

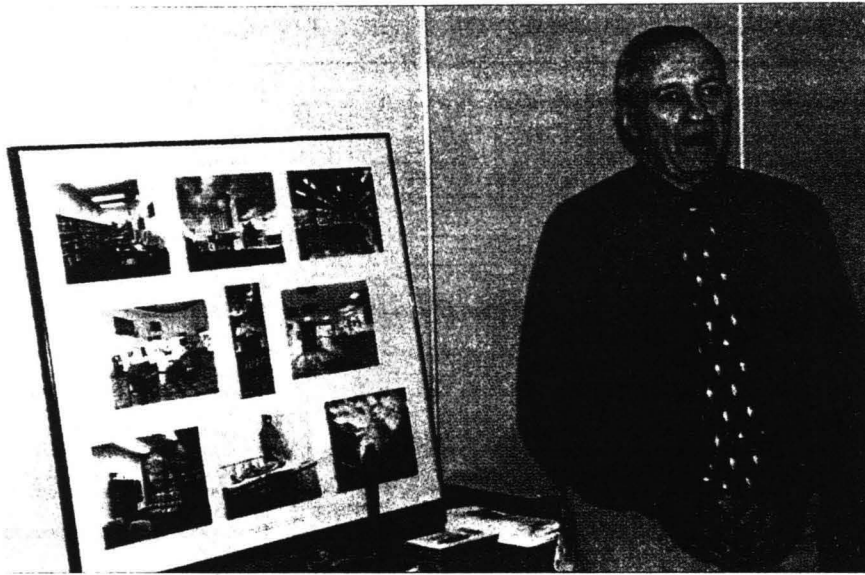
# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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Displaying photos from Roswell museum, George Fawcett talks to Mooresville Rotarians

TRIBUNE, Mooresville, NC - June 3, 2000 CR: G. Fawcett

## Seeing things?

Maybe not. Expert says this area's ripe for UFOs

By JAIME GATTON

Has your power ever zapped off suddenly? Has your pet dog reacted to something unseen in the middle of the night? Ever wonder why the water level of Lake Norman sometimes seems to mysteriously go down overnight?

Well, it could've been a trip in your circuit breaker. Your dog could have seen a wild animal outside. And the low water level could be due to a lack of rain.

On the other hand, it might be traces of extraterrestrial life, says George Fawcett, an internationally-known investigator and researcher of unidentified flying objects.

"Mooresville is a good place to see UFOs; Lake Norman is even better," Fawcett, a resident of Lincolnton, told members of the Lake Norman Rotary Club on Wednesday, when he opened many eyes to at least the possibility of life on other planets.

*'Mooresville is a good place to see UFOs; Lake Norman is even better.'*

**George Fawcett,  
UFO investigator/researcher**

Fawcett says UFOs are usually seen around electrical substations, power lines and large masses of water. "It seems they draw (power) off power and water," Fawcett says. That's why he says reports of UFOs around Lake Norman aren't rare.

According to Fawcett, sighting reports indicate UFOs clamp onto power lines, seemingly extracting power. Over water, tubes protrude from the bottom of UFOs and suck water back into the vessel. Fawcett says that's why several UFO sightings

have also been reported near Lake Norman's McGuire Nuclear Station.

Fawcett just finished reading his 1,015th book on the topic of UFOs. He has investigated more than 1,700 UFO sighting reports — 22 percent of which remain unexplained — and has written and published more than 100 UFO investigative and research articles, dozens of which were listed in the 1969 Library of Congress book, "UFOs and Related Subjects: An Annotated Bibliography," published under contract with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

In 1975, Fawcett authored the book, "Quarter Century Studies of UFOs in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee." His efforts in the UFO field were included in various UFO encyclopedias. His achievements were also listed in "The International Who's Who in UFOlogy Directory."

Fawcett served as the founder and chief advisor to five civilian UFO study groups: New England (1957), Pennsylvania and New Jersey Two-State (1965), Florida (1968), Tar Heel (1973) and the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, Inc. (1989).

Fawcett also helped organize seven UFO symposiums in eight years. From 1979-82, he taught a 30-hour accredited college UFO course titled, "UFOs: A New Frontier of Science" at the Lincoln County Campus of Gaston College. He was also a consultant to the movie, "UFO's — Target Earth."

Just recently, Fawcett donated thousands of artifacts to the International Unidentified Flying Object Museum Research Center in Roswell, N.M., of which he is a member of the advisory board.

Fawcett has been a member or field investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Arizona, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C., the Scientific Bureau of Investigations in New York, the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Illinois, the Fund for UFO Research, Inc. in Maryland, and the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. in Texas.

All the while, Fawcett has presented illustrated lectures to nearly 600 different colleges and universities, service clubs, military and scientific organizations, and technical and special interest groups in the United States and overseas. He is currently working on a UFO Museum project to serve as both a major tourist attraction and research center.

Mooresville lawyer and Rotary member Walter Jones introduced Fawcett at the recent club meeting, saying, "When you tell people you're going to have a program on UFOs, invariably the first thing they do is smile."

But Fawcett's used to that. "Having started (studying UFOs) 55 years ago, you had to have a sense of humor," he says with a grin.

However, he adds, it's really no laughing matter. He told the Rotary Club about 25 aspects of UFO sightings that have been

repeated time and again over the past 47 years — "aspects which have proven themselves to be persistent and consistent on a global basis, among more than 140 world nations."

Fawcett says aspects that seem to be consistent in every report include, but are certainly not limited to, severe animal reactions, power failures, electric shock, radiation burns, dimming of vision, blackouts, temporary paralysis, headaches, blood disorders, nightmares and dreams, etc. Also, increases of background radiation, ground markings, changes in soil samples and deposits of both metallic and non-metallic residues, especially magnesium, aluminum, silicon, boron and calcium.

An enormous challenge to scientific investigations, Fawcett says the physical and psychological traces left behind by UFOs are a threat to national security, the human environment and public safety.

North Carolina ranks fifth in the U.S. for reports of UFOs, surpassed only by California, New Mexico, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Florida ranks sixth in the nation, while South Carolina is 12th.

Only 10 percent of people who see UFOs actually report the sightings, Fawcett explains. About 65 percent of all sightings are reported at night, while 35 percent are reported in broad daylight. Reports are made by people from all walks of life, including scientists, astronauts, engineers, astronomers and pilots.

Fawcett says even former presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter reported seeing UFOs. He says President Clinton just hasn't "come out yet," despite issuing an executive order to release all national security documents in relation to UFO sightings by the year 2000. Those documents, Fawcett says, have not yet been released. And the U.S. Air Force, he adds, is still extensively investigating UFOs.

"These things are just as real as the Apollo astronauts," says Fawcett, referring to UFOs and their inhabitants, "humanoids" or "UFOonauts," as he calls them. "The term 'alien' alienates them too much."

He continues, "I can attest to the fact that (people who report seeing UFOs) are not lying." Fawcett says those folks go through psychological evaluations and sometimes hypnosis after reporting seeing UFOs. "Those people didn't have those experiences because they wanted to," he assures.

Following the program, Town Manager and Rotary member Rick McLean had his own thoughts about UFOs and UFOonauts. "I've never seen one," he admits. "But I can't prove that it's not true. There are an awful lot of things in this world we don't know about and don't understand. This seems to be one of them."

"It's pretty arrogant of us to believe that out of the whole universe, we're the only planet that has life."

## Map notes UFO sighting in Lake Charles

A U.S. map on display at the UFO Museum and Research Center is full of colored thumbtacks, each representing places where people say they've seen a UFO.

In all of Louisiana, there is just one reported sighting — in Lake Charles.

A binder on a table below the map holds the stories of each sighting. This one comes from J.R. Tibodeaux (sic).

Here's what it says: "I witnessed something very strange outside my home May 6, 1999. I was outside star-gazing as I usually do. I noticed an odd-looking light or star-like object

moving north at around 22:00 hours.

"At first, I thought it was just a star, but as I watched, I realized it was at 10,000 feet or so, and it was slowly descending. It finally came to a stop at around 500 feet above the ground and remained idle with no movement or noise. It was a triangular shape craft that had a blue glow to it and three bright purple lights, one at each corner.

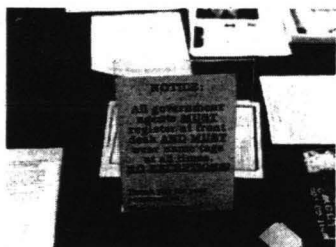
"This craft was enormous in size, about 300 feet across. It stayed hovering over my house for at least four to six minutes, then the craft's purple lights turned off and it emitted a whine noise and rapidly lifted up to the sky. It climbed to about 6,000 feet. It accelerated and took off at a very high rate of speed, probably over 500 mph. It was out of my view within 20 seconds. This is the second time I have witnessed a similar craft this year."

AMERICAN PRESS, Lake Charles, LA - April 30, 2000

# The truth is in here: Report from an Arkansas UFO Conference

by Michael E. Ream

We are not alone. That's the sentiment most often expressed at the lectures, literature tables, and cocktail parties of the twelfth annual Ozark UFO Conference, held April 7-9 at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The rolling hills and elegant old Victorian hotels of Eureka Springs seem an unlikely location for a gathering of UFO devotees. Yet this gilded-age resort and modern-day tourist mecca is playing host to alien abductees, pop artists, science fiction novelists, new-age types, crop-circle researchers, flying saucer fans, and the just plain curious. On a somewhat chilly spring weekend, they converge on the copper-roofed convention center at the Inn of the Ozarks. Lectures and presentations are packed into the two-and-a-half day weekend conference, and there is constant informal networking and



conversation in the many nooks and crannies of the carpeted, modern facility.

Discussions between people whose interest in otherworldly phenomena extends beyond *The X-Files* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

On Saturday afternoon, Antonio Huneus speaks on "UFO Chronicle: Chile, China and Beyond." Standing at the front of a long, darkened conference room, Huneus' face appears twice its normal size on a large video screen immediately to his left. A few minutes into his talk, his face is replaced by photographic slides, which he advances through a video projector. Huneus has spent time investigating UFOs in Chile, where, as he puts it, "UFOlogy is mainstream." In fact, "the President is Pro-UFO," Huneus reveals, discussing his meetings with high-level officers in the Chilean air force and their efforts to track down the alien spaceships.

over the past year on cattle mutilation, flying saucer landings, and other related topics.

On Sunday morning, exhausted attendees slump over the couches and chairs in the lobby, worn out by last night's festivities at the Lone Star and the non-stop pace of lectures and discussions. Ample cups of coffee are consumed as attendees sift through mountains of handbills piled on the abandoned registration table by the front door. The handbills promote books, courses, and upcoming events, everything from "Roswell, the Musical!" to "UFO Phenomenon and the Bible," to "Abductee/Contactee Counseling."

Nearby, a lone crop circle researcher has set up a microscope for examining supposed alien detritus taken from a crop

There are approving looks and nods from many of those in attendance. Huneus moves on, presenting accounts via video projection of confirmed UFO sightings including data from radar and air traffic control. Huneus continues, slipping a tape from Chilean National Television into the projector.

In the lobby, conference attendees discuss every cosmic and otherworldly topic under the sun. Following the winding corridor downstairs, one encounters the vendor area, where several tables are laid out with wares for sale. At the first table, a middle-aged woman in a long, colorful dress gives her take on Martians: "We ate the first Martians you know," she says with an intense stare. "The Martians were originally Atlanteans, but we ate them. They became cattle, elk, buffalo, wolf, bear, and bat." From this, she moves on to a discussion of contrails of long



clouds that can be seen streaking across the sky, which are supposedly responsible for respiratory infections. Nearby, a woman speaks her abduction experiences to another vendor, detailing each incident in a steady, moderated voice. Further down, a vendor's table displays trading cards depicting the familiar round-headed bug-eyed aliens, first made popular by Whitley Streiber's novel 1987 *Communion*. "This is not about fantasy," David, the artist behind the cards, says. "We are not alone. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. Most people would simply believe everything they are told. If they knew some of what goes on out there, they would be scared to death."

At the next table, a female vendor explains remote viewing, a meditative-like process by which one achieves a trance-like state and eventually achieves "rhythmic information gathering," which leads to a higher level of consciousness.

Other vendors have a different take on flying saucers and little green men. A table near the elevator is festooned with pop-culture alien paraphernalia everything from bumper stickers and coffee mugs to books and "Area 51 drivers' licenses," (referring to the supposedly secret government site in the Nevada desert.) The semi-retired couple who operates the booth have been on the UFO circuit for approximately nine years, traveling around the country to various conferences related to UFOs and space aliens. As expected, the biggest gatherings are in Roswell, New

circle found on a cattle farm in Southern Missouri. The small magnetic particles viewed through the microscope are slate-colored and roundish in shape. A printed page next to the microscope discusses the discovery and laboratory testing of the samples. Beyond the conference center door, the sound of voices continually emits from the lectern as various speakers present their research findings in open-mic format. Authors, scientific types, and abductees/contactees share their recent discoveries in UFOlogy and their vision for the future of the movement. A state director from Iowa MUFON, the mutual UFO network, calls for "A change in the alien-human relationship," and a need to assuage the "emotional desperation" of life as an abductee.



Mexico, site of an alleged UFO crash in 1947, and near Area 51 in Nevada. Echoing several of the other vendors and attendees, the couple describe the UFO types as a family, making enthusiastic small talk about the feeling of camaraderie and fellowship that pervades the UFO get-togethers.

"Be sure to check out the Lone Star Bar," says the female half of the team to the visitor. "That's where you'll hear the best stories — usually late at night."

Back upstairs, John Foster of Lincoln, Nebraska, is speaking on "Eminent Discovery: UFOs at the Core of Our Culture." Foster refers to himself interchangeably as a "contactee," or "abductee." He speaks at length about his experience with "grays," their name for alien beings. He presents pen and ink sketches on the projection screen of lizard-like beings, who he says have abducted him numerous times over the course of his life. He moves from alien abduction to space flight to ancient Egyptian mythology, tying it all together as "eternal knowledge and wisdom," that "might be able to help us live without hurting and killing each other." This gets a mixed reaction of nodding approval and



somewhat puzzled bemusement from those in the audience. As Foster wraps up, many began to look weary from two straight days of lecture and discussion.

At the conference, the real action happens at the Lone Star Bar, a rented room located across the parking lot from the conference center. A huge cloud of smoke greets visitors, rising up from a large bar-

becue grill parked outside the front door. A short blond woman repeatedly scurries in and out with platters of meat for grilling, while a well-stocked bar awaits thirsty UFOlogists. A portable stereo blares alternating tracks of rock and roll and new-age type music. One reveler, outfitted in a Hawaiian shirt with a UFO motif featuring little green men and cows being sucked into flying saucers, stands on the balcony with a glass of single-malt scotch. He ruminates at length about UFOs and space aliens being part of a "new mythology," going into detail about crop circles and the "outdoor art" movement in Britain. The huge designs are visible from high above, and are created by a dedicated team of underground artists. Nearby, another attendee discusses research into such crop circles, touching on laboratory analysis of plant and soil samples from crop circle formations, and how several samples show variations and abnormalities.

As the night wears on, more attendees congregate around the Lone Star's cement patio. Many are family folks who come back year after year. Wes Crum, a university employee from Illinois, is another artist who specializes in depicting aliens.

"This is an extended family," says Wes. "It's always nice to get together and see your friends at an event like this." The friends pour in, digging into plates of Tex-Mex and availing themselves of the free-flowing liquid refreshment. The talking and carousing stretches well into the wee hours. Old friends catch up on their work

sible," says Farrish. "We have a lot to think about."

By now, the crowd has dwindled to the point that the piped-in music is beginning to drown out the discussion of space aliens and cattle mutilations. The sun's rays beat down the last parties at the Lone Star as they exchange information cards and phone numbers for the next UFO confab. Suddenly, a chilly breeze blows past, scattering a few pieces of alien literature. The words of the past few days echo in the wind...we are not alone.

Michael Ream is an Arkansas-based reporter. He writes regularly for the *Spirit of the River Valley Newspaper* in Clarksville, Arkansas. Email him at: [meream@bigfoot.com](mailto:meream@bigfoot.com)



## Are they among us?

UFO researcher to visit Salisbury to talk about underground bases

BY JILL MCCARTNEY  
SALISBURY POST

Years ago Dennis G. Balthaser looked out at a clear night's sky and wondered what was out there. Little did he know that 20 years later he would be a nationally known investigator and researcher on UFOs.

It wasn't until after a long career in civil engineering that he met the real Men In Black.

He'll likely talk about those men and the extraterrestrials he thinks live in underground bases when he visits Salisbury Sunday.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) of N.C. will sponsor Balthaser's lecture "Underground Bases: What's Under Our Feet." He's the featured speaker for the network's annual state meeting, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at the Rowan County Agriculture Center on Old Concord Road.

Balthaser worked for the Texas Highway Department for 33 years as a civil engineer and for the U.S. Army 815th Engineering Battalion for three years.

According to Balthaser, his interest in UFOs began after his children were grown. He decided to retire and volunteer full-time for the International UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M. There he served as an investigator, operations manager and member of the board of directors.

Through his research, Balthaser came in contact with a man who had obtained evidence of extraterrestrial life forms. According to Balthaser, he traveled to Oklahoma to obtain the evidence, but was contacted by individuals he believes to be Men In Black. According to Balthaser, these individuals are "government agents sent to put the heat on someone who is getting close."

He said that the men met with Balthaser for three hours, making it clear that he was being watched and he would not be able to contact the man with the evidence he was looking for. Balthaser never contacted the individual.

He said that the men identified themselves as U.S. Air Force agents, but to this day he has not been able to identify them.

Balthaser is still pursuing the two mystery men in hopes of identifying who they were and who they worked for.

Currently he lives in Roswell, N.M., and gives lectures, writes and does research.

George Fawcett, a Lincolnton resident, founded the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina 11 years ago. It claims 165 members and is affiliated with the national network, which will celebrate its 31st anniversary next week.

According to Fawcett, the national organization is a "non-profit scientific group trying to resolve the UFO enigma."

