

UFO

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UFO NEWS: A NATIONAL AND WORLD REPORT

UFOs enter the world of politics

GARY VAL TENUTA

No, they haven't yet landed on the White House lawn but, from democratic presidential candidate, Dr. Heather Harder, to political action committee chairman and D.C.'s only UFO lobbyist, Steven Bassett, the subject of UFO secrecy has become a political issue.

Dr. Harder is concerned about the government's penchant for secrecy in this matter. Dr. Harder told *UFO News* she was quite aware of attorney Peter Gersten's attempts to break through that wall of secrecy using legal means. Last month we reported on the efforts of Mr. Gersten to force the Department of Defense to release what information they may have regarding the large triangular UFOs now witnessed by thousands of credible citizens around the world.

"I think [such activism] will help," said Dr. Harder. "But as to any real success I'm a little more hesitant." She explained, "We know the more we push at these kinds of things the more underground other bits of information become."

To further emphasize the point she said, "We know there is information classified beyond the level of President, which makes me wonder who has the power to classify something beyond the level of the Presidency? And if the President can't see it, who can?"

Steven Bassett, chairman of X-PPAC (Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee) is also concerned about the secrecy issue. "It's properly called managed information," said Bassett during a recent interview on Mike Siegel's Coast-to-Coast program, broadcast out of Seattle on KOMO radio. "It means you apply the techniques practiced in the intelligence field." He explained how these techniques are applied to the UFO issue, in effect "steering" the information in a predetermined direction over a period of time to create a certain picture in the minds of the people. In other words, he suggested, it's a propaganda move.

While Bassett realizes the need to manage certain types of information for reasons of national security, the government has stated that the UFO phenomenon poses no such threat. The government also continues to claim it has no significant information about the UFO phenomenon other than what was publicly released several decades ago in the Air Force's Project Bluebook. This raises two questions. On the count that the government has no significant information on UFOs, why is it that government documents about UFOs keep turning up when pressed by private researchers demanding such information under the Freedom of Information Act? And if the phenomenon is so benign and poses no threat to national security, why then is the bulk of the content of those documents so often completely "blacked out"? Quite clearly, even under the so-called Freedom of Information Act, the information is managed. Bassett asks, "Are we willing to be the target of a propaganda campaign about this issue? I believe most people in this country would say no."

There is a growing grassroots movement to persuade Congress to hold open hearings on this issue of UFO secrecy. The state of Missouri, for example, recently launched an initiative calling for such Congressional hearings. However the initiative was somehow tied up in committee for what Bassett believes was an inordinately long period of time before it was finally approved. This delay cost precious time needed to collect the required 80,000 signatures necessary to land a spot on the ballot. Bassett suggests this may have been a deliberate political ploy on the part of those in charge of the approval process. As a result the initia-

tive did not get on the ballot. They did, however, manage to collect some 30,000 signatures. The initiative

sponsors will try again next year, with more money, more time, and more experience behind them.

"Legal activism regarding the UFO issue will increase significantly in the coming months," Bassett said. "The activism is becoming more sophisticated and is venturing out beyond the rather limited process of just filing FOIA requests."

It appears perhaps the "X-Files" is becoming a reality.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 6, 2000 CR: G. Fawcett

Friedman details theories on U.S. UFO conspiracy

TOM MORAN
RECORD STAFF WRITER

"It's hard to get at secrets — it's easy to keep them," expounded Stanton Friedman Wednesday night. Friedman, a nuclear physicist and one of the world's most influential UFO experts, engaged a large International UFO Museum and Research Center crowd with his speech, titled "The Cosmic Watergate."

Friedman focused on the infamous Roswell Incident, detailing the government's attempts to explain the events



Friedman

and his personal confrontations with what he believes is a large-scale government cover-up.

"The UFO cover-up did not begin in Roswell," he began. He pointed to a 1946 incident in which respected Gen. James Doolittle was brought in to Sweden as a consultant after a rash of sightings of 'flying bombs' and 'ghost rockets' in that country.

Friedman stated that the report that arose out of this project has disappeared, and that Doolittle himself, when later questioned about that period, "remembered everything about his trip to Europe — except for Sweden."

Friedman next jumped ahead to 1955, when the U.S. Air Force released the results

that this report failed to dismiss a full 30 percent of the UFO sightings it examined.

Friedman next turned his attention to Roswell, attacking the 1947 incident from several different angles. One prominent inconsistency he highlighted was the size of the purported weather balloon involved, which varied among military eyewitnesses between a few feet in size to a quarter-mile in length.

Friedman noted Mac Brazel's repeated assertion that what he recovered was not a weather balloon, and added that Brazel, who had recovered balloons before, had reason to know.

Friedman also claimed that the Roswell wreckage was flown to Wright Field in Ohio, a base used by the government to study and reverse-engineer captured enemy craft. Why, he asked the crowd, would the government go through such trouble for a weather balloon?

In the 1990s, he explained, the U.S. Air Force released two more extensive reports on the Roswell Incident, both of which he proceeded to debunk.

"This is the crash test dummies nonsense," he explained, referring to the Air Force's explanation that these dummies were mistaken for aliens in 1947.

Friedman poked holes in this idea by pointing out that said dummies were not used by the Air Force until 1953, and never in the Roswell area. In addition, he stated that the dummies were all 6 feet tall and 185 pounds in weight, and unlikely to be mistaken for diminutive aliens.

In 1978, Friedman explained, he had first encountered Maj. Walter Marcel, who had been public information officer at the Roswell Air Force Base in 1947. Friedman's interest in the Roswell Incident mushroomed from there, and it was he that ultimately returned the case to the public eye.

In one of the most effective portions of his lecture, he detailed the court battles he has fought in attempts to obtain UFO-related documents classified by the NSA, CIA, and other government agencies.

Most of his requests, he explained, have been denied, and Friedman displayed copies of the documents that had been released to him: many consisted of line after line of **blacked-out type**, with the occasional declassified word peeking through.

Friedman expressed hope that recent government legislation would declassify scores of documents currently under wraps.

"Bill Clinton," he stated, "has done more than any other president to get documents declassified. He added that all U.S. documents more than 25 years old are due to be declassified on April 1, 2001.

Friedman concluded by explaining his motivation for proving the existence of extraterrestrial contact: he feels it would ultimately serve to unite the earth.

"The best hope I see for a decent future of this planet is an earthling orientation," he stated. "Nationalism is the curse of mankind."

Friedman summed up his message in a few pointed words, when he stated, toward the end of the lecture, "Are we being told the whole truth? No. Absolutely not."

Wyoming UFO Watch



Skywatchers settle into a circle on the Wyoming prairie, hoping to see some of the strange lights reported in the area in recent years.

Special to The Denver Post / Ted Brummond

Enthusiasts scan sky every year

By Bill Briggs
Denver Post Staff Writer

LARAMIE — Space aliens surely aren't frightened by a little Earth rain. But the humans hunting them this night definitely are. Two hours before sunset, their 24-car caravan is ready to leave town and head 30 miles north to the McGuire Ranch — a vast, treeless prairie, home to raging winds, wandering cows and, reportedly, very weird lights in the evening sky. It's said people have seen amber balls that dance on the horizon and green orbs that dart beneath the clouds.

This is why — year after year, commuting from Texas, Arizona, Colorado and 10 other states — the UFO crowd comes here to glimpse what they call "the visitors," to reach out to them and, hopefully, to make contact. They believe.

Truly, the pursuit of extraterrestrials is their religion. And the desolate McGuire Ranch is their sacred church. Now, after a three-day UFO conference on the University of Wyoming campus that ended Sunday, 50 people are aching for a light show to send them home happy.

But a passing storm slowly soaks the ground around Laramie, leaving field trip organizers worried that their cars and trucks will get bogged down in the dirt road that cuts deep into the ranch. They are thinking about calling off the drive. It won't be a popular move. Many in the crowd have gut feelings that they'll see something in the darkness.

"It doesn't matter if you have clouds or sunshine. If they're going to show up, they're going to show up. And they do," says Caroline Carter of Fort Collins, one of the folks milling in the dormitory parking lot, champing at the bit to head up to the ranch.

Her husband, conference leader Franklin Carter, has sent a scout out to the prairie to test the soil. Carter now paces as he waits for a fresh report from the field.

"The last thing I want is to be towing people out of the mud at 4 in the morning," he says.

Suddenly, his cell phone rings. The news is good: the ranch road is damp but passable. Carter tells the group it's time to load into their Ford Tauruses and Mercury Sables.

They're going hunting for UFOs.

For 21 years now, the flying saucer crowd has been flocking to Laramie for the Rocky Mountain UFO Conference — an eclectic collection of lifelong believers, avowed eyewitnesses and the merely curious.

Between an opening chat about crop circles last Friday morning and that starless trek to the McGuire Ranch, the convention squeezed in a talk from Los Angeles "recording artist" Pamela Stonebrook about her four alien "hybrid daughters," as well as her run-ins with the "renegade bad boys of alienology, the Reptilians."

A man named Bob White also took the microphone to answer questions about the "glowing piece of metallic debris" he saw fall to Earth from a hovering, orange light just west of Grand Junction in 1981. He said he scooped up the item and has had it tested at several labs in America and Canada "to determine the nature of the object." Its source remains a mystery.

And, as always, there were cryptic "closed sessions" — special moments set aside during the weekend for people to get up and divulge their personal UFO experiences to a room full of sympathetic ears. The meetings are off limits to the general public and the press, and they follow a strict code of conduct: No photographs can be taken, no audio tapes made, no questions asked.

"Everyone in these closed sessions knows how difficult it is to discuss a UFO encounter, and understands the fear of being ridiculed, made fun of or intimidated," reads the official agenda for the 2000 conference. "We encourage everyone who has had a UFO-related experience to . . . attend the closed sessions."

"You are not alone." Indeed, this annual University of Wyoming campus gathering bills itself as America's most popular conference in for people who claim they've been contacted by interstellar beings. Typically, 125 to 175 folks come every summer to swap tales about extraterrestrials.

But something almost otherworldly has been happening in UFO Land: Sane, solid Mainstream America seems to be buying into the phenomenon. Registrations for last weekend's conference were 30 percent higher than in 1999, organizers say. At the Institute for UFO Research — a Fort Collins-based group headed by Franklin Carter and a board of five others — the mailing list has grown from 1,500 to 2,400 in four years.

Need more hard evidence of this growing E.T. appeal? A poll conducted last January for Life magazine found that more than 100 million U.S. residents believe UFOs are real and some 50 million people believe they've seen one or know someone else who has.

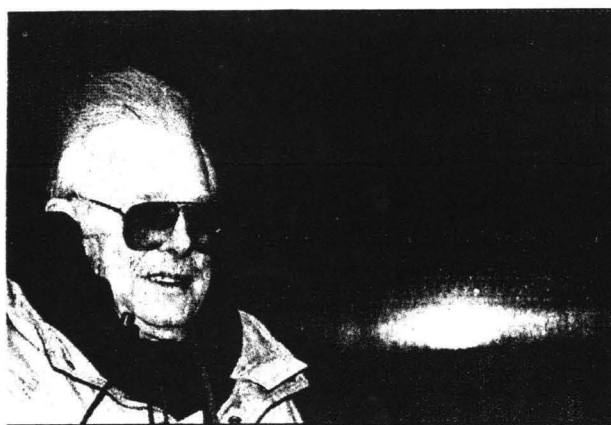
It's as if America is craving a fresh mythology or a new magic in which to believe as technology allows us to crack some of our oldest, darkest scientific puzzles. Simply put: The Great Unknown just ain't what it used to be.

"The mainstream interest . . . is real," says Franklin Carter, who is a poultry expert by day.

Of course, the stigma surrounding UFOs is also very real. To test that statement, just mention your recent alien abduction at the next neighborhood barbecue.

"It is still very hard for people to accept the idea of another being existing in a form that can communicate with us and having better technology than we have," Carter says. "This has been sensationalized with the abduction reports on TV and in the movies. (Meanwhile), the people who have had positive experiences are either ignored or made to seem a bit silly."

"The press, TV and the movies can change that



Franklin Carter believes he saw his first UFO in the late 1950s from a U.S. Navy vessel in the North Atlantic. Today, he devotes some 60 hours a month researching the phenomenon.

Special to The Denver Post
Ted Brummond

if they start reporting the facts instead of sensationalizing them. The general public is becoming more open to the UFO sightings as more and more people have these experiences."

■ ■ ■

After passing miles of grazing antelope and the rusting farm equipment, the 50 UFO buffs ease their cars onto a dirt road that will lead them to their planned viewing spot. The long line of headlights is reminiscent of a scene from the movie "Field of Dreams." Yet if they build it — if they form their human circle and create their "energy field" — will THEY come?

"Being around this sagebrush and around these antelope is enough for me," Franklin Carter tells the group, moments after they climb out of their vehicles. "But I would love to have a nice sighting. If we all work together . . . I think we'll probably have a successful night."

They've stopped along a fence line with a clear view of every horizon. This far from the highway, they figure no one will bother them. Camcorders at the ready, they quietly form a ring in the prairie. Some sit in lawn chairs, others on blankets. Everyone is bundled against the chill. As they crane their necks to check out the darkening sky, Anna Hayes begins the preparation "exercises."

Hayes has flown up from Florida to speak at the conference. She is famous in UFO circles for

her books and lectures on topics like "How to Begin Pro-Human Visitor Contact" and "Becoming Involved With the Big Picture — the Portal Projection Plan, Star Gates and the Advanced Planetary Grid Mechanics of the Diamond Sun Agenda."

In a workshop earlier this day on the Wyoming campus, she gave a "crash course" in human evolution — how, she says, we were "seeded" here millions of years ago by a number of other alien races, and how they have been returning for decades to help in our metamorphosis to another level of consciousness. The theory she presents is a hybrid of genetic science, ancient spirituality and a whole lot of

talk about beings who hail from very far away.

Now, as it grows darker on the ranch, Hayes asks the group to "turn on their inner senses." She leads them through several breathing and meditation routines — "visualize a spark of blue light just behind your forehead" — and she tells them she is creating a "field of protection" and, later, an "energy field" to welcome the aliens.

Through her own sensory perception, Hayes claims she has just communicated with a female E.T. who is there but in another dimension.

"There is a presence here. I don't know if it's going to come down to where we can see it," Hayes tells the group. "There are five people here who they have been contacting for a couple of years. I'm not going to name names. If we see anything, they're telling me, this is for you."

No one seems to bat an eye. At this point, they simply wait. They shiver and hope the McGuire Ranch delivers. One man shines a powerful beam of light into the sky as a "signal" that the group is ready.

"This is what you call a hot spot," whispers Caroline Carter. "There's a lot of good energy out here. There have been a lot of sightings by (passing truckers) and ranchers. But the ranchers won't talk about it unless they know you."

In the science that saucer buffs call "ufology," these periods of increased sightings are labeled as "flaps." And in the past decade, some parts of the western United States have had their fair share.

(continued on page 3)

One stretch of southern Colorado, the San Luis Valley, is considered such a UFO hotbed it has sparked a cottage industry. One resident has made plans to build alien "landing pads" (with old-fashioned tourist dollars being one motivation), while another local named Chris O'Brien wrote a book, "The Mysterious Valley," that details the flurry of colored lights in the sky and cattle mutilations on the ground.

"No one really knows why there are flaps in certain areas," Carter says. "There are many theories such as high military presence, special military activity, special geological makeup, and certain magnetic lines or vortexes."

"I don't have a pet theory."

Franklin Carter seems normal enough.

He speaks with a slight Southern twang and has a folksy style about him: denim vest, easy smile, a quiet politeness. He loves to read. He spends time on the plains photographing antelope and eagles.

By trade, he is a research monitor in the poultry industry. That means Carter, 63, double-checks chicken studies commissioned by big companies or universities, making sure all the academic legwork complies with government standards. It doesn't get any straighter than that.

Carter also believes we are being visited by beings from other planets. And he wonders why so many people find that downright wacky.

"If your neighbor tells you he saw a little red truck run a stop sign, you believe him. You don't try to tell him he's crazy — (or that) it was probably Venus, Mars or a Greyhound bus. You accept it; he saw a little red truck run a stop sign," Carter says. "So why would

you think he is lying if he says he saw a UFO? Accept it; he is entitled to that much."

Now he asks you to accept this: Some 44 years ago, he witnessed his first extraterrestrial craft. It later prompted him to invest 40 to 60 hours a month studying UFOs. Just don't expect him to make idle conversation with neighbors or daytime colleagues about his hobby. He knows the wide-eyed double takes he would get.

"I don't tell them because of that very thing."

If Carter sounds a bit defensive about all this, it's because he's heard all the jokes and snide comments about flying saucer buffs. He winces at the condescending, "wink-wink" way most news organizations cover UFO conferences or reports of unexplained lights in the sky. For that reason, he's been reluctant for years to speak to the press.

These days, he's starting to open up a little. He talks about when the seeds were planted for the E.T. pursuits that dominate his life today.

In the late 1950s, while working as a radar repair expert aboard a U.S. Navy ship in the North Atlantic, Carter and his crewmates tracked on radar occasional objects flying east to west at 3,400 miles per hour. Back then, the fastest U.S. aircraft flew only 1,100 mph, he says.

"Everyone first thought the radar was broken, but there was nothing wrong with the radar. I ran all the tests possible, and it always came out OK," Carter recalls. These incidents happened six times in 14 months.

In each case, the ship radioed NORAD in Colorado Springs, which scrambled jets to try and get a visual fix on whatever was scream-

ing toward the East Coast. The pilots never saw a thing, he says.

"From this," Carter says, "grew my deep interest in the UFO contact phenomenon . . . I believe they are here, and we need to know as much as possible about how to interact with them."

■ ■ ■

It's closing in on 11 p.m., and the only glowing orbs on the horizon are the headlights and taillights of vehicles on the highway. The evening is so choked with clouds, the skywatchers can't even see stars. Worse, it's getting really cold.

Despite all the hope that surged through the group at sunset, this UFO hunt is declared a bust.

Maybe that amber light some people out here saw a few years ago, hovering to the east, was just a trucker on the way to Montana. Maybe that green glow moving to the west was a train. Maybe not.

One by one, they fold their lawn chairs, roll up their blankets and head to the warmth of their cars and their hotel rooms back in Larimer. The deeper believers explain away their quiet evening this way: The aliens simply have better things to do at the moment.

Going strictly by the numbers, a shutout isn't surprising, Franklin Carter says. Just 10 percent of their field trips produce odd lights that dart or dance, objects don't behave like aircraft or meteors. Only two or three times a year do they claim to spy something "really bizarre" like triangular crafts.

Just not tonight. But if UFOs are their religion, an outing like this won't dampen their faith.

"Oh no," Carter says. "Definitely, I'll be back. And hopefully, we'll see something."

LINCOLN VOICES

An update on UFO pursuits

By GEORGE FAWCETT
Special to The Gazette

UFOs continue to demonstrate many strange effects on humans, soil samples, animals, machines and other instruments in the Carolinas and over 147 countries.

On the eve of the 53rd anniversary of UFOs in modern times, here is an updated report.

I am a veteran of UFO pursuits for the past 56 years in the Carolinas and worldwide.

Down the years I have investigated reports from 244 towns and cities in North Carolina and 54 towns and cities in South Carolina. The Tar Heel State still ranks fourth in the nation for the number of reported UFO encounters and the Palmetto State continues to rank twelfth for its reported observations.

