

# UFO

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#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

February 2001  
Number 379

BROAD TOP BULLETIN, Saxton, PA - Dec. 26, 2000 CR: C. Grusinski

## A Moment In (Recent) History Chet Grusinski: witness confirms UFO sighting aboard USS FDR, 1958

by Jon Baughman

Last year I wrote about a UFO sighting in 1958 by a crew member aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. That witness, Chester Grusinski of Clinton Twp., Michigan, contacted me with his personal account of the bizarre incident. Over the years he has been trying to contact any other crew members who could confirm his story.

Since that time, Grusinski has learned that there was a UFO incident involving the FDR in 1956, and other incidents in the 1960s.

One witness is Harry A. Jordan, who served on the USS FDR as a radar operator from 1962 to 1965. This is his story.

### What Chester saw

But first let's go back to 1958 and Grusinski's story. He writes, "In 1958 we were on a shakedown cruise, when there was a small light that was following our ship. Then the light came in close enough to us so you could see the shape of the object and also see that there were figures inside of it, the impression that I got was that those figures were not human beings."

Soon after, crew members who talked about the incident were transferred and CIA operatives came on board. "It was a massive coverup," Grusinski states.

Grusinski has been looking for information that would confirm the unusual events surrounding the FDR, which was decommissioned in 1977. Through the Freedom of Information Act, he was able to obtain a copy of the ship's deck logs for 1958 and 1959. "A lot of information was blackened out," he added.

### Letter from Jordan

On August 3 Grusinski received a letter from Harry A. Jordan, who lives in Omaha, NE. Ironically, Jordan has also been looking for crew members from the FDR who might have witnessed the strange occurrences. He found Grusinski's name on a posting on a Canadian website.

In his letter, Jordan said, I detected a very large UFO during my mid-watch on radar off the coast of Sardinia in late 63. I provided the Senate Intelligence Committee with an affidavit detailing my experience. During this particular cruise there were several photographers on board to document the NATO fleet operations. They were present on board the night of my contact on radar. I was told in no uncertain terms to keep my mouth shut for 20 years."

The complete text of Harry Jordan's experience can be downloaded by going to:

[www.majesticdocuments.com/witnesses/jordan.html](http://www.majesticdocuments.com/witnesses/jordan.html)

### Jordan on the FDR

From 1961 through December 1965 Jordan served US Navy aboard the destroyer escort USS Laffey, destroyer USS Loeser, and aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA-42. He served in the operations intelligence division on all three ships, to display, ana-

lyze, report and record radar, radio and electronic emission data. For this he received extensive training at the Naval Station, Newport, RI.

While on the FDR he served two cruises in the Mediterranean between 1962 and 1964. After discharge from active duty he worked as an instructor at Jones Point Naval reserve, Alexandria, VA on the use of navigational equipment particular to radar intelligence, thus was an expert in his field. He served as a recognition expert on detecting surface or air objects as far away as 300 miles. He trained both enlisted men as well as naval officers.

### His account, first hand

Here's Jordan's first-hand account of the UFO encounter, the text taken directly from his testimony before a US Senate UFO hearing in the summer of 1998. It is quoted word for word:

Late one night while operating off the coast of Sardinia at approximately 0200 hrs. Zulu time I was standing mid watch on a SPA-8 repeater and height finding equipment. My IFF box was enabled and in the process of challenging an aerial contact approaching the ship from a bearing of 012 degrees relative to our course. The aerial contact was detected at 600 miles according to the calibration rings on my scope. I made several adjustments to the calibration settings because I didn't believe I detected such a contact at that distance. The aerial contact was at a height of 80,000 then dropped to 65,000 feet in about 20 seconds where the contact then hovered for about ten minutes.

During this period the watch officer woke the Division Commander and informed him of our situation. U.S. Naval Task Forces operating in the Mediterranean in those days were being subjected to frequent fly overs by Russian Bear aircraft with electronic warfare capability. It was my job to stay alert for such a scenario. The Division Commander came into CIC observed the radar returns, expedited his own ECM scan of the contact and then informed the orderly standing watch at the Captains stateroom. The Captain was appraised of the situation, ordered a course change into the wind and increased ships speed to launch aircraft. During this time I was continuing to observe the contact and watched the Phantom F4B's once they attained sufficient altitude. The Phantom's went to after burners vectoring to a course straight for the bogey on my scope. After a period of about 15 to 20 minutes the F4B's were within 200 miles of the bogey due north of our course. They turned on their conical scan radar, the bogey disappeared from my scope. The pilots did not detect any contact on their scope were turned by the Air Ops C.O. and headed back to the ship. The Captain had kept the ship on a heading into the wind during this entire operation so aircraft could be launched or recovered at will.

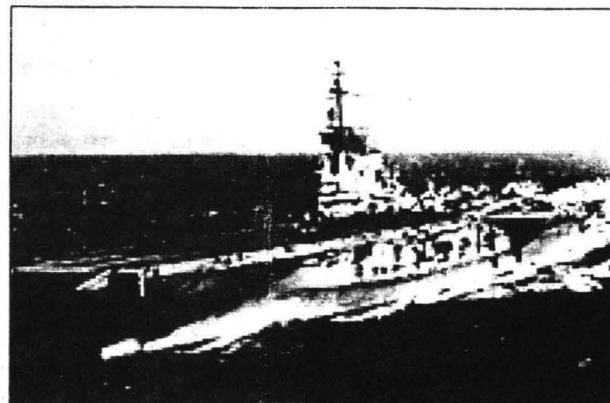


Radar operator Jordan

The Phantom's returned to the ship and were recovered. About five minutes after the recovery of the last aircraft and during the process of turning the ship back to our original course the contact winked back on again! This time it closed from a distance of 600 miles from the ship to right above us in about 1 minute. The bogey was traveling around 3600 miles and hour at an altitude of 30,000 feet. I never saw any heat signature. Someone in CIC yelled out, "dam it what the hell is that!" I couldn't determine who made the comment. Lookouts on the port and starboard look out wings of the conning tower could not see anything above the ship with their binoculars. The situation was bizarre and watch personnel looked scared but calm.

Watch logs are always kept particularly when a critical situation is under way. General Quarters practice drills are another matter but this wasn't a practice drill. The Captain did not call General Quarters. I recall vividly when it was first determined how unusual the situation had been. My division C.O. (Commander Gibson -USN) asked me what I had put in my log if anything. He said to me "Jordan, this never happened" (I was reminded of that comment when I first saw the movie "Red October"). I replied "yes sir". I never mentioned anything to fellow sailors or anyone else until years after my Honorable Discharge from the Navy. I was Honorably Discharged from the Navy in December of 1967 at Jones Point Naval Training Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

On watch that night were a plotter on the DRT, one on the VG, myself on the radar scope and the watch officer. It was my distinct impression from hearing the airmen aboard during hour time that they were confused about why the heck they would have such an unscheduled launch and not be told what had been going on that night. It was their duty to arm aircraft, etc. to me they had been obviously kept in the dark on this one operation. I never said anything to them about what happened that night. During active duty I stood lookout watch night and day. I logged well over 1000 hours operating radar equipment and standing watch during my active duty with the sixth fleet. What I experienced



Aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt at sea  
This ship was involved in numerous UFO encounters

that night will never be forgotten. What I have experienced since discharge from active duty has become more fascinating as the years progressed. (end of quote).

### More testimony

But that isn't the end. Jordan had some other interesting comments for the Senators at the hearing, again, quoted here:

In 1985 I met Dr. John Kasher a physics professor at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. He was a consultant at Lawrence Livermore Labs in California and presently a summer consultant on plasma physics at Huntsville for NASA. He is currently the State Director for the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network of Nebraska. Dr. Kasher and I have personally investigated over 50 cases related to UFO's. These cases involve people from age 5 to 70's.

We have video tapes of private interviews, physical trace cases and lab reports. Some of these cases involved events which occurred on the ground simultaneous with STS-NASA missions. There are uncut, unenhanced video tapes produced by live-real-time NASA select 6 camera shots taken aboard the space shuttle. At present, cameras aboard the shuttle are monitored, the video signals are delayed several seconds and sometimes minutes before being fed to public video feed networks. Immediately after the STS-48 mission UFO mission flap in which Dr Kasher and I were involved, NASA began to delay the live feed. Their premise for altering the video coverage of each mission was that they didn't want the world privy to the medical condition of the astronauts. This is pure hogwash as never has the medical condition of the astronauts been public knowledge through video monitoring to public channels. We have a copy of the original NASA directive which went out from NASA to all ground facilities the day after STS-48 the UFO flap.

The UFO's which currently fly on station when the shuttle is up are being fired upon by high performance aircraft using state of the art particle beam weapons. The very character of a particle beam does not need an atmosphere to be seen it imparts its own coherence upon the vacuum of space. We have video tapes of STS-missions as recent as STS-80 during the month of March 1997 wherein one can clearly see these beams

coming up from the earth through the cloud cover below the space shuttle. What concerns us most here from our personal field experience is that out of all our private interviews with eye witnesses not one instance of a negative or sordid nature has been told to us. Virtually all close encounters on the ground have been very passive, bizarre and extraordinary to ordinary people whatever "ordinary" means these days is another matter. It is with great concern for our fellow Americans and citizens of the world at large we question the reasons for why UFO's are being fired upon. What the federal government of the United States of America knows about UFO's is not being shared. I question the current status of this posture and reasoning behind it. These matters might well be beyond knowledge of the Senate, Congress and, perhaps even the President of the United States. If public hearings were held regarding these scenarios there will be some red faces at the Pentagon and NASA regarding the issues of UFO's and the reality of their occupants. Many decent law abiding Americans have had real experiences and are prepared to come forward to share proofs. The truth needs to be brought forward without further hesitation. (end of quotes)

In a sense, this testimony by Jordan speaks for itself. It needs no interpretation by this writer.

In recent months, because I occasionally write about the UFO mystery, a few Broad Top readers have privately inquired of my colleagues, "Is he allright?"

Don't be concerned about me.

I am concerned about many of you.

I worry about people who are too absorbed in the trivial, mundane and uneventful events in their lives, that they don't have time or make time to ponder on grander ideas and mysteries.

# 'This phenomenon is real'

**Adjunct professor at Wagner College has made the study of unidentified flying objects his life's passion**

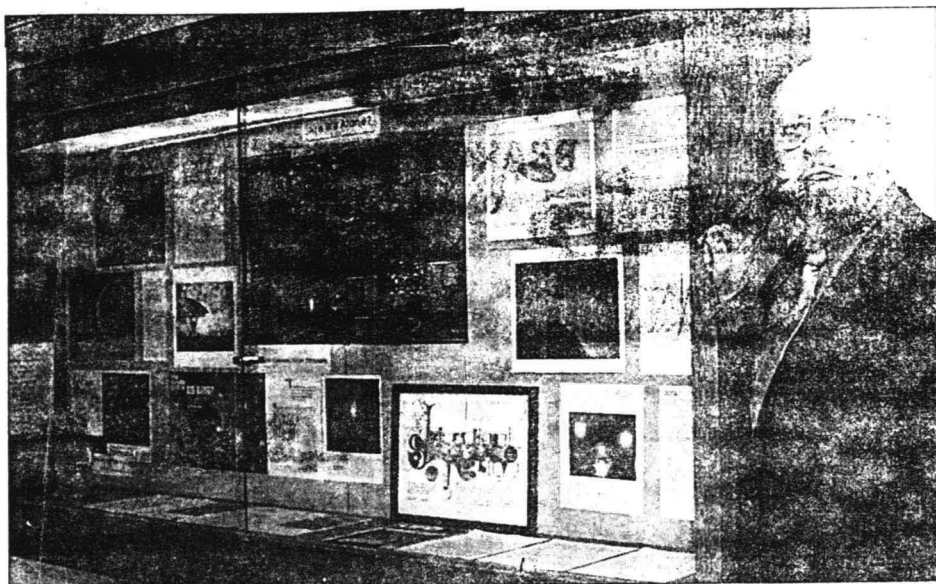
By BOB RAIMONTO  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Dennis Anderson was a typical 12-year-old. He was poking around his older brother Chip's room in their Tottenville home. He was specifically going through his sibling's desk looking for loose-leaf paper. What he found, instead, was a book on unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The discovery, in essence, helped shape his life.

Anderson is now 49 years old, the owner of 250 books on UFOs, the director of the Wagner College Planetarium, an adjunct professor of an undergraduate astronomy lab at the Grymes Hill school, a director of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York, the resident UFO expert on Staten Island Community Television's program "We Are Not Alone: UFO Phenomena," a member of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies of Chicago and a member of the Intruders Foundation of New York.

Anderson, a pleasant and soft-spoken man as well as a self-described "realist who accepts nothing on face value," is, not surprisingly, a fellow with a very strong opinion on UFOs.

"This phenomenon is real," he asserts.



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ JIN LEE

Dennis Anderson, director of the Wagner College Planetarium, stands next to a display on UFOs.

The book Anderson found all those years ago was "Report on Unidentified Flying Objects." It was written by Capt. Edward Ruppelt, a World War II bombardier who had been in charge of Project Blue Book, the official U.S. Air Force investigation of UFOs, flying saucers and the like.

"It sounded like science fiction," Anderson says of the Ruppelt tome. "But these people were talking fact, and my interest just grew from there."

The Air Force terminated Project Blue Book, and its official interest in unidentified flying objects, in 1969, after an Air Force-sponsored, 1,465-page study of UFOs by the University of Colorado, called the Condon Report, debunked the mysterious craft in its conclusions.

Nonetheless, Blue Book and Ruppelt's work whetted — nay, seized — Anderson's interest. From 1947, widely deemed the dawn of the modern saucer era, to 1969, a total of 12,618 sightings were reported to Blue Book, according to the Air Force. Of these, said the Air Force, only 701, or 5.5 percent, remained classified as "unidentified." The rest were dismissed as conventional aircraft, hoaxes, hallucinations, planets, stars, meteors — indeed, everything short of magic carpets.

But those 701 sightings fascinate Anderson and other private UFO researchers. They are especially intrigued by the possibility — and in many instances utterly convinced of the certainty — that the objects are interplanetary craft manned by non-human space travelers.

Many of the sightings were recorded during 1952, regarded as a UFO "flap" or "wave" year and a time when the diligent Ruppelt was active in Blue Book. Interestingly, some 75 of the sightings were made over American military installations; six over the Los Alamos (N.M.) and Oak Ridge (Tenn.) nuclear facilities, and six over Washington, D.C., itself.

One of those sightings over the nation's capital, on the night of July 26, 1952, has become the stuff of UFO legend for Anderson and others who share his views on this subject.

A number of lighted objects blithely flew through restricted air space over the White House and Capitol. The nocturnal air show delighted UFO buffs but caused consternation among military and civilian radar operators who tracked the objects on their scopes at Andrews Air Force Base and National Airport. The incident also did nothing for the nerves of the American jet interceptor pilots who were scrambled in pursuit. They professed to have seen nothing, except one pilot who did achieve radar lock on one object, only to watch it shoot away at a speed that surpassed belief.

The Central Intelligence Agency was not amused by this and other events, which included a similar performance by UFOs over Washington just one week earlier that oddly was not included among Blue Book "unidentifications." The CIA was particularly disturbed over the Los Alamos and Oak Ridge sightings.

"Incredible reports from credible observers," a perplexed agency memo writer said.

Yet the Air Force had cavalierly waved aside the Washington affair as a mere collective case of tem-

perature inversion. This was in keeping with its policy of denial as pertained to all UFO episodes — a policy seemingly inspired by fear of public panic, among other factors.

Indeed, years after the Washington extravaganza and the release of the Condon Report, the Air Force was still loyally toeing this governmental line, declaring that "nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of UFO investigations by the Air Force."

Anderson believes he knows better. He recently welcomed a visitor to his office in the Wagner College science building — a small space made smaller still by the presence of a palm tree, a desk overflowing with a computer and papers, and walls festooned with lunar maps and such.

"It's not usually this messy," he assures.

Anderson then takes his visitor to the Wagner planetarium, which he has run for about 11 years and which does a nice and deserved business in schoolchildren and others, and to a display outside the planetarium devoted to UFOs. One particular photo reproduction easily catches the eye.

"It's the Trent photo," he says of the shot taken on May 11, 1950 by Paul Trent in McMinnville, Ore. The picture is of a turreted saucer. It has been subjected to rigorous analysis and pronounced genuine. Even the Condon Report bowed in respect, declaring that "the simplest most direct interpretation of the photographs confirms precisely what the witnesses said they saw."

Later, in an amphitheater-like classroom, Anderson showed films and lectured a joint group of General Chemistry I and Science and Literature in Film students. Questions expressing skepticism came down from one professor and a number of students. Anderson answered politely, but there crept into his voice an edge betraying the true believer's impatience with heresy or doubt.

"I don't talk to my students about it (UFOs)," he says of his own undergrad lab. "I stick to the astronomy end of it."

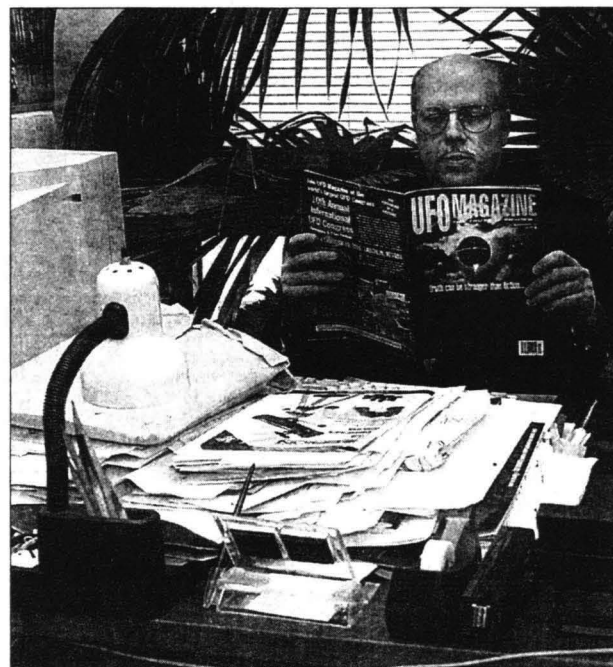
Anderson says that, in his view, the top UFO incident worldwide came in Trans-en-Provence, France, in January 1981. A farmer, Renato Nicolai, reported that an object, slightly smaller than the size of a car but with four circular openings in its base, touched down near his home and then a short time later took off.

"It left an impression on the ground," Anderson says. "It is the best physical trace case of all UFO cases."

But the French incident did nothing to top what Anderson considers the leading UFO experience on Staten Island.

As reported in the Advance in March 1975, two boys were inching their way through some frozen Annadale woods while under a starlit sky when they saw a large, orange, football-shaped object glowing in the distance. The boys gaped at the object as its sides converged on its center and it became no larger than a car tire. Then the object disappeared.

The youths told the Advance they returned the next morning and found that in the area they had seen the



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ JAN SOMMA

Dennis Anderson reads the latest UFO information in his office at Wagner College.

object, that trees had been snapped and burned 4 feet above the ground.

Anderson himself sniffed around the site not long after.

"What I found was that trees in the area were knocked down in a kind of radial pattern and that the earth was charred," he says. "I would say this is our best local (UFO) thing."

Anderson the amateur astronomer had his own sighting to report, making it sound somewhat insignificant compared to the experiences of others.

"Once through a telescope I saw something make a right-angle move," he said. "That's the only thing."

However, Anderson said that in the past year he received a report from a "fairly well-known person who had seen a black triangle in the sky above Staten Island" (apparently similar to the objects viewed by thousands in Belgium in 1989-91 and by substantially fewer people in Illinois in January of this year).