The lecture Sunday will describe existing underground bases, technology required to build tunnels and bases that possibly exist with aliens.

The lecture is broken down into three parts. Balthaser begins with a discussion of bases that exist for national defense. He then discusses the technology needed to bore through the earth to develop such underground bases. Finally, he attempts to open the minds of the audience to the possibility that aliens exist underground.

## UFO photo still tantalizes



Kim Trent Spencer's grandparents, Paul and Evelyn Trent, made history 50 years ago today when she spotted a UFO and he snapped a picture of it on their farm near Dayton that was then distributed nationwide. It appeared in Life magazine on June 26 that year. An enlargement of the original photo appears above.

### The picture will be celebrated, but Dayton residents say it was no big deal

By KELLY KENNEDY  
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

DAYTON — On the 50th anniversary of one of the most-famous UFO sightings in history, townsfolk don't seem to understand what the fuss is all about.

They don't understand why experts have worked for decades to debunk the photos taken from Paul and Evelyn Trent's back yard on May 11, 1950.

They don't have conversations at the town's single bar about whether there is life beyond Earth.

They say they're not interested in an alien-themed ball and UFO watch that McMinnville Hotel Oregon is throwing in McMinnville to commemorate the event.

A month passed before the Trents gained their notoriety, in part because the couple waited to finish the roll of film that contained two of the most hotly debated UFO photographs ever, the closest ever taken of an unidentified flying object and one of the first captured on film.

A June 10, 1950, story in The Oregonian reports that Evelyn Trent was outside feeding the rabbits on the family farm near Dayton, about 11 miles south of McMinnville, when she saw a strange metallic object in the sky. She yelled for her husband, who grabbed a camera and ran outside.

The Trents told The Oregonian that the saucer came from the northeast at about 7:45 p.m., changed direction, then slipped out of sight. "It was like a good-sized parachute canopy without the strings, only silvery, bright mixed with bronze," she said at the time. "It was as pretty as anything I ever saw."

When a friend saw the pictures, he hung them in his bank window, where they drew the eye of a McMinnville reporter. From there, the photos traveled worldwide across the news wires. Life magazine featured them in its June 26, 1950, edition.

Kim Trent Spencer, the farm couple's granddaughter, says she remembers talking about the UFO pictures when she was young, but back then she didn't know the details — that her grandmother said she had seen UFOs before, that the object created a breeze that blew through her grandparents' hair, or which relative spotted the saucer first.

"We think about it every once in a while," she said. "It stays in the back of your mind. I just remember they had a lot of problems with people not believing them. They'd come out and hang up hubcaps and take pictures to see if that's how they did it."

Both of Spencer's grandparents died a couple of years ago.

Dave Sanguinetti, special events coordinator for the Hotel Oregon, said he's not surprised about the lack of interest in Dayton.

"It's not a real popular subject around town," he said. "You never know — it could have happened. The whole area is a mecca for sightings. Seems like everyone has

**TERRESTRIAL EVENT**  
What: UFO costume ball, celestial viewing and a lecture by UFOlogist Bruce Maccabee.  
Where: McMinnville Hotel Oregon, 310 N.E. Evans, McMinnville.  
When: Tonight. Lecture at 7 p.m., costume ball and viewing 8 p.m. to midnight.  
Entry: Free.

a UFO sighting story."

To celebrate, McMinnville is bringing in Bruce Maccabee, the UFOlogist who investigated the photos.

"We're taking it seriously to a point because Bruce Maccabee is going to be here," Sanguinetti said. "But we're also taking it campily. There will be green Martians. I think it's going to be great. I think it's going to be insane."

In a recently updated report to the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, Maccabee said he was unable to prove the photos were a hoax because the image is so clear. He came to a similar conclusion to that of photo analyst William Hartmann, who determined that the way the light was distributed on the photo shows it was a distant object, not a hubcap hung on a telephone wire.

In an Air Force investigation of the UFO reports at the University of Colorado in 1967 — known as the Condon Report — Hartmann determined that the evidence was "consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens

of meters in diameter and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two witnesses."

Hartmann, a senior scientist at the Tucson Planetary Science Institute, said his ideas about the analysis changed when he learned the Trents said they had seen other UFOs. "In my mind this reduced their credibility as follows: If their photo is real, it is clearly an artificial object and apparently not terrestrial, i.e. an alien spacecraft. But such objects must be extremely rare, or we'd have better documentation by now."

Some Dayton inhabitants may not be excited about the 50th anniversary of the event, but they do say it happened. They've seen similar things themselves. A 1996 Newsweek poll showed that 48 percent of Americans

think the government is hiding proof of UFOs from the public.

Howard Putman, owner of Putt's Store in Dayton, said he and several other teen-agers saw several spaceships in the late 1940s.

"We were out working a field at U.S. Alderman Farms near Independence, hoeing corn or potatoes, and we saw five saucers swing down, corner off, then disappear," he said. "A little later, some military planes came over, and that's all we know. We can't prove it or disprove it. You know, there were a lot of things going on in the war years, so it could have been anything."

But Putman, like many Dayton residents, hasn't joined the UFO debate.

"They say it's a regular occurrence around here," he said. "The Trents could've seen something. It's not a big deal, though. If they're out there, they're out there."

"I don't try to convince anyone of anything," said Balthaser. If one person goes home convinced to research the topic, he is satisfied.

Sunday's gathering, at the Rowan County Agriculture Center, 2727-A Old Concord Road, lasts from 1 to 5 p.m. and is open

to the public. Tickets are \$5 for a UFO network member and \$10 for non-members.

Information about Balthaser's lectures and research can be found on his Web site at [www.truthseekeratrosowell.com](http://www.truthseekeratrosowell.com).

# Were residents' sightings of Rockford lights extraterrestrial?

By Mike DuPre'  
Gazette Staff

Whatever else they might have been, the orange lights that Jeff Coan and his family saw over Rockford, Ill., the night of Feb. 11 constitute a "close encounter of the first kind."

What makes the Coans' experience more than an interesting, perhaps embellished, story is the 7½-min. videotape that 16-year-old Joel Coan shot of the five lights as they seemingly flew in formation and in maneuvers around each other.

The Coans live in Beloit. That Friday night, 5-year-old Hannah wanted to eat at Chuck E Cheese's pizzeria in Rockford, so her dad and mom, Jeff and Lori, packed up the family, and her older brother, Joel, brought along his new video camera.

After the Coans left the restaur-



Jeff Coan

rant about 9:15 p.m., they were driving on State Street and saw the lights.

"Traffic was busy," Coan, 40, recalled. "We all saw 'em at some time. They were all flying so strangely, and they were so brightly orange. They were not that high, no more than a couple of thousand feet."

The Coans were not the only folks who saw the lights.

Rockford media reported several sightings on Feb. 11, 12 and 16. Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center, said Monday that his private organization had received as many as two dozen calls reporting the Rockford sightings.

Furthermore, similar events were observed on or near the days in question in Florida, Arizona, Oregon and Texas, he said.

Observers' reports of the sightings Feb. 11 and 12 already are posted on the center's Web site, ufocenter.com, Davenport said, and he expected to have the observations from Feb. 16, posted within a couple of days.

"Everybody was looking at the

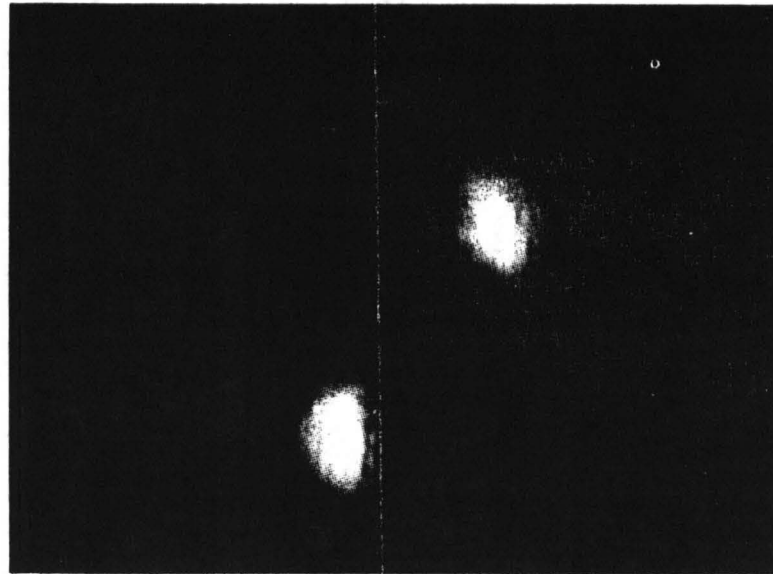
same objects at the same time," Davenport said of the Rockford sightings.

Although he has not seen the Coans' video, Davenport believes the lights that people saw over Rockford were not conventional aircraft because they were not lighted as conventional airplanes are—red light on left wing, green light on right wing.

And Davenport doesn't think the lights were on experimental military aircraft because he doesn't think the military would risk an observation of a new top-secret aircraft or risk an easily detectable accident with a new piece of equipment over a densely populated area such as northern Illinois.

The Rockford Police Department reported "no involvement" when a shift commander was asked if the department received any reports of sightings or if any officers saw the lights.

"We didn't take any reports on it," a shift commander at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department said when asked the same questions.



Bill Olmsted/Gazette Staff

Joel Coan of Beloit shot video images of lights in the skies over Rockford, Ill., on Friday, Feb. 11.

Deputies heard scuttlebutt about sightings, but it wasn't from other deputies talking about what they saw, the shift commander said.

The Rockford Police Depart-

ment's statements of "no involvement" and "no reports" concern Karla Soeprasetyo, a resident of Rockford's northeast side.

On Feb. 16, Soeprasetyo's four

children—ages 9, 12, 13, and 15—were going to bed about 9:30 p.m. when they called their mother to look at the lights in the sky.

Soeprasetyo, 34, and her children saw two sets of orange lights: first one of five, then a diamond-shaped formation of four.

"After the first one faded away, the second came in," she said.

Soeprasetyo is concerned about police saying they had no reports of sightings because she called the police to report hers.

"The children were upset, so I called the local police," said Soeprasetyo, who also shot videotape of the lights. "I talked to the police department, but they didn't know what they were. I told the kids they were weather balloons. I didn't know what to say to my kids."

"Being of sound mind and body, I can say there was something in the sky."

Earl Wilson, operations supervisor of the Rockford Airport control tower, said he was not aware of radar confirmation of the phenomena reported by residents.

But, he added, "we see a lot of stuff that isn't airplanes."

Most aircraft carry radio transponders that enhance their radar images and report information, Wilson said.

If an aircraft does not have such a transponder or if the object is something else, such as flock of birds, it shows up only as a "pinprick of light," Wilson said. "Those pinpricks are scattered all over: birds, radio towers, cars sometimes, planes without transponders."

A Gazette reporter watched Coan's video but was unable to view Soeprasetyo's.

Most of the Coan video shows five small white lights with four of them seemingly in tandem as two pairs. The lights seem to perform maneuvers, flying around each other, lining up and hovering. At one point, Joel Coan was able to zoom in, and two of the lights appear as orange balls.

To Coan, the lights appeared to "fly in intelligent formation."

Soeprasetyo thought that each set of lights, which she and her family saw for several minutes, was attached to a large object.

"This was big, huge," she said. "The lights were bright orange and connected."

Coan and Soeprasetyo maintain they are not fans of "The X-Files," a TV show that often portrays encounters with extraterrestrial life and government cover-ups of such encounters. While Coan is a fan of other science-fiction, Soeprasetyo is not.

"I saw something," Soeprasetyo said. "I haven't thought about it being (extraterrestrial). This could very well be a UFO. With what the police said and all, I thought it could be military. There was something there."

Coan believes that Earth is not the universe's sole home for intelligent life.

"Whether that's what we saw, I don't know," he said. "It could be military, maybe other countries."

Davenport operates the National UFO Reporting Center as a "labor of love," he said. Asked why, he replied: "We are quite sure that something extraordinary is going on, and the government doesn't want us to know about it...."

"Investigators all over are reporting the same phenomena. The number of reports certainly is on the increase."

Asked if he believes the phenomena are extraterrestrial, Davenport said:

"Absolutely. Based on a number of things: The quantity of sightings from seemingly credible people is strongly convincing. These people are seeing things that by all external measurements should not be there."



# Area 51, What Are You?

## Photos suggest it's home to missiles, not aliens

By Kevin Fagan  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

**N**o little green men. No ornate flying saucers. No bizarre, flashing force fields.

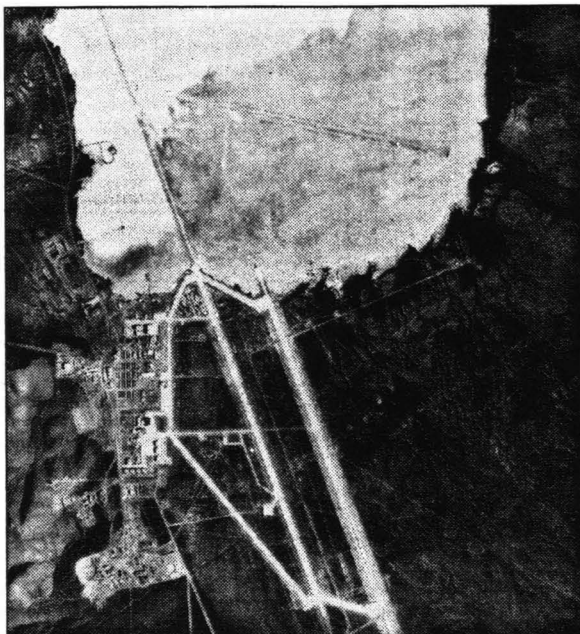
So much for the big UFO conspiracy theories about the ultra-secret Area 51 military test site in Nevada — for now, that is.

A Web site in North Carolina last night posted the most extensive photos ever seen of Area 51, the focus of more space-alien theories than just about any other place on Earth. And the breathlessly awaited answer to the question of what it looks like out there is:

It's a big, desert missile-and-aircraft range, that's what. A mountainous, arid nowhere with a lot of runways, boxy buildings and crater holes from decades of bombing tests.

Of course, the photos will now have to be peered at, analyzed and studied exhaustively by the vast community of extraterrestrial and governmental theorists, and they may yet find something that unlocks a secret or two. And nobody

This image of the Groom Dry Lake Air Force Base was taken by a Russian satellite in 1998.



Associated Press

knows, still, what bunkers or spaceships or aliens might be hiding beneath the ground, away from the cameras, or inside the many mountains at the base.

But at first transmission, the Internet photos yielded no smoking guns. Or particularly secret-looking stuff, for that matter.

"We have some shots pretty much like those up on our wall right now, have had 'em for years. And they are plenty interesting, but I'm not sure they really prove anything," said Carol Syska, director of the UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, New Mexico, another place that hears a lot of space-alien talk. Also in a desert, Roswell is where UFO aficionados say an extraterrestrial-populated craft slammed into the sand 52 years ago.

"It's going to take a lot more investigation to know for sure," Syska said.

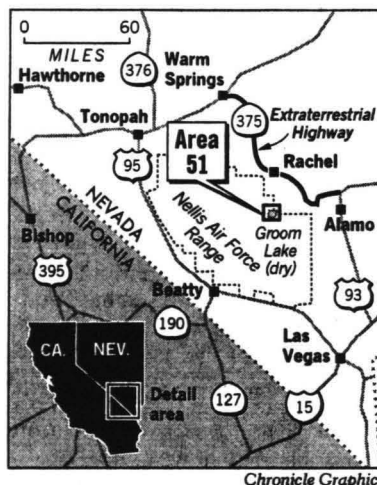
The pictures posted by Aerial Images on [www.terraserver.com](http://www.terraserver.com) are not, by any means, the first of the mysterious testing range, located 75 miles north of Las Vegas in the vast, ecologically harsh and sparsely inhabited center of Nevada.

Amateur sleuths of every stripe, from the serious to the silly, have been distributing photos of the site for years. Presumably, they address theories that captured extraterrestrial craft or aliens are squirreled away there, or that a sinister worldwide government is being plotted in secret bunkers.

And there is no shortage of information to go with those photos — punching the words "Area 51" into the Yahoo search engine alone serves up 2,427 Web sites. However, photos to date have been missing parts of the 38,400-acre rectangular missile-and-testing range, and Aerial Images' offerings are meant to fill in the gaps, company spokesman David Mountain said.

The pictures, all in black and white, were snapped by a Russian satellite launched from Kazakstan in 1998 by Aerial Images and five partners, including Microsoft, to map the Earth's surface.

"There's high interest in Area 51, and we want to present images people want to see," Mountain said, explaining why the range is getting its own department on the Web site be-



Chronicle Graphic

fore other places, such as South America, for example. "We're not really into the aliens angle of this, but there is certainly a lot in there for people who wonder about UFOs.

"If people want to draw conclusions from what they see on our site, that's fine."

The 20 images on the site are presented pretty much as snapped, with mildly titillating headlines alluding to the mystery around the range. One, showing a squiggle of airstrips in the bland desert sand, is labeled, "Mystery Airfield. What do YOU think this is?"

The resolution on the images is sharp enough to distinguish a car from a truck, Mountain said, "but not a Ford from a Chevy." They show tennis courts, runways, somewhat conventional-looking military jets, a baseball field, hundreds of buildings and a swimming pool.

Probably the most interesting objects are the jagged craters from missile testing, some blasted into the earth and some blasted out of the earth, and pictures of roads disap-

pearing into the sides of mountains. "There's all sorts of exciting stuff here," said Mountain. "You've got an enormous area of restricted military land that's never been seen this fully before."

The Air Force, which already knows what is there, had little to say about the new photos yesterday. The military did not acknowledge the existence of the testing range until recent years, and anything it does out there "is so classified, we can't talk about it," said Captain Cheryl Law, a spokeswoman at Air Force headquarters in Virginia.

The testing area is part of the Nellis Range Complex, and spreads out around Groom Dry Lake. Since the 1950s, the base has been the laboratory for top-secret aircraft development, including the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes and the Stealth B-2 bomber.