My files of more than 1,500 case histories includes a large number of reported landings, occupant encounters, photographs, pilot reports, E-M (Electro-Magnetic) accounts, radar trackings, etc.

UFOs continue to demonstrate many strange effects on humans, soil samples, animals, machines and other instruments in the Carolinas and over 147 countries.

UFOs remain the highest secrecy of any subject in America's history, ranking two points above the H-bomb coverage. Government conclusions through the private channels, rather than through the public domain, have come to the following conclusions:

- UFOs are real
- UFOs are not natural phenomena
- UFOs are not conventional objects
- UFOs are unconventional objects with a high degree of technology
- UFOs are a threat to both national security and human survival.

These conclusions are based on the release of over 50,000 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents. In the meantime, the 696th Air Intelligence Group at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, continues to investigate the phenomenon for the U.S. Air Force, contrary to public knowledge.

Also, President Bill Clinton recently signed Executive Order

#1298, which will release all National Security Documents dating from 1975 and prior years. Since some of the major UFO waves occurred in the 1940s through the 1970s, some surprising revelations may now be released for the first time.

I started investigating UFO sightings in 1944 as a Boy Scout during World War II at 15 years of age. The Ken Arnold sightings of nine objects flying above Mount Ranier, Washington State, on June 24, 1947, gained international headlines at the time.

Currently scientists in France, China, Russia, England, Spain, Israel, United States and Mexico have urged new scientific investigations. And a commission by Lawrence Rockefeller recently funded the Best Evidence Available, which was mailed to more than 1,000 world leaders. As a final point of information, California ranked tops in the nation for UFO reports, followed by New Mexico, while Ohio and Pennsylvania tied for third spot and Florida was ranked fifth in the nation for reported UFO observations. About 65 percent are seen at night, 35 percent are daylight encounters. And only one percent of the total reports are proven hoaxes after being investigated by civilian, military or scientific investigators.

George D. Fawcett, 70, a UFO author and lecturer, lives in Lincoln County. He is an adviser to International UFO Museum & Research Center, Roswell, N.M.

CR: G. Fawcett

STRANGER THAN FICTION

By Christopher O'Brien

From late 1992 through 1998 the greater San Luis Valley region was inundated with hundreds of reported high-strange events, and the media and others began referring to the SLV as America's most active UFO hotspot. Then in the fall of 1998, after a flurry of reports from western Huerfano County, reports of anomalous events inexplicably ceased. Our region has now enjoyed two years of relative calm, with only sporadic episodes of reported unusual activity.

Who are Those Guys?

One of the more intriguing reports of apparent government activity in the SLV occurred on between the San Luis Lakes and the Medano Ranch, on March 23, at 3:48pm. A woman motorist, travelling on County Road 6N Lane on her way to the Great Sand Dunes, experienced a puzzling encounter. She was headed to the dunes and was surprised to see a "temporary air traffic control tower" and a Quonset hut just east of the San Luis Lakes State Park near the western edge of the Medano Ranch. The witness's father had worked for years as an air traffic controller, and the woman recognized it immediately. Curious, she pulled to the side of the road to observe the facility with binoculars and began taking notes. Within a "couple of minutes" a tan sedan with government plates and two men in the front seat "zipped" past her, headed east.

She resumed her drive, and 3.2 miles west of the Sand Dunes turn-off she was startled to see two black, triangular craft streak from north to south, one right after the other, right in front of her van. The two craft were apparently silent, for seconds later, three conventional jet fighters roared by, chasing the two strange craft. The witness is positive the strange craft were not Stealth fighters. "They were triangle-shaped and flew right in front of me!"

She continued on and turned north toward the dunes. Just south of the Sand Dunes Oasis she noticed two empty identical tan sedans parked on either side of the first cattle-guard. Then a white Ford Explorer with flashing red and white lights approached from behind and pulled her over.

The two men in the Explorer were dressed in casual clothes and were "very polite," she remembered. They had on sunglasses, had short brown hair and were dressed in polo shirts and sport coats. They told her they had detected minute traces of radioactive materials and asked for permission to check her van. She said OK, and they produced a high-tech-looking hand-held monitoring device. She described the device as a black box with a curly cord attached to a wand that had a sponge windscreen. They ran over the outside, then checked the inside (of the van). It took them about five minutes. She told me, "I've been stopped and checked at

airports before, and I couldn't resist asking, 'Who are you guys?' The main person doing all the talking opened his jacket revealing a National Security Agency badge pinned to his shirt. It said NSA and had an official-looking seal and some writing—but no photograph. I asked him, 'Do you do this often?' and he said, 'No, I wouldn't say often.' Why is the NSA checking motorists for radiation in the San Luis Valley? Stay tuned.

Another curious element to our story occurred on March 22, at 2:30 pm, the day before our witness's spook encounter. A motorist travelling west on State Highway 160 reported passing a loose seven-mile long convoy of around 20 US Government pickup trucks, between Blanca and Fort Garland, with what appeared to be US Fish and Wildlife emblems on the

driver's door. They were headed east over La Veta Pass. Then, two weeks later, the Dunes fire swept the area where the woman was stopped.

Random Factoid

Recently, ABC News stated that US blood donors who had visited England between 1985 and 1996 will no longer be allowed to donate blood due to potential contamination from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow" disease.

We are not alone



Street. While Beverly is explaining the investigation process, another witness calls. It's apparent that these sightings will take up a

Mysterious craft hover over Des Moines. Crop circles appear out of nowhere. Who, or what, is doing this and why?

• By Tim Schmitt

A large red object hovered in the sky over Des Moines. It seemed to be watching something — or someone. It distracted a Beaverdale man from the Fourth of July celebration around him. He thought it was fireworks from a nearby neighborhood, but soon realized it was something he could not explain.

There were no fireworks in this area, just this mysterious object that inexplicably floated in the air. It stayed in one spot for about 15 minutes, then moved slowly west. Before departing, it dropped a rapidly blinking red object from its underside.

The first thing in the morning, the Beaverdale man did what anyone in his situation should do — he called Beverly Trout.

As state director for the Mutual UFO Network, it's Beverly's job to investigate sightings like this. She does so quickly, with the utmost respect and consideration for the witnesses. Every witness is guaranteed confidentiality.

"This may be nothing," she says. "But it may be something. We don't know."

Beverly Trout is skeptical, but curious. She's investigated hundreds of sightings in Iowa. She's been MUFON's state director since 1996, a member since 1991.

The Beaverdale sighting was the first report of the July 4th UFO. The second came from a couple near Meredith Drive and 86th

large part of her day.

She settles in to take the call, her legs folded over the arm of the plastic chair at her desk. She leans against the opposite arm, settling in for what may be a long discussion.

While talking to this witness, a thunderstorm sweeps through the area. The lights flicker and the rain blows against the window. Though it is now only 10:30 a.m., it's dark as night outside. Beverly is so focused she doesn't even notice.

The skeptical believer

Beverly appears to be in her 60s, but prefers not to say. She's attractive, energetic and sharply dressed. Her modest jewelry and silver-rimmed glasses complement her perfect silver hair. She's focused and alert, recalling the most minute details of investigations from years past.

The reports coming into her office today are compelling. Like most, though, they're questionable. She works from an office in the back room of her retirement center apartment in Earlham, about 20 miles west of Des Moines. A bookshelf lines the back wall. Studies in physics, healing and astronomy fill it.

She listens intently to the witnesses, seeming to tune out the rest of the world. Several yellow legal pads filled with notes and sketches of past interviews crowd her desk.

The presence of fireworks automatically casts doubt on these sightings. But still, there's something strange about the July 4 incidents.

Beverly investigates the sightings this day

with equal parts curiosity and skepticism. She's not the gullible type, and has little patience with those who are. In fact, she seems more intent on proving the reports false than accepting them as extraterrestrial.

The week before, she met with an elderly woman from Northern Iowa who saw an object pass in front of her kitchen window three times during a power outage. Beverly will not even report the sighting to national MUFON. She could not verify the claim and, frankly, just found it hard to believe.

By 10 a.m. on July 5 she's already spoken with two of the previous night's witnesses, the FAA and the state climatologist, and reviewed the information from each.

Her ability to process data is astounding. She visualizes in her mind the location of the witnesses, the reported height and size of the craft, reports from the FAA of aircraft in the area, and takes into account the effect that cloud coverage and dew point average may have had.

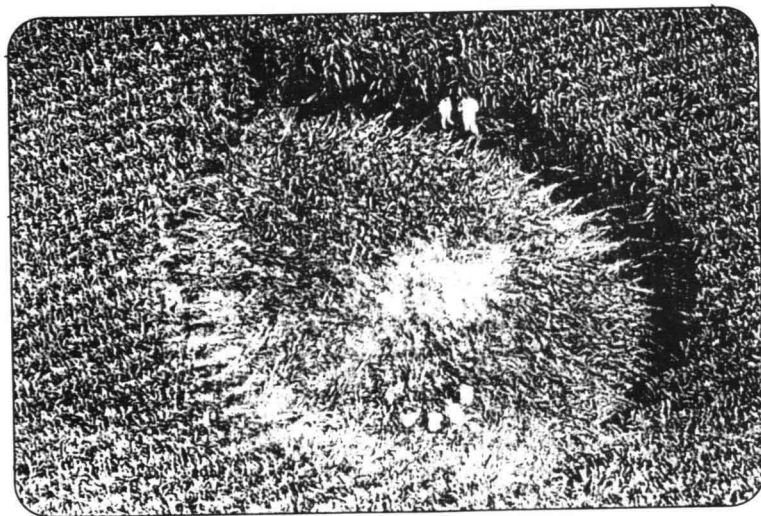
Low-lying clouds on the night of the 4th caused a couple of passenger jets from St. Louis to take a different approach to the Des Moines airport. She thinks this could account for the sightings, but after sketching a map of their position relative to the witnesses, she rules out that explanation.

It was not an airplane. What it was, she can't say.

Alien hybrids and line dancing

Though she didn't know it at the time, Beverly's journey from Iowa farm girl to state director of MUFON began when she was only 4 years old. She would not recall her experience at that age until many years later, an experience she's reluctant to speak of.

The first incident she will talk about took place on a dairy farm just 20 minutes from Des Moines. It was a spring evening, the night before Easter in 1967. She looked out the window and saw a mysterious light



Some people think aliens could be responsible for crop circles like this one near Arlington, Iowa, in 1995. There have been several in the state, but Trout says many more are not even reported.

hovering about 500 yards from the barn.

She and her husband went to the driveway for a better look. A small plane had passed by earlier and they could clearly hear the engine. This craft made no sound at all.

It moved slowly across the creek, no more than 200 feet off the ground. It crossed the street, then changed direction and vanished quickly.

"We didn't even know who to call at the time," Beverly says.

A few days later she asked the neighbor's wife if she or her husband had seen anything. The woman became nervous and quickly denied seeing anything. Beverly believes the craft may have touched down at the neighbors' farm, but they were afraid to speak.

Fear is something Beverly understands.

Her own experiences have been less than pleasant. She asked that some of the details not be related here, but the abduction and experimentation stories she relates, though not uncommon, are terrifying. Beverly prefers to focus on the UFO phenomenon as a whole rather than on the experiences of individuals. By concentrating on individuals, she says, the greater good is not served.

Beverly did not wish to share her most personal and painful experiences, but spoke

openly about her most vivid encounters, those that took place when she was awake.

She appears nervous and a bit detached recalling the encounters. When asked for details of her abductions, she gets visibly anxious. Shuffling papers and shifting in the seat, she abandons her detached professionalism. She stares out the window at a distant point, recalling the events.

"This has been happening since I was a young child," she begins. "But I didn't know about it until the '90s."

In 1993, the day before Labor Day, Beverly was en route to Iowa from the West Coast. She loves to travel and often does so alone. She rented a room at a Motel 6 in Nevada and was in bed by 10 p.m. She woke again at 11:30 and stayed up reading until about 2:30.

"They came and woke me back up," she recalls.

She pauses here to stress that this is not something she's proud of. She'd much rather have been left alone than to experience the helplessness of abduction.

"This is not fun and games," she says. "There's nothing ego building about not

(continued on page 5)

being in control."

She woke and found a male and female alien in her room. The pair was communicating with someone outside the room. She's not sure how she knows that, but says she does.

"The human mind skews things," she says. "At first I put human faces on them but immediately knew they weren't dressed right."

The female, she recalls, had knobby hands and did most of the communicating. The male was carrying something; she assumes a technological device. This was a short visit. The goal was only to tell Beverly one thing.

"If I could take it, I'd have further conscious encounters."

Just over two months later, on Nov. 22, Beverly was sleeping soundly at home when they woke her early in the morning.

They took her from home and placed her in front of a large group of beings. She says they were most likely late-stage hybrids. "They looked human but I could tell they weren't." Hybrids are a cross between humans and aliens. In the later stage, almost all alien features have been bred out of them, making them appear almost human.

She tried to turn away, but was forced to face the hybrids.

It took a while, but she realized she was there to teach them something.

"I was required to teach a human

recreational activity that I've taught to thousands in the Des Moines area."

What would that be?

Country Western line dancing.

"It is no more bizarre to you than it is to me. Maybe more so for me."

Beverly purposely avoids telling people about her interplanetary line dancing lessons. She knows how absurd it sounds and doesn't want to come off as a crackpot. And she doesn't.

She is sincere and honest. But she won't deny the truth to make it more acceptable to skeptics. It's a bizarre story, yet coming from Beverly, it's easy to believe.

Though she doesn't know why they wanted to learn line dancing, they appeared to pick it up quickly. It's hard to tell though, she says, because they have very passive looks on their faces. She speculates the lessons could help the hybrids fit in better with the fully human population. But, she admits, she could be wrong.

"I don't doubt that there are late-stage hybrids mingling among us," she says. "But that's speculation. It's OK to speculate as long as you admit that's what you're doing."

"We're not all having hallucinations"

UFOs have been around for centuries. U.S. Air Force textbooks say they've been here for almost 50,000 years. Stone tablets from Sumeria speak of the sons of gods marrying

the daughters of men. Some take this to indicate breeding between humans and aliens.

Reports from Iowa don't go back that far, but there have been plenty.

A statement on UFOs submitted to the U.S. House Committee on Science and Astronautics in 1968 included an account of a sighting in Sioux City in 1951.

On Jan. 20 of that year, a Mid-Continent Airlines pilot, Lawrence Vinther, was about to take a DC-3 to Omaha and Kansas City when the control tower noticed an oddly maneuvering light. Vinther was sent to investigate.

The object alternately paced the airplane and whizzed around it in seemingly impossible maneuvers. It would make drastic 90-degree turns and reverse course without turning or slowing.

Vinther told an investigator, "This is something we don't see airplanes do."

The object appeared to be wingless and tailless and made no noise. It was, and presumably remains, unidentified. When Vinther was asked at the time what he thought about the many airplane pilot sightings of UFOs in the 20 years before the incident, he replied, "We're not all having hallucinations."

Neither, says Beverly, are most people who report sightings to MUFON. Iowa's open skies and fields, coupled with its abundance of lightly populated areas, make it an ideal playground for UFOs. She rattles off a seemingly endless list of encounters.

Some are mundane, hazy, unidentified lights in the sky. Others are just plain frightening.

Take the family in Northern Iowa who reports regular visits. She shakes her head when talking about this family, understanding their fear and empathizing with the ridicule they'd face if they went public. The family recently sent a video of several lights in the sky less than 200 yards away. The tape is of little use, though. The family is so frightened that they are all screaming at once and the camera is shaking badly.

There's also the professional woman from Des Moines who recalls, as if it were yesterday, an incident from her college days some 30 years before. A craft followed her for several hours and was seen by multiple witnesses. At the end of the ordeal, she had lost three hours' worth of memory, and two other women claimed contact.

The list goes on and on.

Perhaps one of Beverly's most recognized investigations was of mysterious crop circles that appeared in Nevada in 1996.

In October of that year, Nevada farmer Brett Anderson was combining beans when he came across a strange circle. It measured about 30 feet in diameter; an outer circle three to four feet wide surrounded the first.

He'd never seen anything like this before, so he called the sheriff. A deputy recommended he call the Agricultural Extension Service at Iowa State University. They told him it was probably a helicopter.

The National Guard told him that none of

its helicopters had been in the area, and that even if they were, they could not create a pattern like the one in his field.

The local media picked up the story, but the attention soon faded. Beverly investigated the circle and sent soil samples to a lab. Traces of microwave radiation were present in the area, a common though mysterious find in crop circles.

Over the winter, up to six inches of snow would remain on the site long after it melted everywhere else. The following year, crops grown in the area were much smaller in size and yield.

Like any paranormal activity, there are as many theories about crop circles as there are circles themselves.

Among the most popular is the idea that they are formed by alien spaceships. Upon departure, the vehicles leave behind the impressions and radiation. Others speculate that aliens are taking samples of crops for experimentation or study. The circles could also be communications to be seen only from the sky. Whether the recipients of these covert messages are human or alien is unknown.

Bigfoot among us

There's plenty to keep Beverly busy in Iowa, but she occasionally leaves the state to help elsewhere. In August 1999, she helped

investigate a cattle mutilation in South Dakota.

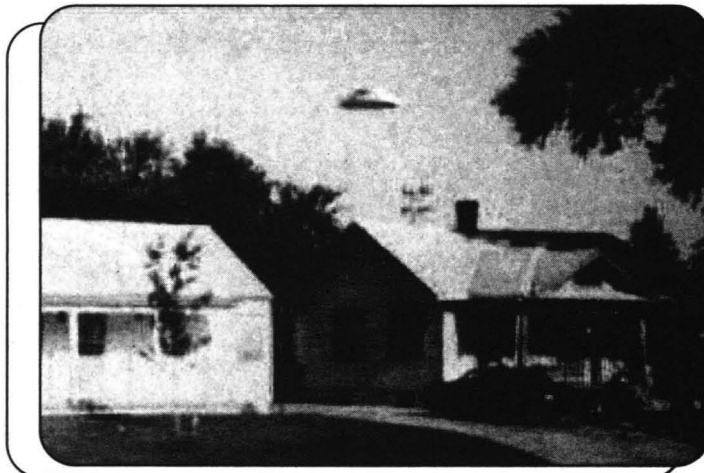
When she's not investigating, Beverly's busy with public speaking. Last weekend found her in Minneapolis at a MUFON-sponsored public meeting to discuss "How are we going to react?" when contact occurs. She will also speak at Barnes and Noble in West Des Moines on July 21.

Beverly has taught a UFO enigma class in Des Moines' adult education program and has facilitated classes on ESP.

But most days she is busy going over reports like the ones from the night of July 4. Two more witnesses have contacted her since that night. Both describe the same glowing red craft over the western part of the city.

Beverly plans to meet with the witnesses of the most recent event sometime this week. There seems to be little chance of solving the case, but she's not deterred. Her goal, and that of MUFON, is not to answer all the questions, but to separate truth from fiction, provide a chance for witnesses to tell their stories and establish a database to document credible reports.

"We're the last people who want to be scammed," she says. But there are plenty of people who try to discredit them by making false claims. Ultimately, the mission of MUFON and of Beverly Trout is to protect their witnesses and keep a record of encounters.



"I invariably advise people not to give their names. We're not out to exploit anyone. We're here to collect data."

And Beverly is very good at collecting data. Sit with her for an hour while she questions witnesses and this becomes apparent. The skill has taken her many places to explore many things, but the investigation she helped with early this week was a first.