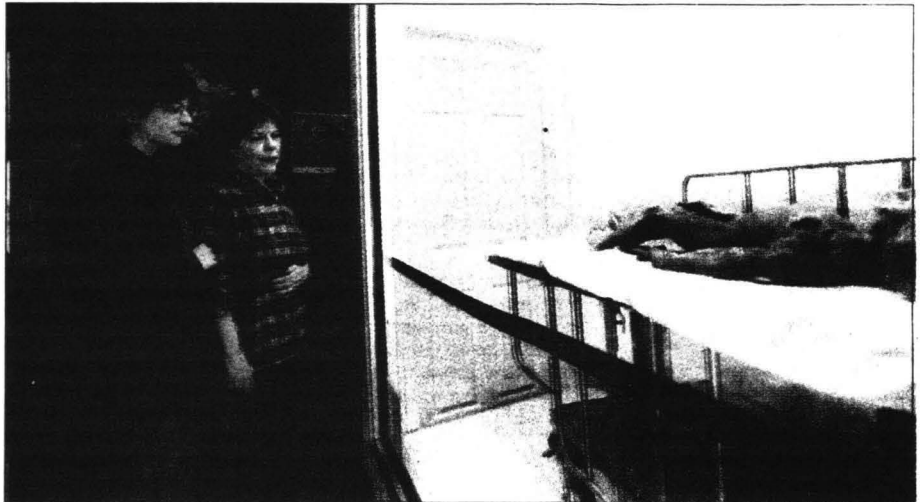
Anderson also said he has gotten "letters from people on Staten Island that sound like abduction to me."

He meant abduction of humans by aliens for the purpose, in most reported instances, of conducting medical experiments aboard their mystery craft. Anderson realizes this kind of thing is hard for people to believe.

"It sounds so much like science fiction that it is dif-

(continued on page 3)

## 200,000th visitor



Daily Record • Dave Getzschman

Kathy Smith of Paris, Mo., views an alien replica at the UFO Museum with her sister-in-law Nicole, left, Friday. Smith, who was in town to see her brother, became the 200,000th visitor to the museum in 2000. She was greeted at the door by Mayor Bill Owen and museum staff. "I thought I was in trouble," she said.

difficult to accept," Anderson says. "People will believe there is something flying around out there. Then there are people who believe that somebody is operating them. Then there are people who feel that if they are operating them why can't they come down among us. Everybody has a different level that they are willing to accept."

He adds:

"UFOs are complicated enough, but abductions are so complicated it's virtually impossible to explain it without somebody sounding crazy."

Budd Hopkins, a painter, sculptor and author (of three books on UFO abductions, "Missing Time," "Intruders" and "Witnessed"), appeared as the primary guest on the community television program "We Are Not Alone: UFO Phenomena" aired on Dec. 7.

"There are literally millions of people who have had abduction experiences," Hopkins said on the show. "This thing is far more systematic, and far more widespread, than anyone could have imagined."

Anderson, sitting beside Hopkins, did not contradict the author, who also is executive director of the Intruders Foundation set up to help people claiming they've been

kidnapped by aliens. Instead, at one point, Anderson notes that there are between 100 billion and 400 billion stars in our own galaxy and that "we now know 125 billion galaxies that exist," suggesting there are innumerable places where other life forms can be.

"We are talking about culture shock in general," Anderson says of any definitive discovery that the human species is not alone. "People would no longer be aligned to a particular country. They would suddenly be concerned with the welfare of an entire planet. Also, there would be religious and economic problems. Where would the aliens fit in?"

He adds:

"I can't tell you exactly what it (UFOs) is. It could be extraterrestrial. It could be inter-dimensional. It could be a combination of both. But whatever it is, in my opinion, it is a very real phenomenon."

In other words, science fiction is science fact.

A discovery that has helped shape Anderson since he found that book at age 12.

(Anderson urges anyone with information or questions on the UFO subject to call him at 390-3432, or write to him at Wagner College, 1 Campanella Rd., 10301.)

## STRANGER THAN FICTION

### UFO sightings returning to the San Luis Valley? -Late fall reports of unusual aerial activity

by Christopher O'Brien

In 2000 I have only received twenty-one reports of unusual aerial activity witnessed in the San Luis Valley. During January, February, April and August not a single report was filed with this investigator. This past fall, however, has been fairly active and I wonder how many sightings are going unreported.

Investigator David Perkins is looking into a fantastic sounding incident that occurred near San Luis earlier this month. More on this event next month.

Monday, December 18, at 7:10pm, two women, while driving west on CR X, toward Saguache, caught sight of a "big yellowish-white light," traveling slowly north to south over Moffat. They watched the light for two to three minutes and then called a relative back in Moffat to run outside and confirm their sighting. The witnesses reported the light was moving too slowly to be a low flying plane and that it did not exhibit normal FAA lighting. They estimated the object was flying at or under 500 feet in altitude. Their relative was unfortunately unable to spot the object.

#### A Daylight Sighting of a Flying Red Pencil

A woman visiting the Baca, while out walking Sunday, December 17, at 10:35am, heard what she thought was a "sonic boom." She looked up to locate the source of the sound and observed a hovering "pencil-shaped" object between her vantage point and the nearby Sangre de Cristo Mountains. She reported to a researcher friend of mine, "The object was a ruddy reddish color and she described it to me as being "around 15 to 20 feet long and about 3 to 4 feet wide." Coincidentally, while watching TV, I happened to hear a boom sound at the exact time of her alleged sighting. I thought it was a hot-dogging F-16 pilot breaking the

sound barrier and didn't bother to go outside and look for the source of the sound. I will next time!

December 13 may have been very active. At 9:35pm, I received a call from a puzzled witness, located just south of Alamosa, who called to say he was watching "a large, bright, white light" located 3/4s up the side of San Antonio Mountain. I immediately made a call to get confirmation of the sighting from a skywatcher near Antonito, but by the time he went out to observe the light, it had faded out.

That same night there may have been additional sightings to the west. I am trying to get firsthand confirmation from witnesses. Persistent rumors of anomalous light activity the same night over the Del Norte area surfaced several days later with two separate second-hand reports. A night-shift Rio Grande County deputy and the SO log did not list any reports, but the deputy told me an interesting story relayed to him by a relative stationed at Ft. Carson involving NORAD detection capability of ground activity in the dark.

#### The Green Balls Are Back?

On Thursday November 2, at 9:15pm, a Baca resident happened to look out over the valley and observed a "large, iridescent green ball" that appeared to be low in the sky to the west over the Center area. Initially the ball was about 25 degrees above the horizon but seemed to slowly sink. She nonchalantly described the object as being "a lot larger than a full moon" and remarked that, "it appeared luminescent green at first, but as it slowly drifted down [toward the horizon], it turned pale yellow in color." She estimated her sighting lasted 3 to 4 minutes.

During the second week of October, around 8:30pm, a woman, returning to her home near the Zapata Development, reported wit-

nessing a vivid "green light... that flew right in front of [my] car" while driving east on County Rd 6N toward the Great Sand Dunes. During our conversation December 23 she mentioned hearing about unusual light activity over Del Norte the night of December 13.

#### Intriguing Reports From Estes Park

Investigator Debra Lindemann, wife of futurist Michael Lindemann, has been informed of two "major sightings" that allegedly took place near Estes Park, Colorado, in September and October of this year. Estes Park is about 55 miles northwest of Denver.

Wednesday, September 6, between 9-9:30pm, a woman and her son and daughter-in-law were standing on the front porch when a "big white light came up from behind the hills" directly west of them. The witness described the craft as being about the size of a full moon and silent. "[It] came so fast... right up over the top of our heads. As it went over... I could see a triangular shape inside the big white light... and the [triangular] points were curved... Around the edges were these squiggly lines, I could almost say hieroglyphic-like." She estimated the object was visible between 15 to 30 seconds. "None of us even thought to run out back and see if it was still visible."

The son and daughter-in-law shared a second sighting on Sunday October 1. They described the object as looking like "two giant eighteen wheelers, with trailers, end to end!" The large object had two blue lights and one red light. "We looked at each other in disbelief, and when we looked back over it was gone... it just winked out." Thanks to Debra for witnesses quotes posted in Filer's File #51: majorstar@aol.com.

Please report any unusual events to this investigator @ (719) 256-4407 and don't forget to write everything down, immediately. I honor all requests for anonymity.

EAGLE, Crestone, CO  
Jan. 2001 CR: W. Jones



## NORM!

VEGAS  
CONFIDENTIAL

Some folks are still buzzing about what some consider a UFO sighting high above the Thomas & Mack on Dec. 1, opening night of the National Finals Rodeo. Dozens watched as a large on-property searchlight — the largest in the world at 50,000 watts — locked on to the cylindrical object, which didn't move for 45 minutes. "We haven't received any calls," said Tech Sgt. Charles Ramey of Nellis Air Force Base Public Affairs office.

# Strange sights seen in Surprise Valley

CEDARVILLE — A recent flurry of unexplained lights have residents of Surprise Valley and Davis Creek watching the night skies on both sides of the Warner Mountains.

Earlier this month a Surprise Valley woman was awakened in the early morning hours when she saw what she described as three large and very bright lights descending through the trees adjacent to her home.

The lights were lost from view when they set behind the garage. The woman then ran into the living room hoping to see the lights continue on their southern trajectory. The light did not reappear on the south side of her home.

The woman called the Surprise Valley airport and asked if any unusual readings had been detected on

radar. Airport personnel told the woman they do not have radar. An object below the mountains would not show up on distant radar tracking facilities.

The woman was referred to Jean Bilodeaux of Cedarville, a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network. MUFON is an international organization devoted to the scientific investigation of unidentified flying objects and other unexplained phenomena.

"This woman, as all the other people who have reported seeing UFOs in the last month or so, is beyond reproach," said Bilodeaux. "Upon seeing the lights she quickly went through what is referred to as an escalating hypothesis eliminating the options such as whether it was a car, star, planet, plane or helicopter.

"She was soon left with two possibilities, a stealth-type aircraft or a UFO. Since the lights were very close, did not have running lights, and was completely silent, it would probably fall into the UFO category."

Bilodeaux said last month a couple near Davis Creek reported seeing a house-sized bright light slowly traveling along the face of the Warner Mountains in a southerly direction. The light

turned and flew upward into the pass near Joseph Creek. It then appeared to hover for a few moments before disappearing. The sighting lasted about 15 minutes.

On Dec. 4, a Surprise Valley man called his wife to come outside and together they watched as three large-sized lights traveled north, then flew upward before dropping behind the Warners to the northwest. The couple watched the light for about five minutes.

"We are fortunate in this area because there are not a lot of bright lights obscuring our view of the night sky," said Bilodeaux. "Most people around here know the commercial airplane routes and tend to notice something out of the ordinary. I'm not saying these are all piloted by little green or gray men, but it is fascinating to speculate on the possibilities."

Bilodeaux collects UFO sighting reports, looking for patterns, similarities and answers to what she calls "this continuing mystery." Some of her cases have received attention on nationally broadcast television and radio shows.

Bilodeaux asks that anyone seeing something they cannot explain contact her at (530) 279-2031 or e-mail her at: jeanb@hdo.net.

SUN-TIMES, Chicago, IL - Jan. 13, 2001

## Lights in sky over Rockford spark talk of UFOs

Unexplained lights that appeared in the skies over Rockford on Thursday night were causing a stir among northwestern Illinois residents, some of whom believe the lights were UFOs. Locals reported seeing up to nine bright orange lights, some of which appeared to move before fading, in Rockford and the Quad Cities. The local NBC television affiliate, WREX, was flooded with calls and has video footage of the lights. The Federal Aviation Administration said it did not find anything unusual on its radar.

OKLAHOMA GAZETTE, Oklahoma City, OK - Nov. 29, 2000

## UFOs using clouds cover?

Be careful next time you see a pretty cloud — it could be a UFO in disguise. That's according to Canadian "ufologist" Dennis Richardson, who said he's taken several photographs of UFOs hiding behind fake clouds made out of cotton or polyester. He said he can tell the clouds are phony because they have sharply defined edges, hang lower than regular clouds and travel in the opposite direction of regular clouds. Richardson has used computer programs to analyze the photos and said he's detected wires and other machinery that prove there are spaceships hiding behind them. He also claimed the cloud-shrouded UFOs have sent him personal messages, including puffs of smoke he thinks are kisses, as well as smiley faces hidden in the clouds.

As you can see, U.S. clippings are very scarce again this month. I don't like having to go back to the 1950's and 1960's in order to fill up an issue, but I hope you'll find something of interest here. Please send any clippings from your local papers. -- L.F.

# LOOKING BACK

Shaped like a cross

## UFO reported over Big Island

By JACK BRYAN  
State Editor

HILO—An unidentified flying object shaped like a lighted cross and possibly suspended from a balloon moved across the sky above Hilo for 10 minutes last night.

Then it went out "like someone had turned a switch" as it floated over the downtown area, according to Ed Shirley, Federal Aviation Agency controller at the Hilo Airport tower.

Shirley described it as "a horizontal cross with arms of equal length, of very bright white light."

"There appeared to be an object above it and attached," he said.

"This seemed unstable, like a gas-filled or free balloon, with white and orange stripes, much larger than the cross-shaped object."

"It appeared to be swinging, and to reflect light from the object below."

There was speculation that a balloon with lights might have been launched by a prankster, perhaps inspired by a Honolulu incident.

Last Saturday night in Honolulu someone set plastic bags or balloons aloft with burning candles which set the plastic afire.

In Hilo the object was first reported by Edwin Nabarro and his wife, Alma, of 60 Pilipaa Street in the Hawaiian Homes subdivision in Panaewa, just south of the town.

"It looked at first like a double light —bright orange — and was rising in the east towards the ocean," Mrs. Nabarro said.

She called the police at

9:12 p.m., then returned to watch it.

The object, which now looked like a single light, seemed to float toward the airport, then changed direction and moved over the city.

They were watching when it "went out like a light" over the city.

Mrs. Nabarro said it was very bright, and appeared bigger than a star —"much bigger."

Shirley picked up the object with his seven-power glasses south of the airport at 9:15 p.m. after a call from the police.

He called Roy Sodetani

from the Weather Bureau office under the tower, who came up with the more powerful glasses used to track metrological balloons.

The arms of the cross appeared to be solid through Shirley's glasses, but Sodetani said he could make out a series of individual lights.

They traced the twin objects as they moved at a steady pace north-northwest over the city.

But they could not estimate the size, height or speed.

"Then, over the city, it went out like someone had turned a switch — there was no dimming," Shirley said.

Several Hilo police officers on patrol also saw the object and chased it until the light went out.

It was the second U.F.O. sighting reported to Hilo police in a week.

Last Friday morning just after dawn Daniel Thompson, garage superintendent of Hamakua Mill Company, said he saw a blue-green object streaking over the ocean north of Paauilo.

No one else reported that one.

STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Aug. 23, 1955

### They're Stealing Our Stuff

## 'Little Green Men From Spaceship' Give Family In Kentucky Night Of Terror

Hopkinsville, Ky. (UP) — A Kentucky farm family near here had local, county and state police in a quandary yesterday with reports of a visit from a "spaceship with little green men" aboard.

Cecil Sutton, his family and several relatives said they were up all night fending off the little men who glowed with an inner illumination while climbing trees and crawling about the roof of his home.

Hundreds of neighbors and curiosity seekers thronged the Suttons' yard and the neighboring fields yesterday and some returned last night to see if the spacemen come again.

Kentucky State police and local sheriff's officers who investigated the weird reports from the Sutton home six miles north of here were unable to find any trace of the "space visitors."

"That is because they used lights all over the place,"

Sutton said, "you can't see them except in the dark."

WHEN ASKED IF they expected the spacemen to return, Mrs. Sutton said, "That's what I'm skittered about. They might be back."

The Suttons told this tale of the nightmarish visit:

About 7:30 Sunday evening, Bill Taylor, a visiting relative, went to a well near the home and came back to the house excitedly talking of a "spaceship" in a nearby field.

A few minutes later, "a little green man" approached the house. "He was about 3 feet tall, with eyes like saucers and set about 6 inches apart, with hands like claws and glowing all over," Sutton said.

About five feet from the door of the house he stopped and retreated when the Suttons fired a shotgun off into the air.

BUT SOON HE returned again, and the Suttons fired

at him. He fell down from the blast, and then ran off into the fields.

Later more of the men returned and climbed about the trees and on the roof of the house which the beleaguered Suttons watched furtively.

After about three hours, the Suttons ran for their car and went into Hopkinsville to call the sheriff.

Deputy George Batts and two state troopers failed to find any clues to the visit during a thorough search of the grounds, but after they left the Suttons said the little men were still there and remained until dawn.

The police officers said there definitely was no one drinking at the Sutton home Sunday night.

Seven adults and three children were in the home during the reported visit from outer space.

TRIBUNE, Chicago, IL - Jan. 23, 1958

### FLYING SAUCER AD LIB CUT BY VIDEO NETWORK

New York, Jan. 22 (AP)—The Columbia Broadcasting system cut off the sound tonight on its Circle Theater TV program as Donald Keyhoe, a former marine corps major, launched into an ad lib discussion of flying saucers.

A network employe said the sound was cut because Keyhoe had started to digress from the teleprompter and "nobody knew what he was going to say."

Later, CBS issued a state-

ment signed by Keyhoe saying the whole incident was "due to a misunderstanding on my part about the rules for approval of script changes. "I wish to make it plain that this was not an attempt at censorship on the part of Armstrong Circle Theater or CBS."

Keyhoe, who has written that he believes that some flying saucer reports have a real basis in fact, had just said these words when the sound faded: "We are meeting in secret with a congressional committee. If these meetings were public it would be proved. . . ."

## Two UFO's are reported

Two "unidentified flying objects" were reportedly sighted over Oahu last night.

Police received the calls from widely separated areas of Honolulu.

Henry Yamada, of 280 Moomuku Place in Kuliouou, reported seeing a glowing red object over Kokohead before 8:30 p.m.

