 1930s. "I remember hearing this droning sound, and seeing this big silver gray cigar about three football fields long."

"When energy becomes a real problem in the future, these lighter-than-air craft will become more important," he adds. "I think they will be part of our future."

Or our present, if the recent sighting carries any weight.

Yet Ing is skeptical, despite the uniformed witnesses.

"Being an expert witness on some skull thumper running down an alley is a lot different than seeing something in the sky at night," he says. "At night, you will have a lot of difficulty getting a line of reference on which to judge size and speed."

It's likely it was just a couple of bright college kids playing a hoax, he concludes, noting that illuminated gas, clear plastic bags and a timer would do the trick.

Meanwhile, Ing, whose next novel to be released this fall will include advanced flying machines, likes to build aircraft as well as write. He's working on an unmanned aircraft that will be powered by an electric engine.

"It won't buzz, but it does have a soft whirring sound," he says. "It'll be at least another month before it's finished."

If the tabloids get wind of it, we earthlings waiting in the grocery line will be the first to know when it takes flight.

Call Paul Fattig at 776-4496, or e-mail him at pfattig@mailtribune.com

WORLD-HERALD, Omaha, NE - Feb. 15, 2000 CR: J. Buder



Michael Kelly

Prof: UFOs 'Out There'

The latest flurry of UFO sightings has occurred in China, but in recent years some Omahans, too, think they have seen something.

One couple, prominent members of the business community, got in their car to leave home for dinner. They say they saw a saucer hovering 100 feet above their house for three or four minutes, and then it flew away.

Another man and woman drove at night on "a remote area of the Interstate" in Omaha when, they say, a flying saucer hovered over the four lanes of highway. The couple looked up in awe, and then it was gone.

They continued driving, looked at their watches — and were shocked to see that it was an hour and a half later. They had lost 90 minutes.

Under hypnosis in the office of John C. "Jack" Kasher, the woman described being taken into the saucer and seeing people four feet tall with large heads, wraparound eyes and four fingers on each hand. She recounted in a hypnotic state that they told her telepathically: "You will not remember this."

Kasher teaches physics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which has honored him as a distinguished professor and with an "excellence in teaching" award. He gave the above examples, and says about 60 people in the Omaha area who believe they have been abducted by aliens hold support-group meetings.

Kasher knows that many people dismiss UFO sightings. No matter.

"The question is not whether they're out there," he said last week at the Omaha Press Club. "The question is have they gotten here yet."

Flaming Tail

Kasher, who believes they have, spoke to about 40 people at a luncheon. He showed photographic slides taken in various countries depicting saucerlike objects in the sky.

Among UFOlogists, he said, the sightings in China are a big deal.

Just before the year 2000 began, numerous sightings were reported. On Dec. 2 in Shanghai, people spotted a shining cylinder with a flaming orange tail. Other reports that month came from 12 other cities.

Some sightings since have been identified as cargo planes or surveillance balloons. But the normally conservative official news media in China have lavished attention on UFO news.

Sun Shili, a retired Foreign Ministry official who heads the Beijing UFO Research Society, told the New York Times: "In

the U.S., scholars investigating this are under pressure and have been derided. But in China, the academic discussion is quite free, so in this area American academics are quite jealous of us."

Sun says he has a gut feeling that "aliens are living among us disguised as humans."

Hmmm. Look around. Count colleagues' fingers, and see if anyone comes up short. Really, haven't you always suspected the little guy in the supply room, or the woman in your information-technology office?

Intelligent Life

Kasher, who speaks frequently on UFOs, brings a scientists' skepticism to his research. But the universe is so incredibly immense, he said, that it's unlikely our planet is the only one on which intelligent life has evolved.

Russian military officials, he said, have reported that planes chased UFOs and even tried to shoot them down, but never could catch them.

In America, Kasher said, the government maintains secret files. A court case involving requests for files, he said, resulted in judges at two levels ruling that releasing the information would be detrimental to the national security.

"There is a cover-up," Kasher said, "believe me."

The subject is good "X Files" material, and Kasher always gives an interesting lecture. (His talk at the Press Club was recorded and will be broadcast Monday at noon on KIOS, 91.5 FM, in Omaha.)

UFOs often are reported to show startling maneuverability unknown to earth-based aircraft. Kasher explains that by saying their science is simply far ahead of ours.

If they're that good, and if they're really "out there," are we in danger of attack? On that point, Kasher said he's an optimist.

"If they wanted to take over the Earth," he said, "they would have done it by this time."



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Apostle of the UFOs

Fredericton
UFOlogist thinks
the alien presence
'is the biggest
story of the last
thousand years'

I GOT into UFOs in the stupidest way imaginable. In 1958 I was working for General Electric in Cincinnati. I was ordering books from a mail order house and I needed one more book so I wouldn't have to pay shipping charges. I ordered a book on UFOs by U.S. Airforce Captain Edward Ruppelt.

It was a lucky first book. I was very impressed, but I wasn't convinced. I didn't have an opinion about flying saucers.

I moved to California and began to read other UFO books, some of which were junk, and if I read them first I probably wouldn't have read another one. Then I found a privately published copy of the largest government study ever done on UFOs. That really shook me up because not only did it have the data which hadn't been in any of the books I read, it also had clear proof of a coverup.

I moved to Indianapolis as program chairman for the hemophilia foundation. We needed a speaker for a fundraiser and I got Frank Edwards. He had written books on UFOs and was a big draw. Later, he sent me his book *Flying Saucers: Serious Business* I read it and decided I had to start speaking out.

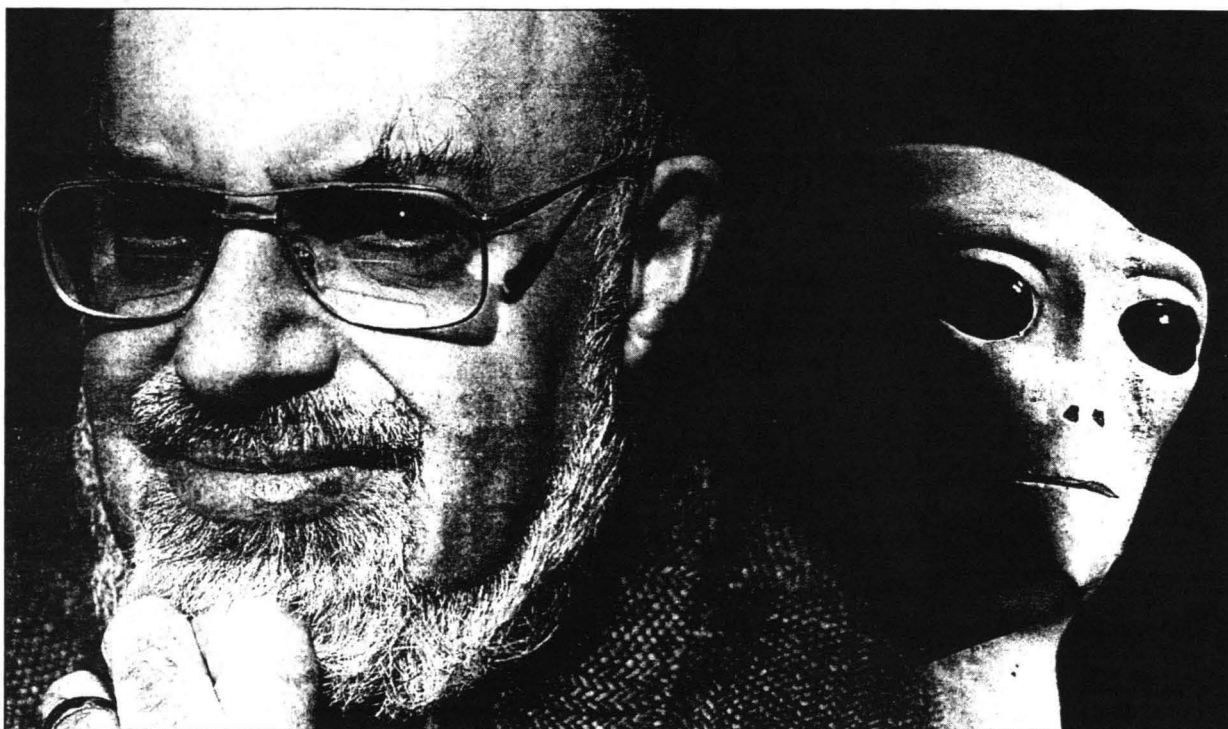
I called a radio station in Pittsburgh and they said "Don't call us, we'll call you." One night their guest cancelled and they asked me to be on. I didn't do a great job, but somebody from work heard me and asked me to speak to their book-review club about Frank Edwards' book. I did the radio show several times, and it just grew. I've now done more than 700 lectures in 50 states, nine provinces and 12 countries.

What got me going on the lecture circuit was the enthusiastic response of my professional colleagues. I've had 11 hecklers in more than 700 lectures, and two of them were drunk. I know if I keep my cool, never lie to an audience and deal with respect to questioners, that they will stand behind me.

I love doing television and radio. Radio is better in some ways, because what you say is what they hear. Television is taped, cut, chopped and edited. When I was on *Unsolved Mysteries*, 28 million people saw the Roswell show and we got a lot of response from the 1-800 number. And when they ran it the second time, we had 30 million watching the show and even more responses. It means that there is a constituency out there. I could talk to 500 people a night for the rest of my life and not reach that amount of people.

Television is a very powerful tool. But unfortunately, some TV producers are not interested in truth or facts, just in making money. The alien autopsy show was a good example. I went to Washington for three days, was interviewed for three hours and they used 30 seconds. Out of context too. I'm not saying all television is bad, but sometimes you'd like to shoot the producer.

I have always been concerned with dealing with critics on the UFO scene. I take strong stands on things, but only after doing my homework first. If someone finds one thing wrong in your work, they dismiss everything else.



Noel Chenier/Telegraph Journal

Stanton T. Friedman: 'I have never seen a UFO. I've never seen Tokyo but it's there. You don't need to see something to have it be true.'

AS TOLD TO Noel Chenier

This week
Stanton
T. Friedman,
UFO Researcher,
Fredericton

I spend a lot of time in libraries. I've been to 18 document archives. Some people think everything is on the computer or on the Internet. It isn't. Wouldn't it be nice if I could sit here instead of going to the archives and read through all this stuff? It doesn't work that way.

The crash at Roswell happened in early July, 1947. A rancher named Mac Brazel found the wreckage and brought it to the sheriff's office in town. The sheriff called the base, which sent two officers who brought back some wreckage. By this time, it was obvious this was strange stuff. The base public-information officer put out a press release saying they had recovered a flying saucer. There had been thousands of sightings for two weeks.