She returned from Minneapolis on Sunday to assist in the investigation of a Bigfoot sighting in Des Moines. There have

been many sightings in Iowa, but this is the first inside the city limits. This is also the first Bigfoot investigation she's been involved in.

There's no word yet on the investigation, but rest assured. With Beverly Trout on its tail, the secretive days of the mighty Sasquatch are surely numbered.

To report a sighting contact Beverly Trout at (515) 758-3801 or btinfo@metins.net. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

Would you report a UFO? The truth is out there



Bill Johnson

OK, what would you say if I admitted I was out in my back yard, and saw a low, slow, silent triangle with red lights that for long minutes glowed greenish-yellow before turning red, receding into the clouds and shooting straight across the sky?

See!

This is my nightmare scenario. There are a lot of things I'm afraid of — which I'll admit.

This is *THE* one thing I hope I never encounter. Please, Lord, don't ever send a UFO my way.

I bring this up only because the latest copy of *The UFO Report* was thrown on my desk the other day. It is fascinating, scary reading. And I love UFO stuff.

Sue me. I think they exist. And why not? Is it completely out of the realm of possibility? The 11 people who sighted a UFO between May 14 and June 8 cannot all be crazy.

If I saw one, and I am serious about this, I would say not a word. Life is tough enough. Don Berliner, who edits *The UFO Report* out of Washington, D.C., laughed. Sort of.

It is the reason the entire UFO movement has stalled in recent years, he says. "Most people don't report because they are afraid of being laughed at. It's unfortunate, but it's life."

He started his monthly report strictly for the media. Most media people today weren't around in the salad days of the '50s and '60s, when UFO and their sightings were "really hot."

There were days back then, says Berliner, 70, when they couldn't keep up with the overwhelming amount of UFO reports.

Today is different. What most people know of UFOs, he says, comes from the supermarket tabloids and *The X-Files*.

"There's a lot more to it," he says. "It's a worldwide phenomenon that's covered a half-century. And there's a big story out there. It's why I keep at it."

The problem is only one in 10 sightings is

reported, Berliner says. It's the laugh factor. And there really is no place for people to report a sighting. The government quit accepting them in 1969.

"It got frustrating for them because most of their explanations were always incredibly flawed," he says. "Since then, they've insisted they have no interest in the subject."

The other problem is people reporting sightings always see them at night. The key is not to see lights, but objects, Berliner says. Lights can be anything — a meteor, a plane. There's never any detail. It makes the report virtually useless.

Of the 11 May-June sightings published in his report, only two occurred during daylight hours.

Why does he do it? He is a believer, he says. An aviation writer by trade, he's heard so many stories from pilots. Almost all of them are afraid to come forward.

"A lot of good information is lost annually because people say nothing. They don't want

to look crazy," he says.

He does what he does simply to help people understand the mystery. "It's a mystery that happens so often, you think it should be susceptible to scientific study," Berliner says.

"Myself and others in the field just want the answers. We want to move onto something else."

Does he ever believe he will find the answer? "If you'd asked me 30 years ago, I'd have said we'd know in a decade. Look how wrong I'd have been."

He does, though, have just one wish.

"I hope," he says, "I last long enough to at last find the answer."

Bill Johnson's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - July 7, 2000 CR: P. Noonan

New Mexico town celebrates its UFO heritage

ROSSELL, N.M. (AP) — Santa Fe has Georgia O'Keeffe. Fort Sumner has Billy the Kid. And Roswell? Roswell has E.T.

This small southeastern New Mexico town, known as the alien capital of the world, may not have many artifacts to show off like other historic sites. But it's still a huge draw for tourists fascinated by the unknown.

"It is a source of pride," said Roswell native Jessica Mysza, a visitor to the International U.F.O. Museum and Research Center.

The museum, the town's

main attraction, is a warehouse of information on the notorious alleged flying saucer crash landing near Roswell in 1947. Little green men decorate the outside of the building in a town where even the Wal-Mart features a picture of a big alien head and a fast-food restaurant has a sign welcoming aliens.

The theme of government cover-up hangs heavy in the building with walls covered with pictures of the alleged crash site and documents of testimonies.

However, despite the fact that

many of the museum's workers have a strong belief in UFOs, the goal is not to convince people of alien existence, museum director Carol Syska said.

"We just ask you to come through with an open mind, and then make up your own mind," said Syska, a retired Los Alamos National Laboratory worker.

The 8-year-old museum sees about 180,000 visitors a year, she said. There is no admission charge and most of the workers, including Syska, are volunteers.

A history of the 1947 incident is presented through pictures and testimonies of people involved, including two of the museum's three founders. Copies of government documents about the incident acquired through the Freedom of Information Act also are on display.

Pictures and written testimonies of UFO sightings around the

world also are chronicled — including those proved to be hoaxes.

"It's still a living museum. It's not just a dead museum," Syska said. "It shows things that are still happening today."

The only physical evidence on display is a small piece of metal, allegedly debris from the crashed spacecraft. Syska says the metal is much thinner and lighter than the jeweler's junk the government says it is.

That piece of "spacecraft" is 13-year-old Dustin Dearman's favorite exhibit item. He's Mysza's cousin, visiting from Monahans, Texas.

"I think it's a good place for reading," said Mysza, who isn't convinced UFOs exist. "But I really think it's they've done well with the information they present. It's very informative."

The building also houses a

research center with books and videos about UFOs. Databases with information on sightings also are available.

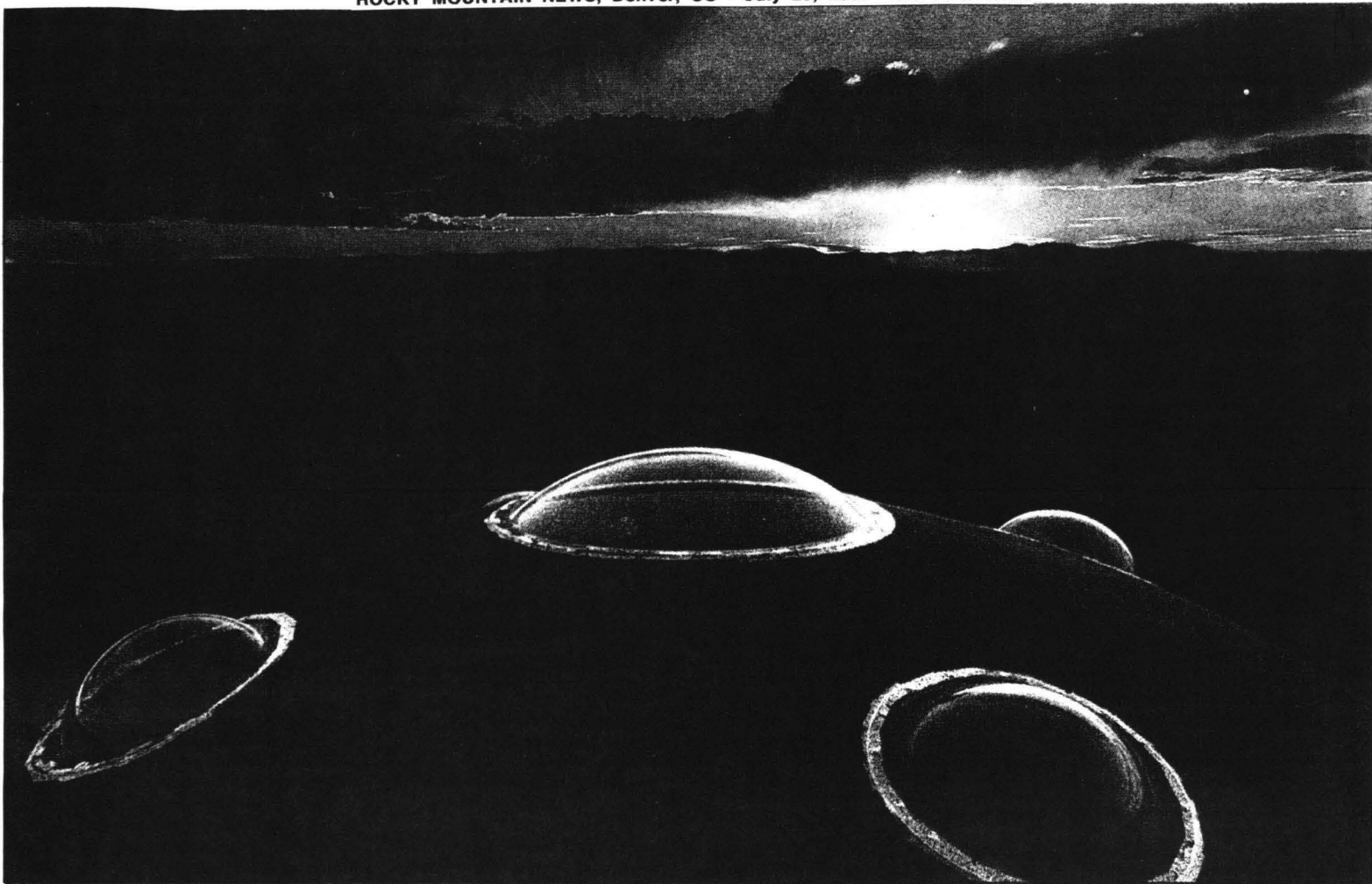
After the tourists have their fill on the information side of Roswell's aliens, they can venture down the street to alien gift shops for the entertainment aspect, store owner Stacy Wolkwitz said.

Wolkwitz's Alien Zone store, a block from the museum, sells T-shirts, key chains and other alien paraphernalia. The store also features an alien studio filled with several scenes ranging from aliens barbecuing to an Area 51 toxic spill. Visitors can pay \$2 to take their own pictures in the studio.

"I think the people really are interested in the mystery and the enigma about all of this," Wolkwitz said.

CR: G. Fawcett

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - July 23, 2000 CR: P. Noonan



Photos by Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

A geodesic dome stands out against a San Luis Valley sunset. The structure is part of the UFO Watchtower near Hooper. Tourists can buy extraterrestrial-theme gifts in the building.

E.T. WATCH

San Luis Valley's UFO Watchtower gets visit from glowing light in the sky

By Deborah Frazier

News Staff Writer

HOOPER — When Judy Messoline opened her UFO Watchtower in the San Luis Valley in June, she never expected them to come.

But they did come.

A bronze, cigar-shaped light glowed, hovered and sped away late one night in late June, Messoline said. It was about 11 p.m., and Messoline was up on the watchtower with a few customers.

"It was there and then it went *fszkt* across the sky and was gone," said Messoline, who moved to Hooper from Golden about five years ago. "At first I was hesitant to mention it, but the other people in the tower with me saw it too."

"It scared one gal so much, she left."

Despite the incident, Messoline isn't a believer — yet.

"It does make you wonder," she said. Her longtime partner, Stan Becker, doesn't believe it was a UFO.

He once had a large flying object with a bright glow hover over his car while he was driving across New Mexico. The experience made him a believer until he spotted the letters "USAF" on the underbelly of the craft.

The UFO Watchtower, a 10-foot-high observation deck with a 50-person capacity atop a geodesic dome, opened on Memorial Day.

Some days, only a couple of people stop by — for pop and chips. Other days, more than 100 people drop in to take pictures, tell Messoline stories about alien sightings and encounters, buy extrater-

restrial-theme gifts, camp overnight, share UFO pictures and relate abduction experiences.

Most stay for only a few minutes, but there are usually a few who recline on air mattresses and scan the sky for hours well past the 10 p.m. closing time.

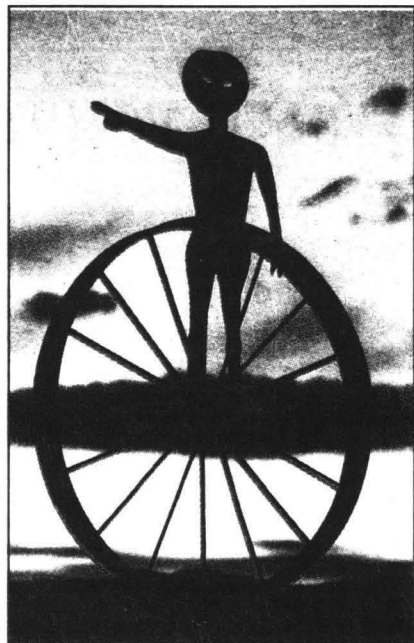
"Everyone has a story," Messoline said. "The serious ones come in the evenings."

Some even pay the \$2 fee she charges to go up onto the tower.

"We wanted to see if the tower had had any sightings because there have been a lot of stories about UFO sightings in this area," said Ryan Temple of Santa Fe, who stopped by for a look with his wife, Wendy.

"I think they should mount a video

(continued on page 7)



An alien silhouette mounted on wagon wheels directs visitors to the UFO Watchtower.



Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer
Dressed as aliens, Katie and Emily Messoline, granddaughters of Judy Messoline, proprietor of the UFO Watchtower, wave to drivers going by the tower.

camera up there and have it running all the time," Temple suggested, speaking in all seriousness.

In business, the secret to success is location. Which is why the watchtower may be well-situated.

In fact, the frying-pan-flat desert rangeland halfway between Salida and Alamosa, bounded by the La Garita and the Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges, may be the perfect location for the world's only UFO watchtower, according to an expert.

Christopher O'Brien, who has researched and written about unearthly events in the valley and elsewhere for eight years, said Messoline picked the perfect place.

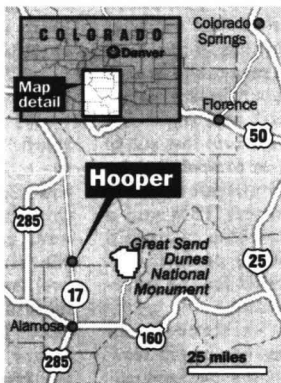
"She has a front-row, orchestra seat for anomalous activities," said O'Brien, who lives in Crestone. He said many of the UFO reports he has investigated come from observers in the Hooper area.

Sightings of UFOs in the area go back to the 1940s. The Mysterious Valley Forum, dedicated to research and education about unearthly events, is a few miles from the tower's door. Even conservative farmers say they have seen saucer-shape lights zooming across the sky.

"They're kind of embarrassed about it, but they'll come in and tell me about what they've seen," Messoline said.

Regardless of the location, O'Brien cautioned that counting on alien spacecraft is risky business.

"The activity has almost stopped in the last three years," said O'Brien, who has written several books on mysterious phenomena. "So, I don't know that the tower is viable as a business."



News staff



Messoline

Messoline has never made an "alien sighting guaranteed" promise.

"If people can come here and have a giggle, great," she said. "If they see something, wonderful. But if they don't, it's still an experience."

However, there has been a surge of sightings in the last few months, O'Brien said.

Hooper, a small, rural town that values family, work, church and school, isn't exactly a hotbed of cosmic cowboys. Fewer than 100 folks live in the tidy homes that surround town center of the Hooper Elementary School and a gas station. And a few of them wish they had thought of building a UFO watchtower first.

Candace Knolan, who lives in Hooper and owns a jewelry store, said she never thought about aliens and UFOs until she moved to the San Luis Valley seven years ago and started seeing "a lot of interesting things in the sky."

In early June, she went to the tower because a group from the

Center for Extraterrestrial Intelligence was visiting. That night, she saw a circular object in the sky with red, white and teal lights respond to one of the observers who blinked a powerful flashlight — 250,000 candlepower.

"One of the guys went 'blink blink' with the flashlight. The object blinked back twice," Knolan said. "The guy with the flashlight went 'blink blink' again and the thing moved across the sky and went 'blink blink' too."

The double-blink exchange occurred three times before the light in the sky vanished, she said.

"It blew me away," Knolan said.

Despite these inspiring stories, aliens haven't yet walked up the tower's steps to say hello.

But if they do, Messoline is ready.

She even has parking.

A few hundred feet from the tower are two large craters sunk in the range. Messoline put up a guardrail and posted a convincing sign that declares: "UFO Parking Only" at one end. At the other end the sign reads, "UFO Handicapped Parking."

So far, nothing and no one has landed in either parking spot.

That's OK with Messoline.

She never expected to see an unidentified flying object or a flying saucer or an alien.

Messoline expected to have a business that paid at least as much as her job at a local convenience store. And she was looking forward to giggling a lot.

She is giggling a lot, even when she says she hesitates to kill flies because they could be aliens. She, Becker and her grandson, Joshua, made a UFO float for the Alamosa Fourth of July parade that drew cheers and applause.

"This has been a real kick," Messoline said.

About that UFO that I didn't see ...



Bill Johnson

This is exactly what I was talking about. I am not crazy. All of your evidence to the contrary.

They jump on you the minute you say UFO, even remotely suggest you might have seen one. They've jumped on me from England and France, from Florida to Alaska. It has been truly amazing.

I don't mind the stares. It's the belly-flopping laughter I can't stand. "Agent Mulder, I presume!"

That was funny for about a day. And the thing of it is, I never exactly said I saw a UFO.

What I DID say was, I wouldn't report it if I did. When people with guts enough to come forward actually do, all hell breaks loose. My favorite response, so far:

"I had the unfortunate occasion to see something 'suspicious' one night in 1996," writes Brian Freeman of Miami. "I called the police and asked if they knew of 'a plane flying low' over a valley near my home.

"The police dispatcher then egged me on with 'are you reporting a UFO?' I told her I was if it would get the police out to check for a downed plane. That was the mistake of the year.

"At the time I was a very well-known TV weatherman, and a local personality in central Pennsylvania. The next day, my own station's reporters were knocking on my door. What a mess. Take your own advice. Don't tell anyone. Certainly, don't call the police!"

Sam Duletsky of St. Peters, Mo., says he saw one in the winter of 1965 while on his 6 a.m. paper route. It was a bright green light hovering west of town, about eight miles away. Three seconds after he saw it, it shot down "like a bullet" and disappeared.

He didn't report it, but told his family. "They just looked at me strangely. They didn't say much about it after that."

And then, there were the funny guys. I think William, who says he lives in Southern California, was tugging my chain. "My roommate and I just saw a green-yellowish triangular light on the horizon late last night!"

"I thought it was a missile test, one that was scheduled to happen Friday. Later I read the test failed. Maybe this was the one you saw!"

A guy signing his letter BarrelRacer says he saw a UFO one night while in high school. He's 59 now. It was about 10 p.m., his parents were asleep, and he was in bed listening to the radio. Out the window, he saw two or three orange-red balls move across the sky very slowly.

"It took one whole song for them to finally disappear!" he writes.

He called the police and a nearby Air Force base. What did they tell him?

It was jet exhaust. Period, he says.

"Who knows anything, anyway?"

Indeed, I think Nathan Kelderman, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, has the proper perspective. He writes: "Hey, when my sister and I saw 11 triangles pass over our house in an hour, we did report it."

"I don't care about the laugh factor. People are so scared of what others may think. It was the coolest thing I've ever seen, and I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

"Our society is too focused on the mundane and the routine. Maybe if we would all just stop once in awhile and look up, we might be surprised."

I received, I will tell you, an invitation shortly after the UFO column ran, to participate in a hunt for ghosts.

I'm going. And if I do see one, believe me, I will not say a word.

Bill Johnson's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Rockybj@aol.com or (303) 892-2763.

UFO watchers flock to National Security Agency's Web site

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT MEADE, Md. — UFO theorists are searching declassified National Security Agency files on the spy agency's Web site, hoping to find evidence that proves there is life beyond earth.

The agency hoped the documents released two years ago would quell suspicions that it harbored informa-

tion about unidentified flying objects. Instead, thousands are looking at the documents, which include a *National Enquirer* article with the headline, "Take UFOs Seriously or Be Prepared for Sneak Invasion by Space Aliens."