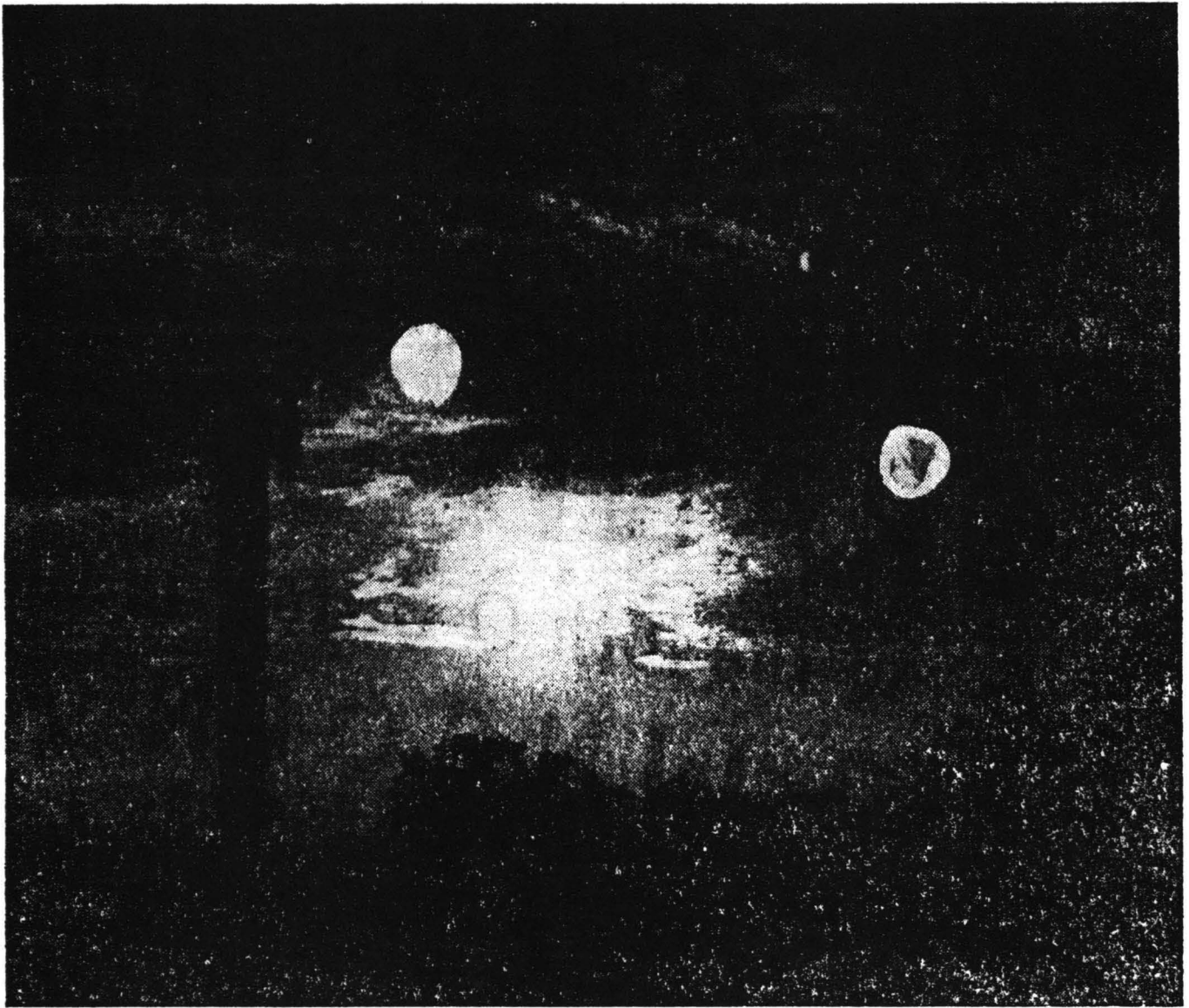
He could not distinguish the shape or size while it hovered for about 10 minutes in one place, he told an officer. By the time he found his binoculars, the object left. It made no sound, he said.

B. J. Lum, of 1322 Moku Place, Makiki, called police to report seeing a flying object over the mountains shortly after 6 p.m.

Lum left his residence before an officer arrived to take his report.

*Are Martians Watching Us?—*

# FLYING SAUCERS SAIL OVER LAKE VIEW?



MARTIANS OVER LAKE VIEW? Mildred Maier, 3812 N. Ashland, thinks so. Miss Maier took the above photo from her window on June 30 when the sun eclipsed. She, and scientists are puzzled over the "flying objects" which showed up on either side of the sun in her photograph.

## 2 Seen in Photo of Eclipse

**Millie Maier's Shot  
Mystifies Experts**

The Martians may be watching you, neighbor!

At least, that's the assumption presented by photos taken the morning of June 30, when the sun eclipsed over Lake View.

Early that day, neighbor Mildred Maier, 3812 N. Ashland, an amateur photographer, looked out the east window of her home.

She aimed her camera at the sun, and took a picture.

Because she shielded her eyes, the photographer didn't see too much of the eclipse. But when she developed the photographs, Miss Maier discovered two "unidentifiable objects" flying on either side of the sun.

She quickly examined all of the photos she had taken to see whether or not the pictures had reflections in them. Since the objects showed up in even the darkest prints, she decided that the objects were real! If they had been reflections, they would have disappeared in the darker prints.

Unable to believe her eyes, and afraid of jumping to conclusions, Miss Maier sent the photos, with a letter of explanation, to National Geographic and Life magazines, and to Frank Ed-

wards, news commentator for WGN.

All three photos were returned with letters that told Miss Maier to see a scientist or astronomer. Edwards asked to see the negative, with which Miss Maier refused to part.

In order to clear up the question of "Flying Saucers in Lake View," Miss Maier took the pictures to the Adler Planetarium.

A spokesman at the planetarium told Miss Maier that there was no evidence that the objects were "flying saucers." She reported the spokesman as saying, "We are told to debunk such theories."

Next, Miss Maier tried Northwestern university, where she was told that Dr. Kaj Strahl, astronomer, was in Arizona taking photographs of Mars.

The Lake View woman has lived in this neighborhood for

17 years, is known throughout the city for her work in radio, television, and on the stage. For many years she and her sister, Marie, were known theatrically as the Gale Sisters. The two women live with their mother, Marie Maier, at the Ashland address.

Miss Maier, who has been taking pictures for 15 years, said that photographing a flying saucer is an entirely new experience for her.

When taking the "questionable" pictures, Miss Maier used a yellow filter and sun shade on a Speed Graphic camera.

Miss Maier and the scientists don't understand how her pictures showed two "flying saucers" when hundreds of newspaper pictures taken of the eclipse failed to show the objects. Miss Maier doesn't know what the "objects are" and neither do the scientists. Do you?



## FOREIGN NEWS

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

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - Oct. 27, 2000 CR: G. Conway

# The truth is out there – and appreciated

By **CHUCK TOBIN**  
Star Reporter

A UFO specialist believes the top-level secrecy placed around the phenomena of UFOs is coming to an end, quickly.

Stan Friedman says it might be as soon as five or 10 years when governments like the United States start sharing what they know.

In the meantime, he suspects they secretly appreciate the efforts of UFO investigators like himself and others who stand front and centre with their insistence that unidentified flying objects do indeed exist.

Changing the traditional mindset with a barrage of information about UFOs, and making it OK to believe in them, will only make it easier in the end for government to show its hand and promote public acceptance, he says.

"I am an old man," jests the nuclear physicist by trade. "I want it to happen pretty soon."

Friedman was among a list of prominent UFO investigators who headlined the Yukon's first UFO conference held earlier this month. In addition to the headline speakers were two eyewitnesses who told of their encounters with UFOs while living in the Yukon.

The theme of the conference, funded with a \$17,000-grant from the Yukon government millennium fund, was to highlight the wealth of international experience dealing with UFOs, with an aim of reducing the ridicule faced by those who tell of their experience.

To the 304 who signed up for the conference, the internationally renowned investigator delivered anecdote after anecdote of what they laid

before the audience as overwhelming evidence of UFOs.

Disbelievers, from the layperson to the academic scholar, fall into one of a few categories, Friedman says: They're ignorant of the facts; they want to steer clear of the ridicule factor; they're unwilling to use the existing understanding of technology to understand flying saucers, or their ego simply can't handle it.

**"So if you are a believer, you are the cream of the crop, not at the bottom of the barrel,"**

- Stan Friedman

Friedman recites a comment from a person he described as a prominent U.S. astronomer: "If they were coming here, they would want to talk to me, and they have not asked for an appointment, so they are not coming here."

The naysayers, Friedman says, commonly ask why there are never any sightings over large cities; why only one person only ever sees a UFO; why are sightings only made by crackpots; why there's never any radar confirmation of objects that can't be identified; why there are never any pictures.

There's ample evidence on the books about sightings over large cities, confirmed by several eyewitnesses, Friedman tells the audience. Multi-wit-

ness sightings, he insists, are commonplace. (Martin Jasek, conference organizer and local UFO investigator, recounted the December 1996 incident, witnessed by 31 Yukoners, from motorists travelling near Fox Lake to residents of Carmacks, Pelly Crossing and Mayo.)

Friedman said UFO reports are not just made by the town drunk staggering home after having too many. They're made by pilots, air force pilots, commercial jumbo-jet pilots, and professionals from all walks of life.

There are scads of radar records of unidentified objects, just as there have been countless photos taken and produced, Friedman says.

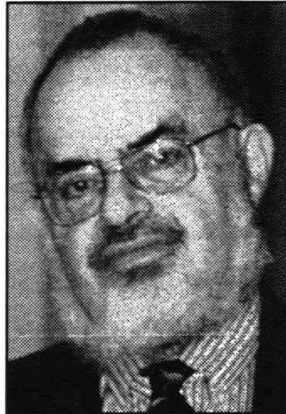
In fact, says Friedman, public polls indicate the greater an individual's education, the more likely he or she will believe in UFOs.

"So if you are a believer, you are the cream of the crop, not at the bottom of the barrel," he tells the audience. "If you are a believer, you are one of the good guys, you are on the right side of the tracks."

Friedman cites the famous case of a woman who drew a map depicting routes of space travel after maintaining her and her husband were abducted in 1961, and that she had obtained the information for the map from one of her abductees.

The chart never lined up through the mid-'60s with known three-dimensional charts of the universe surrounding the earth. Only after 1968, when advancements in space measurements allowed for a more accurate 3-D recreation, did the map line up, Friedman says.

The five or six stars connected in the map, including the sun, were all of the type – just like the sun – where one could expect to see life begin and



**STAN FRIEDMAN**

evolve, Friedman tells the audience.

And some of those stars, he says, are as much as a billion years older than earth.

What if life in another part of the universe where to have a billion-year head start on life on earth, Friedman asked the audience.

"Why is this relevant?" Friedman asks. "Because somebody with a billion years' head start on us is going to know something we don't."

Friedman suggests by looking how far technology on Earth has come in just 50 years, one can imagine where it will be in a million years, or even just 10,000 years.

The man who once worked on the development of nuclear rocket engines for the private sector, under contract for the U.S. air force, recounted for the conference his experience dealing with the Roswell, New Mexico affair.

It's believed by Friedman and others that two flying saucers crashed in

the Roswell area in the summer of 1947, and that the wreckage and alien bodies were recovered and put under wraps by the U.S. government.

Friedman, who's co-authored and authored a book on Roswell and events surrounding the incident, says he has every reason to believe the U.S. is covering up the event. He says he's conducted interviews with dozens who were there, or who had family in the area at the time. The evidence, he insists, is overwhelming.

And it was only in the early '70s while pursuing UFO investigations that he came across the Roswell incident. Otherwise, it would still be lying dormant, he says.

News of a suspected UFO landing surfaced one morning in June 1947, and by the very next day, the air force was hosting a media event to show that wreckage seen by eyewitnesses had fallen from a radar-reflecting balloon. End of story.

But not for Friedman. He suggests that if he can get his next book out within the year, along with a documentary video, the shrouds of secrecy governments have placed over their UFO files will disappear in as few as five years.

What would UFOs be doing in the middle of desert country, New Mexico in 1947?

Friedman says advanced societies don't typically take notice of the more rudimentary civilizations until they have cause to, or perhaps feel threatened.

In 1947, he says, New Mexico was the only place on the planet where you could find advanced atomic weaponry, the advanced U2 high-altitude spy plane and powerful radars; in other words, the things that other life forms might take notice of.

WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES, Cocker mouth, England - Sept. 1, 2000

## Cigars and silver discs over the Solway Firth

Andrea Thompson talks to West Cumbrian UFO researcher Sharon Larkin

FLIMBY is once again at the centre of UFO investigations following a spate of sightings of strange aerial phenomenon.

Local UFO researcher and investigator Sharon Larkin is busy looking into reports of cigar-shaped craft seen in the area on several different occasions in recent weeks.

A motorist was travelling along the main road through the village at about 4am one morning when he spotted an unusual object in the sky, hovering above the footbridge at the railway station.

Sharon said he described it as cigar-shaped with port hole windows along the side. She is also investigating two bright white lights which she managed to capture on video camera, chasing each other through the sky in the early hours of the morning a few weeks ago.

The latest sighting Sharon is looking into was reported by a shop keeper in Maryport and concerns a mysterious silver disc seen hovering over the Solway Firth last week.

As well as being busy with reports of flashing lights and strange craft in the skies above, Sharon is also researching the phenomenon of the 'alien' (out of place as opposed to extraterrestrial) big cat - one of the famous examples being the Beast of Bodmin Moor.

Her investigation - which began when she heard about a woman's traumatic encounter with a very large black puma-like creature in Camerton in May - has been fuelled by a number of other sightings, some of which suggest that there could have been a paranormal predator on the prowl for several years.

Sharon told the *Times & Star* that one of her most recent reports of the mystery beast came from a man in

Sharon Larkin keeps an eye out over the Solway. Sharon is investigating UFO sightings over Flimby and off the coast at Maryport. And she is carrying on investigations into the mysterious Camerton cat, first spotted in May



the Dumfries area, who contacted her last week after seeing what he described as a large puma-like cat walking up the middle of the road. She is now working with paranormal research groups around the country to discover if the strange feline creature could be the same as that seen in Camerton - and if it is connected to the Beast of Bodmin Moor - sightings of which still continue in Cornwall.

An 11-year-old boy claimed at the weekend that he had been attacked by a black panther as he played in a field near his home at Trelleck, near Monmouth on the Welsh border.

Josh Hopkins said the beast, which was estimated to be 2ft tall and 5ft long, swiped him with its claw and bit into the top of his head.

Gwent Police said they are taking the incident 'very seriously' and on

Saturday sent out their helicopter to search for the beast with heat-seeking equipment.

● A would-be Dana Scully style X-Files special agent who has dedicated her life to researching strange and unexplained phenomena, Sharon has attracted considerable attention both nationally and internationally with her claims that West Cumbria is a hotbed of UFO activity.

The investigations/administration director of North West Cumbria UFO Research and Investigations and a member of Central Investigations into Paranormal Activity and PRO-JECT FT (Research into Flying Triangles) was recently featured on an international skywatch programme, shown as part of Channel 5's sci-fi weekend.

She can be contacted on 0778 8543850.

## The midnight cowboys are a real menace

MAIL ON SUNDAY, London, England - Sept. 10, 2000 CR: S. Gerrard

I read, with extreme dismay, Peter Hillmore's article on crop circles. Why, oh why, is the glorification of activities of overgrown schoolboy vandals considered to be so worthy?

Are farmers queueing up to prosecute them for wilful damage or are they working in collusion with these mischief-makers and filing insurance claims? Scientists in this country will be unable to obtain funding to properly investigate crop circles until the activities of these midnight cowboys have been truly discredited.

**Roy Dutton**  
Torquay, Devon

... Peter Hillmore should know that we are now able to distinguish between genuine and man-made crop formations. Scientific tests show significant changes in seeds against control samples and bottles of water have shown changes in resonances. Bacteria levels differed against control samples in blind tests and seeds taken from genuine formations germinate more quickly and need less water during their growing period.

None of these changes occurs in man-made formations.

**Lucy Pringle**  
Petersfield, Hants

... Two points: If these crop circles are man-made - and at night - why is it we never see any mistakes? And during all these years why has no one been prosecuted for damaging a crop?

**David Woolgar**  
Hurstpierpoint, W. Sussex

National news

# Fined – for running rings round crop circles



## Debunking 'aliens' theory lands computer programmer in court

Geoffrey Gibbs

An unemployed computer programmer yesterday became the first person to be fined for creating an elaborate crop circle – an act he claimed he carried out in a bizarre effort to debunk wild theories about its origin.

Matthew Williams, with the help of a friend, used planks and bamboo poles to make an elaborate seven-pointed star in a Wiltshire field of ripening wheat over three nights in August.

Williams, 29, of Bishops Cannings, near Devizes, Wiltshire, decided to act after becoming incensed by the claims of Michael Glickman, a former professor of architecture who has studied crop circles for many years.

He heard Professor Glickman claim on an American radio show that it was impossible for a human to create a seven-pointed star shape in a crop field – it could only have been created by aliens.

After listening to the show via the internet, Williams contacted the show's presenter by email dismissing Prof Glickman's claims.

When the presenter challenged him to prove the professor wrong, Williams went under cover of darkness with his friend to the field at Manor Farm, West Overton,

near Marlborough, to create the design. He then emailed a picture of the work to the presenter. It was passed on to the professor who alerted police.

Yesterday, in what is thought to be the first prosecution of its kind in Britain, he admitted a charge of causing criminal damage to farmland and was fined £100.

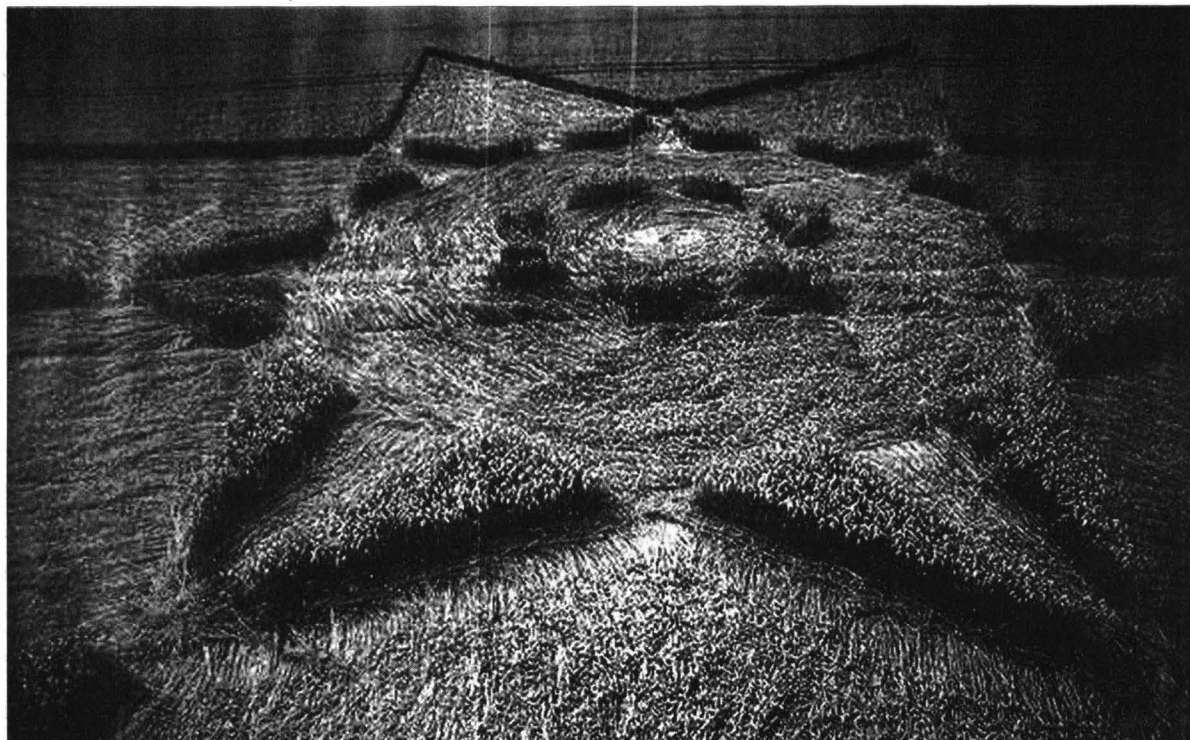
Devizes magistrates heard that Williams had become increasingly angry at Glickman's claims that crop-circles were the work of "strange forces, aliens or otherwise".

Stephen Clifford, defending Williams said: "His desire was to prove Mr Glickman wrong."

The court heard that in a police interview Williams was "quite candid" and admitted creating the circles, going into some detail about how he did it using planks and bamboo.

Mr Clifford told the court: "My client has strong beliefs that the public were being misled. His actions did not result in any financial gain for himself. He showed no malice to the farmer. Crop circles are known to boost tourism. He was simply trying to prove that a seven point star can be man-made."

Magistrate Geoffrey Olsen told Williams he was unable to order him to compensate farmer Michael Maude who suffered damage to a crop of winter wheat put at £200. He



Matthew Williams (above left) was fined £100 after he created this elaborate crop circle in a wheat field near Devizes, Wiltshire. He told the court he was angry at claims on a US radio show that seven-point stars could only be the result of extra-terrestrial activity Photographs: Chris Ison, James Wilson

said the farmer would have to pursue compensation through other agencies.