The wreckage was brought to Texas to General Roger Ramey, who told the press it was just a radar reflector from a weather balloon. The timing was crucial here. The first press release went out too late for all the morning newspapers in the U.S. The cover-up story then went out too late for all but the last edition of the Los Angeles paper. By the next day, it was all over. Sightings didn't stop, but reporting did.

I got involved in Roswell in 1978. A TV station manager in Louisiana

said I should talk to Jesse Marcelle who had handled pieces of the flying-saucer wreckage. I found Marcelle and he told me his story. A couple of months later, after a lecture in Minnesota, somebody comes to my table. He asks me if I knew anything about a crashed flying saucer in New Mexico. I say, yes, and ask him to tell me more. That began my investigation into Roswell.

In 1984, a roll of film that contained a 1952 briefing for President Eisenhower was received by a colleague. It states a saucer crashed outside Roswell, was picked up by the military, and that a group was set up by President Truman called Operation Majestic Twelve to deal with this.

The MJ-12 documents have occupied a lot of my time. It's a demanding puzzle. The good thing is that a lot of documents are being declassified that I didn't have access to years ago. More documents are turning up now. I don't chase every light in the sky, but I will go after this. There's a real kick in knowing the history and people - what they did and where they were.

People ask me what I think about these new documents, and I say I don't know yet. I haven't had a chance to evaluate them fully. Each document must be taken on its own merits. Disinformation is an old art used by governments. It's the standard response when stuff comes out that's not supposed to. You flood the market with garbage.

It's not going to be all mythology; there will be real names and places. You've got to try to make sense out of it, really dig and verify. And it's not easy.

I get upset at the media sometimes. Everybody agrees that some UFOs are alien spacecraft. That's a very big story. The New York Times, the Washington Post, are so arrogant they say, "If this were true, we'd know about it. So anybody who says it's true must be a nut." Do I need to bring an alien into an interview to convince them?

This is the biggest story of the last thousand years. If a major media group would spend as much effort

blowing the lid off the cosmic Watergate that the Post put in on the political Watergate, it wouldn't take more than six months.

We need people to come forward who know something, more documents. A guy on his deathbed might be more likely to talk. "What can they do to me now?" is what one retired, 88-year-old general said to me.

I try to reduce the amount of ridicule. People talk to me about their sightings, because they know I'm not going to laugh. There's a strange dichotomy: Most people believe in UFOs, but most people believe that most people don't believe in UFOs. It's your perception of how people will respond that determines your activity. Would you report a sighting if you think everybody is going to laugh at you? I have never seen a UFO. I've never seen Tokyo, but it's there. You don't need to see something to have it be true.

I'm convinced that some people have been abducted by some aliens. I'm not saying that everybody who claims to have been abducted, has been. Each story has to be taken on its own merit.

Why are people abducted? Maybe these aliens are graduate students learning about earthlings and our variability. There is some indication of hybridization going on. Steal embryos, fertilize them, then withdraw them before term. That's a very far-out notion, but we do it.

I worked under security and I acknowledge the need for keeping certain things classified. In this case, however, the government insists UFOs do not represent a threat to the United States. So why are they withholding all this information? And when they put out a memo saying when a freedom-of-information request is received from Stanton T. Friedman about UFOs to not respond as required, they're covering something up.

There are reasons for the governments to cover UFOs up. They want to figure out how they work - and

before the other guy figures it out. If an announcement were made tomorrow by trusted individuals around the world that indeed some UFOs are alien spacecraft, what would happen? Mental-hospital admissions and church attendance would go up, the stock market would go down. It would mean there will be new technologies in energy production, transportation, communications and computers. There goes the oil business, the auto and plane business. It'll be economic chaos. And if you want to see how good we earthlings are at making large-scale economic transitions, look at the Soviet Union.

But the big thing is the younger generation would immediately push for a new view of ourselves. Instead of Canadians and Americans, we'd be Earthlings. But no government wants its citizens to owe its allegiance to the planet. Nationalism is the only game in town.

So why should the government tell us what's going on?

I wouldn't be doing this unless I thought it would have some impact. If I can take advantage of my speaking skills, my knowledge and experience, to communicate that we are not alone, that the government is covering up things, then I have a responsibility to do so. It is the right thing for me to be doing.

I would hope if I met an alien my curiosity would overcome my fear, because it is the unknown that frightens us. I would like to know what they are all about, what they know about our past and our future. What plans they have for us.

What are aliens coming here for? I think they are concerned about their own survival. Keeping tabs on the primitives in the neighbourhood, but only close tabs on those able to bother you. I think they're here to keep us from going out there, until we get our act together. In the Second World War, we killed 50 million Earthlings and destroyed 1,700 cities. If you were an alien, would you want us out there?

Telegraph Journal

Kent,
1999
DARTFORD TIMES,
England - Dec. 9,
1999

Woman says she saw UFO

A 55-year-old woman believes she may have seen a UFO on her way to work in the Hawley area yesterday at 7.30am. The woman, who does not want to be identified, said that at first she thought the bright light in the sky was a large star. She then realised it was moving and that it was oval in shape with two antennae like

poles on top. She said: "The whole object was covered in a very, very bright silvery light. I was driving up Shirehall Road, Hawley, towards Hextable at the time. "By the time I reached Top Dartford Road I had lost sight of it. I think it was heading towards Swanley." She added: "I'm sure others

must have seen it because it was just so bright." Biggin Hill Air Traffic Control and Thames Radar were baffled. There were no scheduled flights for airships or similar aircraft in the area at the time. An air traffic control spokesman suggested that it might have been Father Christmas doing a recce of the area.

NEWS SHOPPER,
Lewisham, Catford,
England - Jan. 12, 2000

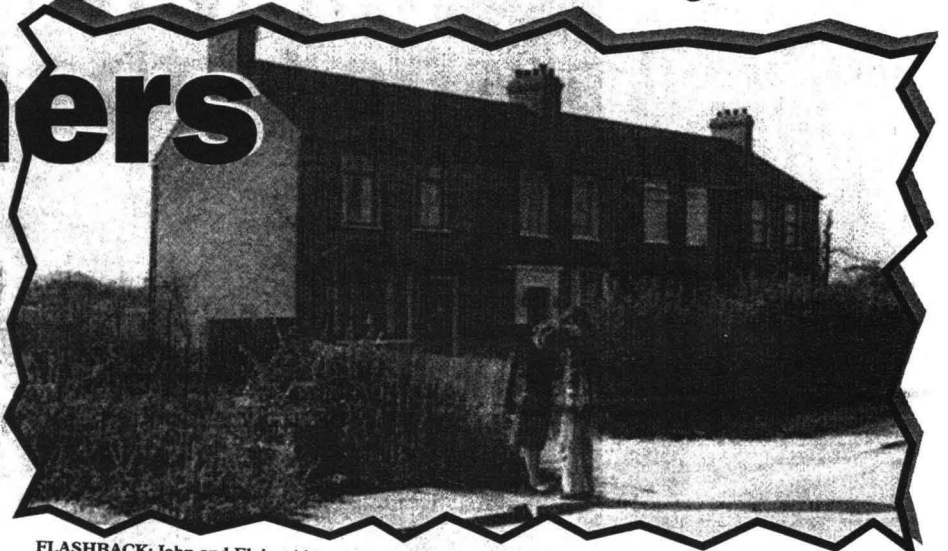
Hairdresser sees UFO in Brockley

HAIRDRESSER Paris Sofi, 21 says she couldn't believe her eyes when she spotted a flying saucer hovering above Brockley Cemetery at 5.45pm on January 2. She believes the oval-shaped craft, which moved silently through the darkening sky, was extra-terrestrial and is desperate to know whether anyone else saw it.

"It wasn't something you could easily miss," she said. Lewisham police said they had not received any calls about a flying saucer in the borough. A spokesman pointed out the X-Files television programme had started on BBC1 last week. If you wish to back Miss Sofi's story, call the newsdesk on 01689 885712.

Suddenly a green mist . . . and the Avis family's car is teleported into a hovering unidentified object where their lives are changed forever

Watchers of the skies



EXCLUSIVE
By Lisa Mundy

FLASHBACK: John and Elaine (they prefer to remain anonymous) by the four terraced houses at the bend in Aveley Road where the mysterious mist appeared

TWENTY-FIVE years ago this week an Aveley family made chilling history . . .

October 27, 1974, started out like any other normal day for the Avis family.

But that evening John, Elaine and their three children went to visit Elaine's parents in Harold Hill.

The evening passed without incident. The family said their goodbyes and climbed back into their white Vauxhall Victor estate car at 9.50pm, planning to drive home in time for John to catch his favourite play on television at 10.20pm.

The familiar journey should have taken about 20 minutes - but they didn't get home until 1am . . .

The unforgettable and haunting events of that night have since become infamous as the first fully-documented account of an alien abduction in Great Britain.

But it took John, then aged 32, and his wife Elaine, 28, three years to pluck up the courage to come forward and speak about their missing three hours.

The Aveley Abduction report, carried out by controversial Essex author Andrew Collins, was finally completed in January 1978.

The resulting, compelling book is now out of print but 25 years on John has agreed to relive the historic event exclusively for *The Mail* in his first ever newspaper interview since the abduction first came to light.

No fear

"My life has totally changed," he admits in a quiet, melancholic tone.

"But I'm glad it happened.

"There was no feeling of fear. It was a wonderful experience. I loved it. My youngest son always said that was home."

The home John is referring to is a craft into which the family believe they and their car were teleported by an ancient race or energy beings they refer to as Watchers.

Andrew Collins, who has since become one of the country's leading experts on esoteric subjects and ancient civilisations, recalled what the family told him during his original interviews.

"As they drove home they saw this strange light

cross the sky in front of them," he explained.

"It was nothing special, just an oval-shaped object in the sky.

"Then the car coasted into a green mist and the engine and radio cut out.

"John has a dream-like memory of the car being taken up into the air into some kind of vehicle and being shown certain things, being subjected to a medical examination, being given information and encountering entities," he adds.

It all sounds like a scene from Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* but Andy is quick to point out that the famous abduction was in no way inspired by books, films or television.

"The event came to light in August 1977 in one of the *Yellow Advertiser's* sister papers. At that point the concept of a UFO abduction in Britain was unknown. This was an entirely new type of phenomenon in this country.

"Up until that time there had been supposed UFO encounters but never had there been an abduction.

"It wasn't in the popular consciousness. *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, which was the film that put alien abduction on the map, was still a year away.

"In fact one of the weirdest experiences of my life was when I went to watch *Close Encounters* with the Avis family. I turned to them and said, 'What do you make of this,' and John said, 'This is unbelievable, it's like the real thing!'"

John rarely talks to anyone about his strange experience. He admits he is scared of being labelled as a nutter but that's not the only reason he stays quiet.

Even today, 25 years on, he still has difficulty trying to explain exactly what it was that he and his family came into contact with on that cold October night.