Airspace is restricted over the range, but the new photos were allowed under a 1994 executive order and a 1992 international open-skies agreement.

Base air controllers call the place Dreamland, but not Area 51 — that name sprouts from its designation on old gridded Nevada test-site maps. Local residents call it many things, including their touristy bread and butter.

Among those who depend on a continuous stream of visitors is Pat Travis, who runs the Little A'Le'Inn, a motel just outside the base on the stretch of Highway 375 known as "The Extraterrestrial Highway."

Travis, not having a computer in the desert, said she would have to wait two days before she could see the new photos. But she said she was sure they would be "very important."

# 'Ghost planes' crop up on airport's radar

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — False radar images have been popping up on the screens of O'Hare International Airport's air traffic controllers, forcing pilots to take sudden turns unnecessarily, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported in its Sunday editions.

At least a dozen "ghost planes" have been reported during the last few weeks, the newspaper said, citing documents from the Terminal Radar Approach Control center in Elgin, Ill., and interviews

with controllers.

Controllers said that at least a few times, they have ordered pilots to take sudden turns to avoid what appeared to be planes on their radar, potentially putting passengers at risk.

"The ghosting is a complete terror for the air traffic controllers," said Charles Bunting, president of the Elgin local of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

False radar images can appear when a crane or construction tower is put up, said Federal Aviation

Administration spokesman Tony Molinaro. Planes from nearby airports also have appeared much closer to O'Hare than they actually were in recent weeks, controllers said.

Molinaro said there have been 13 ghost images in the last five weeks, rather than the eight or nine the FAA would usually expect in that time period, "meaning we still need to look into them."

But Mike Egan, vice president of the controllers union at Elgin, accused the FAA of playing down

the problem. "Maybe 130, but not 13," Egan said Friday. "We had a couple of them today, as a matter of fact. ... They know there's a problem."

O'Hare controllers have also recently complained about the FAA's plans to speed air traffic at O'Hare by stacking arriving planes vertically around O'Hare's air space rather than having them line up single-file.

Bunting said the radar matter raises questions about the safety of the procedure.

## Snooping's Not Just For Spies Any More

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

NOT so long ago, it seems, nations were able to hide their armaments, misdeeds and fortresses from the eyes of nosy civilians, while militaries could pry into most corners of the globe from spy satellites, knowing they could control who could take a peek.

No more. Taking pictures from space is undergoing a revolution, and it is making some governments feel naked.

Private companies in a growing number of countries are launching an increasingly sophisticated fleet of reconnaissance satellites, and governments are finding it harder and harder to restrict what snapshots are distributed to anyone willing to pay.

A recent case involves Area 51, a secret military installation in a secluded valley northwest of Las Vegas that is thought to be used to test advanced aircraft. For decades, the American government kept it off limits to cameras. Known officially as Groom Lake, it was veiled in high security, mysterious lights and, U.F.O. buffs claim, test flights of captured alien spaceships.

Last week, private sleuths won a quiet battle for openness at Area 51 — at least on what can be seen from the sky — as commercial rivals sold space photos of it. In the fast developing field of private photography from orbit, the episode suggests a new frailty for any efforts at state censorship.

When civilian reconnaissance craft were first launched into space in 1972, there was a vast technological gap between them and their older but more powerful cousins, the military spy satellites. All the civilian photos of small objects in those days were fuzzy. But over the decades, they have become increasingly sharp. At first, the spacecraft were able to show identifiable objects no smaller than 100 meters (300 feet). Then that number fell to 30, 10, 5, 2 and now 1 meter, or 3 feet. At that resolution, cars, roads, buildings, tanks, ships, jets and missiles can be distinguished.

So far, only one company, Space Imaging, in Thornton, Colo., has put a one-meter craft into orbit. But other companies in the United States, Russia, Japan, Israel and South Korea are planning to follow suit.

Already, analysts say, commercial spy craft are so numerous and competitive as to undercut governmental efforts to curb what they disseminate. Russia can bar the operators of a Russian satellite from selling pictures of Chechnya, but it has no power over an American company. Likewise, any American efforts to control spying on Area 51 were rendered moot last week when a Russian company put its imagery of the base on the market. Some snoop, the experts say, will always be willing to sell closeups of sensitive zones that some other nation wants off limits, encouraging a free-for-all.

"It won't last," Ann M. Florini, a space reconnaissance expert at the Carnegie En-

dowment in Washington, said of state censorship. "It's hard to imagine any foreign-policy situations where all the actors are going to get together and agree, 'Yes, that imagery is not going to be disseminated.'"

In military terms, of course, it's been decades since any nation could count on real security from the prying eyes of foes. Missile testing, bomb development and large-scale military operations have long been detected — or forced to try to hide from spy satellites by dint of camouflage and subterfuge. Even so, it hasn't usually been to the spyer's advantage to make its discoveries public, since a cardinal rule of espionage is to keep your discoveries to yourself. And that, in a way, made the game all the more secretive and manageable.

But commercial companies don't play by those rules. What is new is the prospect that any country's secrets will come unpredictably under public display in ways that could embarrass governments, tip their hands in war and debate, or show sensitive installations to terrorists or just plain mischief-makers. Imagine if the F.B.I.'s and K.G.B.'s eavesdropping gear suddenly fell into the hands of voyeurs, and you get a hint of the queasiness now felt in high places.

For a time, even after cameras started zooming, states could exert some control over civil reconnaissance from space. In 1995, India lofted a craft that took five-meter images. It photographed the world, but blocked photos of its own military bases. And in 1996, after the Clinton Administration approved the taking of one-meter photos, American supporters of Israel won a law limiting the sharpness of images of Israel to the best obtainable by any foreign company. Today, that means two-meter sharpness, which a Russian company sells.

IN the United States, the investigative use of space imagery has been strongly encouraged by the Public Eye program of the Federation of American Scientists, a private group in Washington that promotes arms control and has bought satellite photos in a systematic effort to fight military sensors. In January, it revealed a North Korean missile base, and in March a Pakistani nuclear reactor and missile site.

Its newest target is Area 51, and it played a big role in the release of the new imagery.

Public Eye ordered Area 51 photos from Space Imaging last winter — to no avail, leaving it wondering whether there had been what experts call "shutter control," a right that American officials assert to at times restrict American-owned civil spy cameras, or self-censorship by Space Imaging, which is owned mainly by Lockheed Martin, a military contractor, and whose largest customer is the Pentagon. The company denied there had been either.

The logjam broke Monday when a rival American company, Aerial Images, based in Raleigh, N.C., released Russian two-meter photos of the secretive base.

## Request about UFOs dismissed

By Senta Scarborough  
The Arizona Republic

There may be aliens out there, but a federal judge is convinced that the government doesn't have any proof of it.

U.S. District Chief Judge Stephen McNamee decided Thursday that the federal government had made a reasonable effort to provide information on mysterious triangular-shaped aerial craft and dismissed the case brought by a Scottsdale man.

"This case is not one over the existence or non-existence of UFOs, but whether the government has conducted a reasonable search regarding information on specific aerial modes of transportation," McNamee wrote in his ruling.

In January 1999, Peter Gersten, executive director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, filed a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act for all documents related to "unidentifiable and unique aerial objects," some of which were reported over the Valley in March 1997.

"Well, I'm disappointed, of course. I'm not surprised. I thought he would dismiss it, which is typical of all FOIA cases brought about for UFO documents," Gersten said Thursday.

The documents provided by the deadline did not shed any light on the mysterious objects, Gersten said.

At first, the Defense Department said it conducted a search of its records and found nothing.

But the judge wanted proof of a "reasonable" search. So last month, he ordered the Defense Department to show specifics.

In response, three documents were filed showing that federal agencies had used 32 specific terms, including "UFO," "spacecraft" and "alien craft," in its database search.

Gersten won't give up. He said that he will continue to press for information but added that he most likely won't appeal McNamee's decision.

TIMES, New York, NY - April 23, 2000 CR: V. White

ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ - March 31, 2000



# LOOKING BACK

SUNDAY TRIBUNE, Chicago, IL - Oct. 10, 1954

## *The Distaf Side*

### Flying Saucers and A Handsome Irishman

By Maryland McCormick

**L**AST WEEK Desmond Leslie, younger son of our Irish friend, Sir Shane Leslie, was in town. This very handsome young man has written, in collaboration with George Adamski, a book called "Flying Saucers Have Landed." One cannot exactly laugh off these flying disks now. So many have been seen by people in all parts of the world. Records show that about 1,800 are sighted a month.

Mr. Leslie claims in his book that celestial cars or vimamas, as he would rather call flying saucers, are not new to this world. They were written about in early Sanskrit more than 4,000 years ago. The Bible refers to them as fiery chariots, and all ancient races have records of men from other planets visiting the earth. These visitors from Mars or Venus are of a higher plane, both literally and figuratively speaking. They do not have wars. They are a kindly people and come to us more often in time of stress and trouble. Our atom bomb has distressed the solar system, a very large place to disturb, considering it is millions of miles from one planet to the next, perhaps requiring several years of traveling at the speed of light, a mere 186,000 miles per second!

That is travel as we know it, but perhaps we are wrong. Suppose light does not travel. What is light? Perhaps in a hundred years, we will go on a trip to Jupiter like we now go to Europe or the orient.

**C**IVILIZATIONS have been here on this earth and then have disappeared. We know something of the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Aztecs, and many others, even of the lost Atlantis. Why did these people and most of their history perish? Wars and pestilence account for many, but could not some cataclysmic disaster, such as the hydrogen bomb, be the answer? Mr. Leslie tells of 50,000 persons, dwellings, trees, and elephants being burned and charred by a terrible weapon somewhat like fire. This was written 10,000 years before Nagasaki. He quotes from Mausall Parva. I believe there have been civilizations possessed with greater knowledge than we have. As we read in our daily newspapers of our so-called progress, wars, and politics, does not one wonder whether we are not headed for complete destruction?

Desmond Leslie's book offers many facts about jet propulsion, super-metals that glow in weird colors, landing gears, and planes that can reverse in a split second and travel from a leisurely pace to 18,000 miles per hour. He

showed me pictures of a cigar shaped spacecraft about 2,000 feet long. He and his collaborator have many pictures of flying saucers as they left the mother ship, supposedly for exploration.

**T**HERE ARE flying saucers; whether they are vehicles from Mars or new instruments the army and navy are making, I do not know. Dr. Donald Menzel of Harvard university, in his book, "Flying Saucers," calls them everyday natural phenomena. Young Leslie answers this with some powerful arguments and facts, foremost, that anything new is looked upon either with ridicule or distress and human nature does not ask for drastic changes.

When Mr. Leslie first showed me his pictures and told me about the flying vimamas, I facetiously asked, as he is Irish, whether it could not be the little people, or leprechauns, that had influenced him. He then asked me if I knew anyone who ever had seen a flying saucer. Yes, my good friend and neighbor, Kemper Wetmore, told me she saw a strange object about 4 o'clock in the morning south of her house. The thing was about 35 feet wide and looked like a porthole with doughnuts surrounding it. When she related this apparition I asked her if she did not have a fever, or had been struck on the head, or had had mince pie or too much champagne for dinner, but now I am not so sure. Mrs. Wetmore is a conservative person. Her banker husband told her she had had a nightmare and not to relate it to anyone. It sounded too fantastic. Perhaps she did have a dream, or did she really see a celestial car?

Mr. Leslie might go down in history, or perhaps when he was a child his Irish nurse may have had too much imagination.

If one could go to the moon, I would like to go on the first supersonic airplane and fly into the vast unknown. I would send back to earth a letter to our secretary of state, Mr. John Foster Dulles, recommending this mode of travel. Think of the time he could save. He could have cocktails in Washington and dinner in Hong Kong.

### *Astronomer Sees Big Half Circles*

**HOBBS (P)—R. S. Fleming,** amateur astronomer, has reported seeing five huge half circles, outline by pale lights, speed across southeastern New Mexico skies Thursday night.

Fleming was watching through his telescope when he saw the objects, one at a time, at altitudes ranging from 5000 to 12,000 feet, he estimated. He said they were "about twice the size of a B36 flying low."

"In three years of watching the skies," Fleming said, "I have seen weather balloons up to 116 feet in size, comets, meteor showers and jet planes, and these were none of them."

Fleming estimated speed of the objects as about twice that of a jet.

He said he and his family saw them as semi-circles bisected by a straight line. No solid body could be seen—just the pearly lights, Fleming said.

### *Hints of Space Travel, But Not by Earthlings*

By Bill Moore.

(A Member of The Star's Staff.)

**T**HE flying saucer and space ship realm was examined at length here yesterday afternoon by John Otto, a Chicago patent development engineer and investigator for Flying Saucers International.

The examination was, in fact, a little too complete for many in Otto's audience. At the end of a couple of hours they began to slip away, obviously feeling that they had been served with more saucers and assorted heavenly craft than they would be able to assimilate in one day.

**Has Many Pictures.**

Otto spoke at a meeting of the Unidentified Flying Ob-

jects Study club of Kansas City in the Paseo high school auditorium. He came equipped with a large bundle (yes, a great many) of picture slides. It took time, of course, to wade through just a representative sampling.

At the outset Otto's audience numbered about 550. He began showing the slides, with little in the way of introductory remarks, at about 2:50 o'clock. By the time the projectionist had worked his way down to the bottom of the pile, and Mr. Otto was ready to answer questions from the audience, probably a fourth of his listeners (or viewers) had gone home to rest, relax and perhaps to contemplate. The collection of photo-

graphic slides, appropriately titled "From Out of This World," encompassed everything from bright globs of light in the sky to distinctive appearing craft complete with domes or turrets.

**'Mother Ships' on View.**

There were photographs of machines which Otto described as "mother ships"—something on the order of an aircraft carrier. It appeared that smaller craft had been launched from the mother. Otto said the camera had caught the smaller ships "peeling off" to make a few sweeps of their own.

Sort of throwing out something to ponder, Otto brought up the question of whether atomic blasts from earth are disturbing the citizenry of other planets—possibly interrupting their communications, for one thing.

"Maybe that's why we've

been getting so many flying saucers in these recent years," he suggested. "Maybe the people of other planets are saying, 'What in the world is going on down there on earth. . . let's go have a look.'"

Apparently there's lots of activity these days (and nights) on the moon, Otto said. Strange lights are showing up on the moon, bridges being built, and much stirring about. Many strange craft seen departing from the moon.

Are the residents of other planets using the moon as a staging area?

Not a very comfortable thought. But, as Otto says, if you don't feel up to dealing with it today, just hang it on the hook for a while. What we don't understand today, we'll maybe understand tomorrow.

STAR, Kansas City, MO - March 3, 1958

# In France, Rumors Are Flying... Or Maybe They Are Saucers

By Crosby S. Noyes

Foreign Correspondent of The Star

PARIS.—Readers of the classified ad columns of the Brest Telegramme blinked recently at the following notice:

## REWARD

Offer of 10 million francs (\$28,000) to any one who brings me a live inhabitant of the planet Mars. Contact PRE at LOCROAN (Finistere).

It may be that Mr. Pre has his tongue in his cheek and a good deal less than 10 million francs in his pocket. But considering what is going on in Europe these days you never know. . . .

Cedric Allingham, if his interests had been more mercenary than scientific, might have cleaned up. Mr. Allingham is a Scot. He is also a professional ornithologist and an amateur astronomer. His big chance came last February 18, about 3:30 p.m., in the course of a stroll between Lossiemouth and Buckie in Scotland. The flying saucer landed on the heath only a few yards away.

"A magnificent machine," Mr. Allingham reported later. "About 50 feet wide and 20 feet high. Made of metal, shinier than aluminum. As I walked over a trap in the lower part opened and a man jumped out gracefully. I waved at him and he waved back. Then we just sort of stared at each other for a while.

"We both looked pretty much alike—about 5 feet 9 inches, around the same age (32), short, dark hair. Clothes, of course, were quite different. He had on a sort of tunic covering him completely to the neck, leaving only his hands free. Sort of like a coat of mail. One thing especially caught my attention: His nose, or rather two small tubes which emerged from his nostrils, connected by a metal bar no thicker than a match. . . ."

Thinking fast, Mr. Allingham decided that his responsibility both as a scientist and an earthling required him to take the conversational initiative. By way of an obvious opening gambit, he pointed a questioning finger toward the sky.

## Had a Charming Smile.

"The man nodded affirmatively and smiled," Mr. Allingham related. "He had a charming smile. Then I took out my pad and drew a sketch—the sun in the middle and three circles representing Mercury, Venus and the Earth. I pointed to the third circle and then to myself. He agreed. Then I pointed to the second circle and to the man. To my surprise, he shook his head—he didn't come from Venus. . . ."

"Then I drew a fourth circle representing Mars. I showed it to him and, this time the man agreed. I said 'Mars' and he repeated 'Mars' in a voice which can't be described but which could be compared to the sound of spring water."

After this promising beginning, the conversation lagged. Further questions produced little in the way of new information about life on Mars or the workings of flying saucers. It was established, however, that the Martians had also made trips to Venus and had landed on the moon. Finally, the Martian, who showed an astonishing lack of curiosity about Mr. Allingham, decided it was time to leave.

Before going, however, he agreed to a few snapshots of himself and his machine. Unfortunately, for all his knowledge of bird-lore, astronomy and interplanetary small talk, Mr. Al-

lingham turned out to be no great shakes as a photographer. His developed film showed only the blurred but surprisingly human-looking back of the retreating space traveler. The picture of the saucer has all the definition of a badly poached egg.

Before the takeoff, Mr. Allingham was allowed to touch the saucer which he did, gingerly, with one finger. "I was a little scared," he replied. "Afraid of an electric shock or something. But the machine was only strangely warm." A few moments later, the visitor waved his guest away and climbed hastily back inside the saucer. There was a light whoosh as it rose rapidly and disappeared.