Fining him and ordering him to pay £40 costs, the magistrate told Williams: "If you had found out who owned the field before you did what you did then the bench would certainly not be hearing this case today."

"We suggest in future that before you go running around making artificial circles you get permission from whoever owns the field otherwise you will be committing criminal damage."

Outside court, Williams, who has set up his own magazine and website devoted to crop circles, said it had never been his intention to mislead. But he believed the academic world was conning the public

into believing crop circles were an extraterrestrial phenomenon.

"There are some real circles but unfortunately there are researchers who aren't telling the truth," he claimed. "There is a phenomenon that is being ignored."

"A lot of people will be upset

by the creation of this seven-point star because they have a lot to lose by the truth coming out. The general public are being conned. The majority of crop circles are man-made, although I do believe some are the work of the paranormal."

"Researchers are spoiling the real truth and are deter-

mined to say that all crop formations are the result of another life form – when they know this is not always the case."

Crop circle students refused to allow the courtroom admission detract from their studies.

Francine Blake, coordinator of the 400 member Wiltshire

Crop Circle Study Group, said she believed vandals were trying to take advantage of the interest in crop circles to get into the news. Speaking from California she added: "There is a phenomenon here and they are trying to muddy the waters and take advantage of the situation for self publicity."

## Theories and myths

Crop circles became known to the public after a report in 1980 about circles that appeared below Westbury White Horse in Wiltshire. Since then numerous theories have emerged for their sudden overnight appearances

**Wind** In 1989, meteorologist George Terence Meaden put forward a theory of natural wind forces.

**Aliens** There have been many reports of suspected UFO sightings in the vicinity of crop circles. Some believe they are messages from another world. Others believe they are cosmic messages. Crop-circle researchers have also claimed to see lights whizzing around.

**Hoaxers** In 1992 two artists in their 60s, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, appeared on TV to claim responsibility for all the simple circles that had been appearing in English fields since the mid-Seventies. They showed how they did it, with a garden roller and ropes.

**Magnetic fields** A scientist, Colin Andrews, claimed earlier this year that some crop circles are caused by shifts in the earth's magnetic field. He believes crops can be 'electrocuted' by the effect, flattening them into circles.

**Sally James Gregory**

COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE, Essex, England - July 26, 2000

# UFO group put on hold

A UFO group has come down to earth with a bump – due to a lack of interest. There will be no more sightings of the Colchester branch of Essex UFO and Paranormal Research Group as it has given up holding meetings for the rest of the year.

Its last meeting saw a woman giving a talk on the psychic phenomenon of "automatic drawing". However the meeting was also told that it would be the last meeting of the Colchester branch for the current year due to insufficient support. Michael Joyce, chairman of the group, runs the Colchester branch.

He said: "It seems to us there is not much interest in UFOs any more."

"It is happening all over the country, groups are folding."

"I think maybe it is a case

of a lot of people who get their information from the internet or television."

He said there were about four regulars from Colchester, but there was more enthusiasm in Clacton.

**GATHERINGS**

However it is hoped the group may be launched again next year.

Mr Joyce, who also runs the Clacton branch meetings, said anyone could still attend its gatherings, held on the

first Wednesday of each month, at The Friends Meeting House in Granville Road, Clacton.

Their guest speaker for the meeting on August 2, will be celebrity alien abductee Ros Reynolds of Little Clacton.

Information can be obtained from Michael on 01255 821121.

● A Holland-on-sea man has told how he spotted a UFO while driving home.

Richard Smith, of Seaford Gardens, said he was driving

back from Harwich to Holland with his parents when he saw a bright light in the sky.

He added: "We saw this light right up until we got to Kirby Cross when we stopped the car straight away because the spot light was coming straight towards us."

The object then went after five minutes but could still be seen from Mr Smith's home for several hours afterwards, he added.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Sept. 27, 2000

## UFO view is altered

I HAVE always held a degree of scepticism about the existence of UFOs – but not any longer.

Being ex-RAF, I have always observed the flight path of military jet planes, leaving behind their streams of white vapour as they travel at great speed high up in the heavens.

Last week, I was standing in our back garden overlooking the hills beyond Denby and I observed many military jets flying from the south-east. They were travelling at fantastic speed. I would assume that they were 3,000 feet high.

Suddenly, from out of a bank of cloud I observed what I thought to be a round piece of cloud breaking away from the mass.

But, as it drew away, it flew at a fantastic speed, outstripping the jet planes. It cut across their vapour trails. I was fascinated with its round shape and fantastic speed until it disappeared.

I am now a firm believer that something mysterious is happening above us.

Arthur Barker,  
Main Street,  
Horsley Woodhouse.

# THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

The world of the UFO disciple is one of alien encounters, conspiracy theories and the search for truth. But for every believer that life outside planet Earth exists, there is a sceptic waiting to disprove their claims. Here, SARAH WINSTANLEY speaks to a real-life UFO investigator about his beliefs, finds a woman who claims to have been abducted by aliens and talks to a professor who spends his time debunking the theories ...



**ELAINE KING:**  
"I look at the stars at night and think 'Where are you?'"

## The woman who says: I was abducted to an alien spaceship

ELAINE KING'S alien experience went further than just seeing a UFO. The 40-year-old from Tetney, near Grimsby, believes she was actually abducted by aliens and taken to their spaceship at 9.30am on March 24 this year.

Miss King said: "I was in bed and felt myself getting weaker and weaker, like I was collapsing. The next thing I knew, I was in a corridor made of a steel-like material."

Miss King opened a door and found a human male 'spread-eagled' on a table with aliens peeling off his skin to look at his insides.

She added: "There was a female being, who was milky white and wearing some sort of wig, I think it was to try and make her look less frightening and more human."

"She communicated to me, telling me not to worry about my cats and dog and that they would be looked after."

"She didn't speak to me in words, just put these thoughts in my head. She didn't scare me, I think she was trying to help."

Miss King thought she was going to die, but suddenly she was back in her bed. Only 11 minutes had passed. "I was so shocked, I thought I was gone for good," she added.

Miss King claims she's had other alien encounters, including seeing lights in the sky, having out-of-body experiences, hearing unexplained humming and seeing UFOs while out riding her pony.

"Aliens are everywhere, I'm sure of it," Miss King said. "I look at the stars at night and think 'Where are you?'"

"I'm not worried about them coming back. I just know they are out there."

On the same day as Miss King's abduction, a fruiterer from Freeman Street in Grimsby believes he saw a UFO hovering in the sky. Tony Kelsey (37) claimed he saw a still, pure white, unearthly object in the sky.

Adrian Cross, an investigator in the Grimsby area for the UFO investigatory body Quest International, went to see Miss King after her abduction experience.

Mr Cross (51) said: "Miss King has been aware of these abductions since she was a child. She has described the occupants and the interior of the craft. She also mentioned having seen a bearded gentleman who appeared to be laid on a table with four wires entering his chest and stomach."

"I believe that Miss King's story is completely genuine. She is one of the thousands of isolated individuals being subjected to the phenomenon worldwide."

"Of the cases I have investigated, they have all been genuine. The main reason people don't come forward is because they are afraid of ridicule."



**VIC METCALF** is an ordinary man with extra-ordinary beliefs. In his eyes, life on Earth is an alien experiment and UFO sightings are the alien's way of checking on their project.

The Lincoln man spent over two years collecting and investigating UFO sightings across Lincolnshire.

But, but due to a "security leak", he had to abandon the project.

His beliefs, however, live on ...

"I believe humans were put on the Earth by some other race, someone from another space and time, and that UFO sightings are their way of visiting our planet to keep an eye on us," said Mr Metcalf, who set up the now disbanded Lincoln UFO Association four years ago.

"To them, thousands of our years are just like an hour, so it doesn't take long for them travel to our planet to check up on us."

"I think they want to see how long it takes before we start exploring the universe."

"The technology is there, it just comes down to lack of money."

"I get quite despairing because I see films like Star Wars, but it's not happening in the real world."

"I know it won't happen in my lifetime, but you never know, they might invent a pill that'll make you live for 200 years!"

Mr Metcalf (40), of Caenby Road, Lincoln, believes that the human race is 'alien' in itself.

"I think humans are an alien race," he said. "We were created from the big bang which happen when a rock from space hit the Earth, so if you think about it, we are space people ourselves."

Although he has spent years investigating UFOs, he believes a lot of misinformation is put out by the authorities to discredit alien sightings.

"If you look at incidents like Roswell, where the US authorities found an alien being, there is only so much time people can put into investigating one experience before the facts become distorted," said Mr Metcalf, who works as an assistant manager at car parts supplier Brown Brothers in Lincoln.

"There are so many stories about Roswell that

## Why a 'security leak' turned a Lincoln probe into the ex-files

it becomes unbelievable. Maybe that's a form of misinformation by the authorities put out to debunk the story.

"I've met people investigating alien sightings who have had run-ins with the men in black."

"They have been followed and told not to continue their investigations."

When his own investigations were active, Mr Metcalf believes he was the target of monitoring by the authorities.

"I'm 99 per cent certain that my phone was bugged at a certain stage in my investigations," he said.

"Once the authorities know you're heavily investigating a sighting, they start monitoring you."

### 'A sighting of what looked like a skyscraper on its side over Welton fields'

Mr Metcalf destroyed records of his own investigations after what he describes as a security leak.

He explained: "It was very rare that the group sent information out in the post."

"On this occasion, a member of the group had sent out confidential information about local UFO sightings in the post but hadn't put enough postage on the envelope."

"It reached its destination, but the other side refused to pay the money owing."

"After two months, the Post Office sent it back – but, in doing so, had to open the envelope and that compromised the security of the group."

Mr Metcalf admits the files did not prove the existence of alien life in Lincolnshire.

"Unfortunately, people are very reluctant to report any alien sightings," he said.

"Many people are too afraid to come forward

and it was getting very frustrating.

"The reports we were getting were just the usual – strange red lights following people down lonely country lanes, the Flying Triangle seen over Lincoln and a sighting of what looked like a skyscraper on its side over Welton fields."

"Once people reported a sighting, we ensured that their names were secure."

"We tried to get as much information over the telephone, but some people didn't like to talk on the phone because they didn't know who was listening."

"We got details of weather conditions, the size and shape of the object and any photos or video evidence. Then we'd go out to where the UFO was sighted the following night to see if we could see anything."

Although Mr Metcalf has spent his time investigating UFO sightings, he has never had an experience himself.

"All I can say is we spent a night on Mablethorpe beach once and there was a reddish light in the sky which we couldn't explain," he said.

"We used to watch over RAF Waddington a lot because it's generally believed that lots of UFO activity occurs over air bases."

"We'd park up on the side of the road and put the car bonnet up to pretend we had broken down and then spend the night watching for UFOs. Sometimes we'd get moved on by the RAF."

He added: "You don't need lots of sophisticated equipment to spot UFOs. All you need is a notebook, a pen and a camera and, if it's cold, a flask of soup."

"You have to keep warm, because when you get cold and tired, you can start seeing things and it's important to be sensible about all of this, isn't it?"

■ If you have had a UFO experience call Sarah Winstanley on (01522) 804314 or e-mail her at sarah.winstanley@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

A LONG-RUNNING FEUD BETWEEN TWO SIDES IN THE CROP CIRCLE DEBATE HAS REACHED NEW HEIGHTS OF BITTERNESS WITH ONE OF THE PARTIES ENDING UP IN COURT. **Anna Pukas** REPORTS

# Croppies square up on the field of battle



**AT ODDS:** Matthew Williams, left, was fined £100 for creating a crop circle — he reckons they're a con, while Michael Glickman, main picture, thinks they represent the attempts of aliens to make contact with Earth

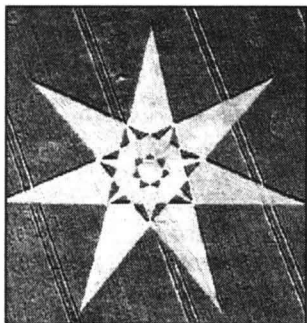
**O**BSESSIONS, by definition, are demanding mistresses. They exact time and commitment, often to the detriment of work and relationships. For Matthew Williams, a 29-year-old unemployed computer programmer, obsession made him leave his native Cardiff and decamp to Wiltshire, and cost him numerous cold nights spent in various fields dodging detection or arrest. This week, his luck ran out when obsession cost him a £100 fine and a place in legal history as the first person ever to be prosecuted for causing criminal damage by making a corn circle.

For Michael Glickman, the man who helped put Williams in court, obsession has cost him several friendships and, to a certain extent, his health at the age of 59.

As battles go, this is hardly the clash of the titans. But it does seem to be a battle without end.

Michael Glickman, an architect and designer, is a croppie, someone who firmly believes that the circles and geometric patterns that appear in corn fields every summer are the work of extra-terrestrials. His enthusiasm began 11 years ago when he started exploring the theory that the geometrical forms might represent the means by which alien forces were trying to communicate with Earth.

"I have no doubt that there are vastly superior intelligences out there who want to make contact," he said. "They don't speak English, so what is the uni-



versal language — numbers and shapes." Since then he has written and lectured widely on the crop circle phenomenon all over the world.

Matthew Williams used to be a croppie but changed his mind. Now he believes, equally firmly, that the 10,500 crop circles that appear each year are all man-made and that they represent a huge con on society.

"There are many financial interests at stake here," he said. "Lots of people are making a good living from crop circles." Farmers, for example, can rake in useful cash by charging coachloads of sightseers to tramp over their fields to look at the formations. Or croppie researchers, who make money from lecturing to other croppies.

One night in August he set out to

prove his theory. Using poles and string, Williams and a friend went to a field at Manor Farm in West Overton, Wiltshire, and flattened the corn into a rather lovely seven-pointed star formation. It was discovered three days later.

The shape was significant. Earlier in the month, speaking on a radio show in America, Glickman had stated that a seven-pointed star was impossible for man to create. Ergo crop circles could not all be the work of hoaxers.

Aware of the broadcast, Williams e-mailed Whitley Strieber, the radio show host and told him he would prove Glickman wrong. He first created the design on his computer, translated it on to the field and then posted photos of it on to a croppie website on the Net.

Strieber faxed the pictures to Glickman, who showed them to the farmer whose field had been defaced, who promptly alerted the police. In the first case of its kind, Devizes magistrates fined Williams £100 plus £40 costs for causing criminal damage.

Both Williams and Glickman claim the court case was only the most high-profile episode in their long-running exchange of insults over the past two years or so.

Glickman, a divorced father of three who suffers from a degenerative illness affecting his mobility, alleges Williams has been harassing him ever since he (Glickman) came to live in Wiltshire after three years in California.

"He has been a serious problem to

me since I moved here at the end of last year. I've had any number of abusive e-mails, phone calls and letters. They say things like: 'Do you hear that tap-tap-tap? It's the truth tapping your shoulder, but you don't want to see it.'"

For his part, Williams says: "There's a lot of religious zealotry in him." He denies harassing Glickman, claiming all he wants is to engage him in a proper discussion about crop circles.

"I would not attack any serious researcher, ever. Ask him whose interests are really served by the continued belief in crop circles — you won't get an answer."

**T**HERE is no doubt that crop circles are becoming a lucrative business. Wiltshire's tourist board includes them in its advertising as a major attraction. A brewery claims to make beer from crop circle barley and the new-age lecture circuit is awash with speakers on the subject.

Finding out how to make a crop circle is not difficult. You just click on to Circlemakers website and get a complete how-to guide.

Hoaxers have been around almost as long as crop circles themselves. The first to go public were Doug Bowers and Dave Chorley, two elderly artists who, in 1991, claimed they had been making crop circles for 13 years for a laugh. Since then other groups have appeared. Their favoured meeting place is the Who'd Ha' Thought It pub in the Wiltshire village of Lockeridge.

The croppies' pub is the Barge Inn three miles away at Alton Barnes which has crop circle T-shirts and the Crop Circle Guide on sale. If there is a neutral figure in this battle of the cereal killers it is probably Colin Andrews, a former electrical engineer and now a full-time student of crop circles who runs his own research body in Connecticut. Mr Andrews started out 17 years ago as an ardent croppie, believing the circles were created by outside forces. But he changed his mind two years ago after a particularly sensational "confession" by a hoaxer. He now believes that around 80 per cent of crop circles are man-made.

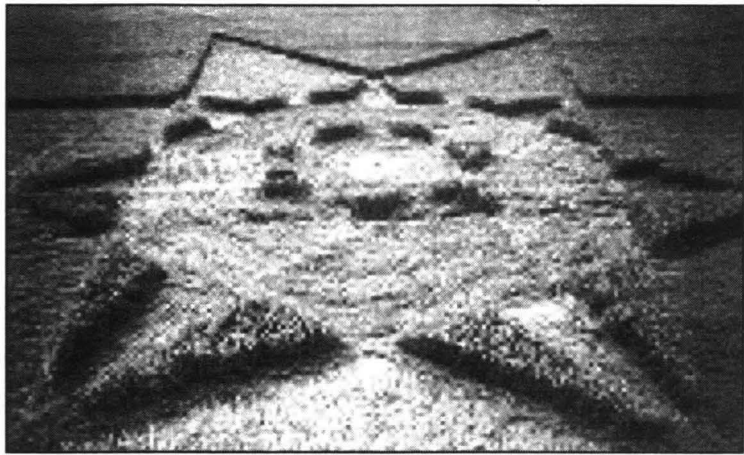
"I am the only researcher who uses detective agencies to watch fields for hoaxers," he says. "The evidence is very clear if you know what to look for. This court case is a sad development. I have some sympathy with both sides. To a point I agree with Michael because my research shows no evidence of human input into about 20 per cent of crop circles.

"But I can understand Matthew Williams, too. He was just trying to make his point albeit in a way I would never condone — you should always get the farmer's permission or pay him for the damage. In any healthy debate there's room for different points of view and it's a shame they couldn't just agree to disagree."

This however, brings only snorts of derision from Glickman. "Colin Andrews was once our hero. Nowadays he's just interested in promoting Colin Andrews."

"I don't care to enter into discussions with people like Matthew Williams. So he made a seven-pointed

(continued on page 11)



star — wow! So he showed he can make a crop circle — big deal! All that proves is that he made *that* particular crop circle. It says nothing about the others.

**G**LICKMAN believes that the majority of crop circles cannot be man-made for the simple reason that no human hand could achieve such geometric perfection. "These people claim to work in darkness, in silence, in secrecy and produce

something which is sheer perfection. As an architect I know about geometry and it's just not possible."

The truth is obviously out there somewhere but not in Matthew Williams's efforts to debunk cropies. "They think they're such radicals when in fact all they do is try to preserve the status quo," sneers Glickman.

For the moment then it seems as if cropies and sceptics are destined never to meet in a perfect, unbroken circle.

**POINTS OF VIEW: The star shape Matthew Williams created — Michael Glickman said it couldn't be done**

## UFO riddle answered

THE mystery surrounding reported sightings of unidentified flying objects over the skies of Rugby has been partially solved.

But it seems aliens are not about to land in the local area — the UFO was, in fact, a cluster of balloons.

Last month the Advertiser reported an incident in which Joyce Whiting of Lower Hillmorton Road saw a white, triangular-shaped object floating in the sky at about 11.30pm on August 10.

Now Sian Thurkettle, 24, from New Bilton, has said that, along with a group of pals, she let off a triangular-shaped group of balloons after a late night party that day.

"There were about ten or 12 helium balloons tied together to make a triangular shape," said Ms Thurkettle, who works as a graphic designer. "They were a pearly colour and fitted the descriptions in the paper."