He describes seeing two types of entity. One he calls the Examiners. They were about 4ft, covered in brown hair, with slanted eyes, a beak or slit for a

HAVE you, like the Avis family, ever been party to an unexplained event, witnessed or photographed an unidentified flying object?

If so, we would love to hear your spine tingling tale. Write in to *The Mail* at Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH.

mouth and pointed ears. The other, more important entities, which he calls the Watchers, stood about 6ft 6ins and were albino in appearance, with very pale skin and pink eyes.

Angelic

"John's description matches that of the Watchers given in ancient Hebrew texts, as these virtual angelic figures," reveals Andy.

John agrees that what he came into contact with was something very old, ancient. But beyond that he can't really explain much more about them.

"There is a physical presence but the ones that I've met, they exist through and with others.

"They are more of an energy, an emotion, part of the land," he explains. "They were beautiful. I would say, just an energy, which is all we are anyway - an energy."

"We communicated through emotion, feeling," he adds.

John's difficulty in trying to explain the finer details of the event is not because his memory has become clouded, he says.

"I remember all of it." But he still doesn't fully understand it, he admits.

"I think that incident was just an introduction. I was there to absorb and observe and too pass the information on."

He breaks the telephone interview briefly to tell me that the temperature in his room has suddenly plummeted, sending an icy shiver down my spine.

"It's incredible, it's just suddenly dropped," he explains before continuing the conversation matter of factly.

"I have memories and images in my head going back to . . . well, I don't know where they are from."

"And it's weird because I have described some of these images and we've been watching television and there it is, places like Peru. There are important sites around the world. I think

they are important for almost an inherent race memory.

"And this dinosaur programme that's been on, some of the images that have been created are really fresh in my head."

He still has these images and feelings but is no closer today in understanding why.

"There was no reason for it happening," he adds. "But there's no reason as to why the grass grows, it just does. There's no reason why it is green, it could be black, but it just is."

"We're here to observe, to learn, to watch and to just go on doing that." But perhaps not forever, he warns.

"I'm looking out now across the countryside and I know it's going. I don't know why, I just know it's going."

"It's too late," he adds. "But that's the nature of things."

His words come as a chilling reminder of pre-Millennial 'the-end-is-nigh' rantings from many individuals and groups from across the globe.

But we're safe for now, says John.

"The Millennium is a human created date," he explains. "Life on this planet started well beyond any human creations of dates and times."

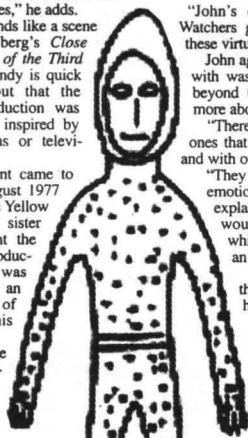
"We use an invented system of measurement.

"The only true system of measurement is the sun and the moon and the earth and the planets that relate to it. Their movement, their brightness, their death will depict what happens," he concludes.

"I don't think there is anything in what people have been saying about the Millennium," he adds. Well, we'll soon find out . .



Elaine's drawing of an "examiner"



Elaine's drawing of a "watcher"



John's drawing of a "watcher"

Tell us of UFOs too

IN view of a recent spate in UFO sightings in the Yorkshire region, including Mexborough, South Yorkshire, date November 24, time 5.54pm as reported in the letters' section of last week's South Yorkshire Times, I would like any witnesses to this sighting to please contact me or via your newspaper as soon as possible with full details.

All reports will be treated in strict confidence.

Mr Graham Birdsall

UFO Magazine
Wharfebank House
Wharfebank Business Centre
Ilkley Road
Otley
Nr Leeds
LS21 3JP

I WOULD be interested to know if there have been any UFO reports made locally between the months of October to December this year.

The ideal place for such sightings would be from the top of the Conisbrough Crags which provides an ideal vantage point overlooking the "South Yorkshire UFO Gateway" and gives a prolonged viewing of sightings from the gateway which begins between Conisbrough and Sprotbrough and covers an area which fans over Mexborough, Thurnscoe, Rotherham and Sheffield.

The most visible landmarks for the flight path of UFO's are the Conisbrough Castle, the Conisbrough Viaduct and the Water Tower. In order to confirm my long-held theories regarding cycles and flight paths of UFO activity I would appreciate your assistance in this matter as it would prove very

valuable in the accurate prediction of entry and exit dates and times both to and from the South Yorkshire Gateway which will be the main theme of my forthcoming book "Stepping Stones To The South Yorkshire Gateway".

I can appreciate that this request may seem a little bizarre, but I can assure you as a privileged eye witness to the March 28, 1966 Conisbrough UFO sighting that these things are real and despite statements to the contrary, the MOD do indeed take these matters seriously.

Mr Kevin J Pratt

210 Bancroft
Glascote Heath
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B77 2EY

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

BY GLEN KASK
METROVALLEY NEWS SERVICE

UFOs have been sighted over Ruskin, and they have been captured on both video and still cameras. They are certainly unidentified.

They appear to be flying. They seem to be objects. That makes them UFOs. John McConnell says he filmed the latest incident between 3 and 4 a.m. on Jan. 30 from his home in a trailer park right on the border between Mission and Maple Ridge.

His boarder had been looking out the window when she saw a bright flashing light. He grabbed his Sony Hi-8 Handycam video camera, hooked it to his VHS recorder inside the house, and placed the camera on his roof.

Over the next half hour he captured a 31-second image of a flickering object that changes in size on the screen, indicating it was moving closer to the camera. It changes shape and gives off flashes of light.

McConnell says the spherical object gave off no sound and was hovering over the Stave River, below the tops of a nearby hillside.

McConnell can see details on the video that are not apparent to the first-time viewer. He has drawn a sketch of a vehicle that somewhat resembles a sleek Sea-Doo type of personal watercraft. He says it was about twice the size of a typical panel van.

"I'm not on any medication, I don't hallucinate and I've never been committed to a mental hospital," McConnell volunteers at the start of the conversation.

"It looks like electricity is shooting out of it in jolts," he said. "It lights up in all sorts of beautiful colours."

This is not the first time mysterious lights have

appeared over Ruskin, a rural area just below two B.C. Hydro power dams.

He saw his first unidentified lights July 21, 1999. He videotaped a small dot of light that seemed to hover and then move at incredible speed before hovering again.

In mid-January his son took some still photos of mysterious lights hovering in the Stave River valley. Some companions with him at the time became sick to their stomachs.

"I didn't get sick from the ones I saw," said McConnell.

But he does say he noticed mysterious markings and symbols on his body after his encounter. In the middle of the interview he went to a storage area where he retrieved a jar of water-based black house paint. He smeared it on his forehead and chest and as he rubbed it off he pointed to a pattern of symbols that he says changes each time he repeats the process.

McConnell moved into the area 2 1/2 years ago when he bought his mobile home.

He says he is not in debt but is on a total disability pension after being in an industrial accident in 1989. He wears a series of braces from below his rib cage to his ankles.

McConnell is concerned about the significance of the objects he sees.

"If this isn't from our military we are in deep trouble," he said. "It goes so fast. How can you hit something you can't see?"

He is disgusted that the media and police have ignored his reports.

When he presented his first videotape to Mission RCMP it was returned to him. A call to the Canadian military brought no response. He says that he has overheard police radio communication that refers to his neighbourhood as "the Twilight Zone."

Now he says that the



GLEN KASK/MetroValley

John McConnell holds the video tape of an unidentified flying object he saw hovering below the ridge of a nearby hill. At right is his sketch of what he saw.



"Americans" are interested in his latest tape.

The "Americans" were scheduled to pick up his tape early last week but were called away to another emergency. He won't say who the

"Americans" are or what organization they represent. He also says he has the original videotape hidden away from his home.

McConnell says that over the years police have come to

the area and seen the mysterious objects but his report of police involvement has not been confirmed.

This is not the first time that bright lights have been seen in the Mission area.

Seven years ago there were reports of a bright light over Stave Lake and 10 years ago there was a flurry of sightings over Dewdney Peak east of Hatzic Lake and over Nicomen Island.

UFO•BC

Veteran spotter says video looks genuine

BY ROXANNE HOOPER
STAFF REPORTER

John McConnell is not the only one who has reported UFOs in Ruskin. But he's the only one, so far, who has been willing to go public.

Dozens of other witnesses have apparently been interviewed during the past year by an organization called UFO•BC, said Graham Conway, one of the group's organizers.

Some of these people were very reluctant to talk, but others were quick to tell Conway

and his colleagues about their different stories of bright aluminum-type objects, red fireballs, orange lights and large white craft, spotted from the trailer parks below the Ruskin dam.

Conway himself has viewed McConnell's tape and made six trips out from his Surrey home. He says he spent up to 30 hours in total at Ruskin during the last few months, following up on McConnell's various claims and conducting interviews and watching. He hasn't personally spotted any

UFOs in Ruskin. But he's confident that McConnell is not fabricating the story or the videotape, which he said shows some kind of flying object.

Members of UFO•BC have even gone as far as speaking to BC Hydro staff from the nearby Ruskin and Stave Falls dams, in efforts to debunk the spaceship theory and replace it with a sound excuse such as lights and action coming from the nearby Ruskin dam.

But on the nights of the various sightings, Conway said Hydro said it was not operating either of the dams. Hydro staff working those late shifts could not substantiate the UFO sightings.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, something is going on," Conway said. "This area is very hot."

Conway says reports of UFOs have been coming out of the area between Ruskin and Hatzic since the early 1980s, at least.

Reports mentioned anom-

alous lights seen over Dewdney Mountain in the early 1980s and a dramatic sighting of a triangular craft in 1995.

Perhaps the truth is indeed out there. *X-Files* producers chose to film one of their last episodes made in Canada at the Ruskin dam. And unlike many of the other filming sites, this one was not renamed for use in the show.

UFO•BC is a UFO research organization, concentrating its efforts on what is happening

in British Columbia and the Yukon. The UFO•BC Hotline is listed in the Vancouver white pages, 878-6511.

All of the sightings end up on their website, <http://ufobc.org>, and in their magazine called *UFO•BC Quarterly*.

"Although our main focus is UFOs, we are also interested in such things as Sasquatch, Ogopogo and Fortean events such as the chunk of ice that impacted in Surrey recently," said Dave Pengilly, also of UFO•BC.

Was light mystery a UFO?

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST,
Swansea, Wales - Nov. 19, 1999

A FORMER miner from the Swansea Valley has been left mystified by a strange light outside his home.

John North took a photograph of the mystery object after being woken by his dog at around 5am last Wednesday.