"The fact that they're releasing this stuff and it's so blacked out, the theories just flurry," said John Greenwald, who has collected UFO

documents from government agencies for more than five years and posts them on his Web site.

National Security Agency staff members get hundreds of written requests under the Freedom of Information Act and the UFO queries are slowing everything, said Pamela Phillips, chief of FOIA/Privacy Act Services for the agency.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

by Christopher O'Brien

After a quiet uneventful Southern Colorado winter, eight unusual aerial sightings have been forwarded to this investigator. Here is a sampling.

Colorado Reports: On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at 3pm, Alamosa County resident "Chuck" was driving southbound on Hwy 285, just north of Antonito, when he witnessed "a metallic sphere at about the 1:00 position and about 30 degrees up. It did not move in any extraordinary ways but it sure didn't look like any airplane I've seen."

Montrose, CO investigator Davina Ryszka is investigating the following report "which is similar to a report that took place a few months ago in the same area."

On Tuesday, March 7th, 2000, between 9-10pm, near the town of Olathe, CO, a mother driving on a back road had an encounter with a low-flying aerial craft. The craft/object exhibited a "very bright white light and had red and green lights on its sides." The woman reported to Ryszka that whatever it was "seemed to be confrontational." As the object approached her car head on, at first the witness thought it was a low-flying airplane. "The witness slammed on the brakes to try to avoid what seemed would be an inevitable crash" and the craft

stopped right in front of her car. When she tried to move, it moved. When she attempted to turn the car around and go back the way she came, it moved in front of her car. At this point she was "really frightened especially because she had a small baby in a car seat ..."

Finally, she managed to get in front of the object and it "ended up behind her and she could see it in the rear view mirror. Then for a time it was not visible at all and she was relieved that maybe it was gone." Suddenly, a bright light came on directly above her illuminating her car and the surrounding area "and she drove quickly on to Olathe," understandably shaken by her experience.

BBC News reports on USA spy program

The European Parliament is investigating allegations that the US uses electronic surveillance to spy on companies in the EU. The Echelon system, originally set up during the Cold War, is capable of intercepting private telephone conversations, faxes and e-mails worldwide.

A committee of the European Parliament heard allegations that the system is being used to help American firms win commercial contracts at the expense of European rivals. A report commissioned by the European Parliament also alleged the UK was

helping the US to spy on its European partners. Both the US and the UK have denied the allegations.

"US intelligence agencies are not tasked to engage in industrial espionage or obtain trade secrets for the benefit of any US company or companies", State Department spokesman James Rubin said. UK Prime Minister Tony Blair denied that Echelon had been used against Britain's partners in Europe. He said there were strict rules governing such issues and they were always applied.

The French Justice Minister, Elisabeth Guigou, said Echelon had apparently been diverted to keep watch on commercial rivals, prompting French companies to encrypt sensitive information. The Belgian Foreign Minister, Louis Michel, said the alleged spying was unacceptable.

The report, compiled by independent Scottish investigative journalist Duncan Campbell, includes allegations that sensitive commercial information gathered through Echelon meant the French company Thomson lost a radar contract in Brazil, and the European Airbus consortium lost out to the US's Boeing in competition for a \$6 billion dollar aircraft contract. He named Microsoft, IBM and a certain large American microchip maker as providing product features which allowed for the interception of information.

Echelon's existence was recently confirmed by the US Government through the declassification of secret documents of the US National Security Agency (NSA).

Who done it?

Ten mutilated calves were discovered the weekend of March 18-19, 2000 in a remote area of Central Oregon; near the spot where 14 similarly disfigured cattle were found in March 1999.

A rancher discovered four of

his calves mutilated, and a recreation vehicle user reported six other strangely slain calves the following day.

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. Recently, our shadowy cattle surgeons have been visiting less traditional pastures and Oregon State authorities suspect human involvement in perpetrating these latest crimes.

Kimball Lewis, [Oregon] state humane agent, said the investigation may lead to a cattle production company that is using the public land off U.S. 20 between Bend and Brothers as a dumping ground. [Or] it could turn out to be youngsters choosing to be cruel to animals. It has been almost a full year with no "official" unusual livestock deaths reported in the San Luis Valley

Random Factoid

George Magazine, December 1996: John Kennedy Jr. comments on cattle mutilations:

[When John F. Kennedy Jr. was 17, he spent the summer working on a Wyoming cattle ranch. While there, he experienced the cattle mutilation phenomenon first-hand.] "I witnessed something so diabolical it could only have come from outer space or Washington, D.C. Here's what [we] found, [a] cow had been mutilated and completely drained of blood. Its udder and reproductive organs has all been removed and the wounds cauterized...There was no blood or footprints on the muddy ground, nor any visible mortal wound...The mystery was never solved...Among the local folks familiar with this periodic phenomenon, the consensus held that it was either the work of UFOs or the government. 'Who else,' they said, 'would do something this weird or dumb?'"

STRANGER THAN FICTION

UFOs With Kachina Pilots?

by Christopher O'Brien

Native Americans have long been rumored to have traditions that mention Star People in their oral prophesies. Until recently, this information was held secret by many Indian elders. One of the first Native American elders to "go public" concerning Native traditions relating to UFOs was Hopi Elder Dan Katchongva.

[From an article by Richard W. Kimball, Daily Courier Prescott]

An old American Indian rock carving near Mishongnovi, Arizona accurately describes the existence of "flying saucers" and space travel, according to a Hopi Indian leader.

In the summer of 1970, the late Chief Dan Katchongva, in the company of his counselor Ralph Tawangyawma and interpreter

Caroline Tawangyawma, went to the city of Prescott to learn more about the rash of UFOs recently seen in that area. The residents of that central Arizona community said they saw hundreds of flying saucers in the night sky over the city for more than two weeks prior to the Hopi leader's arrival.

Katchongva, who died in 1972, said he believed the sightings were intimately connected to Hopi prophecy. The traditional Hopi chieftain had long been interested in UFOs because he believed they were a part of Hopi religious beliefs.

UFO researcher and former Prescott resident Paul Solem said the existence of the saucers justified an old Hopi prophecy that a "Day of Purification" was soon to arrive. It would be a day when all wicked people and wrong-doers

would be punished or destroyed. Contact with flying saucers would signal the first step of an massive migration northward by Indians from Central and South America, Solem said.

Chief Katchongva told reporters of the Prescott Evening Courier that the petroglyph on the Hopi Reservation shows a definite connection between the Indians and visitors from space. "We believe other planets are inhabited and that our prayers are heard there," he said. "The arrow on which the dome-shaped object rests, stands for travel through space," Katchongva said in explaining the rock carving.

"The Hopi maiden on the dome-shape (drawing) represents purity. Those Hopi who survive Purification day will travel to other planets. We, the faithful Hopi, have seen the ships and know they are true," he said. "We have watched nearly all of our brethren lose faith in the original Hopi teachings and go off on their own course. Near Oraibi the Plan of Life was clearly shown and we know that those who have forsaken the original teachings will pay with their lives when the True White Brother comes," he went on.

According to Katchongva,

the Hopi prophecies say the Hopi people will be divided three times. The first division occurred in 1906 when Chief You-kew-ma [Yukiu-ma] and his followers were forced out of the ancient Indian town of Oraibi to begin a new community in Hotevilla, he said.

"The second division took place in 1969 when Paul Solem came and contacted the flying saucers and they flew over and whispered their message. Shortly before Mr. Solem came, Titus Quomayumtewa saw a flying saucer and the Kachina that piloted it. "Paul Sewaemanewa saw the saucer years before when he had made his prayer rites," Katchongva said.

"These two men are of the faithful. We know we are to be divided once more and few will be left just before our True White Brother arrives with the matching pieces of stone tablet. Many Hopi men wear their bang haircut that represents a window from which they continue to look for the True White Brother," he added.

Random Factoid:

When Dan Katchongva "died" in 1972 his body was never found. He was last seen walking up into a small valley where a UFO had just been seen.

Davenport highlights various UFO sightings

CLAIR A. McDEVITT
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Peter B. Davenport, director of The National UFO Recording Center in Washington state, closed out Trek Roswell 2000 as the final speaker at the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

Davenport discussed the 1997 Phoenix Lights Incident, when observers in Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico reported seeing a triangular, heavily lit object in the sky. He also spoke about some other large instances of UFO sightings and took questions from the 70 or so people in the audience.

The Phoenix Lights Incident occurred on March 13, 1997. The first report came from Henderson, Nev., just outside of Las Vegas. The object, first described as a "V" shaped object about the size of a 747 airplane, moved in a southeasterly direction through Nevada and Arizona into New Mexico.

"We may never know how many objects were there," Davenport said. "There are literally thousands of witnesses who have reported these events."

It's UFO time, enjoy!

It's here again, and whether you love it, hate it or couldn't care less, it's guaranteed you won't be able to miss it: Our annual celebration of UFO culture is going full-swing all around us.

This year's event is a big one, with even more attractions and entertainment for locals and visitors alike. And, as always, reactions are mixed.

There are, of course, some hard-core believers in Roswell. After all, for those who believe aliens exist and are visiting earth in UFOs, Roswell is sort of like the Holy Grail.

For them, this is where it all began. The supposed crash of an alien spacecraft here in 1947 has spurred more controversy, created more confusion, started more arguments (and sold more products) than any other single UFO-related phenomenon in history.

More than that, the alleged events here 50-some years ago created generations of people who, for whatever reason, find hope in their belief that we are not alone in the universe — a belief that can fill one with a sense of awe and mystery far beyond the ordinary, and give some sense of purpose and destiny to what might otherwise be a "mundane" life.

This is not necessarily a bad thing, if it makes people happy. And who knows, they may very well be right. There is an awful lot of "evidence" that our skies are host to some very, very strange phenomena.

Every year, thousands and thousands of ordinary people worldwide report seeing some extraordinary flying objects, and while the vast majority of sightings are explainable, a small but very significant portion of them apparently are not.

Even some governments — notably France, Belgium and Spain — have admitted in recent years that they are baffled by a hard-core of sightings and other incidents, many recorded by official sources, that defy easy explanation.

Whether these phenomena are actually aliens visiting our planet is, naturally, a source of both heated debate and rolled eyes. It's a question without an answer, at least for the time being.

Of course, there are many in Roswell who are more than a little skeptical of the whole thing. Westerners are not easily impressed, and it takes more than a flash in a pan to win most of us over. Show us some proof, and we'll give it some thought.

But regardless of your belief, whether you are a true believer or a hardened skeptic, this weekend we can hopefully all agree to put aside serious debate, let our hair down and have some serious fun.

And so we encourage you all, locals and visitors alike (no matter what galaxy you may be from,) to enjoy yourselves while you're here. After all, whether there are aliens among us or not, life is short, and we should enjoy as much of it as we can — starting now.

Descriptions of the craft changed as it traveled.

"I believe it may be the case that the object had the ability to change shape or the appearance of what it looked like on the ground," Davenport said. The details in dispute are the size of the object and the amount of lights on it.

"I don't know what happened over Phoenix. My suspicion is that it was a wildly dramatic, bizarre UFO event," Davenport said, adding that he would only consider proof of the event to be a craft he could investigate and craft occupants he could talk with.

At the same time the UFO reports were coming into Davenport's Recording Center, a few other events were happening that led Davenport to make some interesting observations.

The U.S. Air Force was running test missions in Arizona, and an Air Force pilot reported to Davenport having possibly encountered the UFO. At the same time, an Air Force base in Colorado Springs went from peacetime defcon 5 status to defcon 3 status, one step away from the security instituted during a world war. This was also the day President Bill Clinton fell while in Florida, injuring his knee and requiring surgery.

Davenport made clear that his thoughts were not grounded in any evidence, but he offered the following hypothesis:

"A possible explanation is that a UFO sighting took place over Arizona. The Air Force did in fact intercept this object. In response Cheyenne Mountain declared defcon 3."

He went on to wonder if, with the declaration of defcon 3, the president might have to be removed to a safe, undisclosed location to plan military strategy. It is possible, Davenport continued, that if the Secret Service acted quickly enough to move him, the president could be injured.

Davenport made clear that he had no evidence to support this, and even tried to substantiate his hypothesis with the Pentagon. The Pentagon official with whom he spoke did not add credence to Davenport's idea.

Davenport became interested with UFOs when he saw his first one in the summer of 1954. He has been investigating them since 1965 and has been the director of the National UFO Recording Center since 1994. He holds two bachelors degrees from Stanford University, a master of science from the College of Fisheries and an MBA from the graduate school of business, both at the University of Washington in Seattle.

He estimates that he has heard between 50,000 and 75,000 reports of UFOs since 1994.



Photo for the LTN

The International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M. visited by Lincolnton's George Fawcett offers a variety of exhibits, artifacts, research information as well as some light-hearted activities relating to UFO sightings.

Nine days at Roswell UFOs celebrated at 'out of this world' vacation spot

By **GEORGE D. FAWCETT**

Recently I returned from my sixth trip to Roswell, N.M. where I celebrated with thousands of people at the fifth annual Roswell UFO Festival.

The reported crash-retrieval at Roswell of a UFO with its occupants in 1947 has spurred more controversy, created more confusion, started more arguments and sold more products than any other single UFO related phenomenon in history.

Museum prepares data

As an advisor to the International UFO Museum and Research Center, I wanted to check on how this organization had processed the over 50,000 UFO items (valued at \$250,00) that Robert Sabo of St. Petersburg, Fla. and I had given them in 1998. Two full time research archive librarians had done some amazing work, but felt it would take at least ten more years to complete the project in the IUFOMRC.

Eighty percent of the global visitors come - to Roswell to visit the IUFOMRC. During my nine-day visit over 15,965 tourists had toured the museum and five time larger research center from seventy countries. Officials there predict that the one millionth visitor will be registered before the end of next February.

Events well planned

But the IUFOMRC and Roswell Chamber of Commerce had well-planned events scattered through the , all with alien themes such as: costume judging contests; UFO art exhibits; a hot air balloon glow; concerts; guest appearances by Howie Nave of the Roswell TV Series; an alien chase by members of

the Roswell Runner's Club; and a Coast to Coast a.m. radio program hosted by nationally known Mike Siegel.

"Roswell — The Musical" based on the 1947 Roswell crash, directed by Gene Murray with a cast of 38 actors, actresses and singers, drew record crowds to the under-the-stars Amphitheater on the New Mexico Institute campus at Roswell.

A live puppet show, a Little Green Men Concert were followed by "Old Timey" photograph sessions with 1940 uniformed military personnel accompanied by their favorite space creatures.

Roswell movie shown

Premiere showings of a movie entitled "Six Days in Roswell" featuring coverage of both the Roswell 1997 and 1998 UFO Festivals was shown all week at different movie theaters. An alien scavenger hunt, a demonstration of a new "Constellation" game and a road trip to Roswell composed of cars and trucks decorated like spaceships were next on the agenda.

Easter films from Sparks, Nev. showed video films concerning "The Ultimate UFO Experience" at Trek Roswell 2000.

Largest UFO parade

Next came the largest UFO parade in America, which consisted of 22 floats, classic cars and roller skating aliens that attracted over 9,000 watchers on the parade route. I was the honored guest on the IUFOMRC float and was introduced as "Mr. UFO from Lincolnton, N.C." by the parade announcer. The parade and many other events were photographed by Japanese

TV crews, etc.

I was interviewed by TV crews, a London newspaper, a college student from who was working on a thesis. I was also invited to speak to the Roswell Optimist Club.

Unusual displays

Back at the IUFOMRC many things were also happening, such as displays of an unusual silver artifact that had crashed to the earth and was discovered by Bob White of Springfield, Mo. and a piece of material known as the Frass meteorite that was found by Roy Moore near Canadian, Tex. Worms, bugs, flying insects and a number of plant-like objects were found within the meteorite.

Numerous book signing sessions by UFO authors Don Burleson and Toby Smith of New Mexico, Harold E. Burt of California and Stanton T. Friedman of Canada were held at the IUFOMRC.

Speakers draw crowds

The scheduled speakers at the IUFOMRC drew crowds. Journalist and author Peter Farley of Roswell told of alien visitations to Earth throughout our history and the coming of a new world order.

Stanton T. Friedman, an American nuclear physicist, who now lives in Fredericton, NB, Canada spoke about the facts and figures that surround a UFO "Cosmic Watergate," which also detailed government efforts to conceal vital information. He displayed numerous documents.

The final speaker was Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center at Seattle, Washington State. Davenport told of having received

over 50,000 to 70,000 phone calls from across America on his "UFO Hotline" service in the past six years. He detailed many key cases to Roswell listeners and told me of two cases received from Lincolnton in the last year.

Davenport illustrated his talk with many photographic slides and sketches of the objects seen and reported.

Fireworks displays

The July Fourth firework displays in Roswell were none like others I've ever seen anywhere, because in its flat deserts that surround the 50,000 retirement community of Roswell the dazzling displays can be seen in all directions at the same time.

At the Robert Goddard Planetarium, named after the man who was sending up rockets of a different kind outside of Roswell in 1935, a laser show titled, "The Great UFO Mystery" was being presented to crowds.

Regardless of one's beliefs, whether you are a true believer or a hardened skeptic, these past nine days at Roswell have allowed me to put aside serious debate, to let my hair down and to have some serious fun.

I hope that many of you who read this column will plan an "out-of-this-world" family vacation trip to UFO-land at Roswell in the near future. For myself, I'm planning a return visit.

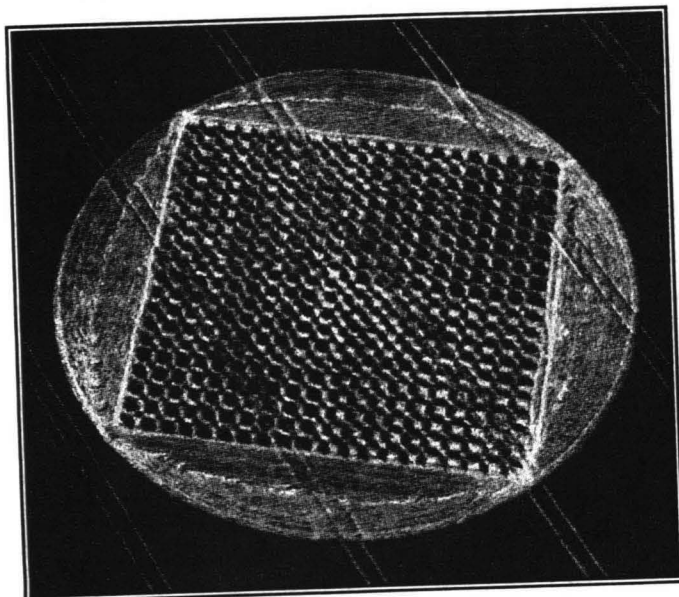
Editor's note: George Fawcett, a Lincolnton resident since 1975, has spent a lifetime investigating UFO reports and collecting information on sightings. His collection is now on permanent display at the Roswell museum



DAILY MAIL, London, England - July 14, 2000 CR: N. Oliver

A message from aliens ... or are the hoaxers having a field day again?

In shredded wheat, the spookiest crop circle yet

**Intricate:** Seen from the air, the crop circle's geometric precision

TO call it merely a crop circle could be something of an understatement.

Stretching 200 square feet across a wheat field in Wiltshire, this bold pattern looks more like a replicated chess board.

But the masterly moves behind it remain a mystery.