She added: "When we let them go we wondered if somebody would think it was a UFO and when we saw the reports in the paper we just cracked up."

But uncertainty still clouds two other reported sightings of UFOs in the sky during August.

By Staff Reporters

Yet another UFO was reported to the Advertiser this week by Harold Prestidge of Spring Street, Rugby.

Aircraft enthusiast Mr. Prestidge was in his back garden last Monday afternoon when he spotted something which was 'not one of ours'.

He said: "I have long held an interest in aircraft so I know what I'm talking about."

"I was in my garden between 3-4pm watching planes through my binoculars as they were coming and going from Coventry Airport. While watching a small plane a huge thing blotted my view but because of the heavy cloud I could not discern its shape. I can only describe it as silver, huge and definitely not one of ours."

The object was only in Mr. Prestidge's view for a few seconds before it made a bizarre manoeuvre and disappeared.

"It was on my right coming from the north when it suddenly veered off at an extraordinary angle and shot off at an excessive speed," he said.

Anyone with information on UFOs in the area can call the Advertiser newsdesk on (01788) 539977.

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham, England - July 14, 2000

# The untruths are out there

**N**OT long ago a woman called at the Express & Star office to see me. She said she had been working for the Washington Post during the Gulf War and wanted to discuss my experiences out there.

I didn't have much to report. I was in Bahrain with the RAF Tornado unit for only a week, just before the air offensive began. But she seemed keen to meet.

She was neat, thirtysomething and wearing a military-style pullover with denim shoulder patches. Surprisingly for an American correspondent, she spoke with a Midland accent.

She knew her stuff about the politics, and the weaponry of the conflict. She also seemed amused that I did not know her. We chatted generally about the war.

"And you don't recognise me?" she said at last.

"Should I?"

"No," she went on. "It's good that you don't. Now, tell me, when do you think the Gulf War happened?"

No problem there. It was 1990-91. She smiled again and explained that, actually, the war against Saddam Hussein had taken place in 1980.

It transpired that she worked for a top-secret government agency whose job, over the past 20 years, had been to infiltrate every newspaper, radio and television archive and amend them to make the Gulf War appear to have happened ten years after it had. Their memory-bending mission had been successful. Everyone now believed the 1990-91 version of events.

**T**HE real events of 1980-1999 had been erased from the public memory. These included a war between British intelligence and the American Central Intelligence Agency which had been settled by Britain destroying CIA headquarters near Washington with an atom bomb.

The memory-bending programme also explained why I could not remember that during the Gulf War I had saved her life and, later, she had saved mine.

At about this time in our discussion it dawned on me that this personable, intelligent, credible and very well-informed woman was a few bullets short of a magazine. We kept talking for over an hour and parted on good terms.

The point of this story? Some people do not believe what the rest of us believe. They create their own realities. The more you try to undermine that reality, the more convinced they become that they are right and you are either hopelessly deluded or part of a conspiracy.

A group of Midland UFO believers and sceptics meet this weekend to try to bring flying saucers down to earth.

PETER RHODES will be on the panel

Right: a UFO zaps the White House in Independence Day. Above, flashback to the Cannock Chase UFO crash story.



## Did Aliens crash land on the Chase?

Which brings us to Stourbridge town hall this weekend when I will be one of the speakers at UFOs: The Millennium Debate.

The others include the Bishop of Wolverhampton, UFO researcher Graham Birdsall and Lionel Fanthorpe, presenter of Channel 4's series Fortean TV. The invitation to put my head on the block in a hall full of X-File believers dates from an investigative piece I wrote last year on the book Cosmic Crashes, by the acclaimed Walsall UFO

writer, Nicholas Redfern.

According to a witness interviewed by Redfern, a UFO crashed on Cannock Chase in January 1974. The site was secretly filmed by an ATV camera crew but, just before the footage was to be screened, government agents confiscated the film. A man badly burned in the incident died later.

Redfern says the testimony was "a series of remarkably, and utterly genuine, experiences."

My inquiries suggested it was no such thing. As soon as I began probing it, the story simply fell apart.

The snag is that in the world of UFO believers, the more you rubbish a report, the more convinced they become that you are part of a great media conspiracy to conceal the truth about flying saucers, aliens, and all that stuff.

If there is such a conspiracy, in 30 years as a hack no-one has ever told me about it. The evidence, from Express & Star files to the internet is that, far from hiding UFO claims, we report them fully and, over the years, in their hundreds.

The problem is that for all the claims and speculation, not a single chunk of alien hardware, let alone an alien, has ever been produced.

**T**IME after time, the argument comes back to what sounds like blinding common sense: If there are no UFOs and no aliens, then how come so many people claim to have had close encounters?

To which a cynical old journalist can only answer that getting things wrong is deeply ingrained in the human condition.

Some people mistake what they see. Some get confused. Some rely far too much on memory. Some folk add two and two together and get five. Some people daydream. Some are pure fantasists. And others are like the lady in the military sweater who saved my life in the Gulf. The truth is out there, but so are haystacks, and so are needles.

\*The Millennium Debate organised by UFO Research Midlands, is at the Town Hall, Crown Centre, Stourbridge starting at 10.30am on Sunday. Reserved tickets are £8 from Steve Poole on 01384 356690 or £10 at the door.

# Truth is out there, in Shag Harbour

Documentary explores real Nova Scotian X-File case

TUNED IN by Pat Lee

On Oct. 4, 1967, many Nova Scotians saw something strange flying through the sky with flashing lights.

The mysterious object plunged into the water off Shag Harbour, leading fishermen and the RCMP to rush out in a frantic attempt to find survivors.

But by the time boats arrived on the scene, all that was found was a mysterious yellow foam that smelled like burned sulphur, although a dark object was later spotted moving out to sea. (Insert Twilight Zone music here.)

Some 33 years later the Shag Harbour UFO story continues to fascinate believers and skeptics alike, mainly because of the number of credible eyewitness accounts and the official documentation that has been unearthed.

So it's not surprising that the story has lived on in books and most recently has become the subject of a documentary by local filmmaker Michael MacDonald.

Airing Sunday at 5 p.m. on cable's Space: The Imagination Station, the hour-long *The Shag Harbour UFO Story* brings together eyewitnesses and pieces together the X-Files tale, which started that October night when those mysterious lights were seen around the province.

Among those who spotted the odd sight from Dartmouth was then 12-year-old Chris Styles, who subsequently heard the same story from his grandfather who lived in Shag Harbour.

"I literally felt cold inside," Styles says of seeing the glowing object that night.

Also interviewed in the film is Don Ledger, who has written extensively about the case with Styles. The pair's research provided the framework for MacDonald's film, produced by Halifax-based Ocean Entertainment.

Also providing input on the incident is local fisherman Laurie Wickens, who also saw the

strange lights that night, along with fisherman Lawrence Smith.

Adding to the intrigue is a photograph taken by Wilber Eisnor, which shows coloured lights glowing in the sky.

All fascinating stuff, made all the more interesting by government documents, comic book illustrations, the usual jazz about coverups and interviews with folks who prefer to have their voices altered and to be filmed in silhouette.

Of course no one knows what really happened in Shag Harbour, but speculation abounds, particularly since the event occurred at the height of the Cold War and the fact that nearby CFS Shelburne was a top-secret submarine detection base.

There's something to make every conspiracy theorist happy.

MacDonald and producer Johanna Eliot have done a nice job in touching all the mysterious bases, while presenting information in a visually interesting fashion.

It truly is a story that will not die.

Pat Lee is television reporter for *The Chronicle-Herald* and *The Mail-Star*. E-mail address: [plee@herald.ns.ca](mailto:plee@herald.ns.ca)

## UFO Shuts Down Russian Airport

MOSCOW, Jan 27, 2001 -- (Agence France Presse) An airport in southern Siberia was shut down for an hour and a half on Friday when an unidentified flying object (UFO) was detected hovering above its runway, the Interfax news agency reported.

The crew of an Il-76 cargo aircraft refused to take off, claiming they saw a luminescent object hovering above the runway of the Siberia's Barnaul airport, local aviation company director Ivan Komarov was quoted as saying.

The crew of another cargo plane, refusing to use the runway for the same reason, landed their jet at another airport, Komarov said.

The UFO took off and vanished from the airport 90 minutes later, according to the report. ((c) 2001 Agence France Presse)

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE - Jan. 27, 2001

EXPRESS, Burnley, England - July 25, 2000

# UFO MYSTERY DEEPENS . . .

By SUE MADIGAN

THERE have been more sightings of mysterious flying objects in the skies over Burnley.

Following claims from a Brierfield man that he saw an unidentified flying object, other readers contacted the Express saying they, too, had seen something strange.

Mr Bill Patten was in the rear garden of his home in Stoneyhurst Height when he spotted the mysterious entity. Despite a close investigation with his binoculars, he was left puzzled as to just what the weird object could be.

## Football

Burnley man Mr Mark Elliott swears he saw exactly the same thing flying over Turf Moor football ground four days later.

The young father was looking out of the back bedroom window of his Chichester Close home when he saw a silver ball in the sky. He stared at it for a while before turning to look for his video camera to get a better look. But when he turned back it had gone.

He said: "I am very open-minded about things like this, but I am positive I saw something, whether it can be explained or not."

But Mrs Amanda McBride, of Pennine Way, Brierfield, says the mystery object was nothing more than a helium balloon.

She said she was out walking her dog at the back of Kibble Bank and saw exactly the same object as Mr Patten, but it definitely was not anything alien, adding that if it was a UFO it was very close to the ground.

But the sightings go back several weeks. A Raglan Road resident, who does not want to be named, said she saw something strange during the early hours of the morning. She was standing on her doorstep for more than two hours watching a large object perform acrobatic tricks.

It was about 30 or 40ft. in the air, speeding across the tops of the chimney stacks of the houses close by for about 10 minutes before moving slowly away from her, ascending higher and higher. The object, which had two dim lights on either side, dashed in and out of the clouds and disappeared.

## UFO searches

WE have been involved, over the last six years, with research into the UFO phenomenon, particularly sightings made by the general public of some very unusual objects.

We are hoping that *Sunday Mercury* readers might be able to locate the following people, who are said to have taken photographs of unidentified flying objects.

The first, which we believe to be genuine, was caught on camera on February 15, 1978, by Kevin Dudley, who at that time was living in Glendon Road, Erdington.

The second incident involved Peter Woolaway, who captured a UFO on film on February 22, 1990, in the Bartley Green area.

Finally, has anybody any knowledge of ex-Royal Navy Commander Horatio Penrose, who was living in the Harborne area and was travelling home to Birmingham when he was involved in a UFO incident?

JOHN HANSON  
PO Box 6371  
Birmingham B48 7R

SUNDAY MERCURY, Birmingham, England - Aug. 27, 2000

# FLYING SAUCER SEEN ON HOL JET FLIGHTPATH

THIS amazing picture shows what appears to be a flying saucer darting about in the afternoon sky.

The shot was taken from a five-minute recording on a home video camera made by shocked mum-of-two Margaret Alnsworth.

Margaret, 33, was at home with her children when she went into the garden and happened to glance at the sky.

She said: "I went to the garage to get a bottle of cola for the children and I looked up as I always do, because we live in the flight

by SARAH GRAHAM

path for Heathrow. I saw this object in the sky and thought 'it's too early for stars'. It was only 3.50pm."

Margaret, married to an air ambulance paramedic, added: "I ran into the house and grabbed the video because I didn't have binoculars to zoom in with."

With her two excited young children at her side, Margaret homed in on the object and watched as it danced in the sky for almost five minutes.

During the amazing footage, Margaret is heard

telling her four-year-old son: "Get the phone!" She then calls her mum, who lives nearby, urging her to look into the sky.

Margaret added: "I'm a sceptic about flying saucers. We see a lot of strange things in the flight path."

"But I was so taken aback by this. It danced about for ages. It's the most bizarre thing I've ever seen." An

astronomer from the Royal Observatory said there could be a number of explanations for the object.

He said: "It could be something like a helicopter with floodlights moving around. I suspect it's something a bit more mundane, seen in a different light."

Margaret's husband, Mark, said he and his wife had watched the film over and

over trying to see what the object was. He said: "I spend a lot of time in the air ambulance. I'm used to being in the skies."

"I don't believe in UFOs but this is the strangest thing I've ever seen."

Thames Valley Police said that neither of their force helicopters were in the area, over Reading and Earley, at the time.



On a quiet street in London suburbia, Malcolm Robinson spends his days unravelling the secrets of the universe – this one and the next. However, as he told SOPHIE KIRKHAM the truth is still out there

# Perfectly paranormal

Those things that go bump in the night are in fact ghosts, poltergeists and aliens. And the aliens are here for a genetic inter-breeding programme.

Or that is what Ealing resident and expert on all things paranormal, Malcolm Robinson, would say.

Living with his partner Judith Jaafar, who also researches the paranormal, in Castlebar Road Ealing Broadway, Malcolm, 43, works as a telesales supervisor in Chiswick during the day, but comes home to a study filled with alien paraphernalia and shelves and shelves of books on the supernatural.

A self proclaimed sceptic, he has been interested in the paranormal since he was a boy, and was finally convinced there was something to believe in after

hearing first-hand the story of an alien abduction in Scotland.

"It was 1992, just outside Edinburgh, and two down-to-earth family men were doing their regular 30 minute drive to Tarbrax.

"Suddenly, about 200 yards in front of the car on the A70 was a black, two tiered sort of polished disc about 20 feet above the ground.

"Gary, who was driving just put his foot down, but when the object was directly overhead, it emitted what looked like silver snowflakes and the car was enveloped in an inky blackness for what seemed like a few seconds.

"But when they reached their destination, they realised the journey had taken about one-and-a-half-hours," said Malcolm. "Both men had inexplicable scars on their bodies and over

the next few days suffered flashbacks and nightmares, but still really couldn't believe what had happened.

"That's when they came to me, just to get it off their chests and I suggested hypnosis.

"Under hypnosis both men remembered being taken forcibly from the car, by little grey men, about 4ft tall and with almond shaped eyes and child-like bodies. Both then said they were stripped naked and subjected to some form of medical or clinical examination.

"What convinced me about their story was that they didn't want anyone else to know, they weren't doing this for attention. After meeting them, I was slapping on the believers' side," said Malcolm, who maintains that his organisation, Bufora (The British UFO Research Association), does not believe in UFOs, but is

'If you were to offer me the choice of a night with Pamela Anderson and a night in a haunted house, I'd be in that house every single time'

a serious scientific research society. "We go into every case as non-believers and always look for the natural before the supernatural," he said.

But Malcolm's main interest is in ghosts and poltergeists, though he had a passing love-affair with the Loch Ness

Monster. And he has had a few experiences with ghosts himself, firmly believing that we all go on to a better place to join those who went before us.

But like many of us, he is frustrated by all the unanswered questions there are, especially a personal one about why his dead brother hasn't contacted him.

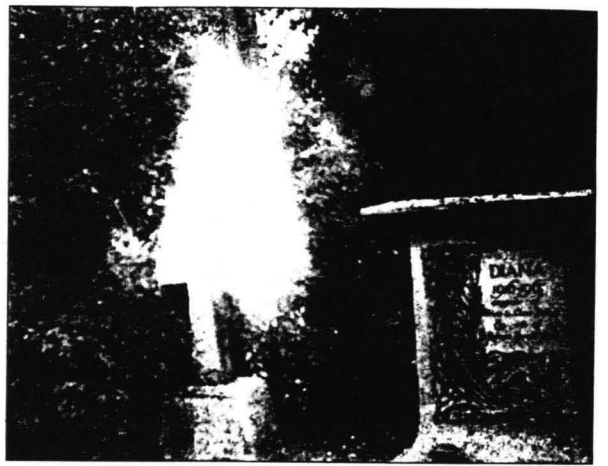
"He was killed a few years ago in an accident," said Malcolm. "And he knows that I of all people would be receptive to some sort of contact from him.

"I am still searching for proof that he is still alive spiritually."

But he has been touched by other ghosts, and with a psychic in Scotland once, was surrounded by psychic energy - thousands of little pin-pricks of light that lit up a dark room, was witnessed by all those present, but failed to show up on video.

"You can't win with the evidence," he sighed. "If you don't have it, sceptics won't believe you, and if you have a decent photograph like the one of the

Above, a picture of a ghost and, top left, spiritual expert Malcolm Robinson



UFO, then they say it's too good to be true - a set up or something." But Malcolm is determined to carry on with his research until all the pieces of the jigsaw fit.

Much of his hope is pinned on scientists inventing an instrument that can somehow measure psychic energy.

"At the end of the day we don't have all the answers," he said. "But it does get to me when people aren't open minded and just think it is all a load of nonsense. Tell me, what evidence is that opinion held on? I believe there is no smoke without fire, and if you were to offer me the choice of a night with Pamela Anderson and a night in a haunted house, I'd be in that house every single time."

If you have had a paranormal experience please contact Malcolm on 079 4917 8835.

## Sudbury area has rich history of UFO sightings

Dear Editor:

In June 1992, on the advice of a friend, I began looking through The Sudbury Star on microfiche for UFO news clippings, not knowing what I was getting myself into.

With time and determination, I managed to sift through the newspaper, page by page, and pull out a good number of articles. Now, I've finally completed the search, the results of which have been compiled at the main branch of the Sudbury Public Library on MacKenzie Street.

What I found was that Sudbury has a rich

**There were 14 daytime sightings and 39 nighttime sightings, some of which were observed at very close range.**

history of UFO sightings which not too many people are aware of.

Between June 1947 and December 1989, there were 362 articles pertaining to the subject of flying saucers and UFOs. Of these, 216 were of actual sightings of mysterious objects both in the sky and on the ground. These reports originated in other countries, including Finland, China, South Africa, Australia, Europe, South America and the United States.

The reports included everything from observations of UFO occupants near landed crafts to sightings of fast-moving objects seen from airliners.

From these, I was able to gather 140 Canadian cases, of which 119 were from Ontario alone. Of those, 51 reports originated in Sudbury and surrounding areas, including Manitoulin Island. I then took these reports and broke them down into two separate categories: daytime and nighttime observations.

In total, there were 14 daytime sightings and 39 nighttime sightings, some of which were observed at very close range.

From the research, I was also able to make the following distinctions: the years 1953, 1954, 1961, 1967 and 1975 were periods of high UFO activity, while the years 1955, 1956, 1962 and 1970 were periods of low UFO activity.

There are slight variations between these periods of activity and the other worldwide waves of sightings.

Here are a few examples of some of the happenings that took place in Sudbury and elsewhere in the province:

■ Warren, March 20, 1948. Two produce truck drivers are followed by an 80-foot long object with 20-foot long orange sparks shooting from the rear.

■ Sudbury, Jan. 31-Feb. 24, 1953. Two "flying torpedoes" are observed for 30 minutes over Copper Cliff. Subsequent sightings are made while the RCAF investigates the reports.

■ Hamilton, April 4, 1966. A 13-year-old boy touches an antenna of a landed object, which results in a curved burn on his hand.

■ Ottawa, Nov. 13, 1973. A family of five is chased by a UFO down Highway 417 at speeds of up to 100 miles an hour.

■ Bracebridge, Oct. 9, 1975. Robert Suffern of Three Mile Lake nearly runs over a small creature with his car. A few minutes later, he notices an object as it ascends into the sky.

■ Cooper, June 12, 1976. A UFO lands near Belleville and displaces three large pieces of earth in a field.

Other articles refer to strange events which have been associated with UFO activity, such as the massive 1965 power blackout which left 30 million homes in darkness and another power interruption on March 26, 1970, which affected Fecunis Mine and Levack Mine in Onaping Falls.