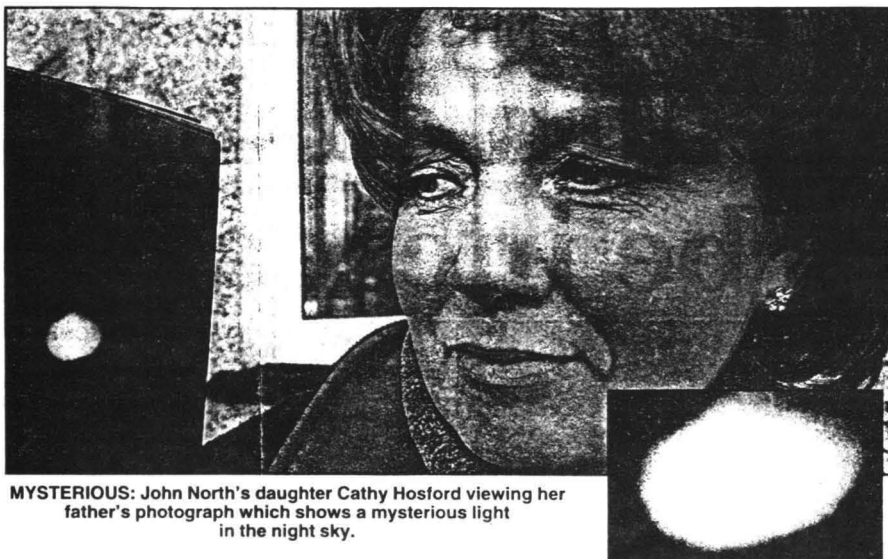
"When I pulled back my bedroom curtains I could see this strange light, which had no definite shape, moving from left to right above the mountain," said Mr North, of Glanrhyd, Ystradgynlais.

"I have a large lens on my Cannon camera and I took that outside to get some pictures.

"I watched it for about 30 minutes. I am positive it was not a plane or type of aircraft."

"It is a complete mystery, I can only assume it was a UFO," he said.

Ystradgynlais Police and Swansea Coastguard did not receive any reports of strange lights, flares, low flying aircraft or unusual activity that morning.



MYSTERIOUS: John North's daughter Cathy Hosford viewing her father's photograph which shows a mysterious light in the night sky.

Glowing report in new UFO mystery

by Colin MacKenzie

A MYSTERIOUS light spotted near a busy North-east road could have been a close encounter, UFO watchers claimed today.

Three friends spotted the mysterious red light — the size of a house — above their car between Ellon and Aberdeen.

But when they tried to follow the glow it quickly raced off.

Today aviation chiefs were unable to explain the UFO mystery.

And one expert described the encounter as a classic UFO sighting.

The object appeared beside the A90 at around 7.30pm on Friday night.

Kevin Smith, Paul Samat and Sean Sinclair were travelling home to Aberdeen from work when they spotted the strange object.

It was glowing red and floating 100 metres up in the air beside the road.

Kevin said: "We were on

The truth is out there

IF YOU thought flying saucers only appeared in the Nevada desert, think again — because the North-east is fast becoming a UFO hotspot.

The sleepy village of Muchalls became one of Scotland's UFO capitals after Internet alien-hunters warned of mysterious flashing lights and spooky noises.

Some residents said they had seen mysterious lights swarming over the village.

At around the same time, people across Aberdeen complained of a mystery humming noise keeping them awake at night.

In October last year, Richard Vaughan, of Tough, saw a

the single track road between the dual carriageways when we spotted this light off to the left.

"At first we thought it must have been a helicopter, but the light wasn't flashing, it was glowing — and you could see other small coloured lights moving about on it.

"It wasn't any aircraft I

bright light hovering in the sky near Craiglevar Castle. It stayed for around five minutes before moving off at speed when a plane flew into the area.

People in Kintore reported a flickering light hovering in silence at the same time. Police and the RAF investigated two UFO sightings near Inverness as the Star Wars movie Episode 1 was released in July.

A bright comet-like shape was seen above the Moray Firth, and a flying saucer sighted by the Kessock Bridge. Despite investigations, police were unable to confirm the Force was with us.

recognised."

The friends decided to follow the mystery light as it drifted off towards Newburgh.

"As we drove along it seemed to move with us, it was always about 100 metres away," he said.

"Sometimes it was stationary and sometimes it

was just drifting along.

"But then, suddenly, it just shot off miles away at a hell of a speed.

"It hovered in the distance for a while and then we lost in the lights of the town."

He is convinced other motorists must have spotted the UFO.

David Wilson, of UFO spotters' group ScotUFO, said: "This is a classic UFO sighting — a glowing light which does things ordinary aircraft can't."

But police in Ellon said they had received no reports of the mystery sighting.

The object did not show up on RAF radar screens either. A spokesman at their Kinloss base said: "We certainly don't have any record of any unexpected activity on Friday night, and movement like this would definitely be noted.

"All I can say is it wasn't one of ours — and it doesn't fit the description of any aircraft I know."

GWENT GAZETTE, Cardiff, Wales - Sept. 30, 1999

UFO sighted

WATCH the skies in Blaenau Gwent and you may see something that could leave you baffled.

Although August's eclipse has come and gone, reports of unusual sightings in and around the borough have continued, with many having spotted a spherical object that sits motionless in the sky.

The *Gazette* originally reported a UFO sighting on the afternoon of Saturday, July 17, when such an object was observed for about 15 minutes by a couple in Brynmawr before it disappeared behind a cloud.

This prompted further witnesses to come forward with similar accounts, one of which was also from the Brynmawr area and corresponded with the actual time of the original sighting.

"The object is often described as metallic," said a spokesman for the South Wales UFO Network.

"It has also been reported on varying occasions in the nearby Merthyr and Rhymney Valleys."

More recently, a cigar-shaped object was spotted by a driver travelling from Brynmawr to Ebbw Vale on the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road.

"The object was said to be stationary in the sky at approximately 2,000 feet above and beyond the Ebbw Vale roundabout," the spokesman continued.

"This took place at around noon on Friday, September 3."

While the origin of the sphere or the cigar has yet to be explained, according to SWUFON, a lot of UFO sightings can be a case of misidentification.

"We have had a lot of reports of objects that resemble stars travelling at very low altitudes over the valleys," he said.

"If these objects are seen up high, high enough so they look like stars that are moving, they are usually explained away as satellites."

He said some of these sightings, however, could not be explained so easily.

"Some of these objects are described as very bright and very low, and some are said to pulse to twice their normal brightness and then maintain their original brightness and silently move away," he said.

"These can't be explained away as satellites."

The research network would be interested to hear from anyone who believes they may have seen a UFO in the borough.

To report a sighting, or offer a possible explanation for one, contact Paul on 01495 215601 or Kath on 321117.

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Dec. 3, 1999

Experts eager to see UFO video

A SCOTS woman has stunned UFO experts by capturing a mysterious sighting on video.

Sandra Whelan (50) grabbed footage of an Unidentified Flying Object hovering over the Pentland Hills in Edinburgh earlier this week.

The clip shows two bright orbs lighting up the morning sky.

UFO experts and Ministry of Defence officials are now investigating the sighting.

Mrs Whelan, who lives in Pentland Park, Craigshill, in Livingston, said she was amazed at what she had seen.

"I saw these two strange lights in the sky, grabbed my video camera and caught it on tape," she said.

At one point, the footage zooms in on one of the shapes to reveal black outer rings surrounding a gold-coloured centre.

As the video continues, an aeroplane appears to fly under the shape.

Last night, however, Edinburgh Airport said they had not had any reports from pilots about the incident.

West Lothian is part of

the famous UFO triangle in Central Scotland. The area has seen dozens of unexplained sightings in the last five years.

Ron Halliday, a UFO expert and lecturer at Stirling University, said he was looking forward to seeing Mrs Whelan's video.

"There have been dozens of sightings in the Pentlands area since the 1940s and this one seems to be consistent with the other sightings," he stated.

A spokesman for the MoD also said they would be interested in seeing the video but was sceptical of the object being a UFO from another planet.

"It may have been a planet rising in the morning, such as Venus," he explained.

Professor John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, denied this, saying, "There is no way something so low in the sky at this time in the morning could have been Venus."

"It is possible they could have been something called Sun-Dogs, which is when the sun reflects off ice crystals in the atmosphere as it rises."

Unknowns Fly Over

Dave Pye
investigates
The Carrington
Triangle

PARANORMAL investigators are probing the latest UFO sightings near to a spot that has been dubbed 'The Carrington Triangle'.

The area stretching from Urmston up to Sale is considered a hot-spot for mysterious activity in the skies and there have been several unusual reports in recent weeks.

Now members of the Manchester Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Team (MAPIT) are looking to explain the recent spate of sightings.

Residents have been reporting unusual insect-like helicopters hovering in the area during September and got in touch with MAPIT to see if anyone else had experienced the same thing.

Not alone

They were not alone, with sightings across the whole of Manchester of the strange dark aircraft which seemingly fly with precision and no markings or lighting whatsoever.

Even into October reports were still arriving at MAPIT's Baguley HQ - one in particular from an aviation expert living on Church Lane in Urmston who claimed to have seen the craft on two different occasions.

Chairman of MAPIT Stephen Mera, said: "Over the last two years there has been an increase in mysterious helicopter sightings with the descriptions almost identical to those given by residents experiencing the same phenomena in South America and Canada."

"During investigations into the sightings in Manchester I talked with a military official who confirmed the use of unmarked helicopters of a similar description that are state-of-the-art and can render themselves invisible to radar - adding that these often undergo testing during daylight hours."

Stephen went on: "We have written several letters to the Ministry of Defence and the military only to receive no comment about the existence of the mysterious black helicopters but we would love to hear from anyone else who may have sightings to tell us about."

Anyone can get in touch with MAPIT regarding any sort of paranormal experiences or sightings in confidence on 374-3978.

MAPIT is running a comprehensive course on UFOs, the paranormal, supernatural and ESP. Lasting for 20 weeks, the sessions are being held at Sale Grammar School, Marsland Road, Sale. The course, beginning on November 16, costs £35 - for further information contact Stephen Mera on 374 2978.

Did you see the mysterious lights in the night sky?

A NEW UFO sightings group has appealed for information on an incident involving mysterious lights and a military jet.

Somerset-based Utopia Investigations is also set to open its doors to new members, with a public meeting to take place next month.

The group is currently compiling a report on an incident said to have happened on Wednesday, October 6.

Press officer Dave Thomas said: "At 10pm, many people were shaken when they heard a roar of jet aircraft just above tree-top level."

"The aircraft, possibly a Sea Harrier from Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, then pulled up hard into an almost vertical climb; the lighting on the aircraft was brilliant white."

Mr Thomas said a witness contacted the group two days after the fly-past, claiming to have sighted a cluster of lights crossing the sky. The aircraft then "screamed" across the sky in an easterly direction, travelling towards the cluster of lights.