While crop circle enthusiasts regard it as a message from some form of higher intelligence, sceptics dismiss it as nothing more than the spectacular handiwork of pranksters.

The grid of just under 800 squares and rectangles, enclosed in a circle, cropped up overnight close to the hamlet of East Kennett, near Marlborough.

Nearby is the great prehistoric mound of Silbury Hill and the brooding stone circles of Avebury - ancient reminders that these are indeed mysterious parts.

On the ground, the formation is a baffling maze of flattened pathways and swirls. But once you take to the air to get a clearer view, its geometrical

'Great skill and precision'

precision becomes clear. Most visitors were convinced they were witnessing something extraordinary. Charles Mallett, one of the first to go into the formation, said the atmosphere was heavy and oppressive.

'It left us in a state of mild confusion, largely due to the sheer number of sections,' he said. 'It proved near impossible to get a grip on the overall pattern.'

'Walking around in its maze of woven paths and intricate layering left me in a total spin. The construction of the square has been executed with great skill and precision.'

Others claimed the circle lies on an important 'energy line' running from Cornwall to East Anglia.

'One young man went into a circle with three credit cards,' said Lucy Fringle, who has been studying crop circles for 15 years and has written a book on them. 'When he came out, he found the cards had been wiped. People are reporting battery failures in the circles. So we know we are deal-

By **James Chapman**
Science Correspondent

ing with low-frequency microwave radiation connected to energy lines criss-crossing the entire planet.'

She said the pattern poses a fascinating mathematical problem. 'I think there is some sort of master artist who also has an understanding of Pythagorean geometry.'

'It must be some sort of means of communication. Whatever intelligence is behind it is probably way in advance of our own.'

'A friend took her Burmese cat in and the animal seemed to know it was something extraordinary.'

If this creation is the work of visitors from another dimension, they seem to save their best efforts for summer - when coachloads of tourists visit the West Country.

In 1991, two Southampton pensioners, Doug Bower and David Chorley, confessed to making patterns in fields since the Seventies. But although they claimed to have hung up their 'stompers' - the wooden planks they said they used to flatten the crops - the circles have continued to appear.

The shapes have grown more complex, ranging from representations of the DNA spiral to intricate mathematical figures. They appear in fields of everything from oilseed rape to rye.

Some meteorologists believe that all but the simplest circle shapes are hoaxes. The single circles, of which there are records dating back centuries, could be caused by electrified whirlwinds.

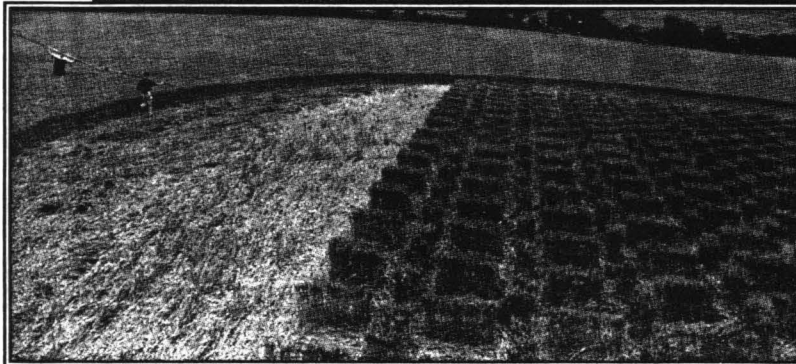
One explanation for the new circle can be ruled out, however. Doug Bower, 76, insisted he had been hard at work at his picture framing gallery in Southampton in recent days.

'But I've no doubt that this circle has been made by gangs who are copying what we started back in 1976,' he added. 'If people want to kid themselves that it's something more mysterious, there's nothing I can do about it.'

j.chapman@daily mail.co.uk

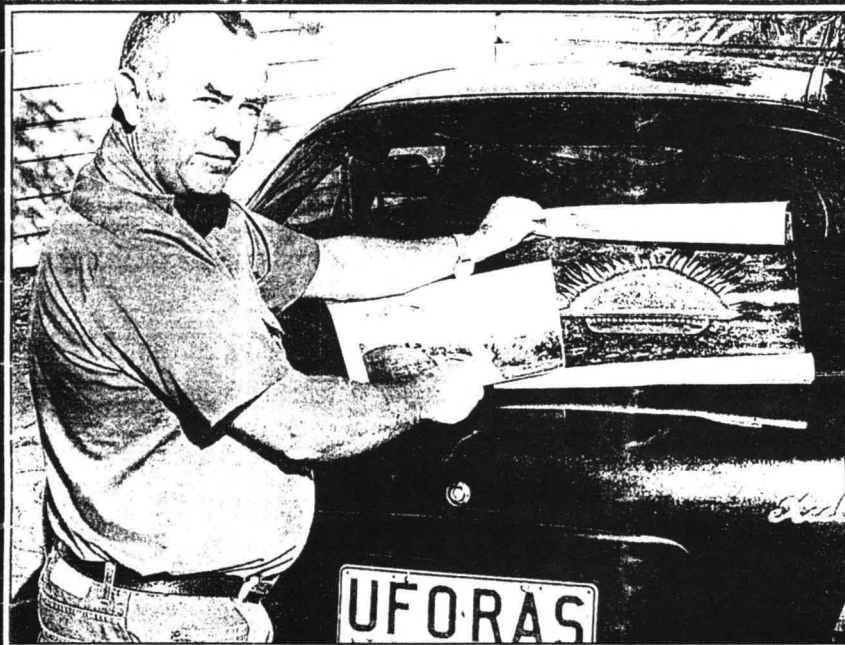


Above: The crop circle with the ancient Silbury Hill mound nearby



Left: Close up, the pattern of flattened wheat

ETS in the NT



Are Extraterrestrials taking over the Territory?

By MELANIE van
HELVOORT

THE truth is out there, as they say and the Northern Territory's version of agent Fox Mulder of the *X-Files*, Keith Douglas, says the truth is here.

The Territory has been buzzing with reports of formation-flying orange lights in recent weeks and Mr Douglas, research officer for Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research (they're for real), says it's all just part of normal paranormal activity.

Mr Douglas says incidents like the May 18 report by Nightcliff resident Keith Sauerwald of 11 orange, glowing objects flying across the sky in an arrow formation are just part of the Territory being a stop-off on an intergalactic freeway.

His theory looks even better given Nightcliff resident Warren Brown and his family reported seeing six orange lights in the sky on May 20.

Mr Douglas, who firmly believes he is not a nutter, says there is a lot of UFO activity around Alice Springs, probably because of its closeness to Pine Gap.

Two years ago Mr Douglas was appointed a research officer by the Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research.



TOP: research officer for Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research, Keith Douglas.
BACKGROUND: Even Dana Scully and Fox Mulder look surprised.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Plymouth,
England - March 5, 2000

Flying triangle

AT about 8.30pm on Friday, February 25, I was working in the yard of Avon V.M.S. at Chippenham, when I noticed a bright white light in the sky to the west.

At first I thought it was a planet, until I realised that it was moving in my direction.

As it passed overhead at approximately 2,000ft, I could see clearly that it was a huge triangular craft

with coloured lights around the perimeter and a single white light at the front (pointed) end.

There were also two smaller white lights on the rear of the craft which made no noise whatsoever as it flew over.

It was bigger than any aircraft I have ever seen. My wife and I are members of the international UFO Research Network and we have seen several strange lights in the sky, but this is the first time I have seen a flying triangle.

R C WHITE
Trowbridge

He says the closest thing to alien abductions in the NT happened about two years ago in Alice Springs when a man heading out to the prison lost 20 minutes, awoke with a nose bleed and strange markings over his body.

Wycliffe Well Roadhouse - perhaps the closest thing the Territory has to Roswell - has become famous for the world over for the extraordinary number of sightings in its vicinity.

Lou Farkas, who runs the roadhouse - 374km north of Alice Springs - believes the apparent intergalactic popularity of Wycliffe Well can be attributed to the Pine Gap military facility, near Alice Springs.

Mr Farkas, who claims to see spacecraft regu-

larly, said it was possible aliens were spying on the US military base to gather information. He believes the Devil's Marbles are connected with the UFO sightings and unexplained light formations occur about once a week over the region.

Answers

Two Darwin UFO researchers are looking into the sightings with the hope of finding some answers.

Australian UFO Research Network director Diane Harrison said the lights spotted over Darwin last month were similar to formations spotted over New South Wales, Victoria and, in the past month, Queensland.

She said: "There are Aboriginal stories around Australia

about these lights, they've existed before the white man came to Australia so whether they are natural phenomena we don't know.

"In World War II aircraft around the world were accompanied by these lights, they were called two-fighters."

But those who cling to the hope we are not alone may find the odds of researchers finding an extraterrestrial explanation disheartening.

Ms Harrison says of the approximately 650 calls received in a year, only 3 per cent of sightings cannot be identified.

The network receives reports of sightings from the public on its 1800 number and embarks on the painstaking process of eliminating such things as planes, weather bal-

loons, even, on one occasion, a ferris wheel. UFO sightings are no longer the realm of bespectacled, nocturnal, conspiracy theorists.

Ms Harrison said: "They have become quite fashionable."

"Ten years ago you might have kept quiet about seeing something but UFOs have been indoctrinated into our society through television programs and advertising."

Detective

Across Australia, 28 researchers investigate UFO sightings, including two in Darwin, two in Alice Springs and one in Tennant Creek.

She said: "It's sort of like a detective-type thing, you have to search for everything, our first thing is to find

out what it isn't and then we try our damndest to see what it is."

While the sightings in Darwin may have caught everyone's attention, they hardly compare to the weird stories of alien abduction and cattle mutilation that have been doing the rounds elsewhere in Australia and around the world.

These include the discovery of a sheep sucked dry of blood in WA two years ago and strangely marked cattle found dead on the east coast.

But who can forget the media glare for the unfortunate Knowles family from Victoria, who said they were lifted up in their car by a UFO across the Nullabor in the early '80s, their speaking in tongues and subsequent psychiatric rehabilitation programs. Maybe the truth is here, after all.

(continued on page 13)

THE NT-FILES

Wycliffe Well: UFO stopover



From the Northern Territory News,
March 2, 1999

ALICE SPRINGS, April 1999: Alice Springs police receive a report of a large flaming orange ball hovering in the sky over the town. The object moved around the sky and it was estimated it was the size of an aircraft. During the nine-minute sighting the object darted around the sky and was not consistent with a hot air balloon or a meteor.

KATHERINE, July 1998: A mysterious fiery object was seen hovering west of the town. Two residents saw the object on the western horizon as the sun was setting. It had a black centre and had what looked like two metallic arms which were lit.

DARWIN, May 1997: Two women see three mysterious objects in the sky while watching the Hale-Bopp comet. Tatjana Butler says what she saw didn't look like a star, aircraft or comet. She said the objects had no actual shape because of the distance but had circular, sharp, rapid movements left and right. They also flashed colours which were glittery.

KINTORE, December 1996: Strange lights appeared in the sky over Kintore, 370km west of Alice Springs. The hovering lights were multi-coloured and oscillating, health clinic nurse Ineke Tremellen said. The lights changed from red, blue, yellow to green and hovered in the same spot for an hour.

ALICE SPRINGS, August 1998: Residents report a moving silver ball in a north-west orbit. Grandmother Jacky Scott said: "It was moving about and it couldn't be a weather balloon because it was just there too long."

SANTA TERESA, March 1998: A large, long, rectangular glowing shape is reported racing across the night sky near the small Central Australian community.

BRADFORD: Group wants to build on reputation as 'sightings hotspot'



SCAN- NING THE HORIZON:

Russell Kellett, right, with fellow sky-watcher Paul Mercer. Below, Russell, who says Bradford is at the nub of sightings

UFO centre plan 'is not pie in sky'

by SUZY POOLE

T&A Reporter

Local skywatchers have launched a serious bid to make Bradford the leading centre for UFO research in the UK.

The International UFO Research Network (IUFORN), based in the city, has published proposals to create a headquarters to examine reports of sightings around the country.

And the aim is to make the centre a magnet for tourists, employment and training, according to IUFORN founder member Russell Kellett, of Lidget Green, Bradford. "Bradford is the epicentre of UFO sightings in the UK," said Mr Kellett who has been tracking mysterious flying objects since the age of five.

He rejects suggestions his plans are pie-in-the-sky but Councillor Dave Green, Chairman of Bradford's Regeneration Committee said the Council would need a lot of persuading before handing over cash for the scheme. But Mr Kellett is undaunted.

"We have hundreds of reports of sightings in the area. It's like the Area 51 in America which is famous for it."

"We've got to open this centre to show people because no-one else is bothered about research. If it wasn't for groups like

ours all around the world basically the job would stop."

The centre would act as an international arena for the study of UFOs, handling sightings reports, photos and video footage. But it would also be open to the public offering exhibitions of related material, educational visits and coach trips to local UFO hotspots.

A website is also planned, along with a photographic unit to verify pictures and video tape, and a psychology section with a counselling team to help individuals deal with the impact of possible contact with UFOs.

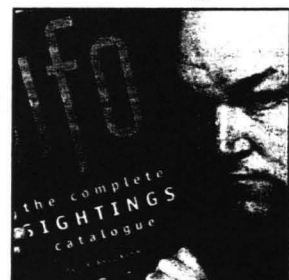
IUFORN was established ten years ago, growing from informal meetings of friends and amateur scientists to a worldwide group of 30 investigators.

And Mr Kellett is quick to silence the sceptics.

"I'm a proof man and I'm not bothered what Joe Bloggs thinks as we've got professionalists to check the evidence."

Preferred sites for the centre include Little Germany, the Royds area or Allerton where reports of UFO sightings are common. A second choice would be Ilkley which is famous for the alleged sighting of the 'Ilkley spaceman', a small green figure spotted and photographed on the moor.

Mr Kellett has discussed funding with Bradford Council's regeneration department and now plans to make a grant appli-



cation to Yorkshire Forward to set his plans in motion.

Councillor Dave Green, Chairman of the Regeneration Committee, said that an application would be considered along with other requests for cash.

He said: "We would need a lot of convincing to put hard-pressed public funds into such a scheme regardless of one's views on UFOs. We have got a lot of organisations that are looking for a grant."

A Yorkshire Forward spokesman confirmed that Mr Kellett's application would be considered in line with future developments but said it was difficult to comment without knowing the detailed plans.

SUNDAY LIFE, Belfast, Ireland - April 30, 2000

Moonwalk Mitch to tell why he believes in UFOs

ROCKET man Ed Mitchell is set to visit Northern Ireland next month - and tell local astronomers that he believes in UFOs.

The Apollo 14 astronaut - one of only 12 men who walked on the moon - has become a leading authority on UFO sightings and alien visitations.

Mr Mitchell, who is nearly 70 years old, is acknowledged as a thorn in the side of the US government since his intrepid moonwalk in 1971.

Though he does not claim to have personal UFO experiences on earth and while on the moon, Mr Mitchell is convinced that "there's something out there."

From his investigations with senior American military figures, Mr Mitchell believes that not only have aliens landed on earth but that the US government has tried to cover it up.

An advisor to the 'X-Files' programme, Mr Mitchell will address more than 100 members of the Irish Astronomical Association on May 16 at the Culloden Hotel, Cultra.

Members will pay £30 per head to listen to Mr Mitchell's moon-walking experiences and his belief that aliens have crashed landed on earth several times.

They will also receive an autographed photograph of the man himself.

This is likely to be the



BELIEVER: Apollo astronaut Ed Mitchell

stop him from trying to conduct experiments in ESP in outer space.

These included his attempt to transmit images telepathically back to selected people on earth.

Since then, he also conducted several psychic experiments with Uri Geller.

He has said of his experience on the moon: "We went to the Moon as technicians; we returned as humanitarians."

"My view of our planet was a glimpse of divinity."

Mr Mitchell, a committed Christian, is a learned and accomplished man who delivers between 20-50 major lectures throughout the world on cosmology and human potential.

ADMAG, Evesham, England - June 9, 2000

UFO is seen over prison

By Phil Sunderland

A VALE security officer believes he had a close encounter with an Unidentified Flying Object last weekend.

Jim Brace, aged 29, a security officer at Unipart, South Littleton, spent an hour watching what he thought was a UFO circling over Long Lartin prison, last Sunday.

Mr Brace, who lives in Redditch, was just finishing his shift when he saw the object and said: "It was spinning and rotating and looked exactly like a flying saucer."

He was on his own when he first saw the UFO at around 11.45pm, but he says he wasn't the only person to see it circling over the prison.

"A car zoomed past me and headed on to a farm track, it stopped and someone got out and shouted 'Aliens' before driving off," he said.

"In the last 20 seconds of each five minute circle, the light became more visible through the cloud cover, this went on for about an hour before it faded away altogether."

"There was no noise coming from it and the temperature suddenly dropped."

He refrained from calling the police until he had been watching the UFO for a while, but his mobile phone had stopped working and he had to telephone the police from the gatehouse, at the prison.

Worcester Police said that the UFO was first thought to be a hot air blimp, but upon investigation, discovered that it wasn't.

Jim said that he isn't a conspiracy theorist, he can't stand science

fiction programmes like *The X-Files* and he certainly doesn't believe in little green men.

When asked if he had any idea as to what the UFO could have been, he said: "If that's the military up there, they've got some kind of technology."

"They could threaten to lock me up, but I have made notes on what I saw and I will not change my mind."

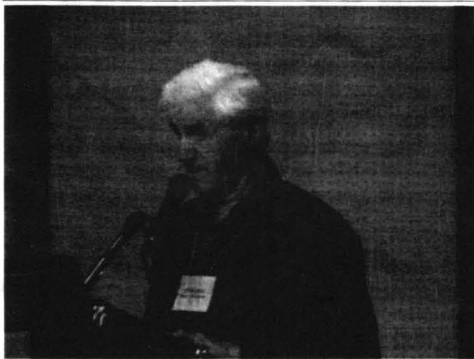
A spokesman for RAF Brize Norton was unable to clear up the mystery and Long Lartin press liaison officer John Huntington said that there had been no reports of a UFO flying over the prison that night.

The last UFO sighting in the area was three and a half years ago, seen by residents of Harvington and Chipping Campden. They were found to be lights advertising a garage.

Highlights from UFO Conference



Don Miller Door Prize Winner at the UFO conference shakes Paul Pelletier (left) hand.



St. Paul's Fernand Belzil Cattle Mutilation Investigator notes that there are almost 50 reported cases in Alberta

Humanoid-Alien Cross Reported

By Terry Siemers

Avid UFOlogists came from all over for St Paul's UFO conference. These people take the subject very seriously. One spectator was Tim Imbery of Whitecourt, Alberta. Tim is very interested in the paranormal.

In fact, he has given paranormal classes. It is his way of bringing people together to exchange ideas. One of the people he has dealt with confesses to being a cross between a human and an alien. This lady is very shy, and does not wish to be identified, says Tim. She claims aliens abducted her mother and she is the result of that abduction. She comes from one of the stars in the Big Dipper.

What does she look like, we wondered? Tim says she has long hair, and looks human, but she has a larger than normal head and her eyes are very unusual. The eyes are what attract attention. This lady does spiritual healings, and can tell the future she is usually dead on. Presently, she is practicing shape

shifting or molecular restructuring. She hopes to be able to



change her body shape at will, into any kind of

shape, such as a lion or a bear.

Several speakers at the UFO Conference spoke about abductions. They are convinced, because of blood tests, and other physical evidence that such events occur quite regularly. Who are the perpetrators? No one knows. Are they friendly or just experimenting? It is another unsolved mystery.