My next project will be to search through The Sault Star for similar reports. I already have in my possession some very interesting cases from Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas. I hope to be done with that newspaper in a couple of years or less. And when I do, this information will be compiled into a book on Northern Ontario sightings.

MICHEL M. DESCHAMPS  
Sudbury

■ Michel M. Deschamps is MUFON provincial section director in Sudbury and is a UFO researcher/historian.

## UFO man comes 'out of hiding'

A HEYWOOD man has broken an 11-year silence to describe his encounter with a UFO following a new investigation into alleged sightings in the town.

Dean Fitzsimmons says he watched in amazement as a bright white light darted about the night sky in May 1989, but only told close friends about his experience for fear of being mocked.

Now 33-year-old Dean, of Fletcher Close, has decided to speak out after UFO investigators John Hanson and Dawn Holloway contacted the Advertiser in search of more information about another sighting reported on the same night.

It was in 1989 that two ambulance men claimed they saw a UFO above their Hind Hill Street base while on duty. The sighting was

Breaks 11-year silence to tell of extra terrestrial sighting ...

by ANNETTE LORD

reported in the Advertiser at the time and made national news. Holloway and retired police officer Hanson aim to interview them about the experience.

Dean, who has always been interested in UFOs, is convinced the sighting was not a hoax or an illusion.

He said: "The two ambulance men were not taken seriously, but I think they deserve to be."

"I used to live on Agincourt Street where there are attic windows looking north over the hills towards Rossendale. About 2am that night I noticed a blob of white light. It kept disappearing and reappearing somewhere else a split second later. It was

covering miles in a matter of seconds and didn't move in straight lines so it was definitely not an aeroplane. Then I saw two military jets come to intercept it and it seemed to be teasing them. After a couple of minutes it went out of my line of sight."

Dean now intends to contact the retired officers to tell them about what he saw.

"I am not a hoaxter or attention-seeker. I find it hard myself to believe some of the stories people tell. The only reason I didn't say anything at the time was because no one would have believed me. I would have been made a fool of like the ambulance men were buy some people," he said.

## PANDORA

pandora@independent.co.uk

Strange goings-on at the Ministry of Defence, where security was even tighter than usual on Tuesday night for a gathering on the subject of UFOs. It's true. A very high class of punters graced the Henry VIII Wine Cellar in the chilling Whitehall edifice for the launch of a book on the subject by the socialite authoress Georgina Bruni, entitled *You Can't Tell the People*. Now, not telling the people is something of a speciality at the MoD, whose official line on this kind of thing is that UFOs are of "no defence significance". So what is going on? It seems

that the launch was, cunningly, also a fundraiser for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, making the request for a venue a bit hard to refuse. But just in case any one was getting the wrong impression, a friendly leaflet entitled "PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY" was given out on entry to spell out the situation. At the bottom, in bright red, it added: "The agreement to use the wine cellar does not therefore indicate in any way whatsoever any official sanction/endorsement of the book entitled *You Can't Tell the People* nor any of the

contents therein." Oooh, touchy or what?

AS IF by coincidence, there were reports yesterday of a UFO sighting in Macclesfield, Cheshire, where eyewitnesses spoke of "a massive three-dimensional disc of light spinning". One woman claimed that her boyfriend (not named) had been reduced to tears of terror by the sighting. "We could hear a whirring sound. It had lights around it rotating like the blades of a lawn-mower," she said. Honest, she did. Spooky.

# NANNY SEES A UFO FRIGHTENER

By JAMES COX

**FRIGHTENED** nanny Michelle Williams says she almost careered off the road when she spotted a UFO hovering above her car - her second sighting in a day.

Michelle, 25, of Billings Close, Stokenchurch, first saw the sphere from her window when getting out of bed.

She said: "It was around 6.45 on Friday morning and I saw something hovering above the trees at the back of my house. At first I thought it was a police helicopter and it was probably about a mile away. One minute it was there and the next minute it shot off in a straight line above the trees - it just disappeared."

Michelle, who works in Marlow, said she was slightly bemused, but thought little more of it until she spotted the silver craft a second

time, as she drove to work along Marlow Road, Stokenchurch.

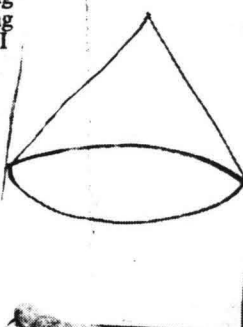
"Driving towards Marlow, directly in front of me, I could see this object. Again it was hovering and there were flashing bright white lights - I was quite frightened."

"Then it just shot up into the air and that's when I nearly swerved off the road."

Michelle guessed the flying saucer must have been about the size of a large family car and that it was at least 200ft above the ground. She added: "People will probably think I am a weirdo but this was the first time I have seen anything like this."

Police confirmed their helicopter had not been in the area at the time and a spokesman at RAF Naphill said there had been no

Michelle Williams and her drawing of the object



reports of unidentified flying objects in the area.

If you saw the UFO [jcox@london.newsquest.co.uk](mailto:jcox@london.newsquest.co.uk)

contact James Cox on (01494) 755086

00-263916A

SOUTH BUCKS STAR, High Wycombe, England - Aug. 24, 2000

# UFO SEEN FOR SECOND TIME

By James Cox

**AMAZED** Melanie Redgrave spotted a UFO the same day frightened nanny Michelle Williams nearly careered off the road after spotting a sphere-shaped craft hovering above her car.

Melanie, 20, of Hanging Croft, High Wycombe, said she saw the flying saucer just hours after Michelle's sighting in Stokenchurch.

Former retail assistant Melanie said: "I was drawing the curtains upstairs when I saw this really bright light. I pulled back the nets because I thought it was a helicopter or a large jet which we get round here. But there was no sound - it was silent."

She added: "I thought 'Crikey this is really, really bright' and I looked over to the left near some high trees. It was far too low to be a plane, so I kept staring at it but it just didn't move much - just slightly up and down. Then it moved to the right and vanished. I thought 'this is so strange'."

Melanie, who lives with her parents and is new to High Wycombe, ran downstairs to sketch what she had seen on Friday night.

"It had glowing orange lights and two long bars across its middle," she said. "The top had small lights all the way around it with spaces in between."

It was only when she read a story in the Star's sister paper Midweek on Tuesday about Michelle's sighting that she contacted The Star.

Michelle said she was pleased someone else had seen a mystery object in

'Something is attracting them'

A STOKENCHURCH resident, who did not want to be named, said villagers had seen a similar object hovering above Beacons Bottom two years ago.

He said: "My brother saw it, but he thought it was a parachute. He even had a look at it through binoculars."

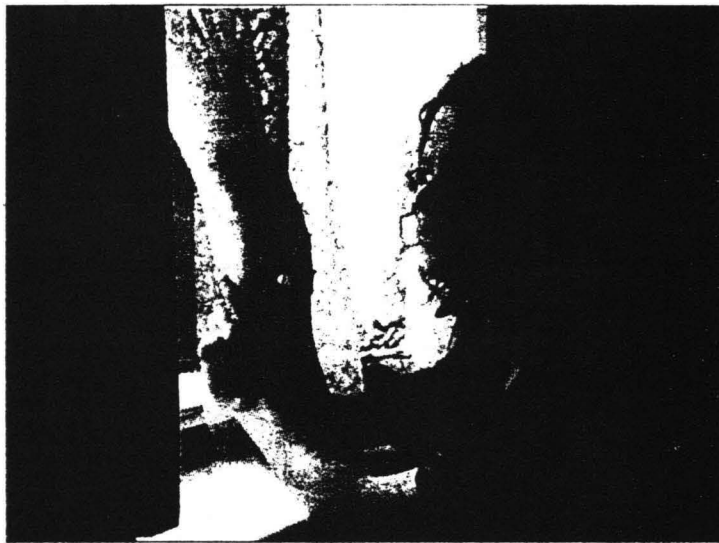
"He said he'd never seen anything like. As it came down it changed into a triangular shape and then just hovered over the top of the woods. It then went up on its tail and just shot off, he said the speed of it was unbelievable. His wife also saw it and some people who were travelling from High Wycombe said they'd seen it."

"It was silver, and he said it was about the size of a car. To me, there is something around this area attracting them. In 1975 there was another sighting over Bottom Wood."

the sky. She said: "I've been getting a lot of stick for what I saw, but I am 100 per cent certain I saw something. The last thing I would want to do is make a fool of myself."

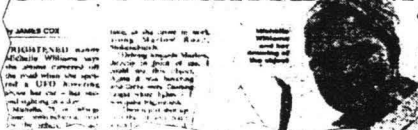
Police confirmed their helicopter had not been in the area at the time. An RAF spokesman said there had been no reports of unidentified flying objects.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said it would investigate UFO sightings if it believed they were a threat to national security.



Melanie saw the UFO from this window. Below the Midweek report

## NANNY SEES A UFO FRIGHTENER



Have you seen the UFO? The Star is offering a £50 reward to the first reader who has a picture of the object that can be authenticated by independent experts. Call reporter James Cox on 01494 755086 if you have seen it

# Did aliens fly over South Yorkshire, or were they pigeons reflected in the sun?

A STRING of brilliant white lights hovering in the skies over Sheffield? A supernatural spectacle which disappeared almost as quickly as it appeared?

Could alien life-forms be visiting South Yorkshire?

The Star reported the possible UFO-sighting last week, after reader Alan Biggs witnessed up to 25 white globules of light circling the sky close to his home in Old Hay Close, Dore.

Both Alan, aged 45, and his 13-year-old son, Ashley, watched as the lights moved, quivered, and after seven minutes disappeared into the sunset.

Dozens of Star readers telephoned and e-mailed to say they, too, had witnessed strange lights in the sky at 6.45pm on Monday September 18.

Some were convinced the vision was, literally, out of this world. Doreen Helliwell, aged 75, from Dronfield Woodhouse, was looking out towards Barlow at the same time on the same night.

"What I saw wasn't a round ball but vertical strips, in all different colours," said Doreen. "One was a bright frightening red, then pinks, greens, golds and white."

"They were much more definite stripes than a rainbow. I couldn't believe what I had seen. To me it was very awesome."

And Star Trek fan John Rodgers, 63, from Whiteways Road in Grimethorpe said: "Twelve months ago I saw the same lights over Barnsley through the cloud: two or three dozen silver balls just hanging there."

"I thought they were UFOs,



**Alan Biggs:** He and son Ashley saw 25 white globules of light circling the sky close their home in Dore

maybe smaller craft from a bigger one way out of sight. I'm certain they were not of this earth."

But most decided the dazzling spectacle was nothing more than . . . pigeons!

Pensioner Tony Reynolds said: "The sight certainly shook us rigid at first, but then we saw that they were birds."

And Deborah Jones saw the same thing while driving along Church Street in Dore. "I am 99 per cent certain they were birds," she said.

UFO expert Dave Baker, of Yorkshire UFO Society, said: "A flock of birds is a very possible explanation as they can reflect sunlight off their white under-bellies."

"Even pigeons can appear like balls of brilliant light if

they catch the sun on their feathers."

"It's a very plausible explanation, especially in the countryside, and at this time of year when birds are preparing to migrate."

But Alan Biggs, a freelance sports reporter who covers Sheffield Wednesday matches, remains unconvinced. "Maybe I have watched too much of the Owls to recognise a pigeon when I see one!" he said.

"It sounds like a bird-brained explanation to me - but then that's what it's made me look, if all these people are right!"

"It actually sounds more unbelievable an explanation than if the lights were alien spacecraft - which I never said they were!"

■ Totley pensioner Tony

Reynolds, of Totley Grange Close, was looking out over Holmesfield at the same time as Alan Biggs.

He said: "I saw these lights travelling fairly quickly across the sky, then they all turned, came back, then went off again. They were very bright globules of light, a really fiery gold."

"At first they were unrecognisable, but then we saw they were pigeons because the sun caught on their wings."

■ David Sargent, 62, of Ecclesall Road South, saw the same. "They were luminous dots in the distance and a lovely golden colour."

"They were too far away to see their wings flapping, but I have no doubt in my mind they were pigeons."

■ Deborah Jones saw bright lights in the distance towards Holmesfield. She said: "My instant reaction was 'Finally, the moment I've been waiting for' as I firmly believe in intelligent life in space."

"But when I stopped at a junction I realised it was sunlight striking a flock of birds. Each time another bird crossed the sun's path they became illuminated."

■ Jill Birley of Haggstones Road, Oughtibridge noticed bright lights at exactly the same time.

"There were three or four sets of 15 bright lights in groups. It's a mystery to me but my husband thinks they were birds."

■ Fourteen-year-old Marc Denton saw the same thing a fortnight earlier. "These brilliant bright lights disappeared and reappeared from nowhere. When I saw them there were only two moving around each other."

**'It was awesome . . . I couldn't believe what I had seen'**

## Crop circle – a bright white light is filmed

By RICHARD COOPER

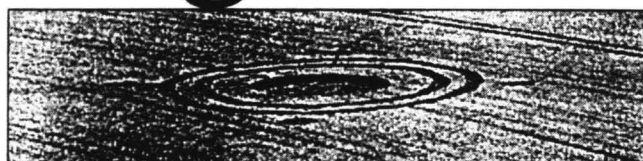
FASCINATION about the crop circle at the bottom of Dunstable Downs has deepened following reports of white lights moving around nearby.

Many people have been to the top of the Downs to take a look at the concentric circles since they were first reported last week.

One of our readers, who wishes to remain anonymous, has video footage, taken by two different people, of a bright white light which can be seen moving near the crop circle.

On one of the videos, shot on Friday, the dot appears in the sky and travels across the field from right to left.

The light is clear for most of the time but becomes fuzzy, and eventually disappears altogether.



**MYSTERY:** The crop circle at the bottom of Dunstable Downs

At one point the dot appears to be half the width of one of the tram lines on the field but as it gets closer it gets smaller.

The other video, filmed on Wednesday, shows the white dot coming out of the middle of the circle.

The woman first heard about the crop circle on Wednesday.

She said: "One of the girls' friends on Wednesday evening was saying there was some burn marks there. We had a look at it and my father brought his camcorder."

"They went back and filmed it while I stayed at home. The first time we saw the light come

out, we thought it was heat haze."

The filming took place at 7.10pm.

"I phoned a friend in London," she continued. "He came on Thursday and filmed in the afternoon. Nothing unusual happened."

"Then we all went up in the evening and sat on the mound looking towards it across the Downs and realised they had got something."

Her father also went back on the Friday, although no lights were seen, the circle appeared to be a slightly different shade.

The woman would like to get

in contact with other people who have seen anything unusual.

Local man Chris Robinson, who has an interest in the paranormal, has also seen the video and cannot find an explanation for it.

Chris, who lives in Dunstable, said: "She's got some video footage which looks quite extraordinary. A white ball of light floats around the field at an amazing speed."

"The only thing it could be is if there was a butterfly close to the lens. I have looked at it sceptically. I am a believer in some of it and I would like to keep open-minded about it."

■ Mysterious "UFO" sightings reported in the area a few years ago turned out to be caused by a high-powered searchlight. But if anyone else has seen mysterious lights near the crop circle, contact the *News-Gazette* on 526004.

# Gathering the goods on UFOs

SO YOU'VE seen a UFO? Who are gonna call? Well there's no alienbusters, not yet anyway, but there's one man in the Northwest who's spending a lot of time gathering stories and creating a database of sightings and encounters.

He's Brian Vike, who in the past few years has been running Houston British Columbia Canada (HBCC) UFO research out of his home.

And his research doesn't just consist of old filing cabinets stuffed with old newspaper clippings and frantically scrawled out reports either. He's gone to the world wide web and created North-western B.C.'s first home-made UFO web site.

Vike, 50, says that the whole moon walk and space program that spawned during his generation's upbringing generated his interest in the UFO question.

"You could say I was hooked [after the moon walk]," he said. "I'd like to think we're not alone in the vastness of space."

"When one hears of so

many strange sighting incidents from around the world, then you start to wonder, are we alone?"

He got his first low-powered telescope when he was a teenager in 1969, and the star gazing hasn't stopped to this day.

"My day researching UFO phenomena starts as soon as I wake up," he said. "I head for the computer where there's usually numerous letters addressed to me, accounts of sightings and reports from all over the world."

Vike says he receives reports through e-mail, personal mail, newspapers and TV reports. Vike isn't the only person in the house that does it either.

"My wife helps me out a lot with entering information into my database and offers ideas on how to present the information on the web site," he said.

Vike admits he's never actually seen a truly unidentified flying object.

"The strange things I've seen in the sky could easily be explained," he said, alluding to things like weather balloons and the

ever-increasing number of satellite's orbiting the earth.

The rest of the family, almost inevitably, has also taken an interest in UFOs.

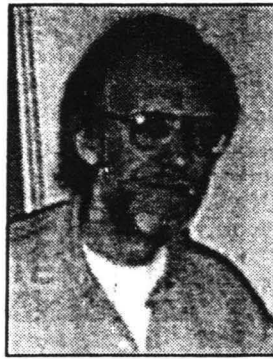
"[My kids] have grown up surrounded by my beliefs and interests and I'm sure some of it has been absorbed by them through the years."

Vike says his goal is to travel the province and gather stories, eventually putting together a book on the Canadian aspect of the phenomenon.

One report Vike shared dates back more than 30 years and involves a Lillooet woman and her friend, who's names he protected.

The pair was relaxing in the living room of the woman's suite overlooking the Fraser Canyon. While preparing to watch the Dean Martin Show, the lady's friend saw a huge flaming fire-ball through the window hurdling towards them.

The object then proceeded to hover above a mountainside spinning, flaring and jerking erratic-



Brian Vike

ally before receding back into the sky and vanishing.

Being a weekend nothing was open and no one else was around who might have seen the same thing. Also, being 1966, the ladies felt rather awkward about reporting the incident to others in the tiny town.

How times have changed. Vike says UFO sightings are more widespread than ever and the media now plays a crucial role in getting the message out.

"I browse the hundreds of online newspapers and television stations from

around the world and somewhere you'll find a reporter doing a story on a UFO sighting, or a report on what governments may know and are hiding," he said.

There must be limits though to how far Vike will go in believing what people report to him. He says he keeps "an open mind" and has "never brushed off anyone's suggestion of a UFO."

Vike says that those close at hand support him regardless of their own leaning on the issue.

"I get a lot of support from family and friends," he said. "Some believe, some don't believe, but it's been interesting hearing of some of the strange occurrences in their lives that are often unexplained."

Have a sighting to share? Brian Vike can be reached at HBCC UFO Research, PO Box 1091, Houston, B.C. VOJ-1Z0.

He has e-mail at [yogi@glacierweb-bc.com](mailto:yogi@glacierweb-bc.com), and a website at <http://www.homestead.com/ufo/ufo.html>.

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Sept. 19, 2000

Visitors from Kent film V-shaped craft with flaming trail

## Another family see the mystery aircraft

By JAMES TOURGOUT

STARGAZING Anne and Ian Parsons have told a Portland family: "We saw the same mysterious flying object as you".

The couple say a flying V-shaped craft with a trail of flames shot across the sky above Waytown, near Bridport.

The sighting comes after Bruce, Jean and Sammuell Roaf spotted a similar unidentified flying object (UFO) from their home on Portland.

Housewife Anne Parsons, 54, said: "We look out at the stars because the sky is so clear at Waytown."

"It was a beautiful night when the object appeared. My son Trevor saw it first going towards Salway Ash

"It was very bright and at first we thought it may have been a bright star or a planet.

"But then we could see that it was an object travelling upward with an upside-down 'V' of flame coming from it.

"Whatever it was, it was going very fast." Mrs Parsons, husband Ian, 55, and their son Trevor, 32, live in Perivale, Middlesex but were staying in a holiday cottage.