Both aircraft and lights kept moving and were soon invisible, the witness said.

Mr Thomas, of Jurston Lane, Wellington, said he had contacted Yeovilton RNAS, which confirmed two Sea Harriers had taken off at 10pm on the night of the incident, but did not release details of return times or what the exercise consisted of.

For further information on the society or to give information on the incident, contact Mr Thomas on 07967 524572. E-mail: utopia@ukonline.co.uk.

STRETFORD & URMSTON MESSENGER,
Stockport, Cheshire, England - Oct. 28, 1999

On the alert for UFOs ...

WE have members of the Welsh Federation of Ufologists scattered all over Wales, who, if they happen to live near the town or village of a UFO witness, carefully check them out, also their credentials.

If need be, we check with airports, harbour masters, Met offices, RAF helicopter rescue, tourist boards and local councils for such things as planes, air balloons and laser shows in the vicinity.

If a photograph is taken, we request copies and computer enhance them, then consult such firms as Kodak and our contacts in the air industry for analysis.

So, if Mr Humphries would be kind enough to send us copies of the photos or, better still, loan us his negatives, it would be very

Paraglider Noel Humphries spotted an apparent UFO over Bodfari and his tale, featured in the *Free Press* on August 12, has proved to be a major talking point

helpful as we could have them analysed.

On the face of it, one of the photographs printed looks impressive.

We take the civilian research worldwide into UFOs very seriously and all amalgamate.

In our Welsh Federation we have a nuclear physicist, chemist, school teachers, and people in all professions and with university degrees who bring their particular knowledge and expertise to bear on research into the subject.

We would be happy to receive UFO reports, old and new, on 01745 833310.

My particular research since 1979 has been the supposed Berwyn Mountains UFO crash on the night of January 20, 1974, when shortly before 8.31pm there was an earthquake measuring 3.5 on the Richter Scale.

Does anyone in Denbighshire recall this? If so, please contact me because every small piece of the jigsaw helps.

Margaret Fry,
Welsh Federation of Ufologists,
5 The Broadway,
Abergele,
Conwy,
LL22 7DD.

We're not alone

DEAR Editor, Having read your UFO article and the following week's readers' letters, I must agree with G. Lomas that we cannot be the only civilisation in the galaxy.

The number of stars (suns like our own) and mathematics tells us that there must be others out there.

Having studied and researched this arcane subject for the last 15 years and interviewed hundreds of witnesses, and having seen two

UFOs myself and filmed and photographed a third in daylight in Florida, I must disagree with Dr J Mitton that there is not a scrap of evidence that we are being visited.

What about the landing trace marks with radiation levels and grass that won't grow again?

What about tarmac that has been replaced to cover up close encounters, on the orders of several Governments around the world?

What about fighter jets that have been scrambled to intercept unknown targets from just about every country in the world?

Need I go on?! This doesn't include the thousands of clear photographs taken in daylight, the

thousands of strange encounters caught on video from around the world and the 15 million plus people who have reported sightings over the last 50 years.

As for the sighting in 1996 over Carlton and Mapperley, EMUFORA staff interviewed over 40 witnesses, including businessmen and women, factory workers, housewives, a doctor and an ex-RAF pilot.

There was no proof it was an alien spacecraft, but it would be very arrogant of us not to accept this as a possibility.

Anthony James,
Bulwell

TOPPER, Nottingham,
England - Oct. 13, 1999

FREE PRESS, Denbighshire, England - Sept. 2, 1999

Alan Watts,
Halstead, 1961

I saw flying jellyfish

ON a bright summer's day in 1961, meteorologist Alan Watts was just turning into his drive when he and his wife noticed two intensely bright lights in the sky. "It was just as though a car had been suspended in the sky with its headlights on," recalls Alan, now 74. "It wasn't long before the lights went out, and I could just make out a blue-grey cigar-shaped object moving away northwards." Alan and his wife were not the only ones to see this mysterious object. Already a UFO enthusiast, Alan advertised in the local paper for anyone else who had seen the craft to come forward, and had dozens of replies. "People as far away as south Essex and Hertfordshire had seen these two hovering lights. I was able to calculate it must have been hovering over Halstead, and was travelling at 2,300mph." Strangely, however, no-one in Halstead itself seems to have glimpsed this weird phenomenon. Alan has a theory to explain this - something to do with light being bent by the craft's high magnetic fields. "People underneath wouldn't see anything at all."

It was so well-documented that it was featured on Anglia TV. Almost



COVER-UP: Alan Watts believes the CIA is hiding UFO information

exactly five years later, however, a second UFO appeared, this time over the Hilly Fields area of Colchester, conveniently near the college where Alan was working as a physics teacher. Colleagues also witnessed this apparition, which Alan describes as resembling a "huge, aerial jellyfish, with filmy, waving tentacles". And as if this was not enough, a year later, a vast egg-shaped object decided to hover over his home in Elmstead Market. All this is more than enough to convince Alan we are being regularly visited by alien spacecraft. And he's convinced

not only that the US and UK governments know about these visitations, but that they are in regular contact with the "space denizens", as he likes to call them. "The powers that be, such as the Vatican and the CIA, are trying to keep the whole thing under wraps," he confides. "They think it would cause widespread panic if people knew what is happening. The CIA knows more about it than anyone, but they've spread a lot of disinformation to put people off." North Essex, apparently, is what is known as a "ufocal" or hotspot for UFO sightings. "There's been lots of activity over Clacton, and

especially Mersea Island," says Alan, who spotted his very first UFO in East Mersea in 1957. Why should aliens find the Tendring Peninsula so alluring? "Well, Mersea Island stands out. It's a good navigation point, I suppose." In the 1950s and 1960s, says Alan, literally hundreds of thousands of sightings of disc or cigar-shaped objects were seen all over the world. These, he believes, were large "mother" spaceships, or Leviathans, which came to "make us aware of alien forces and intelligences beyond this planet. We tend," he adds disapprovingly, "to be very earth-orientated". The visitations, apparently, have had some effect. Alan believes the recent crop of programmes dealing with The Unknown, from *The X Files* to BBC1's *Mysteries*, is evidence of our readiness to accept that the Truth is Out There. This phase, he feels, is now coming to an end. "If people aren't aware by now that we're not alone, then they jolly well ought to be." Alan has written two books on UFOs, but his latest works are on the subject of crop circles, which, he is sure, are yet another manifestation of alien forces. He believes they are created by



an electro-magnetic beam which "brushes" the intricate designs into the crop. The patterns created, he maintains, are far too complex to be mere hoaxes. But hold on a minute. If these aliens are so desperate to communicate with us, why not choose a more direct method? Surely it wouldn't be difficult, in this technological age, to get themselves on film, or in the papers? But Alan has two possible explanations for their elusiveness. The first is the cover-up theory, that world governments just don't want us to know the truth. But also, Alan believes, getting themselves on the telly would be just too obvious. "Rather than coming down and saying, 'Take me to your leader,' they use a more subtle approach. It's all part of this awareness programme. They are trying to make us think."

Aliens, it seems, prefer to move in mysterious ways.

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England - Oct. 25, 1999



Crop circle in Neilburg, Sask. Since the 1970s, the province has been the country's primary location of crop oddities.

Banner year for crop circles: 20 discovered in six provinces

**20 figures
in 6 provinces
represent
33% increase**

By JIM BRONSKILL

OTTAWA • They inspired aboriginal celebrations, prompted reports of bizarre electrical malfunctions and may have even made people nauseous.

It was a bumper year for Canadian crop circles in 1999, those strange patterns that seem to magically appear in farmers' fields each summer.

A new report says 20 circular and geometric figures were discovered in six provinces last year, a 33% increase from 1998.

Some of the largest and most impressive formations ever seen in Canada showed up in Prairie fields, says the annual report of Circles Phenomenon Research Canada, compiled by Paul Anderson, the group director.

"In short, 1999 was a banner year for crop circles in Canada, and may indicate that we need to

be keeping a closer eye on what is going on in the fields of our farmlands."

CPR-Canada relies on members, farmers, the media and other contributors for information about circles.

Some have dismissed the circles as elaborate hoaxes, particularly following recent admissions from British pranksters, who used wooden planks to craft patterns in grain fields.

Mr. Anderson's organization, however, says some patterns show evidence of altered plant and soil composition. A number of circles have turned up in remote locations during stormy or moonless nights. And there are eyewitness accounts of shapes being formed.

Circles appeared last year across North America as well as in England, the Czech Republic, Germany, Holland and Israel.

In Canada, 10 circles were discovered in Saskatchewan, the country's primary locale of crop oddities since the 1970s, when the phenomenon was first documented. Four turned up in Alberta, three in Ontario and one apiece in British Columbia, Prince Edward

Island and Quebec.

The longest crop formation to date in Canada — almost 100 metres — was one of two patterns to appear in wheat fields on the New Credit Reserve near Hagersville, Ont., last July. Members of the native community held cere-

**'WE NEED TO BE
KEEPING A CLOSER
EYE ON WHAT IS GOING
ON IN THE FIELDS'**

monies in the fields to mark their appearance.

CPR-Canada investigators reported malfunctioning camera equipment in and around the formations, a common phenomenon at circle sites, sometimes attributed to high electromagnetic frequency emissions. Some people also experienced headaches or nausea.

A complex, swirling pattern was discovered in early September near Neilburg, Sask.

Researcher Judy Arndt visited

the site with her husband, taking several measurements and photographs.

"We can't judge the authenticity of this formation, but we can say this: it was consistently neat," she later reported. "There were no signs of breakage of the stems."

Two "perfectly circular" patterns in a blueberry field were discovered in August by a farmer near Tignish, P.E.I.

The RCMP investigated a formation consisting of a teardrop and diamond shapes in a corn field near Lowville, Ont., and reportedly collected samples for lab testing.

An amateur researcher heard an unusual humming sound around the formation, recorded odd compass movements and found a white cobweb-like material under flattened stalks.

In most cases, says the report, there was no direct evidence of a hoax, such as footprints in the circles or tracks leading in or out of the patterns.

The report acknowledges the percentage of phony circles is "a source of heated debate" among researchers, but contends that pranks are usually obvious upon close examination.

The Canadian group says laboratory studies have repeatedly found unexplained physical anomalies in samples taken from many crop circles.

Southam News

Strange lights give Shanghai UFO fever

By LORIE HOLLAND
in Peking

THE CITIZENS of Shanghai are accustomed to bright lights, but a shining cylinder took them by surprise when it hovered over the city for about 10 minutes.

Nearly 100 people reported seeing the UFO. Even Shanghai's staid official newspapers insisted that the sighting, on Thursday afternoon, was no illusion. "UFO darts across the city's skyline," wrote the *Shanghai Daily*. Other papers ran photographs of the object, while both the city's television channels showed amateur video footage of the encounter.