## Flooded by Reports.

Although Mr. Allingham has written a book about his experience and stood the best chance of earning Mr. Pre's reward, he has no corner on the Martian market. Within recent weeks, European newspapers have been flooded with scores of hardly less intriguing reports:

On the night of September 10, near Quarouble in Northern France, an oblong machine about 10 feet long landed on a railroad track a few yards from the house of farmer Marius Dewilde. Two small man-like creatures emerged, dressed in costumes that looked like divers' suits. As Mr. Dewilde walked toward the machine, he was paralyzed by a green light. By the time he recovered, the machine was high in the sky. Further investigations showed symmetrical scrapes on the wooden railroad ties, suggesting that the object had rested on a tripod undercarriage.

The same evening a farmer named Antoine Mazaud of the Plateau de Millevaches in Southern France turned in a similar report to the local authorities. Walking home, Mr. Mazaud had found himself suddenly face to face with a small, mysterious stranger, wearing something that looked like a crash helmet. Farmer Mazaud prudently extended his pitchfork. The stranger, on the contrary, held out his hand in a gesture of friendship, walked up, uttered a few sounds and kissed Mr. Mazaud on the cheek. Before the farmer could recover his poise, the amiable intruder had climbed the roadside hedge and entered a cigar-shaped contraption which took off with a faint buzzing sound.

On September 24 at 10 a.m. in the Gardunha Mountains near the Spanish border, three Portuguese peasants were startled by a fast-flying sphere which landed in a field 200 yards from them. This time, two tall creatures emerged in shiny metallic outfits and started collecting grass and stones in a brightly polished box. Spotting the peasants, they strolled over and invited the men by gestures to climb into their machine, where moving shadows could be seen behind the semitransparent center section. When the offer was declined, the strangers disappeared through a hatch. A few seconds later, the sphere took off vertically and rapidly disappeared.

## "Flying Mushroom."

On September 30 at 5:10 p.m. Bernard Goujon and Armand Pichet were working on the road between Maisonnelles and Meaux when a "flying mushroom" eight feet wide settled gracefully nearby. Mr. Pichet, from a vantage point in the roadside ditch, urged Mr. Goujon to "run over and have a look." According to Mr. Goujon's report to the gendarmes, the

mushroom seemed to be made out of aluminum and rested on three crutches. It took off as he approached "spiraling like an autumn leaf" and was lost in the clouds. Next morning the authorities duly noted three deep imprints in the ground.

On October 5 at 7:15 a.m. another roadworker named Gustave Narcy was bicycling to work near Wassy near Paris when he noticed an unusual-looking creature climbing out of a 30-foot cigar. Mr. Narcy's description was very precise. The stranger was 3 feet 11 inches tall. His body was covered with hair. He was wearing a large orange corset and a helmet made of plush. A moment of mutual staring ensued after which Mr. Narcy said good-morning. The stranger, apparently un-re-assured, scrambled back into his fuselage and flew away. An investigation of the spot revealed skid-marks on the grass and a strange milky substance.

Reports like these are run-of-the-mill, chosen at random from literally hundreds of similar incidents that have been brought to public attention within the last few weeks. The stories have an interesting mixture of variety consistency. The flying what-nots are always luminous by day or night. They are described as saucers, mushrooms, cigars, barrels, bananas, spheres and chamber pots. The pilots vary in size as well as wardrobe, ranging in size from dwarfs to giants. In all cases, the visitors have been pictured as mannerly but timid. In several cases the use of harmless weapons has been reported—in several others the intruders have shown an interest in collecting vegetable and mineral specimens near at hand.

The scientists have come up with plenty of explanations. A report from Russia that the past summer has been unusually hot on Mars has led to the journalistic deduction that the Martians are coming over for a breath of fresh air. The summer in Western Europe has been anything but hot. In Africa, the vice president of the Astronomic Association of Nairobi suggests that Mars is conducting a geographic survey of the Earth, concentrated presently on Europe and Africa. Professor Herman Oberth, the German scientist who designed the V-2, has a theory that the unearthly visitors are really intelligent plants called "Uranides", millions of years more advanced than human beings. The politicians are also getting into the act: In France Jean Nocher, Gaullist deputy from the Loire District, has formally demanded an investigation by the Secretary for Air.

All of which, probably, proves very little. Except that people in Europe today have more serious things to worry about than re-arming the Germans. And that if Mr. Pre of Locronan is daft, he has, at least, plenty of company.

NEWS, Chicago, IL - July 26, 1955

# Mystery 'Thing' Lands Amid 6 Kids

It came from outer space—maybe—and James Gutillo doesn't know what to do with it.

"It just missed my six kids. It could've killed them," Gutillo, 40, said Tuesday.

Gutillo and his wife Lena, 35, were sitting in the yard of his home on the grounds of the Chicago House of Correction prison farm at 7121 Joliet rd., Lyons Township, Monday night when "it" happened.

GUTILLO, assistant superintendent at the farm, said, "The kids were tossing a volleyball around, playing dodge ball. I was talking to Lena.

"Then I said, 'Look at that!' A blue thing with a yellow tail streaked through the sky.

"It landed right in the middle of my kids. Paul came running over and said, 'Daddy, we've got a message container from a flying saucer. We're going to open it.'

"I said, 'You've been reading too many comic books.'"

GUTILLO'S children cracked the object with a sledge hammer and brought it to him, smoking, on a shovel.

"It smelled burnt," he said. "It's mushroom-shaped with a hard, spongy look like molten rock and metal all blended together.

"It weighs about 30 pounds and it was a little bigger than the volleyball. It looks dirty grayish."

AMERICAN, Chicago, IL - Jan. 27, 1955

# Documentary Saucer Film in Premiere

DETROIT, Jan. 27 (INS)—An overflow crowd jammed the Detroit Institute of Arts last night for the premiere of the first documentary motion picture of flying saucers.

What they saw, accompanied by a screech-like feedback on a microphone, was a whirling white mass bouncing around California mountains.

The film, "We Have Seen the Saucers," was produced in California under the sponsorship of the Detroit Flying Saucer Club.

It included eyewitness testimony, along with films by a California businessman.

Thomas Eichoff, who has studied the subject to establish "what we can believe" about saucers, said:

"The most amazing thing about the film was the fact that the government let these eyewitnesses testify.

"The airline pilots, Army officials and citizens who tell of the sightings in this film had been, and as far as I know still are, under tight government security regulations."

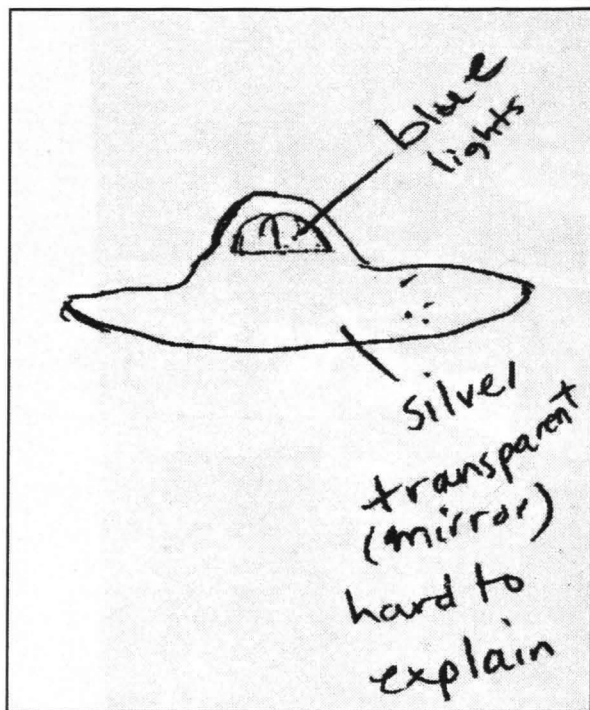




## FOREIGN NEWS

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

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - April 20, 2000 CR: G. Conway



Drawing by LEAH ISAAC



Star Photo by VINCE FEDOROFF

**WITNESS TO UFO** - Pelly Crossing resident Leah Isaac is seen in Whitehorse today with daughter Tina-Lee Lucas, three months, and partner Darrell Lucas. Isaac made the accompanying sketch from her experience on the North Klondike Highway early on the morning of March 30.

# UFO makes woman leery of night travel

By STEPHANIE WADDELL  
Star Reporter

For Leah Isaac, a strange encounter with the third kind on March 30 made a believer out of the former skeptic.

The episode, meanwhile, is attracting the interest of the American media. "I can't even travel at night anymore," the Pelly Crossing resident told the *Star* in Whitehorse this morning.

Shortly after 5 a.m. on the day in question, Isaac was travelling to Pelly from Whitehorse along the North Klondike Highway with a friend when they came around a corner at Little Fox Lake to a sight neither had seen before.

About 15 to 22 metres (50 to 75 feet) away was a disc-shaped aircraft hovering about 60 metres (200 ft.) off the ground.

"It was silver and transparent," she noted. "It was like a mirror. It was

almost like you could see right through the craft.

"It's so hard to explain because you never see that kind of material. It's almost like you can see right through it."

Inside the craft appeared a blue, turquoise colour, but she did not see a pilot nor anyone in the craft which she noted was "so advanced."

"I was really scared, but I was really shocked when I've seen it," Isaac said. "We were both shaking."

Isaac's analog watch stopped, while another friend's digital watch went into chrono mode, the truck's tape deck stopped and the lights on her vehicle dimmed.

"Everything went dead," she said. Isaac reported the craft seemed to be somewhat confused at their presence. After about five seconds, it shot in front of their vehicle and stopped

instantly on the left side of the road.

Isaac reported that she had never seen anything move so fast, and it made no noise.

"I think if it wanted to hurt us, it probably would've," she said.

As Isaac kept driving through the experience, her eyes were peeled on the site, while her friends told her to "floor it."

They took off after the craft disappeared and didn't look back for fear that it would follow them. It was about five minutes before the watches started again and 10 minutes before the tape player resumed working.

"I was driving really fast, as fast as I ever drove, and then when we stopped somewhere, we were just shaking."

When they got to Pelly, they began laughing about the event and their reactions to it.

"I didn't even watch where I was

driving," she said. "It's just funny now that you think about it."

Although Isaac and her friend had initially agreed not to tell anyone, before they got into Pelly, they changed their minds.

When Isaac arrived at her mother's house in Pelly, she immediately drew a picture of the craft, wrote about it and began telling her mother the story.

"She was really excited, too."

Isaac also contacted other friends and family that day to tell them about her experience. While some say she "has made up a good story," others believe her. There have been numerous sightings around Fox Lake over the years. Martin Jasek, Yukon UFO researcher was interviewed yesterday by a Florida TV station about some recent sightings.

"It's reality. I'm just telling people what I'd seen," said Isaac.

In the three weeks since the experience, she has spoken with the media, including a Los Angeles radio station, in hopes that others will come out with their own stories.

Although she's still scared to drive alone at night, it has tweaked her curiosity and changed the way she views things.

"I think people should be aware of what's going on in the Yukon," she said. "There's more sightings now than ever."

Before the experience, she was skeptical of other life in the universe, but now she is curious to know what's out there and has considered going back to the site early in the morning to see if she can find out more. She's curious as to why the ship was lingering near telephone poles.

"Our universe is so big, there must be something out there," she said.

WHAT I SAW THAT DAY CHANGED MY WHOLE CONCEPT OF LIFE

# Does Porton Down hold the key to the mystery of creatures from outer space?

By David Wilkes

**A**N out of this world twist was yesterday added to a top secret defence laboratory's murky history.

Sensational new research by acclaimed UFO investigator Nick Redfern claims soldiers were ordered to rush aliens' bodies to Porton Down in Wiltshire following a flying saucer crash.

One of the troops, who goes by the assumed name James Prescott to protect himself from top brass who are furious he leaked confidential information, told how he and his team were ordered to load two large oblong boxes into their vehicle.

In a chilling echo of the Roswell Incident, when the American authorities allegedly recovered aliens' bodies from New Mexico in 1947, Mr Prescott and his colleagues were ordered to go to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down.

"Once inside the boxes were opened by staff at the facility in our presence. We were shocked to see two creatures which had been placed inside decontamination suits," he said.

"When the suits were fully opened it was obvious the creatures were clearly not of this world and when examined, were found to be dead. What I saw in the boxes that day made me change my whole concept of life.

"The bodies were about five to six feet tall, humanoid in shape, but so thin they looked almost skeletal with

a covering skin.

"Although I did not see a craft at the scene of the recovery, I was informed that a large craft had crashed and was recovered by other military units."

Mr Prescott was scrambled from a base in the South of England to attend what he thought would turn out to be a military exercise in the Berwyn mountains, North Wales. On arrival, he noticed a great deal of ground and aircraft activity.

**H**e and four others were told to go to Llandderfel and were under strict orders not to stop for any civilians. When they got there, they were told to load the boxes.

Mr Prescott, who is now elderly and retired from the Army, said some time after his bizarre delivery, he met

up with other members of his unit who informed him they had transported the bodies of live alien beings to Porton Down.

Mr Redfern said he was inclined to believe the story, which he recounts in his book *Cosmic Crashes*, about the events of the night of January 20, 1974, because Mr Prescott had first confided in Tony Dodd, a retired police Sergeant who was a wholly trustworthy source.

Meanwhile, Mr Dodd's painstaking research into documents declassified under the 30-year rule at the public records office have shown Porton Down was using a cuttings service to receive newspaper articles about UFOs.

Details of the incident remain classified and the Ministry of Defence has refused to comment. Other theories about what happened that night

include a nuclear weapon accident and even an earthquake.

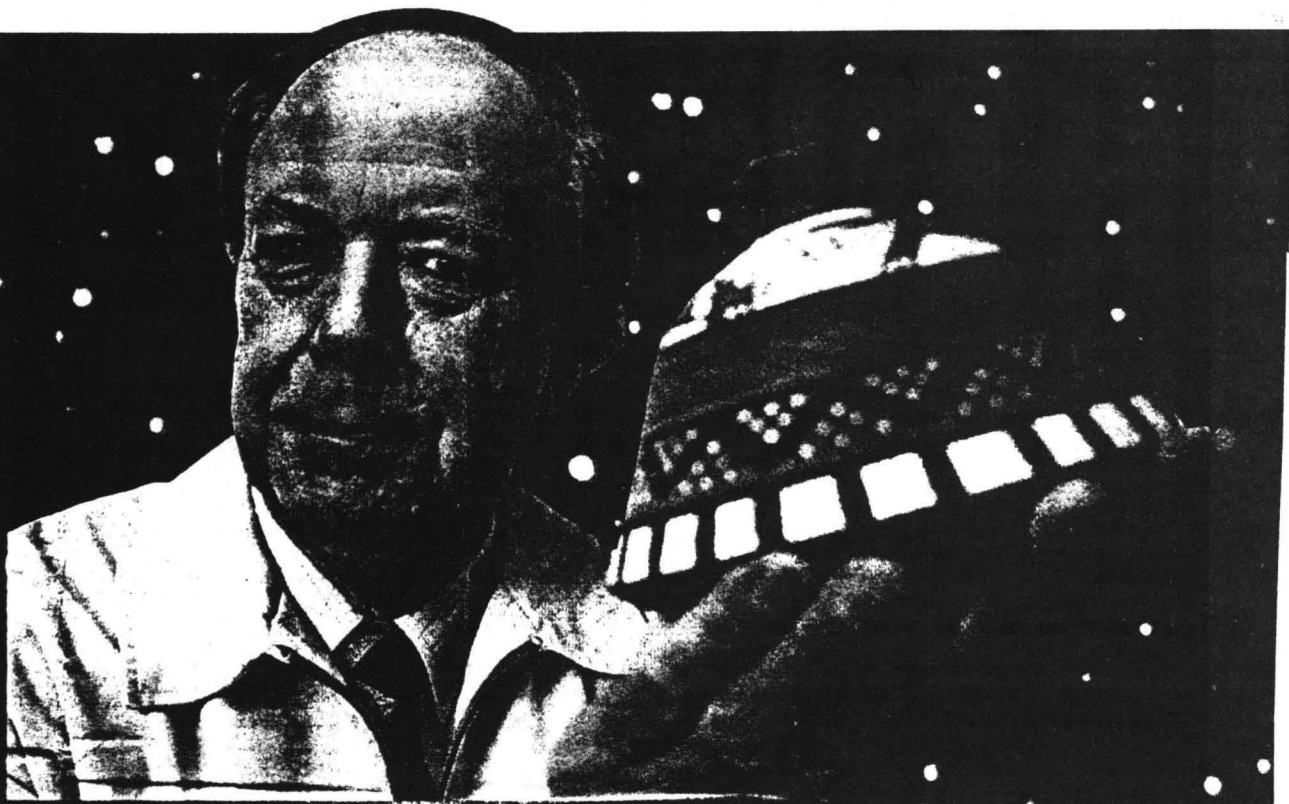
Mr Dodd, who served for 25 years in the Yorkshire force, said he was still investigating the incident.

Porton Down, near Salisbury, is currently at the centre of an inquiry into chemical warfare experiments on human guinea-pigs.

Retired civil servant Denis Plunkett, the founder and chairman of the West-based British Flying Saucer Bureau, said: "The Government should come clean with the public about UFOs and get rid of these secrecy orders."

"I believe the public are being very subtly conditioned to accept that alien life forms are a probability rather than a possibility."

● Nick Redfern is giving a talk to the British Flying Saucer Bureau tonight at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Gloucester Road, Bishopston.



SEARCHING SPACE: Unidentified Flying Object investigator Omar Fowler with a UFO artifact from Nezca in Peru.

# CLOSER TO THE TRUTH

**O**MAR Fowler of Sinfon, Derby, loves the city because it takes him closer to his hobby – the study of UFOs.

"I moved from Surrey to Derby some 10 years ago, and I already had an interest in the increasing number of unusual sightings of objects in the sky.

"Once in the mid-60s I was walking through Guildford and came across a crowd of people looking skyward.

"When I glanced up I saw, at about 2000 ft, a silver ball hovering, quite still and silent. It suddenly appeared to spin,

by Catherine Edwards

and within a split second it disappeared.

"When I moved to Derby, my interest in unidentified flying objects was still with me, and I formed the Phenomenon Research Association.