They were watching Coronation Street with their friend Joan Billen, of Higher

**BAFFLED:** Bruce, Samuel and Jean Roaf watch the night sky after seeing a mystery object

Picture: BRIAN JUNG



Eype Farm, when the UFO appeared. The sighting has echoes of one reported by the Roaf family on Portland.

They saw a spherical object trailing flames in the sky above Chesil Beach and Lyme Bay two days before.

Mrs Parsons, who husband Ian is a retired police officer, added: "Myself, Ian, Trevor, and Joan all saw the object."

"We recorded it on a camcorder and have watched it several times.

"It seems very similar to the object the Roafs' saw two days before."

Dorset UFO expert David Kingston said he saw the same craft on the same night as the Roaf family.

He said it zig-zagged across the sky before disappearing towards Swanage.

But coastguards said there was no activity in the sky above Chesil Beach and Lyme Bay on the night.

Mrs Parsons added: "I don't know what it was, but it certainly wasn't a plane. I believe in ghosts and don't disbelieve in life in outer space. I wouldn't want to rule it out."



## Legend of Bigfoot put to test

### Mounting evidence gives many reason to believe

By Theo Stein  
Denver Post Environment Writer

All things considered, 2000 was a rather big year for Bigfoot researchers.

In April, two fly-fishermen reported huge, humanlike footprints 7 miles apart along the banks of Colorado's Eagle River. Bill Heicher, a wildlife biologist at the Colorado Division of Wildlife, evaluated the evidence and drew two conclusions: The tracks weren't faked, and they weren't made by a bear. Says Heicher: "It's no animal that we know of."

In August, two hikers forced by a storm to camp in high wilderness north of Crested Butte emerged with quite a tale. They said they had been shadowed for two nights by at least one Bigfoot that peered into their camp and approached their tent.

On Sept. 22, a team of researchers found a huge body imprint in a mud wallow in the Cascade Range of western Washington state. Several researchers, including a physical anthropologist at Idaho State University who examined a plaster cast of the Cascades imprint, said the impression — of a hairy forearm, thigh, buttock and heel — was not made by any creature known to science.

Of course, claims of encounters with an elusive, hairy giant have been the stuff of legend for more than a century.

Could such a creature exist?

An eclectic assortment of scientists and academics is testing the proposition that Bigfoot isn't a myth but an ice age survivor that has managed to persist just outside the

You may think it's far out, but methodologically speaking, he has toed the line very strictly. And he's bold enough not to allow any outside pressure to direct his science."

What Meldrum and other researchers, professional and amateur, suggest is bold by any standard. They believe a few thousand of these powerful and intelligent creatures live widely dispersed in mountainous forest from the Pacific Coast to the Colorado Rockies and beyond. They believe the big apes are opportunistic omnivores, eating roots and berries when available, preying on deer and elk whenever possible. And they think Bigfoot are curious apes, often sneaking into the camps of people who have intruded in their territory, even stealing camp food when they can.

So where's the body? Bigfoot advocates say the main reason no one's found a body is that a dead animal decomposes quickly and completely. The carcass of a rare animal with no known predators would be almost impossible to find. By way of example, Colorado Division of Wildlife bear biologist Tom Beck says he's never found the remains of a bear that died a natural death.

Most anthropologists agree no Bigfoot corpse has ever been found because the animal doesn't exist.

Convincing his peers to look at his collection of more than 100 footprints, knuckle prints and other trace evidence has been "without question the biggest obstacle," Meldrum said. "If someone takes the time to visit the lab, they are almost uniformly overwhelmed by the amount of data. Usually, they have no concept of the amount of evidence that's been collected."

Gill, the Wyoming professor, chides his colleagues for not taking a close look at research like Meldrum's. "Even if there's only a remote chance this animal is alive today, to think that anthropology is basically blowing off this stuff is disheartening."

Ron Westrum, a sociologist at Eastern Michigan State University, has studied how scientists have historically grappled with anomalies, or observations that are "contrary to law."

"Scientists who make these observations learn to shut up because other scientists will punish them," said Westrum. "These are really taboo topics in science, which is a reputational business. Your reputation is your career."

For those reasons, Westrum thinks Meldrum's footprint research, the alleged Sasquatch body imprint and any other evidence will continue to be ignored. "Scientists don't see this as a problem," he said. "As far as they're concerned, the evidence has never been recorded."

Said Meldrum: "But the bottom line is, these casts are taking up drawer space. These are points of datum. You can't simply sweep them under the rug. Well, you can, but you end up with a pretty lumpy rug."

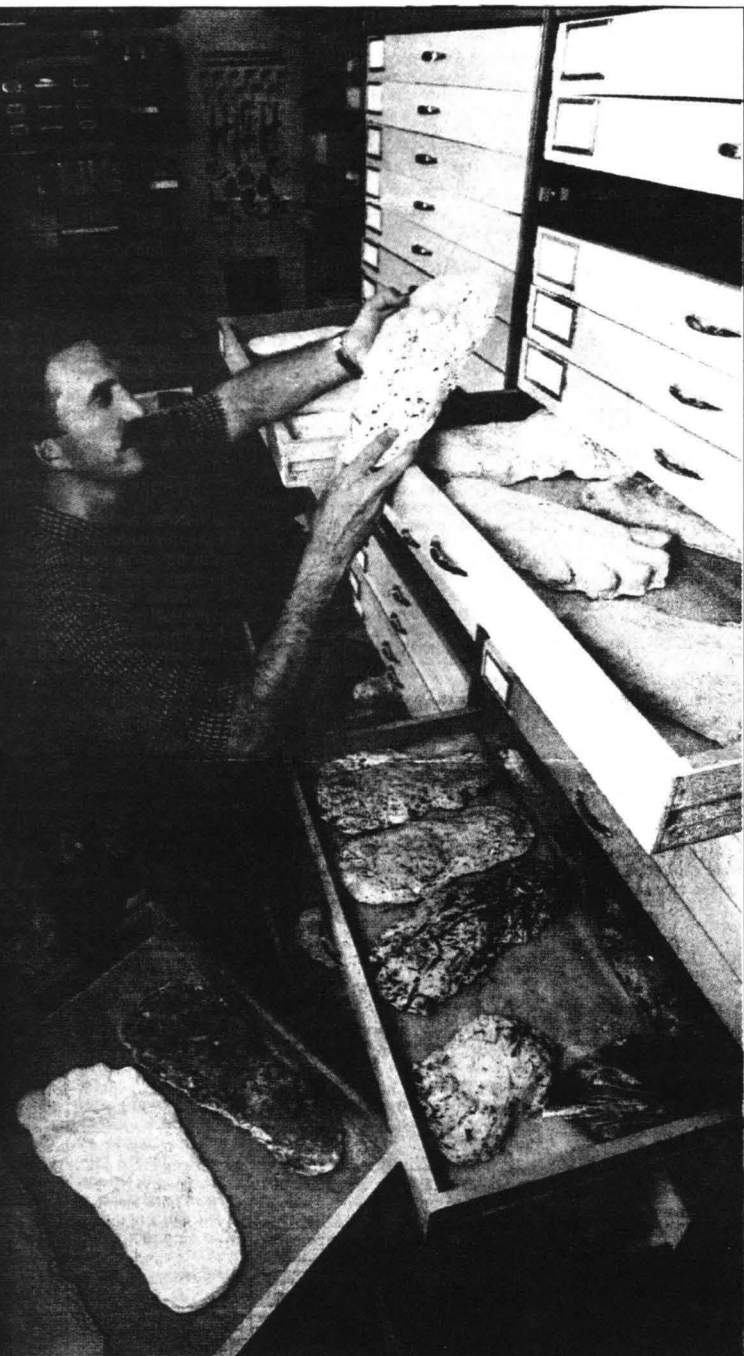
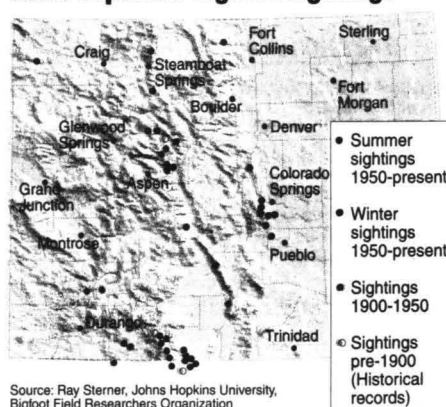
In addition to Meldrum's footprint research, Henner Fahrenbach, a primate researcher at a private lab in Oregon, has identified a dozen hair samples, collected from four Western states, that he believes came from an unknown primate. Fahrenbach identified a fragment of similar hair that was plucked from the so-called Skookum Cast, a cast of the body imprint found in September.

Others have recorded incredibly loud, bellowing vocalizations from an undescribed animal, calls which when broadcast at night near reported Bigfoot sightings have produced identical replies.

And then there are sighting reports — literally thousands of them — made by foresters, biologists and geologists, as well as campers, hikers and motorists. All tell of a remarkably large, hairy ape that covers rough ground with a strange, fluid motion not unlike a cross-country skier. What's significant, said Meldrum, is that the evidence attributed to Sasquatch is consistent with what people report.

(continued on page 18) 17

### Some reported Bigfoot sightings



The Denver Post / Shaun Stanley

Anthropologist Jeff Meldrum is surrounded by purported Bigfoot casts in his lab at Idaho

State University. For most scientists, no evidence short of a carcass or bones will suffice.

### Roaming the Rockies

For more than a century, residents and visitors to Colorado have reported sightings and tracks of giant creatures.

### More information online

Several online resources provide information about Bigfoot. For descriptions and links, go to our Web site, [www.denverpost.com](http://www.denverpost.com).

vision of Western science. Drawing on each other's disciplines, these researchers are sharing information and applying sophisticated forensic techniques as never before.

### Many experts want conclusive evidence

Still, their work is greeted with skepticism — if not outright hostility. For most biologists and anthropologists, no evidence short of a carcass or bones will suffice.

"Most people in my field would need the beyond-the-shadow-of-a-doubt kind" of proof, said Walter Hartwig, an anthropology professor who is editing a book on primate fossils for Cambridge University Press and who studies extinct South American monkeys. "They want to see the body. I'm confident enough that it's not going to happen. We're not naming new mammals in North America, and that's because we've exterminated most of them."

Michael Shermer, publisher of the magazine *Skeptic*, is even harsher. "If you believe in Bigfoot, you most likely believe in the Loch Ness monster, the lost continent of Atlantis, whatever."

Despite such views, a few investigators are expanding their efforts

in the wake of new discoveries, using scent, sound and food baits, thermal imagers and remote camera stations to gather more convincing evidence.

Last year, they received support from an unexpected source: a Texas as police fingerprint expert who has worked on more than 300 cases for the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency. He says he has no doubt that at least some alleged Bigfoot footprints were left by a large primate unknown to science.

"Being a crime-scene examiner, I have to be very careful about getting the facts right," said Jimmy Chilcutt, a Conroe, Texas, police forensics investigator. "But I knew after examining the prints that there's a real animal out there. The skin pattern is unique and consistent with itself. There's no doubt in my mind."

One of the few academic Bigfoot researchers is physical anthropologist Jeff Meldrum, an Idaho State University professor who has examined hundreds of claimed footprints from Bigfoot, also called Sasquatch in the Northwest. Many he has rejected as hoaxes, others as misidentifications. But more than 100, he said, represent the trace of an unknown animal with a big, flat foot and five toes.

Meldrum's lab in Pocatello is crammed with typical academic paraphernalia. Posters of evolutionary trees festoon the walls, rubber models of ape feet and hands sit in a cabinet. Bulging bookshelves, charts and cabinets sit full of papers relating to his main area of study — how our stiff, stub-toed running foot evolved from the flexible, grasping ape foot of our distant ancestors.

### Long study convinces researchers of possibilities

Rather than simply an enlarged human foot, Meldrum said, the Sasquatch foot displays a unique combination of recognizably different anatomic features to solve the problem of two-footed locomotion. The result is a proportionally wider flatter appendage with long, flexible toes and a spring-loaded, ape-like hinge in place of our stiff arch.

"This animal's little toe is about the same length as my little finger," he said, holding his hand up against the side of one of his casts. "This toe probably has the same grasping ability as my finger, too."

So far, Meldrum's theories have failed to gain even a toehold of acceptance with the anthropological

establishment, which regards talk of Bigfoot as heresy. A reporter's question about Bigfoot so upset one prominent academic that he sputtered into a rage and quickly ended the conversation. Others politely decline interview requests.

But a few of Meldrum's peers admire his work and his pluck. Forensic anthropologist George W. Gill, a professor at the University of Wyoming, studied the Bigfoot phenomenon in the 1970s. A former director of the American Board of Forensic Anthropologists, Gill said the argument is simple: Either the most sophisticated hoax in the history of anthropology has gone undiscovered for centuries, or the big ape exists.

Another is Hartwig, who vouches for Meldrum's "rigorous" methods even as he questions his conclusions.

"Jeff has executed the model approach," said Hartwig, who is editing a book on human evolution to which Meldrum is contributing a chapter. "He's weeded out what he believes might be hoaxes or misidentifications. And for the ones he can't exclude, he's devised a theory for what those footprints represent. In a sense, it's beautiful and well-controlled, inductive science."

## Chasing Bigfoot through legend and science

Meldrum's argument for the authenticity of the cast

Longer, more flexible toes imply more grasping ability.

Lyle Lavery, the former head of the Rocky Mountain region for the U.S. Forest Service, was a timber manager in California when he shot this photograph, above, of a track allegedly left by the female Bigfoot in the Patterson-Gimlin film. Anthropologist Jeff Meldrum says the ridge of soil pushed up in the center of the print indicates a flexible, non-human hinge in the center of the animal's foot. The larger image, right, is a life-size plaster cast made from this print.

Proportionately wider than human foot.

Ape-like midtarsal hinge instead of fixed arch. More flexible than human's. Adaptation for scrambling through steep, broken terrain.

15.5 inches

Pressure ridge pushed up by forefoot shows flexible, mid-foot hinge, an apelike anatomic feature that human ancestors lost hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Heel proportionately longer than a human's.

Full-sized image of plaster cast of track found by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin near Bluff Creek, Calif., in 1967.

Braving the ridicule of their peers, a handful of academic and professional scientists are studying forensic evidence of a creature that looms large in native lore, but one that science says can't exist. The best-known bits of Bigfoot evidence include 700 documented footprints that show anatomic structures markedly different from a human, according to Idaho State University anthropologist Jeff Meldrum.

Images through the ages



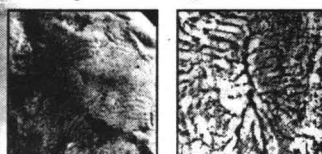
Researchers theorize these "monkey masks," carved by pre-contact Native tribes, represent Sasquatch, as they call the animal. The blurry photo at left is the most famous frame from the 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film, whose authenticity is still a matter of rich debate.

What is a midtarsal hinge?



Humans, through evolution, have developed a stiff, supportive arch in the mid-foot to aid in long-distance running and walking. Pressure ridges commonly seen in Bigfoot tracks show much greater flexibility than allowed by the human arch, an apelike trait that could allow for more stable footing on steep, forested slopes theorized as Bigfoot's stomping grounds. This diagram, developed by Meldrum, shows the theorized anatomy of the bigfoot foot and lower leg.

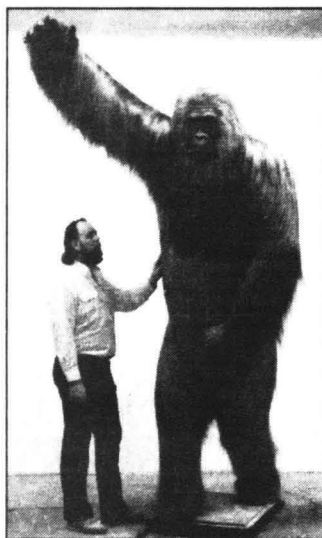
Skin Impression Images



A few tracks show coarse-ridged skin impressions, above left, that differ from any known primate. Texas police forensic expert Jim Chilcutt identified several scars in a print from one track, above right, discovered in Washington state in 1985. "It is the signature of living flesh," Chilcutt said.

Gigantopithecus

Fossils from China show that evolution has produced at least one Bigfoot-sized ape. Gigantopithecus blacki lived in temperate forests until 500,000 years ago and may have been hunted by our human ancestors. Its discoverers reject a theorized link to Bigfoot.



Special-effects creator Bill Munns stands with the Gigantopithecus sculpture he created in 1988 in collaboration with Iowa University anthropologist Russell Ciochon. In 1967 the technology didn't exist to create the kind of dense stretch fur necessary to replicate the creature in the Patterson-Gimlin film, Munns said.

"The long and short of it is, there's a beautiful orchestration between what I'm seeing in my footprint analysis and all of the anecdotal reports of its gait: the forward lean, deeply bent knees," he said. "It's all a strategy for supporting a heavier, bulkier biped. And it's a very elegant adaptation, I think, in the context of its very broken and rugged habitat."

Film most famous anecdotal evidence

In 1967, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, two Bigfoot enthusiasts, filmed what Meldrum and others believe is a female Sasquatch, complete with hairy breasts, striding away across a loamy streambed on Bluff Creek in Northern California. While some have since claimed that the film is a hoax, longtime Hollywood special-effects creator Bill Munns said it would have been impossible in 1967 to fake a creature suit like the one depicted in the film.

"With today's technology, yes, you could fake a fur suit like that," said Munns, who did just that when he built a life-size model of the giant fossil ape Gigantopithecus blacki — a possible evolutionary link to Sasquatch — for University of Iowa anthropologist Russell Ciochon. "But in the 1960s, short, dense stretch fur was nonexistent."

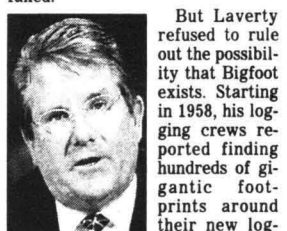
Meldrum thinks that, at a minimum, fossils of Gigantopithecus show that evolution could have produced a Sasquatch-size ape that lived in temperate forests. "It's tempting to draw the line between the two, but so little is known about either," Meldrum said.

If Giganto still exists, then it has been a successful line. Fossils of the creature were discovered in cave sediments dated to a million years. The last fossils date to 300,000 to 400,000 years ago, a time when Homo erectus still populated Asia.

Ciochon, who has studied Gigantopithecus sites, rejects the link between Gigantopithecus and Sasquatch. He believes Gigantopithecus was a slow, sedentary knuckle-walker like the gorilla, not a wide-ranging omnivore like the bear. Ciochon believes Giganto went extinct because of climate change, bamboo die-offs, and perhaps human hunting. Ciochon declined to be interviewed for this story.

For Meldrum, the Patterson-Gimlin film is doubly significant because several frames provide the only existing images of his study object, the creature's foot. A plaster cast of tracks left by the creature shows an apelike, midfoot hinge that he says is a defining characteristic of the Sasquatch foot.

Lyle Lavery, until recently the top Forest Service official in the Rocky Mountain region, started his career as a timber manager in northern California during the late 1950s and 1960s. He investigated the Patterson-Gimlin sighting the day after the film was shot and photographed several footprints left by the animal. Lavery says the film site was so close to a logging road that he still worries the film might somehow have been faked.



Lavery

Whatever left the prints was powerful enough to tumble logging equipment and toss 450-pound drums of gasoline, he says.

"You never want to count it out," said Lavery, who was recently tapped to head the Forest Service's national fire plan, with its \$1.2 billion annual budget. "Some of these crews really felt something was up there. And anything that can pick up a 55-gallon drum of fuel is a big dude."