Officials could not explain the incident, which came a little over a month after two Chinese air force pilots reported seeing a bright object shaped like a mushroom in the skies south of Peking.

That encounter took place on 19 October, when four radar stations picked up an unknown moving target directly above a military flight training base near Cangzhou. The base commander ordered armed aircraft to pursue the object and, according to official accounts, the pilots reported seeing a mushroom-shaped dome with a flat bottom covered with bright, continually rotating lights. The UFO appeared to wait for the jet aircraft and then sped off to hover at a distance.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Scunthorpe, England - Dec. 6, 1999

Frightened by a 'UFO'

POLICE have received a report of an unknown flying object in Scunthorpe on Friday afternoon.

Andrew Brattan (36) from Scunthorpe, was at Woodlands Crematorium at around 1.50pm when he claims to have seen a mysterious phenomenon.

"I saw a long cylindrical object, moving fairly briskly in the sky," said Mr Brattan.

"And although aeroplanes were flying at the time they were leaving vapour trails, but this object didn't."

"It built up speed and quickly disappeared into a cloud bank."

"The whole event lasted around 60 seconds and the object was flying at around 300ft."

Mr Brattan said he was so puzzled by what he had seen he did not report the event to police until Saturday.

"The object frightened me so much because of its size, it was four or five times longer than a civilian aircraft or a fighter plane, but they cannot start and then stop like this could."

"I've seen a lot in my job as a funeral driver, but this really frightened me."

Police have confirmed they received one report in relation to the incident.



ALIEN TOXINS



UFOs ARE THE LEGEND, BUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CHEMICALS ARE ALL TOO REAL.

AREA 51'S SCI-FI FOLKLORE MASKS A TRULY SPOOKY REALITY BY JASON VEST

• WASHINGTON—The story ends—for now, anyway—with a piece of paper dated September 20, quietly conveyed two weeks ago to the *Federal Register*, where it was published as per the requirements of United States law, and where it went virtually unnoticed, as so many laws, regulations, and executive orders do. This order, however, was unique in that it spares the Pentagon from sharing secrets about what is arguably the world's most mysterious military installation.

The secrets in question have to do with environmental matters, at a place the directive characterizes as "the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada"—better known as Area 51.

It's a popular culture phenomenon, Area 51, popping up in everything from the 1996 smash movie *Independence Day* to episodes of the X-Files to scores of Web sites. There's even a book, *Area 51: The Dreamland Chronicles*, that focuses on its "culture," its status as a mecca for the parishioners of the modern-day church of ufology. As every possessor of *The Truth About the Government* knows, Area 51 is where the air force tests and tinkers with the alien technology it gets—by dint of either rapacious force or covert friendship with the grays from beyond.

Whether or not Area 51 is a haven for extraterrestrial mechanics and cross-planetary conspiracies isn't likely to be quickly settled to anyone's satisfaction. What seems beyond dispute is that, at the very least, the base is a testing site for aircraft systems funded and developed under spooky "black budget" programs. But as ongoing lawsuits filed on behalf of some of the site's employees have shown, this work is considered to be so clandestine that workers adversely affected by toxic materials used and destroyed there cannot even be told what it was to which they were exposed. Two workers—Robert Frost and Wally Kasza—died wondering just what it was that had slowly and painfully done them in.

Any way you look at it, it's a travesty: Sick people who've served their country's government aren't being told what's tormenting them. Yet when most people hear "Area 51," it goes to the "fringe" node of their brains, the part that looks at things with a more amused, entertained eye than a serious or critical one. Which is why legal scholar Jonathan Turley, director of the Environmental Crimes Project at George Washington University's National Law Center, decries the way the forces behind popular culture have hyped and framed Area 51.

"Two good men died at Area 51. They weren't killed by aliens. They may have been killed by the government, but through dangers that were distinctly earthbound, dangers that had nothing to do with extraterrestrial beings," Turley quietly seethes. "I've long felt that the military has been delighted with the circus environment over aliens at Area 51, because it's not only a welcome distraction, but it makes our entire litigation look ridiculous by association, when our litigation has nothing to do with aliens." He pauses. "I wish people were as concerned about Wally Kasza as they seem to be titillated by some mythic alien presence."

At 38, Turley is still idealistic, a high-profile Washington lawyer who relishes testifying before Congress as much as he revels in tending to his one-year-old son. Nonetheless, the lawsuits he filed against the government earlier this decade for the survivors of two dead Area 51 workers and a number of anonymous plaintiffs have made his life resemble something between *A Civil Action* and *The X-Files*. At the air force's insistence, a federal judge has classified his entire office at GWU; if anyone else crosses the threshold, they are in violation of national security law and a court order, and can be arrested. Almost all of his interviews with clients have been conducted in dimly lit parking garages at night.

Which was where he last saw Wally Kasza, in 1995. A 69-year-old sheet metal worker from Area 51, Wally had replaced his friend Robert "Frosty" Frost as an industrial supervisor at the base after Frosty died in 1990. Frosty had been afflicted with illnesses that took the form of constant respiratory distress and a painful skin condition that he and other workers called, with no exaggeration, "fish scales." The symptoms were manifesting in others, too. Which is why Kasza and his codefendants had sought out Turley.

For years, they explained, the military officers who run Area 51 had been taking advantage of its "black" status to get rid of toxic waste in the most expedient—and most illegal—way possible: burn it in open pits. (The legal logic at Area 51 was simple: How can any law apply to something that doesn't officially exist?) After Frosty died, doctors determined his liver had failed thanks to high amounts of dioxin and dibenzofurans, plastic- and solvent-based chemicals taken into the body via smoke inhalation. Like Frosty, Kasza's skin would crack and bleed; he'd hack up a lung every night; now kidney cancer was about to claim him. As they sat in the darkened garage, Kasza asked Turley: If he died, could his wife take his place in the lawsuit? "He really wanted to live long enough to see some justice at Area 51," Turley sighs.

Prompted by the Washington watchdog Project on Government Oversight, Turley has taken on two cases against the government: *Frost v. Perry*, directed at the Pentagon, and *Kasza v. Browner*, directed at the EPA. The case against the Pentagon has often resembled something out of *Alice in Wonderland*. For months, the air force argued that the plaintiffs had no case because Area 51 didn't exist. When Turley would introduce evidence to debunk this claim, the government would promptly classify it. It was only after Turley threatened to put on the stand the Russian embassy's military attaché—who would be more than happy to disclose under oath what years of Soviet-era intelligence gathering had revealed about Area 51—that the government agreed to refer to "an operating location near Groom Lake."

The lawsuits have yielded mixed results: While the workers and survivors of workers at Area 51 still don't know what they were exposed to (they've never sued seeking damages, just information), a judge has ordered the EPA to inspect the facility for compliance with federal environmental law. According to one law, the EPA has to make its findings public, something the government doesn't want to do. And according to another law, the government doesn't have to; under USC 6961, if the president says it's "in the paramount interest" of the U.S. that such information be classified, that's the way it is.

But in 1997 a judge determined that Area 51 requires an annual certification to exempt it from public environmental disclosure—a written confirmation that, despite all the years arguing otherwise, Area 51 does in fact exist. While this doesn't do a lot to help the workers who were exposed to toxic waste, it's a landmark in using the law to pierce the veil of government secrecy. Last year, Clinton issued his first annual directive exempting Area 51 from environmental disclosure; two months ago, he renewed it.

Even though Turley's not privy to the EPA's reports, his clients say that since the EPA has been allowed in, the methods by which Area 51 gets rid of hazardous waste have "dramatically changed." The problem, says Turley, is the military's other secret bases. "Area 51 was the crown jewel of black facilities—the military has fought hard to protect it as kind of an enclave of secrecy," he says. "But there are other black facilities, and I'm not convinced the military has learned its lesson. The officers who committed these crimes have not been punished. And the president of the United States has intervened to protect them from [prosecution for] these criminal acts. That sends a message, and not the right one."

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Bigfoot seen in Starbuck!

If you thought it was a thrill to read about a cougar coming into town...how about a Bigfoot in your backyard?!

Yes, that's right! A Bigfoot was spotted recently in the Starbuck city limits!

The person seeing the creature does not want his identity known so we go with the report we got from the Starbuck postmaster and a deputy, Rick Ferguson. Ferguson is well known here, making his home on Route 2, Waitsburg. His wife, Terry, is postmaster at Prescott.

According to Rick, the person who saw the bigfoot, came into the post office later that day to report his experience. The sighting was about 3 a.m. last Thursday (Jan. 27) and the Starbuck resident (whose house is near the Tucannon River on the outskirts of town) went outside for an armload of wood. It was then that he saw the Bigfoot, standing between the woodpile and a fir tree, Ferguson says.

The man bolted back to the house and locked the door, remaining there until later, when he came to the post office.

"He said the thing (Bigfoot) was seven feet tall, with grayish-brown hair," said Ferguson. "He also said it was real muscular and walked upright."

Ferguson added that he had highest credibility ratings for his

informant in the experience.

"I've known him since I came here as postmaster two years ago."

Ferguson also told me the Bigfoot spotter had been interviewed on the national Art Bell radio program, a show that deals with UFOs, Bigfoot and the paranormal. A state Bigfoot organization as well as a UFO-oriented group also interviewed the man, Ferguson said.

Bigfoot and the UFOs are sometimes inter-twined, often reported being seen together or in the same vicinity on the same day.

A Richland man who has had considerable Bigfoot experience had this to say when I relayed the information above.

"That's the little one Wes (Sumerlin) and I saw in '95 on Blacksnake," responded Bill Laughery, Columbia County native and onetime game department employee here. "It also sounded like the one reported only recently up here."

Laughery has been involved in more than one sighting of the creatures reported over the years in the local sections of the Blue Mountains. And, as to the chances of seeing one of the tall, hairy creatures in Starbuck, Laughery recalls when one of them was reported near the LittleGoose dam site.