"The added bonus about Derby is the high number of technically qualified engineers living in the area.

"This means that meetings are able to take a more scientific approach to the subject of UFO craft and their possible means of propulsion.

"We are currently studying Flying Triangle craft, a type of UFO that appears frequently in Derby.

"In just one year we recorded 52 flying triangle incidents, and witnesses were able to give more balanced accounts of their sightings and to note details that might otherwise have been ignored.

"For example, a Rolls-Royce development engineer was able to give precise details about an object's altitude, position and behaviour after a sighting last March.

"Our UFO investigations continue and our membership has now extended to France, Germany, Guatemala, Australia and the USA.

"I had little idea when I moved to Derby of the interesting time ahead, or of the many friends I would make."

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - Nov. 17, 1999

## We believe in an alien nation

THE truth isn't out there – it's much closer to home.

More than one in four Britons believe aliens are already visiting Earth and mixing in with the rest of us, a survey revealed yesterday.

The poll by lager giant Heineken showed seven out of 10 believe alien lifeforms exist and 27 per cent think they already visit earth.

Only five per cent dismissed all hope of there being life on other planets.

Men are less sceptical than women – 80 per cent of males compared to 62 per cent of females believe in little green men.

And when asked what they would like aliens to bring with them, more than half wanted advanced medi-

cines to fight diseases such as cancer.

Others mentioned new technology and energy sources while a handful of people wanted aliens to bring back Elvis.

The survey was conducted as part of a special Millennium project by Heineken in which they plan to beam a million messages into space.

CHRONICLE, Bath, England - Sept. 8, 1999

## Ancient UFO

I HAVE a distinct memory of seeing what for me was an UFO many years ago and I wonder if you or any of your readers can help? The year was around 1960-1962 and it was a light summer evening. I was walking down Coronation Avenue and looking across the valley I saw a large orange disc pass right to left over Lansdown. Any suggestions?

DAVID OSBORNE  
Taiping, Malaysia.  
thewriter@the.net.my



# Pilots report UFO sighting

EVENING ECHO, Southampton, England

May 13, 2000 CR: S. Gerrard

## UFO hopefuls scanning the skies

UFO SPOTTERS scanning the night skies over Hampshire have been inundated with reports of uncanny sightings after the Daily Echo highlighted two almost-identical incidents.

Last month Netley pensioner Ernie Sears and Southampton dad Andy Phillips both claimed to have seen a glowing light in the sky at almost exactly the same time, 24 hours apart.

The pair, who reported the mysterious light as slow-moving and vanishing within seconds, were convinced they had witnessed the visit of beings from another world.

Now people from across the area

have contacted the Southampton UFO group to log similar sightings over Hamble and Romsey at the same time.

Grandfather-of-two Ernie, 75, who has been a member of the 25-strong group for the past nine years, said: "All hell has been let loose since the coverage in the Echo. Nearly two handfuls of supporting witnesses to my own sighting and that of Andy Phillips have poured into the group's investigators since then, not only of similar objects over the Hamble to Romsey UFO freeway, but on other occasions as well."

Other sightings have also come to light since Ernie, of Ashburton

House, Rotary Court, appealed for witnesses including a light travelling low over Midanbury and a red/orange globe travelling over Netley itself.

A couple, also from Netley, reported seeing a low light illuminating their glass-front door for three minutes before speeding off.

And, after seeing the light for a second time over the Hamble to Calshot coastline, Ernie believes something of universal importance is afoot in the skies over Hampshire.

He said: "Perhaps Hampshire is at the cutting edge of a spiritual/technological revolution."

by Nic Outterside

AN UNIDENTIFIED object described as a great red light in the sky has been reported by the crew of a British airliner.

Pilots of a Debonair BAe146 report being buzzed by a long, cylindrical object while crossing the North Sea between Sweden and the UK.

They described how the underside of their jet had been bathed in incandescent light.

The Civil Aviation Authority has confirmed that a comprehensive report of the incident in February this year has been handed in.

But both the CAA and the Ministry of Defence deny they are investigating it.

The unexplained encounter is one of a series of similar sightings which made last year a bumper year for UFO watchers.

And it comes as evidence mounts that the Government has maintained vast files on UFO

sightings for more than 40 years.

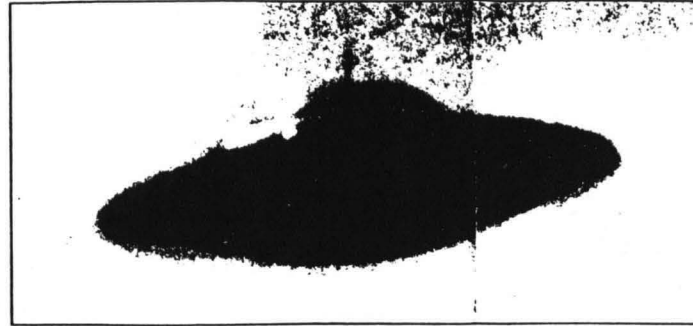
The Luton-based Debonair jet was flying company executives from Sweden to Humberston on February 3 when, it is claimed, a giant unidentified object came to a sudden halt before speeding past the airliner.

The encounter is detailed in a mandatory occurrence report to the CAA, which has now been handed to the Press and Journal.

It says: "Unidentified bright light below BAe146 at FL280. Area below aircraft illuminated for 10 seconds by incandescent light which was not considered by reporter to be aircraft landing light."

"Reporter stated three other aircraft reported seeing it moving at high speed or static. Air Traffic Control informed but they reported no other aircraft in vicinity."

"Five minutes later, a radar return was present at 75 miles on weather radar. Atmosphere



■ Last year was a super one for UFO watchers

was reported as stable and no other aircraft in vicinity."

The UFO was reported while the aircraft was flying at 28,000ft above the North Sea.

The CAA confirmed receipt of the Debonair-incident report but said it was taking no further action as there was no danger to

the aircraft or passengers. A spokesman for the MoD said it was not investigating the incident and had not received any report concerning it from the CAA.

However, the P&J has discovered that the close encounter is the latest in a series of similar ones involving British aircraft.

● In November 1990, several RAF Tornado jets were overtaken by a UFO over the North Sea. No adequate explanation has ever been forthcoming.

● Last year, also over the North Sea, a 900ft UFO was

pursued by two jets before it took off at 17,000mph.

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

● In 1995, the pilots of a Boeing 737 encountered what they described as a brightly-lit UFO while on their approach to Manchester Airport. They believed that it had passed only yards from their aircraft. This incident was investigated by the CAA but remains a mystery.

But 1999 has become a bumper year for UFO sightings after a 10-year lull. Many were in the North-east.

Just days after the Debonair incident, Muchalls, near Aberdeen, became the UK's new UFO hotspot after more than 1,000 people logged on to an Internet website which details unexplained sightings in the skies above the coastal village.

In July last year, police and

the RAF were unable to explain two independent sightings over the Black Isle of saucer-shaped lights in the sky. The lights remained still for about 15 minutes before disappearing behind the hills.

In November, three friends reported a mysterious red light the size of a house above their car on the A90 between Ellon and Aberdeen.

Kevin Smith, 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."

Stirling University UFO expert Ron Halliday has predicted a rush of extraterrestrial activity over the millennium.

He said: "There's certain dates in history that have always had a special and almost supernatural connection to people, including the coming of the year 2000."

"We're certainly expecting and hoping for a lot more UFO



■ Ron Halliday  
... predicts rush of activity

activity and sightings in the run-up to the millennium. Already we've been seeing a rise in the number of sightings over the last 18 months and we think that is going to continue.

"Now that the millennium is approaching, there's been a big increase in what people are seeing and we're hoping this is a trend that'll carry on into the new year."

## 'Flying saucer' controversy looks set to thrive in 21st century

SPECIAL Agent Fox Mulder would know where to look... but Dana Scully would be sceptical.

It is allegedly the biggest cover-up known.

Reams of Government reports and secret documents show that everyone from wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill to former US President Jimmy Carter knew about it.

From sightings in the North-east to landings in the Nevada Desert the real-life X-Files reveal the Ministry of Defence and the White House take unidentified flying objects seriously.

Among secret documents now released into the public domain is a 1952 memo from Winston Churchill in which he demands to know "the truth... about this stuff about flying saucers".

A reply from the Air Ministry dismissed all sightings as either hoaxes or explained by science.

But Churchill was misled - other documents show that between 1947 and 1957 the US and British intelligence agencies analysed 10,000 UFO sightings.

And during the past 40 years the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at Fylingdales, in North Yorkshire, has traced many more UFOs.

In the same year that Churchill

THE ancient Egyptians witnessed them, the Incas drew pictures of them and the Chinese have documented them since time began.

But as we enter the 21st century, is the Government taking UFOs seriously?

NIC OUTTERSIDE investigates

demanded to "know the truth" 10 airmen stationed at RAF Topcliffe, in North Yorkshire, reported a "white object which accelerated at speed in excess of a shooting star".

The UFO was monitored at 15,000ft, five miles astern of an RAF Meteor aeroplane, before it "soared out of view at incredible speed".

The signal reporting what they had seen was passed by the intelligence officer at Topcliffe to maritime HQ at Pitreavie, in Fife, and to coastal command HQ at Northwood, Middlesex. RAF top brass could not explain the sighting, but the aircraft report remains on an MoD file.

In Scotland, documented close encounters include:

● November, 1983: A witness in Glasgow, Tom Forrest, watched a UFO, which he described as like a Pullman buffet car, sail less than 20ft over his head.

● November, 1990: A number of

RAF Tornado jets flying over the North Sea were overtaken by a UFO - no adequate explanation was ever forthcoming.

● October, 1992: Pat McLeod was driving through the Dudington suburb of Edinburgh at 10am when he saw a bright light in the sky which gradually descended. Seconds later the object approached ground level and Pat saw hovering over the road a large sphere with a rim around the middle.

● October, 1994: A Pitlochry man and two work colleagues observed a "huge perfect white circular object at about 30,000ft" near the village of Stanley, Perthshire.

Reports of flying saucers and captured space ships may appear far-fetched, but Government interest in UFOs is real.

Among other real-life X-Files are: a report by former US President Jimmy Carter on a UFO sighting he

made while state governor in 1969; a report of a UFO landing by the late Lord Mountbatten in 1955; a sketch of a UFO seen by a woman police constable in 1977.

There has been a steady stream of reports to the MoD over the past 50 years - between 200 and 300 each year. They fill more than 200 files.

The most startling file contains evidence of a close encounter at RAF Woodbridge, in Suffolk, in 1980.

Early in the morning of December 27, 1980, United States Air Force security-police patrolmen investigated unusual lights outside the back gate of RAF Woodbridge.

According to a report by USAF deputy base commander Charles Halt, three patrolmen reported seeing a "strange glowing object in the forest". They described the object as metallic and triangular and about two metres high... "it illuminated the entire forest with white light".

The next day the USAF crew discovered three depressions on the ground where the object had been lying.

Later that night, a "red sun-light" was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed.

At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles, then broke into



■ Churchill  
... demanded the truth

five separate white objects and disappeared.

The objects were visible for two to three hours, occasionally flashing down beams of light or energy.

Last year, in a parliamentary answer, Defence Minister Lord Gilbert said that the MoD had received no reports of any UFO incident at RAF Woodbridge.

Until five years ago, Nick Pope headed the MoD's Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a office, with a brief to deal with inquiries about flying saucers.

But the 33-year-old civil servant was transferred after his superiors

became worried about his enthusiasm for the job.

"I came into that job as an open-minded sceptic and I came out a believer," said Mr Pope.

He said: "The vast majority can be explained by weather balloons, satellites or high-flying planes, but there is a core of 10% that simply defy explanation."

"And there is a hard core of cases that are far more disturbing. These are close-range sightings by experienced military personnel who are not easily fooled."

The British UFO research group Bufo, however, remains sceptical that the Government is engaged in any kind of flying saucer cover-up.

"The Freedom of Information Act in the US has enabled thousands of documents to be acquired pertaining to official UFO study, most of them heavily censored in the interests of national security," said a Bufo spokesman.

"But despite rumour and conjecture there is no clear-cut evidence available to UFO researchers proving once and for all that any government is keeping the truth from its people."

But top Scottish UFO expert Ron Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth

Mysteries Research (SEMR), believes large areas of rural Scotland might have been used by the military to store sophisticated alien hardware away from the public.

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

He claims that Machrihanish, in Argyll, could hold one of Scotland's secret bases.

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

Mr Halliday, who has been investigating paranormal activity for 20 years, said: "Machrihanish would be an ideal spot from which to operate aircraft technology that the Government wanted to keep secret, including devices allegedly developed from captured alien discs."

An MoD spokesman admitted that his department had logged UFO reports since 1959. There were over 350 reports in 1998 - the last year for which figures exist. However, the spokesman denied that the MoD had any involvement in storing or testing UFOs at secret bases.

# MYSTERIOUS UFOS SPOTTED IN HAMPSHIRE SKIES



**STAR GAZERS:** UFO experts Ernie Sears (left) and Andy Phillips.

# The truth is over here . . .



Special report  
by **Malcolm Prior**

**I**T'S A MYSTERY that would not be out of place on cult sci-fi series *The X-Files*.

But even television's top UFO investigators Mulder and Scully would have their work cut out for them in Hampshire.

If our very own alien spotters are to be believed, the county is a top destination for uncanny visitors from other worlds.

And they point to two recent near-identical sightings in the night skies around Southampton to support their claim.

The first, reported by Netley pensioner Ernie Sears, took place as he returned from a dance in Park Gate at around 11.30pm one Friday. Grandfather-of-two Ernie, 75, who has been a member of the Southampton UFO group for nine years, was shocked when he saw a strange object in the sky.

Ernie, from Ashburton House in Rotary Court, said: "I spotted a huge reddish-orange ball low in the sky ahead of me, just inland from the Hamble coastline.

"I kept my eyes on the object for as long as it was unobscured by the trees.

"The glow was still visible intermittently for a few more seconds before vanishing."

It soon became clear that Ernie's mysterious sighting was not a one off.

Almost 24 hours later a similar object was spotted in the skies over Romsey.

At 11.34pm, Southampton dad Andy Phillips was returning from visiting relatives in North Baddesley when he noticed a glowing bar in the sky.



**X-FILES:** Mulder and Scully should come to Hampshire.

A fellow UFO enthusiast Andy, 36, from Copeland Road, said: "It was about 100ft in length and it was throbbing. I stopped to have a better look and saw it was flying very slowly.

"It was there for about 25 seconds then it just disappeared like someone had switched off a light."

Together, the two sightings have convinced the UFO group's leader, Steve Gerard, that other-worldly beings are paying increasingly regular visits.

Steve, 37, from Weston Grove Road, Weston, has also shown the Echo video footage of a similar glowing object flying over the skies of Portsdown Hill, captured less than a month before the latest sightings.

He said: "About five per cent of sightings we have cannot be explained.

"You have to be very naive to think we are the only life forms around."

Now the 75-strong group, which has links around the world, is hoping others can corroborate the latest sightings or even add to their records.

That many will remain sceptical does not worry them.

Ernie said: "Seeing is believing. It can really change your whole life."

● If you saw the lights described on either the night of Friday, April 7, or Saturday, April 8, then the group would like to hear from you on 023 8044 8194 or 0777 6055347.



# Calls to reopen 22-year Apollo Bay plane crash mystery

KATIE HYDER

CALLS to re-ignite the search for a pilot who disappeared off the coast of Apollo Bay 22 years ago after reporting a UFO, have been welcomed by the radio controller who last spoke to him alive.

Frederick Valentich disappeared on October 21, 1978, within seconds of reporting a large object — which he said was not an aircraft — flying above and around his plane.

UFO investigators now want to conduct another search after newly-released evidence has helped them pinpoint the area where they believe the plane hit the water.

Steve Robey was working at Melbourne International Airport when he was contacted, via radio, by Mr Valentich, who reported another large aircraft in the area, minutes before he lost contact and his plane disappeared.

Speaking two decades after the night which he has not been able to forget, Mr Robey said he would welcome any further search that could provide answers for himself and Mr Valentich's family.

"I'd welcome it, because it would answer a lot of questions," he said.

"I personally believe the aeroplane is in Bass Strait somewhere, so it would solve some things, but it still doesn't answer what Frederick encountered."

"The way he spoke to me

on the radio, he really did give me the impression he was concerned, so I still feel it was a genuine disappearance."

Mr Robey said the incident had a "fairly big impact" on his life.

"It's been resurfacing pretty regularly and, because it was such a strange disappearance, it's something you certainly don't forget."

Mr Valentich's mother, Alberta, said she would also welcome any further search. She believed in her heart that her son was still alive.

"Sometimes you have got it under your eye and you can't see anything," Mrs Valentich said.

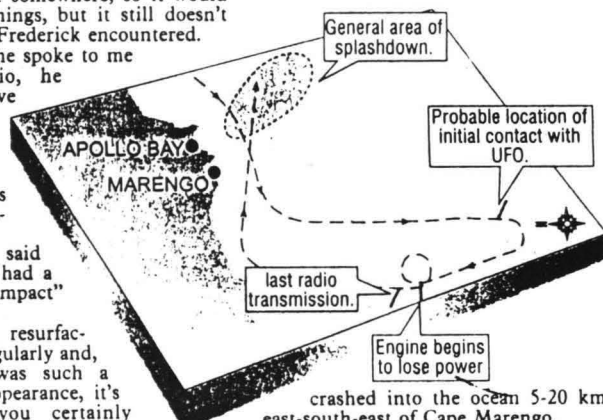
"From October 21, 1978, until now, my feeling and the family's feeling is we believe my son is alive somewhere."

The past 22 years had been extremely difficult for her family. Sadly, her husband, Guido, died in April.

The call to initiate another search comes from Victorian UFO Research Society investigator Paul Norman, who has spent two decades following the case.

But any search of the area is dependent on gaining sponsorship.

Evidence from three witnesses rabbiting in the area that night has led Mr Norman and a fellow researcher to conclude that the plane probably



crashed into the ocean 5-20 km east-south-east of Cape Marengo.