Are They For Real?

By Terry Siemers

Are they for real or hoaxes? Crop circles, cattle mutilations, abductions, and other topics were covered in depth at St Paul's second UFO Conference held July 7 to 9. Paul Anderson of Circles Phenomenon Research Canada, Nancy Talbot of BLT Research in the USA, Fern Belzil of St Paul, Alberta who specializes in Cattle Mutilations, have been involved in serious field and laboratory investigations of these phenomenon.

Paul Anderson is especially interested in the patterns observed in crop circles. He's been involved for 12 years, and often acts as liaison between the public, the RCMP, and research agencies. He says that in Canada most circle reports come in August and September and that 1999 was the greatest year ever for such reports. Most are usually observed in wheat fields, but some occur in other crops such as barley and oats. Circles vary in size, with an average one being approximately 150 feet in diameter. In England, most are within 50 miles of Stonehenge, while in Canada they often occur on Indian reservations. Certain areas seem to be "hot spots".

Nancy Talbot insists that anyone spotting unusual phenomena should "report it, report it, report it, as soon as possible, while the evidence is fresh." Evidence collected to date and tested in

laboratories worldwide seems to indicate some sort of energy form of a magnetic nature is at work in creating crop circles. Patterns have been evolving in complexity over the years, and those in North America are often simpler than those seen in England and other European countries. The grain is always flattened and tightly swirled, often in a clockwise direction.

Fern Belzil notes that on mutilated cattle, sometimes the hair is swirled. He reports that the laboratory tests confirm changes to the grass on which mutilated cattle are found lying are the same as changes in the molecular structure of grain in crop circles. Grain seems to be dried and shriveled, but tends to germinate faster and grow more lushly than normal.

Nancy Talbot is convinced that some sort of intelligence is involved. She wonders

if the crop circles are a form of communication. Are some intelligent beings trying to send us a message? Or, perhaps, since they are often concentrated near monoliths and megaliths where strong magnetic field are located, they might be caused by human thought waves strengthened by the magnetic field. Nobody knows, but as more research is done, more becomes known, and perhaps someday soon we will be able to unlock the secrets of the crop circles.

If anyone spots a crop circle or a mutilated animal, these experts say you should: photograph it, report it, and stay out of the circles so as not to damage the evidence. A blue glow has been noted in photos of mutilated cattle, which seems to indicate radiation, so for your own protection, says Fern Belzil, don't touch any mutilated animal.



Nancy Talbot U.S. Crop Circle Researcher says if it's unusual report it right away while the evidence is fresh

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Feb. 4, 2000

Another UFO claim—keep watching the skies

SIGHTINGS OF mysterious phenomena which come under the general heading of "unidentified flying objects" seem to have multiplied in recent weeks in the Dundee area, as well as in Fife and Angus.

However, the latest account of possible otherworldly activity in the skies above Tayside, provided by a 76-year-old Monifieth woman, dates back to a clear, bright morning in the winter of 1998, when she claims to have seen an "enormous edifice" hovering in the sky at a height of about 500 feet.

The woman, who asked not be named, decided to speak out about her experience after reading reports of similar incidents in The Courier. Earlier this week, a St Andrews man claimed he saw a "bright, green light, steady in brightness" zig-zagging across the sky above the North Sea on

Sunday evening. He said it shot across the sky before stopping off Tentsmuir Forest then disappearing in the direction of Arbroath.

Prompted by this account, the Monifieth woman decided to break her silence and tell of her brush with what she believes could be evidence of "intelligent life."

She says she was making breakfast at around 9 am on December 27, 1998, at her home near Monifieth railway station, when she caught sight of what seemed to be a bank of cloud in the sky.

The woman added, "At first I didn't see anything unusual, it just looked like a cloud passing by. I turned away to put the kettle on or something and when I turned back I realised the cloud had disappeared and I thought it must have been blown down the Tay."

"It was then that I saw this enormous edifice in the sky,

this huge structure. Once I saw the structure, it was just floating there in mid-air, not moving, about half a mile away and 500ft in the air."

The woman said the object was sand-coloured and resembled two woks placed together horizontally and rim to rim. At a guess, she said, it was 40ft high and 70ft in diameter.

"I feel very privileged to have seen it. I don't know what it was or who was in it but there must have been intelligent life there—I just feel there's something I can't explain."

Entranced by the object and reluctant to move in case it disappeared, she decided not to alert her husband, who was in bed at the time. The object stayed in the sky for around seven minutes or so, then a strange metamorphosis

took place, she said.

The edifice was engulfed in white cloud and when it re-emerged the upper section appeared to have acquired three windows set into a surface of what now appeared to be highly-polished steel.

Amid a wash of incandescent green light, the object gradually began climbing and moved towards the Fife coast. Soon it became just a speck in the sky, then it appeared to "hesitate" before changing course from south-west to north-west, leaving three vapour trails behind it.

"As it climbed I got a different perspective—it appeared to change shape and I could see the upper 'wok' face. It was like a volcano with two tyre-like curves going round it and a shadow as if the top of the cone was concave," the woman said.

"There was no sound but then we have double glazing

so I wouldn't know whether there actually was any sound or not."

It seemed to her that the clouds actually turned into the craft as if it had "manufactured" the cloud to help conceal it.

She said that, until now, she had only told her husband about the incident, who had been sceptical. Nevertheless, the woman said the memory of it had never left her and the recent spate of sightings had brought it all back in vivid detail.

"I feel very privileged to have seen it. I don't know what it was or who was in it but there must have been intelligent life there—I just feel there's something there I can't explain," she said.

The Monifieth woman's account follows a rash of recent sightings of strange lights and brightly-coloured objects in the sky in Tayside, Fife and Angus.

Mystery craft shot through the skies at fantastic speed

by Ron McManus

THE truth is out there and Nick Pope knows it.

For three years, he manned the Ministry of Defence's Department 2A — known as the UFO Desk.

As Britain's real-life X-Files man, he had the task of investigating all sightings of UFOs and claims of alien abductions.

"I went in as a sceptic and came out a believer," said Nick. "I had no interest in UFOs when I took on the job, but it has changed the way I look at the world."

Though still a senior MOD civil servant, with the equivalent rank of major, Nick has written several books on the UFO phenomenon and has just had his first sci-fi novel published.

Surprised

Operation Thunder Child is fiction, but much of it is based on what Nick discovered while working for the department which, for many years, the Government said didn't exist.

Department 2A was set up in the 50s during the Cold War to keep a watchful eye on what the Russians were doing over our skies, but baffling reports from RAF pilots and ground radar stations posed a disturbing question.

Was the real threat coming from the East or from out of this world?

"I didn't know what to expect when I took the job, but I did feel then that UFO reports were the product of overactive imaginations or came from blokes on their way home from the pub," said Nick, who ran the department from 1991 to 94.

"However, I was surprised that the department had over 200 files of UFO reports dating back to the 50s from solid, dependable

types such as pilots and duty officers at military bases.

"I was amazed to find that we had scrambled fighters to investigate these objects and had visual sightings backed up by radar to show that something which couldn't be explained was happening."

"There were also cases of RAF jets in cat and mouse chases with mystery craft. As soon as the pilot's radar locked on, they shot away at unbelievable speed."

Nick personally investigated around 300 UFO sightings a year, from both the military and public as Britain's X-files man.

"It wasn't exactly Mulder and Scully stuff, running around barns with torches, it was more methodical than that," laughed Nick.

"Most sightings could be explained, simple aircraft lights the most likely, but around 5% were unexplained and over my years at the UFO desk, I became convinced that many were extraterrestrial."

The most bizarre case he investigated happened on the night of March 31, 1993, when scores of calls, including many from police officers, came in all reporting a strange triangle-shaped craft which shot through the skies at incredible speed, then stopped instantly to hover.

But what made Nick really sit up was calls from two RAF bases, Cosford in the West Midlands and Shawbury in

Senior Ministry of Defence investigator opens his files on amazing UFO secrets



Film fantasy — but could it happen in real life?

Shropshire, saying the massive triangle-shaped craft was flying over them.

"I had reports from trained military observers saying that the craft was the size of a jumbo jet, was making a strange humming noise and was firing a beam of light which became narrower as it reached the ground," said Nick.

Scrambled

"At first, the speed was very slow, a stately 30mph, but then the craft shot away at fantastic speed."

"The case was investigated fully, I even contacted the Americans to see if they had any secret craft in the area, but in the end I could only answer that it was extraterrestrial."

"For one thing, these craft moved in a way and at such speed, the G-forces would kill a human."

"These craft moved in a way and at such speed, the G-forces would kill a human"

"Over the years, many pilots, some very senior, have told me about seeing UFOs," said Nick.

"They didn't report it officially because of a fear of being ridiculed. Now, there is a genuine interest as opposed to mockery."

One of the most curious cases in Department 2A's files happened on December 27, 1980, at the joint RAF/USAF base at Woodbridge in Suffolk.

Powerful

The airbase was one of the busiest and most closely guarded in Britain, so when strange lights were seen in a wood near the camp, guards were sent to investigate.

They returned to say that they had found a strange, metallic, triangular craft.

A larger party led by the base commander went into the woods, but when they approached the area, their radios went haywire and powerful floodlights simply stopped working.

Awestruck, the men came upon a huge, pulsing light with what appeared to be molten metal at the edges. Suddenly, the light shattered into three pieces, each a dazzling white light which shot off into the sky where they were visible for several hours, occasionally shooting down pulses of light or energy.

The news that Nick was writing a book on his experiences, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, raised some eyebrows in the MOD.



Nick Pope

"I went in as a sceptic and came out a believer"

"I had the manuscript officially vetted and, as I expected, changes had to be made and some files had to remain secret, but I wasn't regarded as a maverick or crackpot," he said.

"There are plenty of believers in the MOD and the military."

His second book, *The Uninvited*, investigated alien abduction, crop circles and other strange phenomena encountered in Department 2A.

Even his new novel had to get security clearance before it was published.

Knowing what he knows, does Nick still sleep at night?

"Yes, because there is no point in worrying about something you can do nothing about," he said.

"But I'm a changed person. My eyes were opened to a new world and a rather uncomfortable one which has turned the world I thought I knew on its head."

All Nick's books are published by Simon & Schuster.

SUN, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada - July 7, 2000 CR: G. Conway

Conspiracy theorists landing in St. Paul

"Now, this business goes beyond mere cattle mutilation," said Graham Conway to Fernand Belzil in a very loud voice, halfway through the press conference. "Are you prepared to tell these gentlemen about the other situation, or shall I?"

"The what situation?" asked Belzil, looking startled.

"Otters."

"I don't know about any otters," Belzil replied. "I heard of some cats being mutilated. Personally, I think that's the cults."

This is what shop talk sounds like in the UFO community. Yesterday, four enthusiasts from the murky fields of paranormal phenomena gathered in Edmonton to hype this weekend's UFO 2000 conference in St. Paul, about 200 km northeast of here.

In 1996 an Angus Reid poll found that 70% of Canadians — and 83% of Albertans — said they believed intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe. Just over half of the Canadians sampled said they thought the planet had already been buzzed by extraterrestrial vehicles — 14% said future visits were quite likely.

And that, said UFO researcher Dr. Bruce Maccabee, makes Albertans some of the canniest people on the orb. Fewer and fewer intelligent North Americans, he said, are willing to accept the lame-duck explanations propped up by the press and the military for the weird lights and mangled sheep, and they're cutting through to the truth: They're out there.

"Sightings have been explained away with explanations that make no sense," said Maccabee, whose resume describes him as possessing a PhD in physics.

"Like the Roswell incident. Just recently the Air Force announced the alien bodies seen by people on the scene were actually crash-test dummies dropped from balloons in the desert. The Air Force could have gone on ignoring the subject. Instead, it just took one foot out of its mouth and shoved the other in."

In other words, the fact the authorities tried to explain the alleged 1947 alien crash-landing in Roswell, New Mexico, proves the explanation was bogus — otherwise they wouldn't have offered it, right?

Most of the real conspiracy theorizing in the paranormal business comes from just connecting the dots: from lights in the skies to cattle mutilation to crop circles to repressed abduction memories — to aliens.

"I've never seen anything in the sky, ever. Not a single light," said Belzil.

He's a St. Paul rancher who's become the acknowledged Canadian field expert on cattle and sheep mutilations.

"I've had three reports of cattle mutilations in just the last three weeks. Sometimes they're just missing the tongue and an ear, or just the ear. Often the genitals have been removed, the penis or uterus, sometimes the anus."

"And usually there's no blood anywhere. The cuts are clean, like laser cuts. All the arrows point to aliens, but I have no proof. So I guess I just don't know."



Doug BEAZLEY
THE INSIDE STORY

Conway knows. The Vancouver publisher and UFO-chaser saw his first bogey in 1966, near Scarborough, Ont. — two metallic spheres over a rotating T-shaped bar, hovering hundreds of feet above the ground.

He sees a clear link between Belzil's large cattle mutilation casebook, a report out of Fort MacMurray from a trapper who found an otter mangled in much the same fashion and a recent spate of bisected cats showing up in Ontario suburbs.

"We found several of these ... half-cats ... they looked like they'd been cut in two by buzzsaws," said Conway. "No trace of blood. The internal organs were mostly undamaged."

"We found one with a dark circle on the organs, about the size of a toonie. We sent a sample to a doctor in the U.S. and he concluded the damage was caused by a laser beam."

All of which begs the question: If aliens are buzzing deserts, snatching housewives for weird gynecological experiments and cutting household pets in two — why? Are they trying to send us a message? Or is it all an extraterrestrial version of hazing, like knocking down the neighbour's mailbox?

"The last thing these aliens want is to communicate with us," said Ted Phillips, a Missouri enthusiast who tracks physical evidence of spaceship landings.

"We've always found that when the population goes up, sightings go down."

"They tend to land in empty areas, like the middle of the desert."

"Whatever it is they're trying to do, they don't want to be seen when they're doing it."

Comments? Write me at dbeazley@edn.sunpub.com

'Alien' footage may go on TV

AN Ilkley UFO magazine's alleged discovery of top secret NASA space footage could become the subject of a TV documentary.

Graham Birdsall, editor of West Street-based UFO Magazine, has just returned from a conference in America.

He addressed the Las Vegas event, showing footage for the first time which he believes asks all sorts of questions about the possibility of alien life.

As reported in the Gazette last month, Mr Birdsall's team obtained footage which showed white objects taking a keen interest in the Mir Space Station.

The material was simultaneously added to the magazine's website while Mr Birdsall addressed his American audience.

"We have had 750,000 hits on the site in just three weeks," said Mr Birdsall. He said interest had been shown by more than one television organisation about bringing the story to the small screen.

Mr Birdsall said the footage had caused respected figures in the scientific community to ask why the footage had not been more widely reported.

"It is interesting that people don't seem to be biting, particularly when you have scientists saying the material should be examined properly," said Mr Birdsall.

He said: "The material has been viewed with both puzzlement and amazement. The silence from NASA has been deafening," said Mr Birdsall.

ILKLEY GAZETTE, Yorkshire, England - Feb. 3, 2000

Norway's UFO news is boost for group

THE man hoping to establish Britain's first UFO research centre in Ilkley is looking to Norway for inspiration.

In last week's Gazette, we revealed the ambitious plans of the Bradford-based UFO Research Network.

Russ Kellett, of the UFO group, believed Ilkley's strong link with the 'unexplained' made it an ideal site for such a centre.

Mr Kellett said since his plans were made public, he has been disheartened by what he describes as the 'negative' attitude of Bradford councillors, but he was delighted to hear of a similar scheme planned for Norway.

While Ilkley may struggle to obtain the money needed to establish Britain's first UFO study centre, the Gazette has discovered the Norwegians have no such reservations.

A Gazette reader came across a report in a Norwegian newspaper while surfing the Internet.

Officials in Holtalen township have backed a plan for a UFO study centre. The area's Hesselalen district has apparently been the site of many UFO sightings, but rather than scoff at the link, town leaders have decided to take it all very seriously.

The centre will be funded by a mixture of private investment and the sale of shares. Those behind the plan believe 35,000 to 40,000 visitors will be needed each year to break even.

Mr Kellett said: "I think I will try to get in touch with the Norwegians about this development. I am very pleased to hear about it."

He said his next stage would be to contact Ilkley's three district councillors to canvass them for their views on his group's proposals.

LETTERS

Forget the aliens - our art is top of the crops

AS ONE of the artists commissioned last year by the Daily Mail, along with John Lundberg and Rod Dickinson, to create a complicated crop formation, I found the latest crop circle (Mail) a beautiful piece of artwork.

Public opinion persists in the belief that complex crop circles can't be made by humans - but this is not so.

Last summer, at night, we created a complex 300ft formation right next to Avebury stone circle. The next morning, the Daily Mail showed the result of our work.

Without knowing who had made the formation, several researchers hailed it as one of the most complex designs in the history of the phenomenon.

The problem with recreating a formation under critical eyes is that the circle will always be flawed in some way to suit the believers. Observers who don't know the origin of a circle can respond to it in a more open manner, free from the prejudice which comes with knowledge of human involvement.

We cannot acknowledge authorship: the public must decide how the circle is interpreted. We're often called hoaxers, but we

never set out to deceive and have never knowingly done so.

We, too, are believers in the phenomenon - not that the circles are made by extra-terrestrial beings (although some might be) but that the circles catalyse paranormal events and transcendental experiences.

Every year in which we and other circle-making groups make crop formations, we experience similar sensations.

The fact that the circles arrive in a locale surrounded by ancient sites with long histories of spirituality gives them an extra dimension.

But by far the most difficult thing to explain is why we do it, particularly to someone who has never made a circle.

The answer comprises many strands: it is our art and we are fascinated by the public reaction to it. Imagine making an artwork which has people experiencing nausea, dizziness, euphoria, healing, domestic electrical failure, UFOs and many more associated phenomena.

The reason why we make circles will never easily be understood. We make circles because we have to.

WIL RUSSELL, Andover, Hants.



Driven to create: Crop circle artist Wil

Extra-Terrestrial Event of the Year

By Jan Chartrand

JOURNAL, St. Paul, Alberta, Canada - July 13, 2000 CR: G. Conway

Visitors to our town last weekend were out of this world. They were from out of town, out of province and out of the country.

Eight speakers came from all over the nation to present their findings at the UFO 2000 Conference at the St. Paul Recreation Centre. "We had to book them a year to a year and a half in advance," says Paul Pelletier, Chair of the committee who organized the conference. "The calibre of speakers we were able to get is very flattering to the community of St. Paul. It shows that we worked hard."

What with the advertising costs, rental of the hall, expenses for the speakers and equipment, it was quite a financial commitment. Though the final figures were not in at press time, Pelletier said the cost was \$15,000.00 to \$17,000.00.

"If you're looking at pure math, yah, we're going to lose money," he says. "If you look at the media coverage we received, at the economic impact of the two hundred visitors, relative to the restaurants, the hotels, the gas stations, how do you measure that?"

Around two hundred people came to the conference this weekend; ninety

percent of those were from out of town.

"The conference over all went well. The only disappointment was the attendance," says Rhea Labrie, Chamber of Commerce Manager. "We may have had 150 people here at once, at peak time, which was Saturday afternoon." Two years ago, she says, they were seeing about 300 each day. She did not know if the weather caused the low attendance or if it was because it was the second conference, or increased ticket prices. The fact that so much information is found on the Internet now may also be competition, she says.