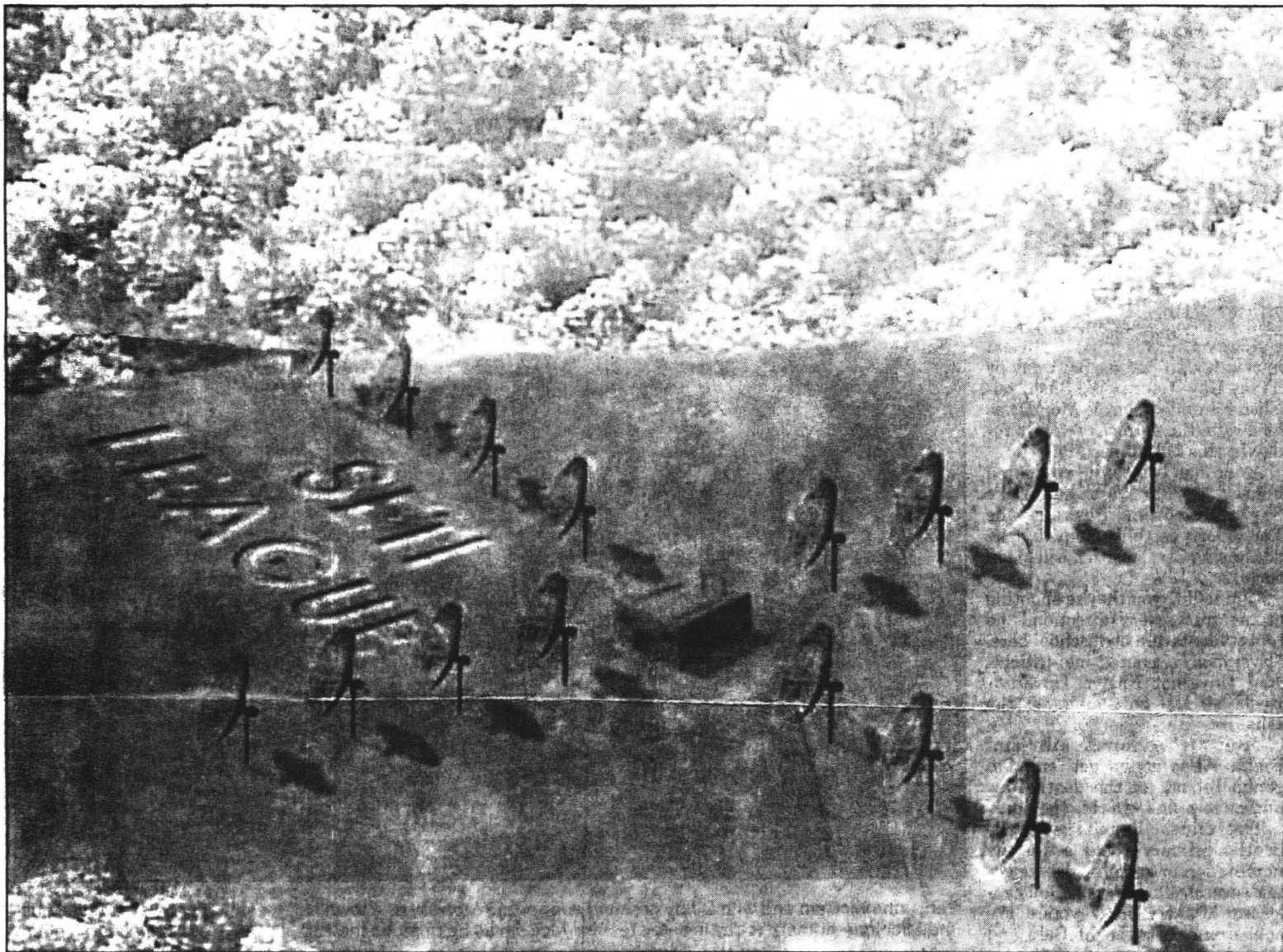
And, Starbuck is within easy loping distance (for a bigfoot) from Huntsville, WA. It was here in 1900 that a 12-year-old girl saw a Bigfoot as she came out the back door of her family's house. When she screamed and ran back to the house, the Bigfoot turned and ambled back into the nearby foothills of the Blues.

Adding to the Starbuck sighting story is the recent filming of some Bigfoot tracks January 2 by Brian Smith of Walla Walla. This, was subject of my Times column of Jan. 20.

"About a week after I shot those pictures," Smith told me, when I reported the Starbuck sighting, "a neighbor of mine told me a man had told him he'd seen a Bigfoot on Blacksnake about where I took those pictures."

With heavy snows prevalent in the high places in the mountains, it just might be possible we are seeing a movement of these creatures in search of food. The fact they are around this time of year, bolsters a belief held by several Bigfoot buffs that there is a family of four or more in the mountains. This belief goes on to their possibly basing themselves in the Mill Creek Watershed, then emerging for the food foraging.

Foraging for spuds in a Starbuck garden ... ?



A conceptual portrayal by artist Jon Lomberg of the Array2k arrangement of satellite dishes planned for a Warren County ostrich farm.

N.J. group awaits E.T.'s call

Warren site will get listening post

By BOB GROVES

Staff Writer

Hello, Andromeda, we're still listening.

Next year, a worldwide group of radio astronomers based in Little Ferry plans to set up 16 satellite-dish antennas on an ostrich farm in Warren County to scan the skies for signals not of this Earth.

Members of the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence League Inc. call this formation of antennas "Array2k." The name refers not to the year 2000, but to the 2,000-square-foot surface formed by the dishes, combined into a powerful radio telescope for collecting signal data from Out There.

Array2k will be an "all-sky survey" of the stars. It will not target specific stars or galaxies unless there is something unusual to check out, said Paul Shuch, founder of the SETI League, which has more than a thousand members worldwide listening for signs of life elsewhere in the universe.

Over the past few years, SETI members have occasionally detected strange signals that appeared to be a message from another world. But these all proved to be from more mundane sources, such as an orbiting satellite.

"We still remain optimistic. After all, it's far too early to become discouraged," said Shuch, an aerospace engineer and professor of electronics at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. "Civilizations take hundreds of thousands of years to develop. We've only been at this for five years."

"We believe other civilizations will generate signals which we can detect, but only if technology [on Earth] doesn't interfere with our own receivers. Not only have we not scratched the surface — we haven't even felt the itching yet."

SETI League leaders picked the undisclosed site on the future ostrich farm because it was relatively removed from the barrage of radio interference, static, and electromagnetic pollution streaming from the Big City and suburbs.

"It's a very rural area, a beautiful place for hunting deer," said Richard Factor, SETI League president.

"One of the nice features is that there are hills between it and New York," he said. So microwave and radio garbage is kept down.

"What it'll really be is an ostrich farm dotted with antennas."

Factor, 54, is president of Eventide Inc., an avionics firm in Little Ferry that donated office and laboratory space to the SETI League for its international headquarters. Factor and Shuch have their own radio dish, but could not agree

with Little Ferry officials on terms for an operating permit. The dish sits parked and unplugged at Eventide.

Factor has always dreamed of tuning a giant ear toward bucolic heavens. A year ago he bought a 3½-acre "SETI easement" on 75 acres in Warren County that a friend, whom he did not name, plans to turn into the ostrich farm.

Array2k will sit in a meadow. The design calls for two lines of eight TV dishes each, in the form of a cross. At the center will be a bunker-like building for computers, recording data, and other equipment.

Factor believes the mixed goals of the farm are compatible. "He [the friend] gets to grow ostriches, and I get to put up antennas. The key issue is that ostriches don't emit any radio signals. So it'll be pretty safe to have them around," Factor said.

The ostriches are incidental, but their symbolism is not lost on Shuch.

"The significance of the ostrich farm is that we are burying our heads in the stars," said Shuch, who founded the non-profit SETI League in 1994, the year after Congress cut its \$2 million budget for the federal SETI project. The SETI League is supported by private donations.

Ostriches, with their heads buried in the sand, also might be a metaphor for people who do not



STEVE AUCHARD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Paul Shuch, left, and Richard Factor in front of their satellite dish.

share the SETI dream.

After renewed public interest in UFOs and space-alien abductions in the 1980s and 1990s, pop culture appears to have moved on, for now at least. The 50th anniversary of the alleged 1947 crash of a flying saucer at Roswell, N.M., came and went, as did a flurry of TV shows about UFO sightings.

Scientists have failed to agree whether a meteorite found in 1996 actually contained traces of Martian microbes. This month, au-

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18 - RECORD,
Hackensack, NJ - Feb. 22, 2000)

thors of a new book, "Rare Earth," argue persuasively that conditions for complex life forms exist nowhere in the universe except here.

But true believers have not given up vigilance or hope. Shuch, 53, is a tireless, globe-trotting champion of the SETI cause, but on a modest basis.

Hardware for Array2k will cost about \$120,000, "a pittance in scientific terms," he said. "The NASA SETI scientists thought like government employees and wanted to build the world's greatest radio telescope. We're satisfied with building an adequate telescope," said Shuch, who is credited with helping develop the first commercial home-TV satellite dish in 1978.

At present, the SETI League has more than 1,155 members operating 90 dishes in 17 countries and 31 states, Shuch said. Half of the members are ham radio operators. The goal is to enlist 5,000 backyard satellite dishes in the organization's "Project Argus," named for the 100-eyed beast of Greek mythology.

Until then, the ostrich-farm array will be used to confirm suspect signals picked up by members around the world, and will be a test model for eventually connecting all the dishes in a global network, Shuch said.

Astronomers ponder: Are we all Martians?

ATLANTA—American and European astronomers are debating whether life began on Mars — not Earth — and was carried here by a meteorite. Recent observations and experiments have made researchers wonder "whether we are really Martians ourselves," Mauri Valtanen, a Finnish researcher, said in a report to the American Astronomical Society Wednesday. Scientists generally accept the notion that life as we know it began with a single ancestral cell, similar to modern bacteria, which later developed into plants, animals and humans. Conventional wisdom is that the first such cell appeared on Earth between 3.8 billion and 4 billion years ago. But now an international team of 10 astronomers has proposed that Mars, which is smaller and farther from the Sun, became suitable for life before Earth cooled sufficiently from its fiery birth. "Mars was available for life before Earth," said Curt Mielkowsky, a senior scientist at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. "It's quite possible that our ancestral cell was Martian."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - March 11, 2000

Strange blaze near England puzzles police

'Ball of fire' reported, flames seared 40 acres

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mysterious fire scorched 40 acres early Friday morning before emergency workers controlled it, central Arkansas officials said.

The Pulaski County Emergency Management Department responded to the fire just before midnight a few miles south of England when a call alerted officials to a possible plane crash, Emergency Management Director Kathy Botsford said.

No evidence of a plane crash was found.

The fire burned parts of Pulaski, Lonoke and Jefferson counties. Most of the damage was sustained on land in Jefferson County, which is in charge of the investigation, according to Lt. Eugene Butler of that county's sheriff's office.

Only one house sits near the 150-foot-wide, mile-long area that burned, but no damage was reported to that building.

A pipeline explosion was also suggested as a cause of the fire, but Botsford said the contents of the pipes running through the area are nonflammable and the company that owns the pipes said no leaks had been detected.

Several people in the area reported seeing a shooting star between 9 and 10 p.m., but Botsford was skeptical of the meteorite theory.

"I just doubt that possibility at this point," Botsford said. "We're just not really sure what started the fire."

Butler said he had reports of a "mushroom-type ball of fire," in the area before the fire, but he said he couldn't say how it started.

"Right now we're just trying to find the origin of the fire," Butler said.