Mr Norman described the disappearance of the Mr Valentich and the Cessna DSJ aeroplane as Australia's greatest aviation mystery.

The 20-year-old pilot disappeared after his radio cut out at 7.12pm on the Saturday while he was flying from Melbourne to King Island.

Before losing contact he described an unknown metallic object with a green light flying just above his plane.

His transmission was cut after the words "it is not an aircraft," followed by a long metallic noise and then silence.

A search was called off less than a week later; wreckage was never found.

Mr Norman said the new evidence indicated the aircraft and an accompanying green light were declining at 40 degrees toward the sea before disappearing from view behind hills.

It was now possible to pinpoint where the aircraft would have crashed into the sea, providing it had continued at this angle, he said.

Haines conclude that an underwater search should begin in this area, despite the impact of 20 years of tides on the wreck.

The paper recommends computer simulations be run to determine where the debris would be, given tides, currents and the vicinity of the crash.

"We may never know exactly what happened to Frederick Valentich," the paper said. "Nevertheless, an attempt should be made to locate the aeroplane."

Mr Norman said the search should begin as soon as possible.

"We've tracked this thing as far as we can go without a search being done," he said.

He was unable to say how long the search would take or how much it would cost.

The main witness, who wished to remain anonymous, had not come forward earlier for fear of ridicule.

Mr Norman said he had interviewed the rabbit hunters, a man and two women, in 1998, but had decided to release the information now in the hope of gaining sponsorship to begin a search. He had already had one expression of interest, but no definite support.

The search would be conducted using sonar equipment, dives, computer simulations and whatever else was necessary, he said.

Writing on the Valentich disappearance in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Mr Norman and fellow researcher Richard

# Pilot: "It's not an aircraft ..."

REPORTS of a mystery craft that hovered above Frederick Valentich's Cessna before his disappearance dominated news reports in October, 1978.

Claims such as "he's playing some sort of game" and "it's not an aircraft" attracted enormous interest in the disappearance.

The following is a transcript of the conversation between Valentich and flight service specialist Steve Robey, who was working at Tullamarine airport that night:

Valentich: Melbourne, this is Delta Sierra Juliet. Is there any known traffic below five thousand?

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—No known traffic.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. I am—seems (to) be a large aircraft below 5000.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—What type of aircraft is it?

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet—I cannot confirm. It is four bright ... it seems to me like landing lights.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Melbourne, this (is) Delta Sierra Juliet. The aircraft has just passed over me at least a thousand feet above.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger—and it, it is a large aircraft—confirm?

Valentich: Er, unknown due to the speed it's travelling ... is there any air force aircraft in the vicinity?

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet. No known aircraft in the vicinity.

Valentich: Melbourne ... it's approaching now from due east—towards me.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet. Valentich: (open microphone for two seconds)

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. It seems to me that he's playing some sort of game—he's flying over me two—three times at a time at speeds I could not identify.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger. What is your actual level?

Valentich: My level is four and a half thousand, four, five, zero, zero—

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet ... And confirm—you cannot identify the aircraft.

Valentich: Affirmative.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger ... standby.

Valentich: Melbourne—Delta Sierra Juliet. It's not an aircraft ... it is (open microphone for two seconds)

Melbourne: Delta Sierra

Juliet—Melbourne. Can you describe the, er, aircraft?

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet ... as it's flying past it's a long shape (open microphone for three seconds) (cannot) identify more than that, it has such speed (open microphone for three seconds) It is before me right now Melbourne.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger. And, how large would the —er object be?

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet—Melbourne. It seems like it's (stationary). (It is believed this world should be "chasing me" based on special filtering). What I'm doing right now is orbiting, and the thing is just orbiting on top of me also' ... It's got a green light, and sort of metallic (like). It's all shiny (on) the outside.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. (Open microphone for three seconds.) It's just vanished.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. Melbourne would you know what kind of aircraft I've got? It is (a type) military aircraft?

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet. Confirm the ... er—aircraft just vanished.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. Say again.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet. Is the aircraft still with you?

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet ... It's ah ... (open microphone for two seconds) (now) approaching from the south-west.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. The engine is, is rough idling. —I've got it set at twenty three —twenty four ... and the thing is —coughing.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger. What are your intentions?

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet. My intentions are—ah ... to go to King Island—Ah, Melbourne, that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again (open microphone for two seconds) it is hovering and it's not an aircraft.

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet.

Valentich: Delta Sierra Juliet.—Melbourne (open microphone for 17 seconds) (A very strange pulsed noise is also audible during this transmission.)

Melbourne: Delta Sierra Juliet, Melbourne.

End of official transcript.

## Large green light spotted

AN Apollo Bay man and his two nieces saw a large green light just above the lights of a light aircraft on the night Frederick Valentich disappeared.

Victorian UFO Research Society investigator Paul Norman said the trio were travelling home from a rabbit-hunting trip when one of the two girls noticed the strange light.

In a paper published in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Mr Norman and fellow researcher Richard Haines said the man and his two nieces were travelling east along Barham Valley Road shortly after 7pm on October 21, 1978.

One of the girls asked about a light in the sky and the man, initially seeing only part of the lights, told her it was a light aeroplane, the paper said.

When she had again asked about a larger green light above the plane, the man had slowed down, eventually stopping to have a look at the green light slightly above those of the plane he had seen earlier. Both lights had disappeared from sight about 20 seconds later.

He told his wife what he had seen that night, but she laughed. The next morning he told his workmates, who would not believe his description of the green light.

The man didn't speak of his experiences again until he took Mr Norman to the place in 1998 where he had seen the lights.



# Good Lords! — it's a UFO

**BOOKS:** In 1979, the Earl of Clancarty addressed the Upper House on the subject of flying saucers — while Britain was on the verge of collapse. By **Jay Iliff**

**O**N THE evening of Thursday January 18 1979, the eighth Earl of Clancarty rose to his feet to address the House of Lords. "It is with much pleasure," he began, "that I introduce this debate about unidentified flying objects — known more briefly as UFOs and sometimes as flying saucers."

Up to now, this bizarre episode in the recent political history of Britain has been neglected. But thanks to a new series of books dedicated to uncovering hidden gems among government papers held by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, we can enjoy once more Clancarty's finest hour. His message was simple: UFOs were a fact of life and governments worldwide were guilty of covering up the truth. "Just suppose," he invited their lordships, "that the 'ufonauts' decided to make mass landings tomorrow in this country — there could well be panic here because our people have not been prepared."

As a matter of fact, there was already a degree of "panic" in Britain. As Clancarty took his fellow peers through the history of UFO sightings from 1500 BC to the present day, there were many who believed that the nation was on the brink of collapse. The winter of 1978-79 was to become famous as "The Winter of Discontent", a period of industrial disruption that proved crucial in Margaret Thatcher's rise to power. There was even talk of bringing in troops after the declaration of an official State of Emergency.

There is something brilliantly British about the House of Lords wrestling with the problem of flying saucers while all this was going on around them. But the debate, published in its entirety in the new book, did not come entirely out of the blue. A few weeks earlier three ducks, a goose,

a swan and two baby wallabies were found dead in mysterious circumstances at Newquay Zoo in Cornwall; on January 3 it had been reported that their bodies revealed significant traces of radiation. This was being linked to sightings of UFOs in the area.

On January 1, eight UFOs had been seen over New Zealand, followed by another, three days later, which was said to resemble "an illuminated ping-pong ball".

Clancarty, who died in 1995, was 67 when he initiated his debate, calling for an inter-governmental study of UFOs. He was a heavyweight in the field, an editor of the Flying Saucer Review and author of seven books on the subject. Clancarty believed that the human race derived from aliens from several galaxies (this accounted for our various skin colours); they had landed here 65,000 years ago and some of them still inhabited the centre of the earth. Asked what had happened to all these aliens, he once replied: "Well, you do see a lot of strange people around, don't you?"

In the Lords debate, Clancarty was careful to stick to what he took to be well-documented

sightings, including one over Iran in September 1976. In this incident a large glowing object was seen over the capital, Tehran, and a Phantom jet was scrambled to investigate; when the pilot tried to fire an air-to-air missile at the object, said Clancarty, he found that "the weapons control panel was not working and all electronic systems were out of action".

**T**HE time had come, Clancarty told their lordships, for the British Minister of Defence to make a public broadcast about UFOs: "That would go a long way to discredit the view held by a lot of people in this country that there is a cover-up here, and that in some way we are playing along with the United States over this."

All this was a little too much for Lord Trefgarne, a qualified pilot, who had never seen a UFO in 2,500 flying hours. He said: "Since time immemorial, man has ascribed those phenomena that he could not explain to some supernatural or extraterrestrial agents. Today, no one takes witchcraft seriously, and there are no fairies at the bottom of my garden."

Clancarty himself never saw a UFO, although he once spotted what he called an "eerie white light" crossing the night sky over his flat in South Kensington. To the end of his life, however, he stuck to his beliefs; and you feel that his fellow peers, however scornful, were grateful to Clancarty for raising matters which, in Lord Gladwyn's words, "take one's mind off the absolutely frightful everyday events" of the Winter of Discontent.

● *UFOs In The House Of Lords*, edited by Tim Coates, is published by The Stationery Office (Uncovered Editions) price £6.99. Express bookshop offer: Freeport



**PANIC:** The Winter of Discontent

LEADER POST, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Nov. 1, 1999 CR: P. Anderson

## Many theories about Viscount crop circles

By **DARREN BERNHARDT**  
Saskatchewan News Network

**SASKATOON** — There's lively discussions and wild theories floating about Viscount these days after a set of crop circles was recently discovered in a local wheat field just south of town.

"Everybody in town has been out there at one time or another looking at it," said Harold Fisher, a retired farmer who lives north of Viscount, which is about 70 kilometres east of Saskatoon. "They're rather peculiar but perfect circles. I've never seen anything like it in my life, it's really something."

The circles, one of which is about 30 feet diameter, the other about 20 to 25 feet, were found at the end of September while the field was being combined by Leon Vols who leases and farms the land with his common-law wife Deborah McCrea.

"We didn't tell many people about it when we first found it but its really come out now," said McCrea, noting the school took out a busload of kids to see the circles last week.

Both circles are flattened to the ground in smooth, counter-clockwise patterns, according to Fisher, who paced them out on Saturday. The circles are also independent of one another, spaced several feet apart.

"I was kind of excited about it when I first saw it," said Elhel Greff, a neighbour of Fisher's. "Now we're all wondering how it might have come about."

Fisher says there are some people who think it might have been a whirlwind which whipped the wheat into that shape but he doesn't buy that.

"I can't imagine something that would cause two separate flat circles, there should be a continuous line between the two. That really doesn't explain it," he said.

Any suggestion that someone may have done it as a practical joke is also being dismissed.

"We doubt that because there's just no sign of any entrance to the circles," said Greff.

"Nothing has been disturbed at all," added Fisher. "I can't see it being the work of pranksters because the heads are still on the wheat, nothing is broken away."

"I told (Leon) I think its flying saucers," McCrea said with a chuckle.

Paul Anderson, director of the Vancouver-based Circles Phenomenon Research (CPR), doesn't think that idea is very far-fetched.

"All of the evidence indicates that in many of these cases. So you've got to start to wonder just what it is," he said. "When it is a hoax, you can usually tell pretty quick. If somebody flattens it with a board, say, there's going to be a lot of breakage."

Anderson said he's planning to have a Saskatchewan associate check on the Viscount circles very soon. But right now, everyone is already busy with all of the other reports throughout the province this year. Reports have already come from areas near Conquest and Neilburg and south of Regina near Weyburn, including six in the Midale area alone.

The Viscount formation report is the 10th report in Saskatchewan this year and the 19th in Canada. While that's about average for this province, the national number is up from 14 last year.

SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

## Encounters of Sir kind

AN ex-headteacher believes the truth is really out there, after claiming to have seen a UFO in the skies above Glossop.

The man says he saw the craft on his way into town last Friday night.

But he has refused to be named through fear that people will think his was a "close encounter of the absurd kind".

The highly respected former primary school headteacher is worried that if he reveals his identity he will become known as a crank.

He said: "I still can't believe what I saw. I can't believe it and I can't explain it and I don't like things that I can't explain."

"I was driving into Glossop along the Charlestown Road to drop my son off at my ex-wife's."

"As I was coming round the bend near to the fire station I felt the urge to look up into the sky. I initially thought, 'Something is landing'."

I would describe it as a rhombus, a diamond shaped square. There were around 30 green and red lights in the sky. The shape

of the structure was identified by the lights.

"It reminded me of the Vulcan bomber. I thought, 'Crikey! What's this?' I carried on around the bend and when I looked

again it had completely disappeared. I was gobsmacked!"

He immediately contacted a friend of a friend; a known UFO enthusiast. He was encouraged to report the sighting to the police, and to contact the Chronicle.

He added: "It is difficult to say how high it was flying. It was fairly low about the height of an aeroplane as it comes into land."

"I only saw it for a fleeting moment. Seeing it from underneath it looked like the lights were all moving together."

"I have always had an open mind, but I have always been very sceptical about

GLOSSOP CHRONICLE, Derbyshire, England

Nov. 4, 1999

these things."

When asked whether he could have been seeing fireworks he strongly denied it. There's no way it could have been fireworks. What I saw was a sheer mass of lights in one configuration."

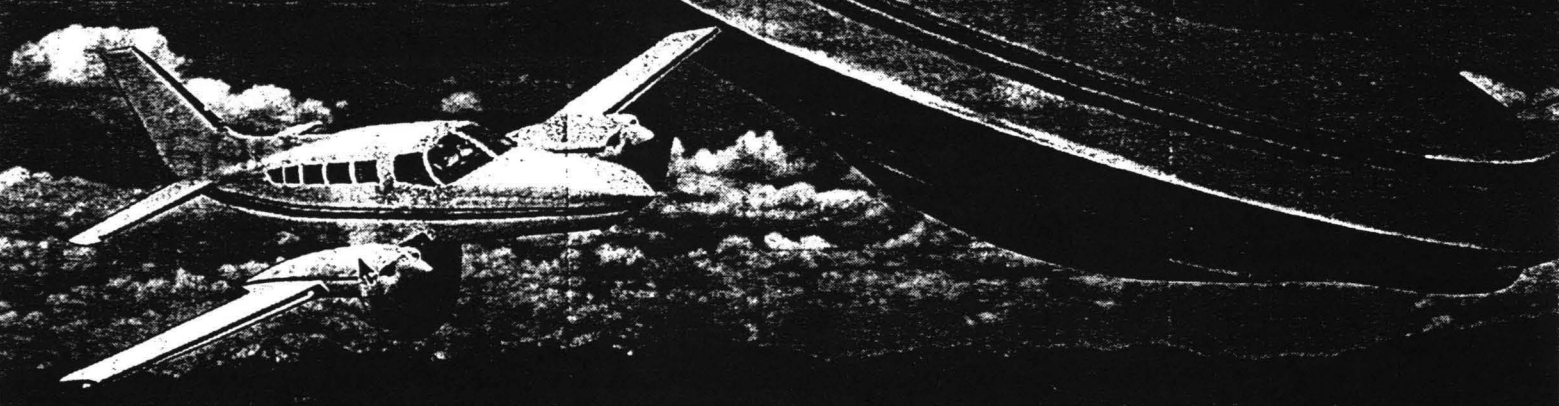
Did you see anything in the sky above Glossop on Friday night at about 6.30?

Have you anything supernatural, or paranormal to report?

If so get in touch with the Chronicle.



# I WAS BUZZED BY A UFO



**THIS** is what English pilot David Hastings saw as he flew his Cessna plane over the Mojave Desert in America.

Our artists have re-created what happened when his small plane came within a few feet of a mid-air collision with a gigantic UFO.

David quickly snapped two

## Pilot's close encounter

■ by PHILIP BURDEN

colour photos as he and an ex American military pilot dived frantically to avoid the oval spaceship.

The first print showed an empty sky, but the second

revealed a huge object with black rings around its top and bottom passing feet away from a wing. He handed the snaps over to the United States Navy, which admits it is baffled.

The near-miss over California is recounted for the first

time in today's Pilot magazine. David said: "As we neared the Mojave Desert under radar control it happened. We both suddenly realised that we had fast traffic in our 12 o'clock.

"We pushed the control panel and ducked. A shadow flashed

over us but there was absolutely no sound. We slowly raised our heads and asked: 'What the heck?'

"We called the radar control tower to check if they had another aircraft and the answer was no. We took the film to a one-hour photo shop and there it was.

"One shot had nothing, but the second had the blurred image of the UFO."

AUSTRALIAN ("Weekend Magazine"), [City Unknown], Australia - May 13, 2000 CR: P. Norman

## Paul Norman

For him, investigating the paranormal is ultra-normal.

"I first saw a UFO in November 1953. I was the superintendent of a power station in Tennessee and one night one came right over the station. I thought it had to be a night-flying helicopter but there was no sound at all. It approached the power station at helicopter speed, stopped overhead for about half a minute and sped away fast. Silently.

We could see it clearly because of the power station floodlights and

it was disc-shaped. It'd be hard to say exactly what size it was, I'd estimate about 10 metres across. Similar objects were sighted all around the US that same month, and a pilot disappeared from a US base in Michigan in almost a carbon copy of the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich over Bass Strait in 1978 – the greatest mystery in Australian history. I never dreamed that 20 years on I'd end up

investigating Valentich's "death".

What happened in Michigan was that the air force detected an unknown object on their radar. They sent a pilot into the vicinity and watched his radar bleep merge with that of the UFO for about 20 seconds until they both vanished. There's a lot of speculation about the pilot being abducted but I have no evidence for that. We don't know what happened.

I've been investigating UFOs now for 46 years. I'm very experienced in it. I can sort most cases out during the first telephone call. In the more interesting cases I'll go and do interviews, get samples from the ground and have them analysed. Ninety per cent are not UFOs, they are hoaxes or mistaken identities. The hoaxer usually breaks down and the mistaken identities are easy to sort out. The reason may be simple – a helium-filled balloon, for example, an aircraft or satellites in orbit. You'd be surprised at the number of people who report Venus as a UFO.