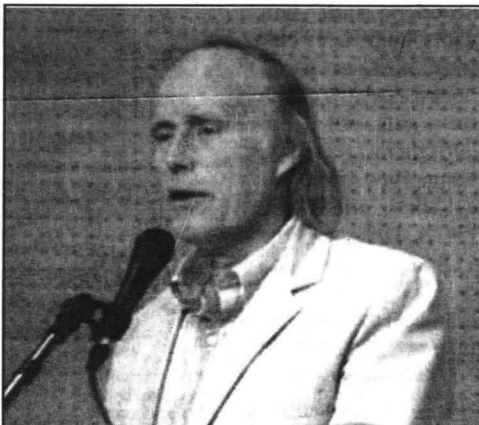
Both Labrie and Pelletier put a tremendous amount of work into the conference this weekend, and have had help getting the whole event together from

committee members and others who generously volunteered their time and talents.

"I picked up two of the speakers Wednesday evening. Thursday afternoon, I picked up two more speakers from the U.S.," says Pelletier. "We had a press conference scheduled with all the Edmonton media. We also did a live CBC Newsworld at 5:00 am Friday morning. That was national."

Local businesses were ready and waiting for conference attendees and speakers, and Liquidation World donated a telescope as the door prize, won by Don Miller of Spruce Grove.

It is too soon to say when or if there will be another UFO conference. The previous UFO Conference was held in 1998.



Dr. Bruce Macaabee, a former U.S. Navy researcher speaks out at the UFO Conference this weekend.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - June 10, 2000

SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

Could it be Battlefield Scotland?

JOHN TRAVOLTA'S controversial film Battlefield Earth describes an alien race which invades our planet in order to steal its natural resources.

Pure fantasy? Or should we be concerned by reports of strange objects over the skies of Scotland?

There's no doubt that sightings of UFOs have been growing in the last few months. Even the military authorities have been involved.

On February 15 an air traffic controller at Prestwick spotted a strange contact on his radar screen. It indicated an unidentified object 10 miles long and two miles wide travelling at 3000mph over the Scottish coastline towards Belfast.

The MOD have yet to confirm the identity of this bizarre UFO, though they may be forced to reveal more as a Welsh research chemist Dr Colin Ridyard has won legal backing to have the authorities release information about unidentified objects in our skies.

So how much longer can governments go on pretending the UFO phenomenon doesn't exist?

There have been too many Scottish incidents that prove something strange really is going on.

My husband said he didn't want to end up in a test tube

dow and saw a very bright object.

"It seemed to be hovering over a cottage about half a mile away and shining beams down. I wanted to drive there to get a closer look, but my husband said that he didn't want to end up in a test tube."

Reinette's UFO seems similar to one witnessed by Seamus Caldwell on the shore of Loch Arkaig early one morning. He saw a bright white light race along the loch, making a humming noise.

"It was large and round, leaving a slight trail. It shot past, paused for a second then shot up at great speed into the sky," said Craig.

Strange events close to the Fife village of Kennoway echo the Battlefield Earth storyline.

A family saw a large oval craft in a field around which swarmed dozens of strange entities carrying various objects from the field back into the space ship. At one point entities moved right across the field to where the family was watching.

One of the witnesses, Mary, said: "Suddenly dozens of bubble like things flew across the field towards us, hovering about four feet away. We could see each one had a small creature inside with big black eyes and a big head."

The family managed to get away but for months after experienced feelings of terror.



Not every mystery has a paranormal explanation

NIGEL HANNAFORD
CALGARY HERALD

Fox Mulder is interviewing a pregnant young woman on an episode of the X-Files. She lives in a trailer, has a double-digit IQ. No husband or boyfriend in sight.

"Who's the father?"
"Luke Skywalker."

It turns out she has seen Star Wars dozens of times and it has become real for her. The X-Files gang probably intended no self-mockery here but a large part of their audience is wide open to the paranormal world which the fictional FBI team investigates. This observation was made in the Calgary Herald last Monday by an American scholar of religion, Daniel Noel, who notes a development of people's belief systems in the last decades:

"Many more people seem to believe in the reality of the paranormal and do so with amazing ease."

To put it another way, it is one of the ironies of the age in which we live that never before have so many people been so well-educated and yet be so ready to fiercely believe in things for which little validation is offered. In a world based on science, the scientific method — proposition, experiment, observation, conclusion — is seldom invoked in consideration of the new mythology.

Granted, one cannot conduct an experiment to determine the existence of say, Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster. Still, given the intense interest in each creature, the absence of clear pictures, animal remains or, in Bigfoot's case, scatological evidence, means that to believe in them, you have to want to.

Then there's the whole world of UFOs, which for true believers flows over into a political nightmare of diabolical significance.

In one version of this scenario — this is a composite of several — Nazi scientists were instructed by occult forces on how to build anti-gravity machines and after the war ended, retreated with their flying saucers to their secret homes in Antarctica. (This, you see, was the real reason the Americans sent a fleet of warships under Admiral Byrd to explore Antarctica. But the Pentagon will never admit it.) Anyway, now the Americans can build and test flying saucers at Area 51

and the Pentagon won't admit that either because it's all part of the New World Order, which is actually controlled by the Antichrist.

It would be diverting to catalogue the fancies of the New Age, with their crystal healers, channelers, we-are-one with the cosmos, the cosmos-is-me nutbars, its numerologists and the people who want to eat their way to mental health. Space forbids.

The common thread in all of the above is that none of them offer their followers anything firm to grasp and in many cases, especially those dealing with special effects and healings, are easily disposed of by simple experiment. No matter. If you want to believe that sitting under a pyramid cures hangnails, you will.

Now, it is possible that there is some truth to some of the conspiracy theories. Maybe those strange lights in the sky are spaceships from distant galaxies and maybe there are large anthropoids in the Oregon forest. Nor am I saying that nobody was ever abducted by aliens. I am only saying there is insufficient proof for anybody to take any of this as a fact.

Religious people may well object that there really is a supernatural, a God and an anti-God and that faith alone is sufficient to believe.

True. So, those folks who want to make a religion out of the X-Files, or at any rate the kind of thing the X-Files talks about, will find their right to do so protected as an issue of religious freedom. There may be a cost: an extreme example was the 39 members of the Heaven's Gate UFO cult who committed suicide to join up with heavenly elders riding on the Hale-Bopp comet.

You have an equal right to your belief but all beliefs are not equal. Caveat emptor.

Some commentators say this credulity, which seems more typical of the 16th century, is a sign of a deep inner spiritual void, a God-shaped gap. Others characterize it as an emotional reaction to the technological world which we confront.

Maybe both, for some people. For all too many, though, it's nothing more than intellectual laziness. Just because everybody loves a mystery, doesn't mean that every mystery has a paranormal explanation.

As they say in journalism school, "If your momma says she loves you, check it out."

Absence of proof does not constitute proof of absence

KELLY MORRISON
FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

The beginning of X-Files purports that "the truth is out there." The truth, any faithful viewer knows, relates to the existence of the paranormal, notably alien life forms bent on taking over the world. But the show tells tales of other occurrences of the paranormal.

And while most viewers readily dismiss the probability of a worm-like man creature living in the sewers, or the idea that people's worst fears can actually materialize and kill them, many are attracted to the fact that the show seeks to uncover the grand government conspiracy about the existence of aliens.

The show is the product of one man's imagination; indeed, it is truly fictional. But it nonetheless has an occult following and you need only to type "X-Files" on any search engine to get a sense of the zealotry of those obsessed

with the stories of the paranormal.

Stories of sightings of UFOs and tales of alien abductions to the likes of conspiracy theorist and radio host Art Bell, who speaks of the U.S. government cover up of alien existence, fuel the belief in the paranormal. And the number of believers is increasing.

Even many of the skeptics won't deny it is possible life exists elsewhere in the universe.

And even science must grapple with the possibility that claims of the existence of alien life forms are valid.

There are increasing numbers of astrobiologists, a new breed of scientists seeking out life forms on other planets, who have joined NASA's ranks, after all.

Critics say the religiosity of the paranormal is troublesome because it indicates those who believe in the paranormal are intellectual sloths who have allowed the absence of traditional faith in their lives be filled up by the belief in the ludicrous claims of the paranormal.

The Herald ran an article recently about Daniel Noel, a professor of religion and culture, who questions the religious tone that the belief in the paranormal has taken on.

The proliferation of Web pages, books and Hollywood's obsession with exposing the truth of the paranormal, he argues, is increasingly blurring the line between fact and fiction for the many people who subscribe to the idea that life exists elsewhere in this universe.

Noel is troubled by this since he believes attraction to the supernatural is fuelled by the fact people seem to believe anything "in the absence of evidence."

But is absence of proof of the paranormal proof of its absence?

The mysticism associated with traditional religions is defined by this very paradox.

Followers of orthodox religions can't take a preliminary trip to heaven and can't call on angels or gods to show themselves, yet they are steadfast in believing in such things.

Nobody in the modern era has had a meeting or conversation with God, yet many have faith in His existence.

Science even calls into question the story of creation as told in the book of Genesis.

People increasingly question the Bible as the word of God since many of the stories, like those of alien abduction, are too grandiose to ascribe any sort of truth to them.

The blind faith that skeptics ascribe to believers of the paranormal is apparent in any religion. The willingness of people to follow what cannot be proven by fact is part of why Marx chastized religion as "the opiate of the masses."

Many people who are, or have been, deemed

heretics are exactly the same as skeptics of the paranormal — they simply question what cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

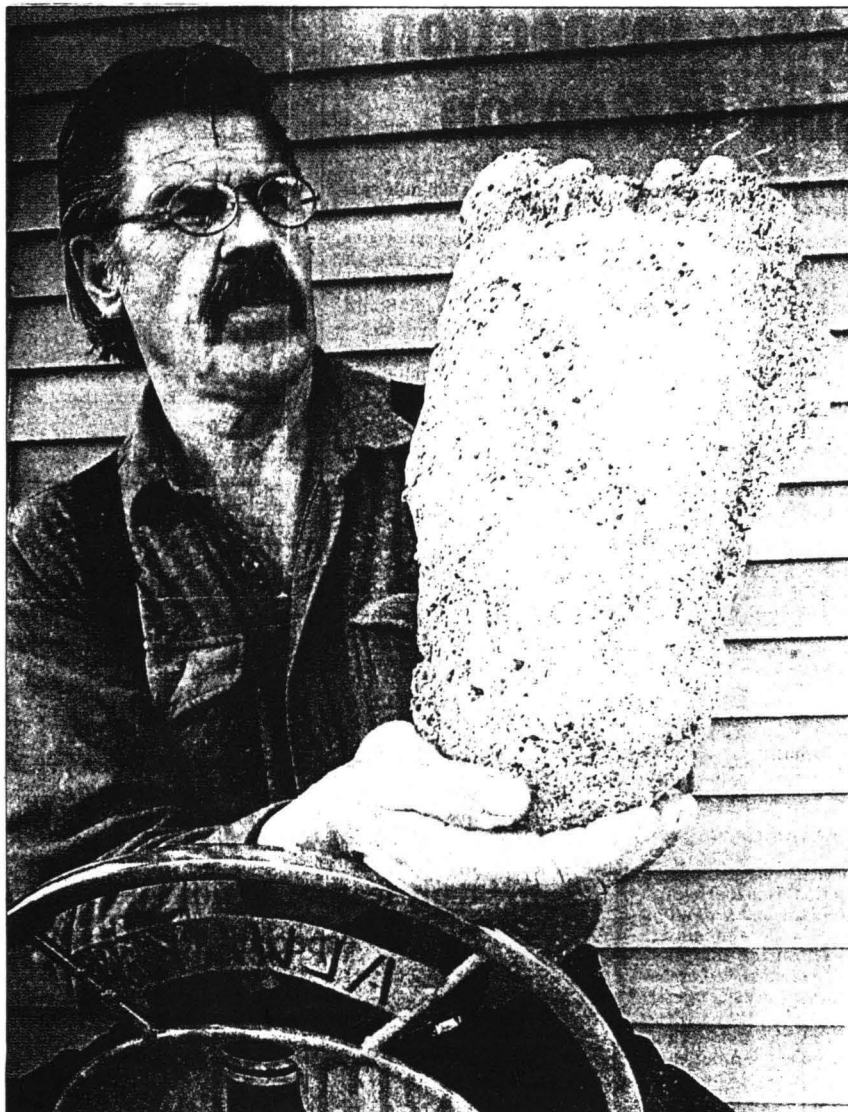
Traditional religion suggests we cannot know the complete truth until our time on Earth has passed, but the paranormal suggests that the truth is well within our grasp. And it is this sort of belief that propels us forward and allows for new discovery.

This isn't to say that the supposed religiosity of those who believe in the paranormal isn't a good target for ridicule.

We have been witness to what happens when paranormal belief displaces the belief in the righteous with a belief in the ridiculous — we end up dealing with the likes of those seeking a voyage on the Hale-Bopp comet.

And who knows for sure, maybe the cult members are really out there on the Hale-Bopp. Can anyone prove they aren't?





Cliff Crook examines a cast he says was made from a Bigfoot track found on the Lower Hoh Indian Reservation. Maxwell Balmain/Journal

Bigfoot expert presents proof of a hairy clan

Bothell man returns with casts, hair; professor says tracks at Hoh Rain Forest site were ruined

By Nick Perry
Journal Reporter

Bigfoot is alive, and thriving on fresh salmon and butter clams in the Hoh Rain Forest, according to Cliff Crook, a Bothell Bigfoot enthusiast.

Crook has just returned from a week's expedition to the Hoh, and says he has brought back incontrovertible evidence a small clan of Bigfoots are in town — two plaster-cast footprints measuring 15 inches and 17 inches, 11 hairs and piles of empty clam shells.

His journey came after Gene Sampson reported finding footprints and hearing a "bam, bam, bam, stop, bam, bam, bam" noise just behind his house on the Hoh Indian Reservation. Sampson now says he believes the noise was three Bigfoots cracking open clams they had collected from a nearby marsh.

But an Idaho university professor has abandoned investigating the site after, he says, Crook ruined the only footprint worth studying by taking the plaster-cast.

Crook has been chasing Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, for more than 40 years. He said the Hoh discovery is the most exciting evidence he has ever

'They have come up for the salmon run and will be gone down south again in about two weeks.'

CLIFF CROOK,
BOTHELL BIGFOOT ENTHUSIAST

seen of Bigfoots — the large, ape-like creature some people claim to have seen in the Pacific Northwest.

"They have come up for the salmon run and will be gone down south again in about two weeks," Crook said yesterday. The beasts will probably return to Mount Rainier, he said, or to the back country of the Olympic mountain range.

The dozens of footprints he saw in the Hoh could not have been fakes for several reasons, Crook said. They were so well-hidden they would have taken "a gang of men a year to make," and were spaced in a natural way.

There were several other tests he had used to determine the prints were real, Crook said, but he declined to reveal them, citing fears that hoaxers might capitalize on the information.

Sampson said he had found sharpened sticks, some three feet long, which the presumed trio of Bigfoots used as tools. He has also found two droppings, probably one from the mother Bigfoot and one from the baby Bigfoot.

Crook said he will have the hairs tested, either at a DNA laboratory in Oregon, or at the University of Washington's Burke Museum. He said he had been in touch with the Oregon lab, but wants to negotiate a cheap deal and cannot reveal the name of his contact there.

Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, an Idaho State University associate professor, said Crook had agreed to investigate the Hoh site with hunter Derek Randles, but then Crook had gone a day early and taken his plaster cast before Randles could arrive.

"We saw a photograph of the footprint in a Pennsylvania daily paper. So Derek went to the scene, and he was not extremely impressed with what he found," Meldrum said.

John Rozdilsky, a mammalogist at the Burke Museum, said it could conduct DNA comparisons on hairs if someone was willing to pay more than \$100 for each test. But from previous experience, he did not hold out much hope for finding evidence of Bigfoot.

"I think it would make a far more fascinating study to look at why people believe in, and love, Sasquatch so much."

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Aug. 9, 2000



John Berry

Monsters run rampant in Arkansas

Wedia Lansdell was apparently convinced a real monster had taken up residence near her home.

First her cat disappeared. Later, the frightening carcass of the missing kitty was discovered. The flesh was partially dissolved as if it had been soaked in acid.

Local people doubted Ms. Lansdell's stories about a cat-killing creature living near her home. Jokes began popping up around her small hometown of Wallace, near Texarkana, comparing her experiences to those relating to the decades-old rumor of the Fouke Monster.

The Fouke Monster is legendary. Several movies have been made about the large hairy beast with big feet. The first, "The Legend of Boggy Creek," is actually a reasonably good B-grade scary movie.

The Fouke Monster has been consistently described as 6 to 9 feet tall, covered with long dark or reddish

hair and is generally associated with a strong, offensive odor. Its eyes have been described as "fiery red."

The city of Fouke has the dubious distinction of being listed on the Internet as one of the top 10 places in the world to search for Bigfoot.

So the jokes were only natural when Wedia Lansdell began claiming some sort of monster was living in her neck of the woods.

Later the hapless woman saw the creature that had apparently killed her cat. Instead of a big hairy ape, it was a very large snake, probably a 10- to 12-foot-long python.

A National Geographic film crew later confirmed her sighting. They visited her home to investigate the outlandish claims and even managed to catch the big reptile on tape. One of the National Geographic team members jumped into a pond and attempted to grab the creature.

According to Rickie Roberts of Fouke, there are still occasional sightings of the Fouke Monster. But these infrequent sightings are nothing like the phenomenon that occurred back in the early 1970s when there were hundreds (possibly thousands) of supposed sightings. This flood of eyewitness accounts, plus at least one reported attack on a local resident, are what led to the movies mentioned earlier.

Perhaps we will soon begin hearing of a new frenzy of activity from the Boggy Creek Monster.

If so, this is bad news for residents in north-central Arkansas. You see, there is another famous creature apparently patrolling the frigid waters of the White River. It is called the White River Monster. And according to many eyewitness accounts, it really does exist.

The last numerous sightings of

the White River Monster occurred in 1971, about the same time as the last big wave of Fouke Monster sightings. One man claimed the monster pushed his fishing boat around on the surface of the river. Other close encounters during the same year were documented.

Numerous eyewitness accounts of the monster have been detailed from the 1930s and the 1890s. (Note the 30- to 40-year cycle.) It has been described as "as wide as a car and three cars long." A Newport man in the early '70s said it has a pointed horn protruding from its forehead.

Numerous attempts have been made through the years to capture or photograph the White River Monster. No clear photograph has ever been discovered although there have been a few blurry ones. Nor has the Fouke Monster ever been successfully captured on film.

Everyone get your cameras ready. The time has come for both of these famous monsters to reappear. Their latest 30- to 40-year cycle of inactivity has just about run its course. It is time for the White River Monster to come north and lay her egg. And it is time for the hairy ape in south Arkansas to begin feeding on Miller County livestock.

This brings us to the all-important question: Which of these two famous monsters is the toughest? Maybe the World Wrestling Federation can get them together for a world championship match.

The good news is, they will be more attractive than some of the wrestlers.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: John Berry lives with his family in Conway.)

Isthmus haunts the library of Richard Hendricks, one of the spirits behind www.weird-wi.com.

IBQ&A

A L I T E R A R Y E X C H A N G E

Isthmus: The Weird Wisconsin Web site is divided into subcategories—ghosts, UFOs, monsters and creatures, and murderers. If you could recommend just one book to the novice interested in the unconventional side of Wisconsin history, what would it be?