Pulaski County sheriff's office spokesman John Rehrauer said he saw something in the sky while driving in Little Rock — 25 miles northwest of England — about 8 p.m.

"I was driving down the freeway and it caught my eye," Rehrauer said. "I said to my wife, 'That was a bright shooting star.'"

Meteorologist Mike Thompson at the National Weather Service said no meteor shower was expected Thursday night, but that didn't exclude either a meteorite — a meteor that reaches the earth — or debris from outer space starting the blaze.

HERALD SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Feb. 13, 2000 CR: P. Norman



Sighted: A sketch of the mystery animal.

Are you for real?

MYSTERIOUS sightings of a bear-like creature have given the people of a tiny Queensland town a myth to rival Scotland's Loch Ness monster.

According to witnesses, the creature stands one metre tall, walks on its hind legs and is covered in 5cm-long dark hair.

Its footprints are between 10 and 15cm long and it is said to be a superb mimic of bird calls and laughter.

According to local legend, in 1959 a circus truck rolled over on the Binjour Range and some animals escaped, including a bear.

The creature was first seen in December, 1959 in Gayndah, near Gympie.

A \$10,000 reward has been posted for its live capture.

Gayndah Mayor Peter Huth said the town of 3000 was divided about whether the creature existed.

"A lot of people are

sceptical and why wouldn't you be?" Mr Huth said.

"But the people who have seen it are credible and respected members of the community."

Aborigines are convinced the creature is a Jongari or hairman from the race of little hairy men that once lived beside Aboriginal people.

Citrus farmer Allan Bucholz, 67, was one of the first to speak about the creature after he saw a "strange-looking animal" just 15 metres from his tractor.

"It looked like a bear, but it was walking on two feet," he said. "It had a long pointy nose and stood about a metre high."

Shirley Humpreys, 63, said she had seen a hairy creature with a "marsupial-type" face. She said the creature she saw "sort of ambled rather than hopped or jumped".

Mr Huth said rumors of the creature were "great for tourism".

Other days

100 years ago
Feb. 7, 1900

■ A curious find was made at Keel's Creek zinc mines. The diggers unearthed the skeleton of a horse, and a closer examination revealed that the bones had absorbed the surrounding mineral. The jaw bone, which shows considerable pure carbonate of zinc, was brought to Berryville and is now on exhibition.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Feb. 1, 2000 CR: G. Conway

Ice chunks in Ottawa



A four-kilogram mass of ice and rock landed on the roof of an Ottawa man's home this past Saturday. No one knows where it came from. But the owner of the house, Robert Laing, theorizes it could have fallen from a passing plane. •

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - Feb. 7, 2000



place in Honobia on the LeFlore and Pushmataha county line.

While most people would scoff and laugh at the notion of a hirsute, manlike critter roaming the Sooner State, Martin isn't laughing. She said she has seen the footprints, 15 inches long and 7 inches wide.

She also claims to have heard a tape recording, revealing a whistling-like sound that resembles an elk's call, only louder.

"It's pretty believable," Martin said.

She also said she has heard the stories from Humphreys and the others who claim to have seen Sasquatch with their own eyes. They describe a tall, hairy creature who resembles a man more than the typical ape.

And they've gotten mankind riled up around the Kiamichis. A Poteau paper reported that Smithville residents held a town meeting to discuss the sightings. State forester Jim Langdon said his rangers have been inundated with calls from locals who are curious about the sightings.

"This is a little wilder than normal," said Langdon, who has lived in the Kiamichi area since 1982.

Previous to these alleged sightings, any so-called proof of

Sasquatch's existence focused mainly on western reports ranging from northern California to British Columbia. In 1967, a Yakima, Wash., man named Roger Patterson attracted international attention with a 16 mm film of a female Bigfoot taken in northern California.

The last reported sighting of a tall, hairy, manlike creature roaming in Oklahoma was in 1971 in El Reno. But that beast was dubbed the "Abominable Chicken Man" because of its hunger for a farmer's chickens.

The worldwide legend surrounding the mysterious primate, also known as the Abominable Snowman, has inspired movies and countless theories. But until now, an "actual" Sasquatch has not been reported in Oklahoma.

Until Tim Humphreys.

A lifelong resident of the Kiamichis, Humphreys said he started noticing the strange screaming and odd-looking creatures in the woods about three years ago.

This winter, though, Bigfoot supposedly got up close and personal with the Humphreys. One creature went so far as to stare through a window of the family's home, "scaring the hell out of" Humphreys' 3-year-old daughter,

he said.

"They had been beating on my house, scaring my kids playing in the woods, yelling and screaming and scratching," Humphreys said. "They spilled meat out of the freezer."

The closest contact may have come in the woods, though, for Humphreys said he saw four at one time and shot one of them.

Proof of a body? Not so lucky — according to store owner Martin, surviving Bigfoots conveniently carry off and bury their own. Pictures? Humphreys has them, but he said he is not ready to produce them for the world, not even the Tulsa World.

"People are going to say what they want to say; I'm not in this for the recognition," Humphreys said. "I didn't go out looking for them."

The curious, though, have come looking for Humphreys since he went public with his Sasquatch sightings. Several private investigators traveled into the woods with him and also saw the beasts, he said, but hard proof is, well, hard to come by.

So the rumors fly faster than an Abominable Snowman off a Himalayan cliff.

State wildlife biologist Mike

legendary bush beast — is real, says John Bindernagel, a sasquatch scout, and the biology community is starting to take its existence seriously.

"I don't have any problem with the idea that the sasquatch exists," Bindernagel says. "I've talked to so many eye-witnesses. I've seen about 20 casts of footprints. I have one colleague who has about 100 casts in his collection. We've got reported food habits. We've got reported behaviour. We know a lot about this animal."

Bindernagel will present his sasquatch research at 7 p.m. tonight in the Inco Cavern at Science North.

His 1998 book, North America's Great Ape: the sasquatch, is an in-depth account of about 3,000 reported sightings dating back to the 1840s.

Although he has never seen one, Bindernagel has found numerous Sasquatch tracks in his backwoods travels on Vancouver Island.

"We tend to think that the sasquatch comes exclusively from B.C. in Canada, and the Pacific Northwest in the United States," Bindernagel says. "But when I started this book a few years ago, I found some really good descriptions of the sasquatch gait and anatomy that I wanted to use. They were from Ohio."

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario,
Canada - Jan. 3, 2000 CR: G. Conway

MALAYSIA

Orchardape encounter

KUALA LUMPUR • Malaysian villager Liong Chong Shen claimed he saw two *mawas*, huge mythical ape-like animals, in his orchard in Negeri Sembilan state. Mr. Liong said he was tending fruit trees when he sensed a strong animal scent and heard grunts. "My heart started pounding faster when I saw two *mawas* standing near the rubber trees as I feared they would attack me," he said. One of the beasts was about 1.83 metres tall.

Bigfoot believer has a bear of a task ahead

Capturing Kiamichi Sasquatch is no easy feat

By Rod Walton
World Staff Writer

HONOBIA — For anyone who doubts that he really saw Sasquatch lurking in the Kiamichi Mountains, local believer Tim Humphreys has a cure-all for their skepticism.

"We'll just tie deer liver around their neck and come in the woods in the dark for a night," the longtime woodsman said. "And I promise you they'll be a believer before the morning."

It may take something so dramatic to convince many folks that there is,

indeed, a Bigfoot in Little Dixie, but the experiences of Humphreys and several other locals have more and more people wondering if the fabled, elusive — and possibly fictitious — monster has migrated into southeastern Oklahoma.

From Honobia to Smithville, from Battiest to Octavia, the word is out. Bigfoot is making tracks, or at least that's what many locals think.

"A lot of them think it's a big joke," said Linda Martin, who runs Clancy's Country Store, a popular gathering

"I know what they look like. I know their tricks. They better stay away from me."

Tim Humphreys
on the Kiamichi
Bigfoot

deer carcass was basically whole except for a missing liver.

Humphreys warned that Bigfoot will end up worse than that if its kind makes another foray onto his land.

"All the fear is gone out of me," he said. "I know what they look like. I know their tricks. They better stay away from me."

For those who would love to see living proof of a longtime legend, though, the hope is that Sasquatch, if it actually exists, might someday come close enough to be filmed or captured.

"I just try to stay out of it until there's some proof," Langdon, the area forester, said.

When it comes to Sasquatch sightings, however, proof isn't half the fun. The story is.

And Humphreys is certainly sticking to his story.

"I'm not calling around trying to convince people," he said. "People are asking me, and I'm telling what I've seen."

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Sasquatch a North American phenomenon

Researcher's findings include sightings in northeastern Ontario

By Rob O'Flanagan
THE SUDBURY STAR

Professional basketball scouts aren't pouring into our woodlands quite yet. But a wildlife biologist is convinced that very tall "wild men" are living in the North American wilderness.

Their foot size rivals Shaquille O'Neil's. Move over Dennis Rodman. The sasquatch — North America's

"The really early sasquatch reports were from Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont and the Ottawa Valley."

Once he delved into the historical data, Bindernagel was surprised to find reported sightings throughout North America.

There have even been 18 reported sightings in northeastern Ontario, including a 1974 Sudbury close encounter, and a 1994 sighting around Lake Nipissing.

In Cobalt, three sightings dating back to 1906 have been reported.

"Although we have only the one controversial sasquatch film, there have been a number of eye-witness drawings over the years," he says. "And these are consistent right across North America. They show a large, human-shaped, hairy animal, with a short neck, or absence of a neck, and long arms."

The more he studies the creature, the more Bindernagel believes it has the attributes of an upright-walking gorilla, or great ape. The average male is seven feet, six inches, and the average female is seven feet. But they can grow to 10 feet, and their feet can be 20 inches long.

Bindernagel believes he would be level-headed if he actually saw one in the wild.

"I'd be very interested to see how it conforms to one of these eye-witness drawings. I'd hope to have a camera with me. Whether I had the presence of mind to get it out is another story."

TRIBUNE, Scranton, PA
Dec. 7, 1999 CR: R. Swiatek

Green Street turns mysteriously blue

ALLENTOWN — Green Street became blue street for a few hours last weekend.

"We woke up, looked outside and it was blue," said Kim Breslin, a resident of Green Street in Allentown. "No one knows what it is. I was out early this morning, washing it off the cars. It came off easily."

Those who live in the brick row homes between 20th and St. Elmo streets in Allentown weren't alarmed by the presence of a thick blue dust that discolored about 300 yards on Sunday morning.

They were curious. Did the blue dust fall off a truck by accident? Was it vandalism by teen-agers? Did it drop from the bathroom of an airliner on approach to Lehigh Valley International Airport?

No one knew the answer. The city sent a truck to throw sand over the blue substance, residents said.