Meldrum's skepticism vanished in 1996 when he investigated a freshly laid line of alleged Bigfoot tracks in Washington's Blue Mountains. After analyzing the tracks, he determined the animal that left them had proceeded out of a remote drainage along a soupy farm road, then turned and sprinted for the woods, as if it were fleeing something or someone, Meldrum said.

"In order for someone to have faked that, they would have had to walk out of that drainage carrying three or four different sets of feet, which they changed intermittently in mid-stride without any obvious breaks," he said. "It just becomes ludicrous to suggest that."

Last year, Meldrum received unexpected support from Chilcutt, the fingerprint and forensics expert who's also one of the world's few authorities on primate skin patterns, or dermatoglyphics. When Chilcutt saw Meldrum on television talking about apparent skin impressions on some plaster casts of alleged Sasquatch footprints, he offered to examine them, expecting to find Meldrum's claims were inaccurate.

Chilcutt developed an expertise in primate skin patterns as an offshoot of his ongoing study of the human fingerprint. His archive of more than 1,000 ape-skin impressions, prints he collected from tranquilized orangutans, chimpanzees and gorillas, is the largest in the world.

When Chilcutt visited Meldrum's lab, it seemed his hunch would turn out to be accurate. He quickly determined that the ridges he found in the first track Meldrum gave him were from a human finger. But when he examined the rest of Meldrum's collection, Chilcutt found two casts with coarse ridge patterns similar to each other but different from humans or known great apes. One cast of a footprint discovered in the Blue Mountains in 1985 astonished him with the distinctive puckered scars of several healed wounds.

"When primate skin heals, the ridges curl inward toward the wound," he said. "Someone would have to know a real lot about biology and dermatoglyphics to know that. Anybody that smart wouldn't be messing with fakes."

While Chilcutt allows that any single track could be a hoax, he said the skin impressions he has identified in the Blue Mountains track were consistent with those found in a Bluff Creek track from 1967. "We're talking about 18 years and 700 or 800 miles apart," he said. After he spoke about his finding on National Public Radio, a sheriff's deputy sent in a cast of a track he'd found in Georgia in 1977. Same pattern.

In mid-November, Chilcutt examined skin impressions from alleged heel impressions from the body imprint discovered in Washington. He said they match the other four examples he's identified.

Unlike other Bigfoot researchers who are often the object of professional scorn, no one has stepped forward to contradict Chilcutt.

"I'm so well entrenched. My reputation as a latent fingerprint examiner is secure," he said. "So I don't have that problem. Knowing my background and expertise, they accept my findings."

Chilcutt said he's encouraged Meldrum to continue his research.

"I tell Jeff, 'There's no question this animal is out there, so don't give up,' Chilcutt said. "I want him to not give up on this. He's on to something."

## Leadville Evening Chronicle report

A miner's sighting prompted this article in the Oct. 29, 1880, edition.

**A MONSTER,**  
Seen in the Mountains Near  
Grizzly Peak.  
Half a Man and Half a  
Beast.  
A Rival to the Centaur of  
Old.  
For some time past the miners in the vicinity of Grizzly Peak, about forty miles southeast of this city, have reported the presence of a strange animal different from anything known in the mountains.  
On a number of different occasions a creature, resembling a man, save for the extraordinary length of its arms, and the  
LONG SHAGGY HAIR that covered the body, has been seen at a distance among the rocks.  
At first its existence was supposed to be a myth, and the miner who brought in the story was hoisted at and generally disbelieved. Finally, however, there were so many witnesses that it became an undoubted fact that  
A WILD ANIMAL, totally different from anything known to science or natural history existed somewhere amidst the rocky lairs of the adjoining mountains.  
A week or two ago two miners considerably frightened came to a cabin on the east side of the mountain, occupied by a hunter named Lewis, and told an extraordinary

The Denver Post

## We're too dumb for aliens to bother contacting us

### Australian research

Humans are too primitive for alien life forms to bother contacting, an Australian scientist says.

Charles Lineweaver, an astronomer at the University of New South Wales, has calculated that Earth-like planets orbiting other stars would be about 1.8 billion years older than Earth on av-

erage. So humans rank little higher than bacteria on their evolutionary scale, he says in a paper submitted to the journal *Icarus*.

Mr. Lineweaver placed the average age of Earth-like planets at 6.4 billion years, against Earth's 4.6 billion. To put this gap of nearly two billion years in perspective, he noted, "Two billion years ago our ancestors were microscopic single-celled amoebas."

Mr. Lineweaver examined factors such as the formation and destruction of planets, including the presence of heavy atoms such as iron, which were not contained in the early universe.

Mr. Lineweaver said advanced extraterrestrials might not be sufficiently concerned about humans to bother communicating.

"People aren't interested in talking to bacteria, trees, dolphins in their own languages — and we have a big brain. We assume that any species worth its salt would adopt or evolve toward human-like intelligence. If we're talking about aliens who have two billion years difference then I just don't know what we're talking about," he said yesterday.

Researchers looking for life in space are likely to discover "bacteria and lots of other weird things and they're not going to find any English-speaking colonies or human-like intelligence," Mr. Lineweaver said.

Agence France-Presse

# Colo. sightings, tracks hard to ignore

By Theo Stein  
Denver Post Environment Writer

A pair of hikers emerged from the Snowmass Wilderness last summer with a wild tale.

Several Bigfoot shadowed them for two nights, they said, peering into their camp and even walking right up to the tent as they listened in fear and awe.

Forced to make camp in a high pass as a storm approached, David Riley poked his head out of his tent Aug. 22 and found a giant creature with glowing eyes standing on two legs and staring at him from just outside of camp.

"I was stunned," said Riley, a Manhattan public relations professional hiking with a friend from Crested Butte to Snowmass. "This thing was huge. I thoroughly believe now, that's for sure."

While Riley's tale was riveting, Colorado Bigfoot researchers were more excited about last spring's events along the Eagle River, where two fly-fishermen found giant, humanlike footprints several days and 7 miles apart.

Bill Heicher, a Colorado Division of Wildlife biologist, examined a photo of one of the tracks, a deep impression of an 18-inch, five-toed foot found by former Vail resident Bill Brice just feet from the rising Eagle River on April 2. Heicher came away believing that it was not faked, an assessment shared by Eagle County sheriff's Deputy Don Kaufman.

Heicher passed a photo of the track around to other state biologists.

"Nobody, including myself, had any good answers," he said. "It wasn't made by a bear. It wasn't made by a human. And why would anyone be barefoot at that time of

year?"

Colorado has not been the traditional focus for research into Bigfoot, but stories of big, hairy apes appear in traditional Native American tales and run through the mining era to modern times.

Coloradans have reported seeing the animals walking along a stream below Loveland Pass, drinking from a pond in the Lost Creek Wilderness, running after deer in the Roosevelt National Forest, chasing cars near Gypsum and roaring at hikers, campers and fishermen in various locations. The reports have come from scientists, medical professionals, wildlife biologists and elk hunters.

Heicher, who works in the Division of Wildlife's Eagle field office, excluded hoax as a possible explanation for the Eagle River track in part because whatever made the track had placed it in a hard-to-spot area — a stony riverbank that was soon flooded by snowmelt.

"If you were going to perpetrate a hoax, you'd put it in an area where people were likely to stumble on it," he said.

The fact that Grand Junction resident Vern Parsons discovered similar tracks west of Gypsum several days earlier also got Heicher's attention.

Kaufman, the sheriff's deputy, examined the Eagle River print, which he said was pressed deep into the riverbank. "You're looking at something that would weigh probably 400 to 700 pounds to make an impression that deep," he said.

"There was nothing we could come up with from our background, education and experience to say what it was," Heicher added. "We couldn't even narrow it down."

Idaho State University anthro-

The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, the most prominent, Web-based volunteer Bigfoot research group, has compiled more than 20 'credible' sightings, vocalization and track reports in Colorado in the past 10 years and has investigated dozens of others.

pologist Jeff Meldrum, who studies Bigfoot tracks, examined the same photos as Heicher and read a detailed investigation report compiled by Kansas bowhunter and Bigfoot researcher Keith Foster. Meldrum said the Eagle tracks had all the hallmarks of the tracks he's examined from the Northwest.

Foster has investigated dozens of Colorado reports for the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, including Brice's.

Foster believes he and other researchers have identified at least three areas of consistent ape activity along the state's rugged high country. Some locations have produced a stream of Bigfoot reports for 120 years.

Reports of "The Lake Creek Monster" made the Leadville papers in the early 1880s. More than a century later, retired Bureau of Land Management wildlife biologist Richard D. McCuiston began to study Bigfoot after hearing primate-like screams near the National Fish Hatchery in Leadville.

Foster said he's had more than one encounter with his elusive quarry.

"I'm convinced that you don't

find Bigfoot; they find you," he said. "The closer to their home base you are, the more likely they will be curious."

Riley, the Manhattan hiker, said he certainly wasn't looking for a Sasquatch when he and a friend began the trek from Crested Butte to Snowmass Lake. But on the evening of Aug. 22, Riley said, he stepped out from the tent after a heavy rain shower and saw a giant with highly reflective eyes staring back at him from the edge of the camp, while two apparent juveniles peeked around the giant's bulk.

Paralyzed, the 32-year-old Riley summoned up the courage to turn on his headlamp. When he did, he said, his fear morphed to terror.

Riley said he stared at the animal, struggling to make sense of what he saw. "It was definitely over 8 feet tall. Its eyes were huge ... and the glow was unlike any other animal I've ever seen."

"I was flipping out," he said.

Another apparent hot spot is the Conejos drainage of the southern San Juans, where Foster is searching for the giant ape that he said his father and mother surprised next to a cabin eight years ago. "They said the creature looked like and was built like a hairy, dark chocolate-brown, very muscular man with a sloping forehead and a point at the back of the head."

Before the animal sprinted off on two legs down a hill and across a stream, they estimated its height at 8 feet because the top of its head was even with the eaves of the cabin. One 16-inch track was left in the silt by the stream.

McCuiston's encounter came on Oct. 23, 1994, at about 1:30 a.m. He was trying to sleep in a cold camper near Mount Massive when he heard two enormous bellows next

to his camper.

"It sounded like a really huge man," said the former Marine, a Vietnam combat veteran. "It was loud enough that it was almost like you could feel the sound."

A third focus of reports centers on the Pike National Forest, where Foster has investigated a series of sightings to the west of Colorado Springs, and where big-game guide Jeff Dysinger reported two encounters in as many years.

In September 1998, Dysinger and another guide were packing out four clients when a large bipedal animal jumped off a bank in front of his startled horse and disappeared down a hillside. A year later, Dysinger was bow-hunting alone one morning when he watched a 7-foot-tall reddish-brown ape through binoculars in clear light for several minutes.

"I've been hunting all my life," said Dysinger, an Army vet and a hunter since the age of 12. "I had some of the best optical equipment money could buy. At 150 yards you're not going to miss too much. Unless there's a 7-foot-tall gorilla running around this part of the world, there was nothing else it could have been."

Heicher and Division of Wildlife bear biologist Tom Beck aren't so sure. While the high country is certainly able to swallow up large objects, like any number of plane wrecks, they believe a lot more people ought to be reporting evidence of Bigfoot.

"Eagle Valley is very popular with lion hunters and bear hunters who use dogs," Heicher said. "They're out there all winter looking for tracks. These guys are pretty knowledgeable woodsmen, and I've never heard a credible report out of them."

## Champ spotted: presence remains deep, dark secret

By LOHR McKINSTRY, Staff Writer

WILLSBORO - A sighting of Champ — the legendary Lake Champlain monster — this fall in Willsboro Bay startled a woman as she ate breakfast at her summer home.

Seasonal resident Elizabeth Wilkins told the *Press-Republican* this week that she saw a large humped, crocodile-like creature swimming in the lake Nov. 26 and quickly grabbed a pair of binoculars to get a better look.

"It appeared to be about 30 or 40 feet long," Wilkins said. "After about 20 minutes, it slowly began to move northward, leaving a fine wake behind."

Wilkins took a photograph of the creature that shows a long, dark outline in the water, with a duck swimming off to one side.

"A large group of seagulls flying overhead were very disturbed by this, as were the ducks attempting to swim near it," she said.

"When it got in front of Klein's Marina, it slowly disappeared underwater."

The 7 a.m. sighting was one of 16 this year, with the other 15 tracked by Champ Quest, the Panton, VT-based non-profit group that monitors Champ's activities.

The first sighting was June 12 off Panton, VT. Other sightings were around Port Henry, Westport and Port Kent on the New York side and Fenisburgh, Charlotte, Savage Island and Isle la Motte on the Vermont side of the lake.

Champ Quest Director Dennis Hall said he personally saw Champ while investigating the July 23 sighting near Panton, VT.

"I was conducting the search from Button Bay around 5 p.m. My eye picked up movement between Rock Island and the shore," Hall said.

"The movement quick and distant, still stood the hairs up on my neck. I quickly began to videotape. Over a four-minute period, a single 'Champy' stuck its neck straight out of the water and remained on the surface long enough for me to zoom in while the camera was on a tripod.

"It bent its neck and looked like its neck was contracting in a vertical manner, like trying to swallow something. The animal, after a few minutes, quickly disappeared under the water."

There was another sighting two days later, Nov. 29, by the Essex-Charlotte ferry crew.

It's not that unusual to see Champ so late in the season, Hall said, although he does believe the creature hibernates in the winter.

"It was quite a warm period for late in November," he said.

"The past few years, the lake has cooled to below 50 and then warmed back up, only to cool down again. Maybe in anticipation of such an event, Champy isn't going into a full hibernation as quickly as they were able to before global warming."

There is something in the lake, Hall

believes, or so many people wouldn't report seeing it.

"Since 1609, there have been over 600 reported sightings. Samuel de Champlain, while on his voyage of discovery, reported seeing a large animal in the lake," he said.

"The most frequently asked question is: What is Champ? I have described what I've seen as a lizard-like, long-necked animal with four legs and feet, a forked tongue, emits a hissing noise, loves the shallow waters, eats small fish and is about 12 inches at birth and 20 feet or more full-grown. And very ugly."

Wilkins said the creature she saw astounded her.

What startled me first was the commotion all the seagulls were making out

## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

# Bigfoot tracker found tracks!

When he headed out of Walla Walla, headed for Keuterville, Idaho, Bigfoot tracker Brian Smith had no idea what he'd find there.

First of all, where in the world is Keuterville?

"It's a ways from Grangeville," Smith told his buddies at the Bigfoot coffee hour the other day. By the way, for Bigfoot enthusiasts and/or coffee drinkers, that session is each Wednesday at 9 a.m., at the Blue Mountain Mall's dining area.

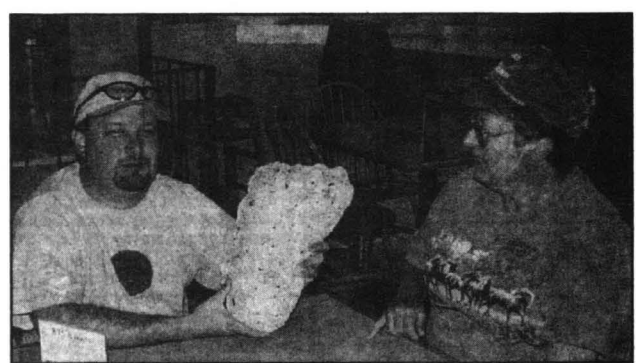
Grangeville being some 175 miles easterly of Walla Walla, it meant Smith had a long drive ahead of him to check out a report of not only tracks found of the elusive creature but also reports of someone having seen the thing and lots of people still hearing things at night.

So, as he wended over US 12 for much of his way, Smith at least had in mind he might just be getting closer to solving this Bigfoot mystery which has been building up pretty good in recent years. For Smith, it has been an on-again, off-again thing this year, starting with his finding tracks in the snow in the mountains on Jan. 2. He has found other tracks since then and there have been Bigfoot sightings, too.

Smith went to Keuterville at the suggestion of Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Idaho State University biological sciences professor. Meldrum has been a scientist deeply involved in tracking down the mystery of Bigfoot. Not too many scientists have done so. Grover Krantz, former WSU anthropology teacher, is the noteworthy exception.

Meldrum had received a report that a teenaged youth ("No name, please!") had recently spotted some tracks. This sighting, the boy said, was "a year to the day" when he and his sister had seen a Bigfoot, at near range (just a few feet away) as it squatted in the brush. The boy says he got a pretty clear look at the creature's face ("it's dark in color").

When Smith got to the scene he found one good track and made a cast of it to send to Meldrum in Pocatello. The foot measures 14 inches long and is about seven inches wide at the toes, Smith says. He further noted that when Meldrum saw photographs of the



This cast of a Bigfoot track has something that differentiates it from others, something which excited Bigfoot pursuer Brian Smith, shown here with Sheryl Jenkins.

— Vance Orchard photo

track he was "pretty excited."

The cast has in it what appear to be dermal ridges, the feature of the Bigfoot tracks made by the creature Paul Freeman saw in June 1982 at the top of the Tiger Canyon road above Mill Creek.

Smith said Meldrum was further "highly interested" in other features of the footprint found at Keuterville.

In his investigation, Smith turned up some more interesting features of the Keuterville sighting. He said the un-named youth had found other tracks but no more in mud where they could be easily cast. The entire area has been under intense investigation and local residents report hearing "weird" sounds.

Smith said the youth had also found what appeared to be a huge "nest" or "bedding down place." He said the boy told him he had crawled inside the affair (apparently shaped from brush and grasses) and found there a clump of hair, orange-red in color.

The original cast Smith made at Keuterville has been forwarded to Meldrum for his scrutiny under laboratory conditions for further analysis.

In the meantime, Smith's copy is getting a lot of attention at the Bigfoot coffee sessions at the mall.

Smith has been a regular driver of the ridges above Dixie and other likely Bigfoot sighting areas in the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla. Logging activity in the upper reaches of Biscuit and Blacksnake

ridges might have "spooked out" some of the critters, Smith feels, but those two places continue to rate high on a listing of likely Bigfoot sighting places.

About this Keuterville resident's reluctance to reveal his name in reports of the Bigfoot ... this is nothing new. It also is certainly the reason more sightings are not reported. The fear of ridicule is strong in people on such matters. Bigfoot researchers for years have asserted that it is this fear of ridicule that has kept more ... a lot more ... information about Bigfoot hidden by many witnesses of Bigfoot.

A recent example appeared in this column when I related the story (considered one of the finest examples of Bigfoot anecdotes) about the Bigfoot sighting by a logging truck driver coming off Biscuit Ridge above Dixie. It was more than two years before he'd talk to a reporter about it and then he was adamant that his name not be used.

What it will take to overcome this reluctance to step forward and tell what one sees, is likely to be a sighting which simply cannot be ignored.

And that is going to be something ... for Bigfoot has been sighted many, many times in the Walla Walla Blues over the years ... at least since 1900 ... but none have been such that they can't be ignored ... even if it's by a logging truck driver, sitting in his truck, motor shut off, getting a long, hard look at a Bigfoot from 40 feet away.

While it looked him over, then ambled off into the brush and out of sight.

AND BY THE WAY ... anyone seeing a Bigfoot or signs indicating same, give Smith a phone call at 529-7379 in Walla Walla. Just ask for "Brian." He is operating what he calls the Walla Walla Sasquatch Research Organization.

there," she said. "I thought, 'What's going on here?' and I looked out.

"Then I saw it. Our camp is directly on the water. It's elevated, that's how I could see it so well. He lay there sort of still in the water for at least 15 minutes."

The ducks nearby would not approach the shape, she said.

"The thing moved northward in a straight line. It humped up in the middle. Its skin looked just like crocodile skin; it was rough. As it moved, it left a little wake behind it.

"I've never seen anything like it."

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