Hendricks: Jay Rath's *The W. Files: True Reports of Unexplained Phenomena*. It's a piquant taste of the lurid. Bigfoot; werebeasts; UFO encounters and flying saucer inhabitants; lake monsters; stray kangaroos—a nice cross-section of the state's weird heritage. Number two is Robert E. Gard and L.G. Sorden's *Wisconsin Lore*. A true classic, this has been reprinted multiple times. There's a smattering of everything, from the Ridgeway Ghost and other phantoms to circus lore to stories of buried treasure and Native American thunderbird legends. It's also a great book to learn about those puzzling things your grandpa used to say, like, if you rock an empty chair, it means bad luck. At least with this book, you'll understand the old guy wasn't completely bonkers.

I'd feel remiss not to mention *Haunted Wisconsin*, Beth Scott and Michael Norman's classic survey of hauntings, rescuing many historical accounts from across the state. And Dennis Boyer chronicles recent encounters of apparitions in two terrific books, *Driftless Spirits* and *Northern Frights*. Boyer sets the scene, with nifty touches of local history and that unique Wisconsin sense of place, then sits back with a good glass of beer while letting his confidantes talk.

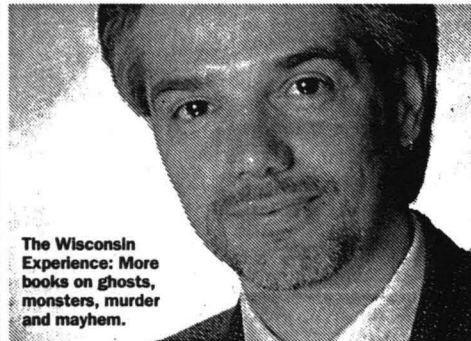
These are topics that often generate tabloid schlock.

I love the lurid; it's one of my favorite words. There aren't a lot of lurid books written by

Wisconsinites. Even in a book with the most lurid potential, there's always an underlying politeness about it that vitiates its outlandish charms. One that doesn't stop short is Michael Lesy's *Wisconsin Death Trip*. It's been out of print and was just reissued by New Mexico Press in a very handsome edition. It's also the basis of a movie that's slowly making its way across the country now. It uses photos from around the Black River Falls area in 1880-1910, photos of everyday people, some whole, some missing limbs, many posed with their few possessions or means of livelihood, juxtaposed with newspaper clippings of murders, fires, epidemics, suicides, madness. The clippings force you to see the photos in new ways, and you see lunacy, anger, the morbid and all sorts of bizarre pathological complications boiling beneath the surface. And these are all true stories, so there's kind of a macabre quality to the work.

When dealing with fantastic subjects like ghosts and hauntings or UFOs, what sets a really good book apart?

I don't always read a book in terms of whether it's objectively true or not. I read a book for story, for content, whatever interests me. And sometimes the whacked-out theories are actually more interesting than



The Wisconsin Experience: More books on ghosts, monsters, murder and mayhem.

the straight establishment sort of theories.

Also, stories of ghosts and monsters can be important motivational tools for kids. These stories engage their imaginations—witness the Pokémon phenomenon. When a kid finds out that a monster might be living in the woods out beyond town or a ghost is living down the street, it invokes their natural state of curiosity and wonder, that what-if or wouldn't-it-be-cool-if-reflex, that's a necessary part of the learning process. It'll often spark their interest in reading more about a topic.

On the other hand, some of these books seem to be well researched, academic even.

Two of the best recent books with an academic slant are

Wisconsin Land and Life, edited by Robert C. Ostergren and Thomas R. Vale, and *Wisconsin Folklore*, compiled and annotated by James P. Leary. The first has a tri-part focus on the landscape, from vegetation, climate, weather, soil and glacial movements; to the waves of native inhabitants and ethnic settlers and their diverse customs; to specific economic industries, from tourism to farming to treaty rights. It's a solid unweird foundation for understanding the Wisconsin Experience.

Slightly more accessible is the second, which is a wonderfully diverse celebration of Wisconsin peoples, featuring everything from Finnish folktales and old settler ghost stories to faith healers, sauerkraut suppers, lumberjack songs, Hmong musicians, In-

dian drums, and how to talk Milwaukeean. "Is that neat ever, hey!"

Any new categories cropping up these days?

New Agers have brought some interesting books to the mix. One particular subgroup is the UFO/Bigfoot/spiritual healing connection. *Story in the Snow* by Lunetta Woods is a short book that examines Bigfoot as spiritual healer for a woman living in southeastern Wisconsin. She learns Bigfoot's warning message of the coming earth changes and how to clean up her act before it's too late.

Wisconsin is most famously home of a couple of real psychos—Ed Gein and Jeffrey Dahmer.

It's too early yet to see the definitive book on Dahmer, and sadly, most published titles have gone out of print. The best two are *Massacre in Milwaukee*, by Richard W. Jaeger and Marv Balousek, and Anne E. Schwartz's *The Man Who Could Not Kill Enough*. Both have the requisite creepy details, with the Schwartz title having the stronger analysis. The best Gein book is *Deviant: The Shocking True Story of Ed Gein, the Original "Psycho"* by Harold Schechter, a professor at Queens College, City University of New York. Here

you'll find the Butcher of Plainfield in all his sordid glory. Schechter also wrote a novel that asks the question, "Did Ed Gein ever father a child?" The novel's called *Out Cry*, and while not a classic, it has a few lurid moments. It's always interesting to read the East Coast take on our beloved heartland. Another book is *Ed Gein: Psycho*, by Paul Anthony Woods, with lots of trashy photos and coverage of Ed Gein's afterlife as pop icon.

Any interesting new titles?

Mysterious Islands: Forgotten Tales of the Great Lakes, by Andrea Gutsche and Cindy Bisailon. I love Great Lake stories, especially from Lake Superior, but this is one of the best, from Lynx Images, Toronto. It's beautifully constructed, with over 500 archival images and maps. Filled with mystery, crashing waves, abandoned and wrecked ships, the terrible loneliness of living in a lighthouse before modern communications, and human slices of life that in many ways are similar to those in *Wisconsin Death Trip*. There are also stories of the cannibal Wendigo, from the Chippewa legends, and starving women considering the making of soup from a dead hubby. Not graphic, but evocative.

Do other states have this type of literature written about them, or to this extent?

Robert Gard has said Wisconsin has more ghosts per square mile than any other state. Regional books on ghosts, legends, monsters, murder and mayhem are proliferating. It's a nice niche market right now, with many small publishers finding a good fit with smaller audiences.

—JACOB ABBOTT & LINDA FALKENSTEIN

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Can a Bigfoot rattle a bar?

Well, here 'tis, nearly the end of April, 2000 and no Bigfoot in hand for science to eyeball for authenticity.

And, many of us around here had some high hopes when Brian Smith came up with those photographs of tracks in the snow on January 2.

Then towards the end of January there was the Starbuck resident who said he went to the woodpile in his backyard one night and saw a Bigfoot no more than 20 feet away! I assume the BF turned and left because that's what the man did!

Some of us die-hards in the Bigfoot field make regular sojourns into areas often the source of footprints of the creatures. Interestingly enough, a big proportion of these sightings has been in the Upper Dry Creek country.

An interesting sighting in that area a few years ago was when a truck driver spotted a Bigfoot ambling along parallel to his route at 45 yards distance. After following the truck driver for 100 yards, the Bigfoot ambled off down into the Dry Creek canyons.

For those of you who are on

the Internet, I suggest you surf on down to the fine website developed by Brian Smith. Here's the address: "http://community.webtv.net/briansmi/wallawallawabigfoot".

To get in on the Bigfoot conversation nationwide, there is this address: "mailto:bigfoot@egroups.com".

Just type that info into your browser's message window and then type in subscribe bigfoot. In this you can "talk" to the others, by typing in your opinions to subjects as they come up.

It was in such a setting the other day that I contributed a story about Bigfoot that I gathered one day while visiting the Dave Manuel Museum in Joseph, Ore. The topic of conversation went back and forth about whether a Bigfoot could handle a sizable grizzly. To get in my two-bits worth I sent the following message:

A few years ago, I was visiting the fine museum at Joseph, Oregon, operated by the Walla Walla native son and artist of world renown, David Manuel. I was talking with Dave when an-

other friend came bounding down the stairs nearby to ask if I had seen the Bigfoot statue upstairs.

Dave offered to take me upstairs and show the sculpture but he promised more: "I have a story to go with it that's even better."

Upstairs was a small statue which obviously marked the Manuel craft, and a real outdoors effort to boot!

There, reared up on his hind legs in a very threatening manner was a huge bear. But, reared up equally tall was a huge Bigfoot, holding up a very big boulder, about to pound it into the bear.

Dave told me he had made this piece of art early in his career ... the second sculpture, if memory serves me... and was showing it at an art exhibit at Hood River, Oregon, in the mid-1970s. And, here was the story he promised.

Dave told me that he had noticed during the art showing's first day that an Indian man had stood near the statue for most of the day, closely observing the statue's every detail. Then, at the close of the day, the man left. But, the next day, he had returned,

with some friends, and bearing a gift for Manuel.

The gift of the Indians was an honor bestowed by them for an unusual contribution to the tribe, the men told Dave when he asked them why he should be given this tribute.

"Because, in your statue you have so faithfully captured the truth behind an important feature of our lore which has been handed down for generations among our people," he was told.

So, not only has Bigfoot been around the Northwest for some time, he obviously can defend himself against what is likely his most dangerous enemy, the grizzly bear.... And, do it using things not part of his body, such as stones or limbs ripped from a tree.

I think this definitely gives Bigfoot the edge in any confrontation with a grizzly, armed only with teeth and claws.

I don't know if this statement of mine settled anyone's mind or not, but it seems to me of the two animals, a Bigfoot would come off the winner. As far as is known (aside from the Indians' belief expressed to Manuel in Hood River) there hasn't been a Bigfoot-grizzly encounter. For one thing, the Bigfoot has such a stench his presence would alert a smart bear to steer a wide path around him.

Better get out and check out some of the back roads above Dixie

Was Bigfoot hanging out near Forks?

BY THE DAILY WORLD STAFF

A report of an encounter with Bigfoot has folks talking at the Hoh Indian Reservation near Forks.

Sgt. Scott Small with the Hoh Tribal Police said they responded to a call from residents who said something was making a racket near their homes Wednesday night.

When police arrived, they found a 16-inch-long footprint, but the mossy, muddy ground eliminated any other features of the big footprint that might have identified it further.

Police say no one admitted seeing whatever made the print, but Andy Mail called *The Daily World* to say an acquaintance, known only as "The Judge," saw it outside his home banging a rock against a tree.

Mail said he saw alder trees at the reservation that were 11 or 12 feet high that were bent over, apparently by the passage of the beast.

Small's supervisor, Glen Melville, deputy commander for the district with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, said the print could be explained as that of a large bear, but added that like some Hoh Reservation residents, he was curious to find out whether there was something more to what happened that night.

"You know how legend goes out there."

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA
April 11, 2000



DAVE JEWETT
Ink

Ohio's Bigfoot search

Clark County Bigfoot researcher Larry Lund was on the program for the 12th annual Bigfoot Conference last weekend in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

It's billed as the world's largest Bigfoot-related event of its kind.

Lund was one of four principal speakers. He also presented a few video segments on various well-known alleged sightings of the legendary ape-like creature Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch.

Newcomerstown is 100 miles south of Cleveland in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. There have been numerous Bigfoot sightings in the area, dating back to 1896, said Marc A. DeWerth, one of the meeting organizers. In the past two years alone, more than 20 sightings have been investigated by teams from the Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group, he said.

The group has a Web site with many links to Bigfoot information. It's at www.angelfire.com/oh/yeti1.

Sci Fi channel's 'Crossing Over' links here, hereafter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Crossing Over With John Edward" is a talk show with a difference: The studio audience is live but the guests are goners. Outta here and into the hereafter.

In other words, dead.

Host Edward is on hand to act as go-between. He's a grown-up version of the boy in "The Sixth Sense," if the melancholy kid eventually figured out how to make a career out of making eye contact with the dearly departed.

"What you are about to see is real" we are told at the beginning of the new Sci Fi cable channel series, showing at 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday (with repeats at 3 p.m. the following day).

"Crossing Over" may be better than real. With other talk shows, there have been instances in which guests start out alive and end up otherwise; at least here the division is clear.

For that reason alone we'll take Edward over Jerry Springer or Jenny Jones. And there's a reassuring feeling about post-mortem family relations as envisioned by the self-described psychic medium.

There are no recriminations for cheaping out on the casket, no admonishments for blowing the inheritance. There also aren't any towering insights about the meaning of it all, at least none that Edward is willing to share.

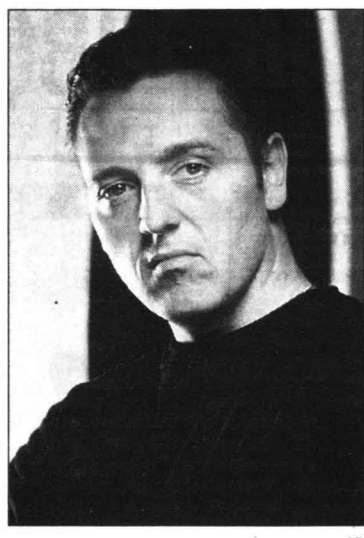
Instead, he crisply leads New York audience members and celebrities including Linda Dano and Carmen Electra through heavenly exchanges with late relatives or friends. (No fireside chats so far; as Edward puts it, he has yet to field a complaint about the heat.)

The host tells one woman that a man, apparently her late husband, is reaching out to her. She is unnerved when Edward relates details of a trip she took to Niagara Falls with the couple's daughter.

"Did you find a feather there? And did you tell your daughter that was her daddy?" Edward asks the woman, who nods, weeping.

He can also be blunt.

"Is there a husband or brother for you that's passed?" he asks another woman in the same episode. "Yes," she replies.



Self-described psychic John Edward, shown in June 2000 on the New York set of his show, hosts "Crossing Over with John Edward" on Sci Fi. Edward invites audiences to communicate through him with deceased friends and family during the new half-hour series, which airs Sunday-Thursday at 10 p.m. on the cable channel.

"This has got to be an ex-husband we're talking about, because he's removing himself from you," Edward says. "He wants to be known as the ex; that's how he's coming across."

Edward compares his visions of the dead to daydreams in which information is delivered by sight, sound and feeling. He hasn't been briefed, according to the show.

Is it real? Fake? Who are we to say? (As one thoughtful friend advised, there may be peril in cynicism; antagonize Edward and you could find yourself without a very long-distance carrier someday.)

Is it entertaining? Sure, if you set aside

concerns about commercializing people's yearning for contact with the dead and making such intimate feelings a mass media event. But that is the nature of life these days, when people are as comfortable in front of a camera as on a therapist's couch and television keeps shifting to wider-angle lenses.

"If someone is into New Age or spiritual programming, they have a show like ours," said supervising producer Paul Shavelson. "Imagine trying to sell a show like this a decade ago."

Edward definitely seems to be a man of his time. He is not the gaudy brand of psychic played by Whoopi Goldberg in "Ghost." This medium eschews both light tricks and flamboyant wardrobe. Think Armani sleek, not turban geek.

The Long Island, N.Y., native also knows how to disarm with humor. Describing an image of a dog, Edward asks a woman if her family has a new pet. Yes, she says, a goldfish.

"Nah, not doing fish," he responds.

Style aside, it's the result that counts, Edward said in a telephone interview.

"Anybody who comes to me wants to know that their loved ones are OK after their passing. They want to know they're with them, that they see what's going on in their life, that the bond of love is still there," he said.

"News flash: That's all true," he continued. "However, that can't be just what your message is about because there's no validation of that. Anybody can say that. I think that's what skeptics and cynics attack. I tell people it's gotta be minute, detail, not trivia. It's gonna be specific and lock me into your family."

Edward, also an author ("One Last Time") and frequent radio guest, is unconcerned about those who might dismiss him as a charlatan.

"I learned a long time ago that I can't convince, convert or defend what I do. Because immediately, as soon as I have to do that, I'm putting myself in a position of saying I have to, and I don't. If they don't have a belief system, it's not up to me to create one for them."

That's OK. That's why we have television.

POST, Denver, CO - July 14, 2000 CR: P. Noonan

On Moscow's skyline, a pyramid

By Michael Slackman
Newsday

MOSCOW — The Moscow-Riga highway rambles through thick forests, glides past villages of weathered wooden houses, past swimming holes and open fields, dipping over a slight hill and gently curving as it runs beside a large, slate-colored pyramid.

Yes, a pyramid.

Just 25 miles from the Kremlin walls and as odd a sight as a Russian bear wandering in the Sahara, a pyramid 14 stories tall pierces the skyline of the Moscow countryside from its perch atop a dusty hilltop.

It is the work of Alexander Golod, a slow-talking, true believer with the money to indulge a conviction that pyramids can bring peace and harmony to the world, can prolong life, heal disease or even soothe an aching back. To date, Golod has built 17 pyramids around Russia and Ukraine, though this one, which he estimates cost \$800,000, is by far the biggest.

"I have a hobby. I build pyramids," Golod said from behind a desk cluttered with crystals and other New Age relics. "I am not a healer. I don't try to make everyone happy. I have children and I am expecting a grandchild. I am looking after the planet."

His hobby, however, has attracted a large following, with hun-

dreds, often even thousands, of people making pilgrimages to the site every week to buy pyramid-charged remedies. Golod's pyramid has tapped something deep in the Russian psyche molded by centuries of peasant superstitions and battered by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

People are desperate for an alternative to Russia's poor health care system and for a remedy for their wounded spirits.

Natalia Demyanova and her husband trudged 100 yards from the roadside to the pyramid entrance, only to be told by the guard that they could not enter. "Only Saturday and Sunday," said the guard, barely looking up.

"I have experienced that charged water," Demyanova said, standing at the base of the pyramid, her hair and clothing pelted with flying dirt as the wind whipped over the hill. "I had swelling in the mouth," she said excitedly to the guard, ignoring his indifference. "The dentists said it should be extracted. I put the water in my ear, and I felt it being absorbed by the tooth. I have no swelling, no pain."

The security guard rose from the folding chair, walked over to the pyramid door and unlocked it, and out popped a young, blond woman in a miniskirt and tank top, giggling and smiling. "Thank you,"

she said as she walked away. "Scientific experiments," the guard said cryptically, then turned his attention back to Demyanova.

He still would not let her in but offered an alternative. He said she could charge water herself at home if she bought a small plaster pyramid. Without hesitating, she pulled all the money from her purse, her husband emptied his wallet and she handed over 7,000 rubles — about \$250 — the equivalent of about six months' pay for the average Russian.

She bought two pyramids before hurrying off.

"I had my husband drink some of the water and asked him, 'What do you think?' He said, 'I don't know. Could be,'" she said after making the purchase. "But I can say I felt this current running over my tooth."

Belief in the mystical power of pyramids has been around for thousands of years, but it has taken root and spread throughout the New Age community in modern times.

But while many Western scientists dismiss any claims out of hand, the Russian people have always been more open-minded.

Shortly after Golod's fiberglass pyramid was erected six months ago, a reporter on the nation's premier, government-owned news show regaled listeners with all the miracles the pyramid might perform. "Water sitting inside the pyramid does not get frozen when it is (below freezing) inside," the reporter said. "Saws used to cut trees become sharpened like razors when you leave them inside the pyramid."