But the other 10 per cent remain unexplained. They are the ones we are interested in. I think they are evidence of another technology far beyond our own but I wouldn't speculate about who they are or why they're visiting us. I don't know whether it'll be someone like me that solves these mysteries. I think the initiative is not up to us. It's just up to us to keep our eyes open and learn from what we see.

I moved to Australia in 1963. Before I did, I asked around as to where the most scientific, most reliable UFO organisation was and was told go to Melbourne,

so here I am. I've lost count of the number of UFO sightings I've looked into over the years but one of the strangest was the disappearance of Frederick Valentich on October 21, 1978. Something very weird was happening in the Victorian skies. We got hundreds of reports of objects in the sky – round ones, cigar-shaped ones, star-shaped ones – all moving with no visible means of propulsion and no sound. Valentich was a 20-year-old pilot who disappeared while flying from Melbourne's Moorabbin Airport to King Island, off the coast of Victoria. His last communication was at 7.12pm, reporting a strange metallic object in the sky. He and his Cessna 182 then vanished forever.

The most recent Australian incident I can tell you about happened on June 8 last year, in Victoria. Something shot across the dusk sky and we got witnesses from all over its flight path. The closest witnesses described a long, cigar-shaped object with four sections. One observer was a former air force officer who told me it appeared to be moving at twice the speed of a jet. I couldn't explain it away.

More people believe in UFOs now than ever used

to but those who take me most seriously are the ones who've had a sighting. Even so, more scientists cooperate with us than in the past. Those who scoff have often never studied the reports. I consider what I do to be a very serious business indeed, but I have to wade through a lot of gullibility. Programs like *The X-Files* don't help and neither does much of what I've witnessed in relation to the idea of alien abduction.

There is no doubt that weird things do happen. There was a case in South America where astronomers were watching a satellite cross the sky and a UFO made three passes at it. Each time, it came up to the satellite, made a semi-circle around it, flew off to another part of the sky and came back. The man on the street doesn't hear about cases like that. All he gets is Hollywood turning the whole thing into entertainment.

People ring me with sightings all the time. What's going on, I have no idea. All we can do is try to find out all we can, and just keep watching. "

Helen O'Neill

# Britain's UFO secrets revealed

Scientist's pressure for information opens up hidden government files on strange sightings in the sky

by Antony Barnett  
Public Affairs Editor

ON 15 February 1999 an air traffic controller in Scotland noticed something strange on his radar screen. A bright blip on his screen suggested there was a very large object travelling at 3,000mph over the Scottish coastline heading south-west to Belfast.

The size of the blip suggested the object was 10 miles long and two miles wide. Two minutes later the object disappeared from the radar screen.

Three months earlier, MoD documents record that a commercial pilot flying over the Midlands reported an unusual object travelling at 'very high speed' with a very bright strobe light flashing once every 20 seconds.

Although the two incidents were unrelated, both were reported to a little-known

department in the Ministry of Defence, known as Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. This is the secretive section in Whitehall which collates reports of unidentified flying objects that cross British airspace.

Whitehall has traditionally treated reports of UFO sightings as highly classified and only released information to the public after 30 years. But the parliamentary Ombudsman insisted that the MoD hand this information to Colin Ridyard, a research chemist from Wales.

Dr Ridyard had been seeking information relating to UFO sightings by pilots or radar operators between July 1998 and July 1999. Initially the MoD refused on the ground it would be too expensive. But after the intervention of the ombudsman, Michael Buckley, the MoD agreed to release the information as a one-off exercise for



At the insistence of the parliamentary Ombudsman, the Ministry of Defence has released classified details of 'close encounters' reported recently.

£75. The Ministry handed two reports to Ridyard, yet official information from the Civil Aviation Authority suggests there had been additional sightings. During the same period the CAA said it reported two more UFO sight-

ings to the MoD, neither of which the Ministry disclosed.

According to official CAA reports, in the same month that a radar picked up an enormous object flying across Scotland, a pilot flying over the North Sea became star-

tled when his aircraft became illuminated by an 'incandescent' light. Three other aircraft in the area reported seeing a ball of light moving at high speed. Air traffic controllers reported there were no strange aircraft in the

area, but five minutes later an operator at a weather station picked up a fast-moving object on his radar.

The other incident which CAA reported to the MoD occurred in June 1999 when the pilot of a B757 flying over the North Sea reported an unidentified military-looking aircraft passing close by in the opposite direction. Nothing was seen on the plane's radar or by air traffic controllers. The MoD told the Authority that there were no military aircraft known to be in that area at the time.

Although an MoD spokeswoman would not discuss individual sightings, she said all these events had perfectly normal explanations. 'Some-

times radars have spurious readings caused by military aircraft in the vicinity, and radar-jamming facilities and bright lights on the underside of aircraft can be caused by events on the ground.'

In a letter to one of Ridyard's local MPs, Defence Minister John Spellar said: 'My department has no interest or role with respect to UFO/flying saucer matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms - about which we remain open-minded.'

However, declassified government documents in the Public Records Office from June 1965 reveal that 'it was official MoD policy to play down the subject of unidentified flying objects and to avoid attaching undue public

attention or publicity to the subject... as a result we have never had any political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation'. Other documents from that time state: 'The press are never to be given information about unusual radar sightings... and [unusual visual] sightings are in no circumstances to be disclosed to the press.'

But Ridyard said: 'This is not about little green men, but about freedom of information. It is clear there are many strange incidents that happen in the British skies that are kept secret. There may be issues of aircraft safety or natural phenomena, but by keeping this information secret these incidents cannot be scrutinised by the public or the scientific community.'

One of the most infamous incidents relating to a UFO sighting in Britain only came to light through US freedom of information legislation. This revealed that in December 1980 three security patrolmen investigating a potential air crash near the US Air Force base in Suffolk saw a strange glowing triangular object hovering in the forest near the base which had a 'pulsing red light on top and blue lights underneath'.

An official report by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt, the deputy base commander, included a description of the events and stated that the next day three depressions were found in the forest where the object was discovered which showed radiation readings. Later that night three star-like objects were seen in the sky moving 'rapidly in sharp angular movements'.

OBSERVER, London, England - June 4, 2000





# Tucson scientist prepares for Bigfoot hunt

Will look for clues in July expedition

Associated Press

**TUCSON** — If Bigfoot is roaming the remote regions of the Pacific Northwest, Tucson scientist J. Richard Greenwell hopes to tempt the creature into range of a video camera with offerings of peanut butter and English marmalade.

If that doesn't do it, maybe amplified gorilla calls or the scent of female orangutan urine will provoke a response.

Greenwell isn't sure what it will take, but he's a dedicated searcher for proof the legendary apelike animal exists.

This July, he will lead his fourth annual Bigfoot expedition into the rugged Siskiyou Wilderness in the Six Rivers and Klamath national forests in northern California. The expeditions cost up to \$25,000, raised from private donors.

Completely cut off from civilization, Greenwell and three other researchers will spend a month traversing the deep canyons and high cliffs hoping to come across Bigfoot scat, artifacts, footprints or, better yet, the animal itself.

Greenwell is a mammalogist, a research associate with the International Wildlife Museum and a former University of Arizona profes-

sor.

He also is secretary of the Tucson-based International Society of Cryptozoology, a society dedicated to the scientific evaluation of evidence for "unverified animals," Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, being the most famous in North America.

Though cryptozoology is not recognized as a branch of zoology, the society's 1,000 members include scientists from such organizations as the Smithsonian Institution and the American Museum of Natural History. The society sponsors expeditions.

Greenwell, who also has taken part in searches for a dinosaurlike creature in Central Africa and the big cat called Onza in Mexico, knows some people will make a big

joke of his Bigfoot search. He argues, however, it's no laughing matter.

"We're not claiming these things all exist or any of them exist. But it should be looked at. It shouldn't be ignored and laughed at," he said.

Zoology has a duty to deal with these kinds of unresolved issues, he said.

In the case of Bigfoot, he said, "Scientists have ignored 40 years of mounting evidence for its existence — including footprints and 1,500 eyewitness reports."

That's inconsistent with the spirit of scientific inquiry and the principles of scientific methodology, he argues.

"What I'd like to know is what it is 1,500 people have seen," he said.

Most scientists doubt Big-

foot's existence — including Peter Siminski, director of living collections at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Siminski said he would find it hard to believe there's a huge primate roaming the continent largely undetected.

"I could see discovering a new rodent (but) something like a man-size creature just doesn't seem very likely," he said.

Greenwell said it makes him angry when scientists say the existence of Bigfoot is impossible.

As we understand North America, he said, "a large primate doesn't really fit. I admit that. But that doesn't mean it couldn't exist."

Reports of a large apelike creature that strides on two legs date to the 19th century.

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - March 20, 2000 CR: D. Smith

## Mutilated calves found in Central Oregon

**BROTHERS** — Ten mutilated calves were discovered this weekend in a remote area of Central Oregon near a spot where 14 similarly disfigured cattle were found last March.

Kimball Lewis, state humane agent, said the investigation may lead to a cattle production company that's using the public land off U.S. 20 between Bend and

Brothers as a dumping ground. Lewis also said it could turn out to be youngsters choosing to be cruel to animals.

Either way, Lewis said it was bizarre to see the newest set of carcasses within a couple of miles of last year's unsolved find.

"It's an isolated enough country that it's a weird twist," Lewis said Sunday. "I'm really perplexed."

A rancher discovered four of the calves Saturday about two to three miles north of mile marker 29 on the highway, Lewis said. A recreational vehicle user reported the other six calves another mile north on Sunday.

The discoveries were within a couple of miles of where 14 mutilated cattle and a pig with its legs cut off were found last year.

they'd seen a ghost at Route 46 and Intervale Road. Police checked the area but found nothing.

Myers, though, beseeched the Daily Record to find what it could about Grimes mansion ghosts, which he believes made the local papers in the 1930s or early 1940s.

But the closest thing to a definitive account of ghost sightings in Morris County, "Hosts of Ghosts in Northern New Jersey," published by the Daily Record in 1973, has no mention of the Grimes mansion.

The book by Marjorie Kaschewski does, however, mention two other ghosts that allegedly resided nearby.

One lived in the Mountain Lakes house of Edward Crone and his wife. It was Sarah Ann Rohm, who resided there with her husband and two small children in the early 1800s.

One Sunday morning she was late coming out to the wagon to accompany her family to church. Her husband went back inside and found her at the foot of the stairs, dead with a broken neck.

A later owner of the house, H.J. Delchamps, told the author of an encounter with Rohm's ghost.

"Guests in the living room one afternoon heard the sound of some-

one walking up the stairs. My wife said jokingly it must be Sarah Ann, but the group insisted we must have a prowler."

He found nothing, but when he returned to his visitors a rocking chair across the room began to rock, slowly at first, then faster, though the day was perfectly still.

His guests were spooked. "One very matter-of-fact lady suddenly decided to go home," Delchamps recalled.

Crone said the specter of Sarah Ann Rohm appeared in his bedroom early one morning, gorgeous with auburn hair and dressed in white. Just as suddenly, she was gone.

A 4-year-old boy sleeping in a guest bedroom adjacent to Rohm's old room asked one morning, "Who was that beautiful lady who came into my room a little while ago?" No one in the house had done so.

In Parsippany, the family of Robert T. Lee more than once saw a lady in long skirts flitting through their South Beverwyck Road home, according to the book.

They kept news of the apparition to themselves, but one morning their housekeeper announced that she'd seen a woman in full skirts and an apron, her hair in a bun, descending the stairs.

The housekeeper said she ran after her but at the bottom of the stairs, the woman vanished.

Not far north of where the Parsippany ghost was reportedly seen,

two other spirits are said to reside in a 110-year-old Victorian house on Rockaway Street in the park section of Boonton.

"It's two sisters," said Bob Johnston of Weichert Realtors, who has twice sold the home.

"They chat upstairs, on the second floor."

The current owner began to hear the voices clearly shortly after moving in 12 years ago. Jittery about the uninvited visitors, she took the advice of a ghost expert she'd seen on Oprah Winfrey's show and confronted them.

"One day," said Johnston, "she just went to the bottom of the stairs and said, 'Girls, I'm here alone and it makes me nervous when you talk. When my husband comes home you can talk all you want.' And they stopped."

Later, at a Christmas party she was hosting, she told some guests about the voices. The previous owner of the house, Parsippany Historical and Preservation Society President Randy Tortorello, overheard the conversation and interjected.

But not to dispel the notion of the ghostly girls.

He, too, had heard them.

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## Ghost sighting conjures up tales Parsippany spirit not alone

BY ERIK ENGQUIST  
Daily Record

The ghost sighting reported to Parsippany police March 24 caught the eye of Stanley Myers.

Myers, 73, of Boonton Township, remembered that ghost sightings were reported 60 years ago at the former Grimes mansion on Fox Hill, not far from where the Parsippany police station is today.

"I said, 'Hey, that ghost is still lurking!'" he said. "I couldn't help but laugh about it."

Two people told police at 1:15 a.m. last Friday that

# Paranormal experts discuss sci-fi science, reality

## ■ Discussion is calledled "Star Trek,' 'X-Files' and Beyond"

BY ANTHONY DELLAFLORA  
Journal Staff Writer

The popular sci-fi television shows "Star Trek" and "The X-Files" have changed the way we think about the nature of reality and the limits of science.

What seemed once to be fantasy is not so far-fetched any more.

Paranormal experts Jeffrey Mishlove and David Perkins will discuss just how close to reality some of the concepts from those shows are, when they present "Star Trek,' 'X-Files' and Beyond," Friday in Albuquerque.

Perkins, a Santa Fe journalist, says a couple recent books discussing the science behind "The X-Files" confirms that even the weirdest aspects of the show have some basis in truth.

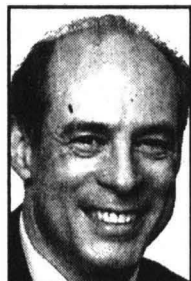
"They're really dense, hard, science books, state-of-the-art modern biological gene manipulation stuff, and 'The X-Files' is actually pretty

accurate," he said. "These are scientists who wrote these books and they're saying this is the most accurate portrayal of science ever to be on TV."

The same can be said of "Star Trek," for example, in the area of the mathematics of hyperspace, said Mishlove, author and host of the public television series "Thinking Allowed."

"There have been many advances in that area in terms of superstring theory and physics and it's very common now for physicists to be talking about 10, 11, 12 dimensions of space," Mishlove said.

"That's a very significant development because it affects not only the possibilities of space travel, but it also affects our ideas about consciousness and the potential of the



**MISHLOVE:**  
Paranormal  
expert to speak

human mind.

"For example, all of the ancient cultures of the world talked about other dimensions of space, that these are dimensions of the spirit realities, the ancestors and various spirits. And now there is physical, mathematical support for that idea."

Perkins also will discuss the phenomenon of "cattle mutilations," which have been documented in New Mexico for decades now.

"I'm going to try to show that the mutilations are the ultimate 'X-File,'" said Perkins.

Perkins said he also will tie the mutilations into the conspiracy culture that "The X-Files" has promoted.

"I'm basically going to talk about what they're portraying as this worldwide conspiracy to hide the truth and manipulate the public,"



**PERKINS:** Santa  
Fe Journalist  
gives talk

## If you go

**WHAT:** "Star Trek,' 'X-Files' and Beyond," with Jeffrey Mishlove and David Perkins

**WHEN:** 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday

**WHERE:** Wyndham Garden Hotel, 6000 Pan American Freeway

**HOW MUCH:** \$29 a person. Call SEED University at 792-2900 to pre-register, or get tickets at the door.

Perkins explained.

"I'm going to show how that's reflected in mutilations, in terms of the suspects behind that, that it appears to be some kind of gigantic biological manipulation and/or testing program by these dark sinister forces who fly around in black helicopters, as they do in 'The X-Files.' And that they have their own agendas, above the law."

Perkins said he'll talk about some of the United States government's own covert and clandestine testing on unsuspecting people in the last

50 years.

"It's not unprecedented what they're showing in 'The X-Files' in terms of them running all of these tests and implants and doing all these things to people, genetically manipulating them. This is grounded in some reality," he added. "That's why they can get away with this in the show."

Perkins said the show portrays an "amazingly negative viewpoint" of this country's power structure.

"It's brutal, and the underlying message is that if you get in the way of this thing, you are totally expendable."

Adds Perkins: "I'm amazed that a major network can get away with such a damning indictment of the power structure."

He said the message is the antithesis of "Star Trek."

"They (on 'Star Trek') get to introduce these amazing science concepts and really far out futuristic propulsion systems and teleportation and meeting strange new aliens and interacting with them. It's a much more positive view," he said.

Mishlove, a longtime "Star Trek"

fan, agrees.

"You get a sense that we're always on the brink of one terrible crisis or another, whereas in 'Star Trek,' it's like one great achievement after another, and in a way, they're both true," he said.

Mishlove said most evolutionary breakthroughs were preceded by disasters.

"Right now, it's very normal in evolution for each development to be pushed and pushed to the very extreme until it leads to disaster, and we can see that in our own culture."

Mishlove said the sense of good and bad intermingled is embodied in the late Ted Owens, the subject of Mishlove's forthcoming book, "The PK Man."

He studied Owens for 10 years and said he possessed extraordinary psycho-kinetic powers. Owens could produce lightning just by pointing at a spot, Mishlove said. And he once produced a UFO and correctly predicted that it would be seen by numerous people in the San Francisco Bay area, and a photograph was printed in a local paper.

## a new home for Bigfoot?

Deliveryman says he saw  
huge, hairy beast carrying  
a goat in Clark County

By KEITH EDWARDS  
Special to the Journal Sentinel

Granton — James Hughes was minding his own business, delivering the Black River Shopper last week when he says he saw something he'll never forget — an 8-foot-tall, two-legged, shaggy creature carrying a goat. Sasquatch? Bigfoot? Yeti? Abominable Snowman? Or just a really tall hairy guy carrying breakfast?

Hughes isn't sure, and authorities are scratching their heads over the reported sighting.

"He was all covered with hair, a real dark gray color, with some spots that looked a honey color. It was walking on two legs, and it was mighty, mighty big," Hughes said in a phone interview Tuesday.

Hughes filed a report with the Clark County Sheriff's Department, and a deputy was dispatched to the scene but couldn't find any big footprints, said Capt. Mark Cattanch.

"We have no goats reported missing, or any other types of small animals that may meet that description," Cattanch said Tuesday.

Hughes, 57, was on his newspaper delivery route around 5:15 a.m. March 28 when he said he saw the creature at the side of the road, on County Highway H about 1½ miles from his rural Granton home. At first, he thought it was a man, but as he got closer he said he realized it didn't look human — about 8 feet tall, 500 pounds and hairy with an ape-like face.

"I didn't call it in (to the Sheriff's Department) until the next day, because people would think I'm crazy. And I don't drink, I don't use dope, and I was wide awake," Hughes said.

Journal Sentinel reporter Meg Jones  
contributed to this report.

JOURNAL SENTINEL, Milwaukee, WI

April 5, 2000 CR: R. Heiden



## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAUNTS

# On the trail of ghosts

## Area ripe with spooky lore

By Iva-Marie Palmer

Asked to picture a famous blonde in a white dress, most might conjure up a mental image of Marilyn Monroe flashing some leg over an air vent in "The Seven-Year Itch." But a Chicagoan could bet that Resurrection Mary might give the golden-tressed Hollywood legend a run for her money.

Mary has achieved national recognition mostly because her otherworldly presence — besides being inexplicable — is not going away. Resurrection Mary — described by believers as a blonde in a white dress who wanders Archer Road — is a woman who might fade away, but always comes back. Quite simply, Mary is a ghost — the ghost of Chicago, because she's the most well known, according to Richard Crowe, ghost hunter. Though there's some debate, many choose to believe that Resurrection Mary is the ethereal emanation of Mary Bregovy, who died in a car accident on the way home from a party in 1934, Crowe said.

Archer Road, where her spirit is most likely to be seen, is Mary's stomping ground in part because Bregovy is buried at Resurrection Cemetery, 7200 S. Archer Road in Justice. Also, Mary wanders there because her favorite dancing music is the Big Band sound of the 1920s and 1930s — something she can still hear at Willowbrook Ballroom, 8900 S. Archer Road, in Willow Springs.

Though she doesn't pose for pictures or agree to interviews, Mary has left her mark. On Aug. 10, 1976, a Justice police sergeant was sent to Resurrection Cemetery to free a blonde woman in a white dress trapped inside the front gates. When he arrived, there was no woman, but two of the gate's bronze bars had been bent apart. Handprints had been squeezed and burned onto the bars. Though the bars — one-sixteenth of an inch thick — are hollow, they could not be compromised with mere human strength — even that exerted in desperation to escape, Crowe said.

In 1977, Crowe tried to buy the bars, but the Catholic cemetery board was not selling. Failed attempts were made to burn the bars straight. In October 1977 the bars were sawed from the gates and sent to a mill for straightening. Returned to their position in December 1978, the bars have been painted time and again in hopes of restoring their original color. Paint will never help, Crowe said. The bars will always look unusual, an eternal reminder of the immortal hands that bent them. Looking closely, the two bars still have tiny grooves that distinguish them from the other bars, which remain straight despite the wear and tear of time and weather.

Others have had chance encounters with Mary. A cab driver, lost on Archer after dropping off a fare from O'Hare Airport, saw a pretty blonde walking alone at the intersection of Archer and Flavin, Crowe said. He offered her a free ride back to the North Side; the woman accepted. Two minutes up the road, the blonde told him, "This is the place." Looking to the back of the cab, the driver saw that the woman had disappeared, just as the cab passed Resurrection's gates, Crowe recounted.

Some fear Mary, including a

Greek deacon coming back from the last service at his church across from the cemetery, who has moved to Denver since spotting Mary in August 1980. Resurrection Mary has disturbed some people enough to want her exorcised, Crowe said. "Some would like to see her stop walking Archer, stop haunting this Earth and so forth, but I say, 'I think you're missing the big picture, because maybe on your level, you think it's wrong for her to walk for all eternity...But she's probably convinced tens of thousands of people to reevaluate their belief systems, to think about life after death, survival of the soul and so forth.' Whereas it might be selfish for her to go out looking for a good time, she's caused some people to think more deeply," Crowe said.

In fact, a decided skeptic, Bill Geist — a former reporter for the suburban Tribune — heard the cab driver's story of Mary. Though he still refuses to believe in ghosts,

scaring them as much as I'm causing them to think about [the possibility of ghostly things]," he said.

Crowe, who was an English literature major and geography minor at DePaul University, has always been interested in ghosts, ever since his days growing up in Chicago. His mother and grandmother, both from Budapest, Hungary, would tell him stories, he said. His father, of Irish descent, wasn't so much into ghosts, but lent to Crowe a passion for geography. In fact, the ghost tours Crowe has been conducting for 26 years, were born out of a geography project at DePaul. He led his professor and classmates on a tour in 1973. His professor saw a way to capitalize on the tour and Crowe promptly started conducting tours on a regular basis, he said.

Though the first-ever ghost tour might be expected to hail from Transylvania, London or even the Deep South, Crowe attributes



Crosses, rosaries, flowers and statues of the Virgin Mary — as well as notes, prayer cards and coins — are often left for Mary Alice Quinn, who died in 1935. Quinn's favorite saint, St. Theresa, promised a "shower of roses," and the scent of roses is reported at Quinn's grave, even in winter. (Photo by Iva-Marie Palmer)

Geist — whose name, coincidentally, is German for 'ghost' — believes in Mary, Crowe said.

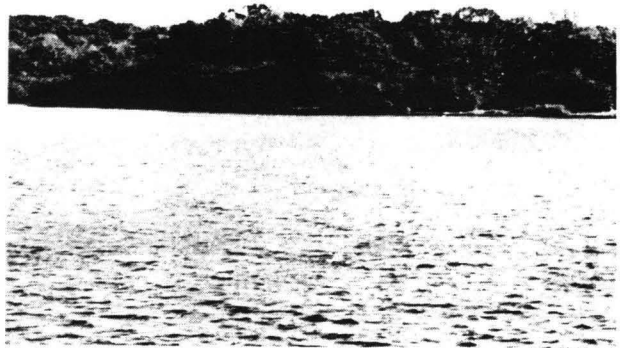
Though she walks alone, Resurrection Mary is not without company, Crowe said. Chicago is rich with ghost legends and lore. Crowe, in fact, has made a living as the first full-time ghost hunter. His tour covers 75 miles of the Chicagoland area, and he's acquainted himself with well over 100 spooky sites, he said. A tour usually explores 13 of these sites — a good number for ghost hunting, Crowe said.

Moraine Valley Community College is sponsoring one of Crowe's tours on Saturday, Oct. 23, from noon to 5 p.m. The tour leaves from the College Center, located on the 10900 S. 88th Avenue campus in Palos Hills. Tickets are \$33.50 for adults and \$31.50 for seniors, students and Moraine Valley alumni. Call 974-5500.

Crowe calls his "The Alfred Hitchcock School" of storytelling. He's not trying to scare people, by dressing up or engaging in the splatter-movie style of causing people shock. "It's not that I'm

Chicago's wealth of ghost stories and sightings to the city's large immigrant populations, he said. "Every culture has its own folklore," he said. A block-by-block tour of the city can be "like crossing national boundaries," because of the many ethnic neighborhoods, he said.

Also, historically, mob activity has given Chicago a shoot-'em-up past that lends itself to hauntings, he said. "It used to be you're from Chicago, bang, bang, bang, Al Capone. Now it's Michael Jordan, but Al Capone still figures in quite a bit," he said. The site of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, 2122 N. Clark St., and the Biograph Theatre, where John Dillinger was shot, are favorite spots for many of Crowe's tour groups, he said. Dillinger was gunned down next to the first telephone pole in the alley outside of the Biograph — a phone pole which has been replaced twice, because visitors hack away splinters of the wood for souvenirs, Crowe said. While the big city's bloody, violent past is a "good start" for ghost hunting, nearby suburbs are thick with apparitions



Red ghost lights are an oft-reported occurrence at the high point of Maple Lake's shore, seen here from the parking lot on 95th St. a few blocks east of Archer. Ghost lights are said to come from a phantom with a lantern looking for his or her lost head. (Photo by Iva-Marie Palmer)

of their own, Crowe said.

### Lawyer of the damned

Despite its negative connotations, "you look like you've seen a ghost," is a phrase befitting of Richard Crowe, who is more satisfied than spooked by his own encounter. Crowe was lucky enough to spot his first ghost while leading a tour of 68 people on Halloween in 1995.

The group was on the bridge behind the Museum of Science and Industry at about 10:30 p.m. when they saw an old man in a camelhair coat and a Homburg hat walking along the sidewalk, he said. The figure, with the gait and stance of someone older, stopped by the rear entrance, he said. The man looked solid, but strange and dated in his old-fashioned clothes, Crowe said. He recognized the man as Clarence Darrow, famed "lawyer of the damned," who died March 13, 1938.

Defending attorney in the Leopold and Loebe murder trial, Darrow's ashes were scattered from the bridge with a promise from the lawyer that he'd return. While people flock to the bridge — now named for Darrow — on the anniversary of his death, "nothing ever happens," Crowe said.

Darrow could be called a showman by nature, as he served the defense for the first live broadcast trial ever — the Scopes Monkey Trial — for the publicity, Crowe said. Hamming it up in the afterlife, Darrow was captured on tape by two tour-takers with video cameras, he said. Two other men who approached the figure got within 50 feet before stopping in their tracks, Crowe said. The figure did a half-turn before vanishing without a trace, he said. The bus driver for the tour has since left the ghost business for a job in trucking, Crowe said.

### Eerie lights

Ghost lights, other paranormal phenomena, occur at two area forest preserves — Maple Lake, about three blocks east of Archer on 95th Street, and Bachelor's Grove, about two blocks east of Ridgeland Avenue on 143rd Street. While Bachelor's Grove is off limits because of its reputation for unsavory sorts practicing satanic rituals and grave robbing, Maple Lake is a popular picnic spot.

Ghost lights, which are lights of no natural or human origin, have appeared at both spots. Crowe has seen the red ghost lights at Maple Lake four times, once in 1986 for about 20 minutes, he said. Crowe has heard of blue ghost lights at Bachelor's Grove, something this reporter saw in 1994. Ghost lights are thought to be from a lantern carried by a ghost searching for its lost head, Crowe said.

Crowe likes to believe that someone was murdered or killed in a construction project at Maple Lake in the 1930s, was buried and never discovered, he said. This fits with the theory that people come back

as ghosts to take care of unsolved or unresolved matters, he said. Also, because the ghost lights became a popular sighting in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, Crowe has a feeling the ghost started wandering in the 1930s, because a story "takes at least a decade to really take root," he said. Any possible scenario could be constructed for a decapitated ghost at the lake, as the site was once home for Native American campsites and was also popular for gangsters' one-way rides during Prohibition, he said.

Although some would like to blame the red ghost lights on a traffic signal or taillights, Crowe says it's impossible. The next east-west through street is a mile and a half off the horizon and the 20-minute ghost light appearance could not be a stoplight, he said. Laser pointers are also out of the question because lasers don't reflect well over water, Crowe said. The ghost lights show up across the lake off the shore where the trees are highest, Crowe said.

Bachelors Grove is also said to have an appearing and disappearing barnhouse. Its name comes from its settlers, all bachelors. If not for the enforcement of its 'No Trespassing' signs, Bachelors is a good place for ghost hunting as the farming community's members put a small burial ground on the site.

### Monks and graves

St. James of the Sag Church, known as Monks' Castle to ghost hunters, has reports of mysterious monk sightings, although monks have never lived there. The rectory and cemetery, at 107th and Archer, are part of the Catholic Archdiocese, Crowe said. However, Crowe has an account from one police officer, who, in November 1979, saw eight or nine figures inside the gates dressed in monk-like outfits. The officer went inside to tell the group it was trespassing, and the group drifted to the top of the hill, Crowe said. The officer chased the monks to the top of the hill, but they were gone, Crowe said. There was no noise of leaves rustling or steps being taken, so the officer — who cannot reveal his name "for fear of psychiatric review," Crowe said — knew they couldn't have been real people.

The graves at St. James-Sag also have a moving tale behind them. One of the priests in the rectory, Father Ploszynski, used to see the graves moving up and down, as though the ground was breathing, Crowe said. This is curious, as in Christina tradition, graves rising up and down mean that holy, good people are buried in them. Their souls are still alive and will be resurrected at the end of time. Although some dismissed the priest, a woman at one of Crowe's lectures and the niece of Ploszynski's caretaker said she witnessed the moving graves when visiting the rectory with her aunt as a child, Crowe said.

(continued on page 20) 19

## Devil's Creek driveby

Of the local ghost lore, perhaps the most disturbing story is that of the Grimes girls' murder. The Grimes girls, 12 and 14, of Brighton Park, never returned from an Elvis movie, "Love Me Tender," that they went to see in December 1956, Crowe said. When they didn't appear for weeks, even Elvis issued a plea: "Girls, if you're alive, be good Elvis Presley fans and go home." In January 1957, the girls' bodies were found naked, on the snow-covered ground on German Church Road (83rd Street) in Burr Ridge.

Though the official cause of death was listed as "exposure to cold," the girls had puncture wounds that authorities couldn't figure out, Crowe said. The bodies, found alongside the road near Devil's Creek, were said to be dropped off by a black car. The Devil's Creek tie-in may indicate a satanic element to the crime, Crowe said.

To this day, people often hear the car racing down the road, stopping, opening and shutting the door, and driving away, Crowe said. Though some like to say the noise is from cars at the nearby Santa Fe Speedway, the car is typically heard in winter, when the Speedway is closed, Crowe said.

During patrols, a Cook County police officer reported actually seeing a black car racing toward him, Crowe said. Turning the corner to get to it, the officer lost the car as it disappeared after opening and shutting its door, Crowe said. The family in the house on Devil's Hill left after the bodies were found near their property. The family didn't sell the house until about 1996, but never came back for the belongings it left on the land — which included food, toys, clothing and a 1956 White Buick convertible, Crowe said. Crowe wondered how well new houses on the hill would sell if the story made its way around, he said.

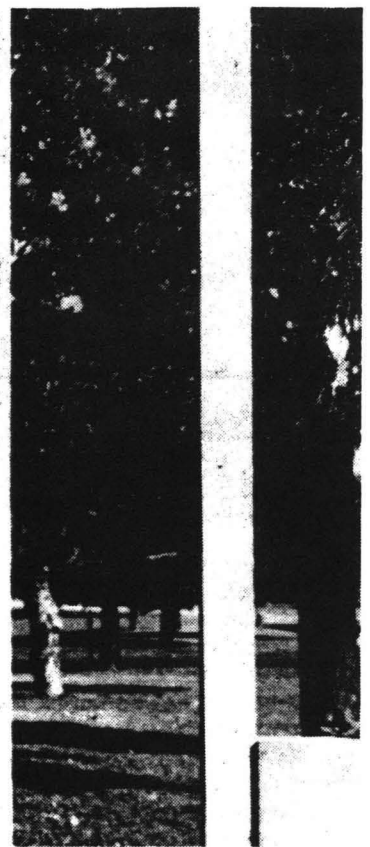
## Scent of roses

Though late Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley's grave is the most visited in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 6601 W. 111th St. in Worth, a little girl buried in Section 7 hears the prayers of hundreds.

Mary Alice Quinn's grave is surrounded by statues of the Virgin Mary, decorated with flowers and adorned with rosaries. A basket of wish-making coins sits next to the girl's headstone. Quinn died from an enlarged heart at age 15 in 1935, but the child told her parents she didn't mind dying young because she could help people like her favorite saint, St. Theresa, Crowe said.

Though she wasn't buried in a veil, those who viewed her in her casket saw a mysterious white mist — a veil of grace — around Quinn's face, Crowe said. In the 1930s and 1940s, others saw Quinn's spirit walking in the cemetery, he said. "In a situation like this, I hesitate to use the word 'ghost,' because it has a connotation of something scary, but this is a more religious-type activity," he said.

(continued from page 19 - REPORTER, Oak Lawn, IL - Oct. 14, 1999)



Ghost hunter Richard Crowe points out the two bars at the gates of Resurrection Cemetery, 7200 W. Archer Road, where Resurrection Mary is often sighted. The bars were bent by something with inhuman strength in 1976 — the ghost, Resurrection Mary — and their color has never been restored, Crowe said. (Photo by Iva-Marie Palmer)



A former priest at St. James of the Sag, at 107th Street and Archer Road, claimed to see these graves outside the rectory moving up and down as though the ground was breathing. (Photo by Iva-Marie Palmer)

As St. Theresa promised she'd "let fall a shower of roses," Quinn, too, is associated with the flower. In Irish tradition, it's good luck to take a pinch of dirt from the grave of a holy person, Crowe said. Those who've visited Quinn's grave have later reported smelling roses from the soil they took, Crowe said.

Crowe himself would have been lost without Quinn's trademark scent. When he first came to see the grave, he had no idea where it was in the cemetery, promising hours of fruitless searching, he said. As he drove along the cemetery's roads, his car's interior was

soon overpowered with the scent of roses — in the middle of winter, he said. Looking around, he realized the smell was coming from a grave with Mary Alice Quinn's name on the headstone, he said.

## Curious?

With Halloween around the corner, Richard Crowe's schedule is inundated with tours and lectures, he said. While October is often his busiest month, he works year-round, but looks forward to a slower pace in the colder January and February months, he said. "Then I can relax, take a vacation. Go someplace haunted," he said.

Crowe has expanded his tours to include a Chinatown tour, a Chicago boat tour, a New Orleans tour and a Salem, Mass., tour. For more information on any of Crowe's tours or lectures, call him at 499-0300.