

UFO

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ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 6, 2001

WHAT'S UP!



Flying saucers and unexplained aircraft will be among the topics discussed this weekend at the Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs.

You saw it too, right?

Believers, experts and the curious gather in Eureka Springs for the annual UFO Conference.

BY SANDRA COX
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

EUREKA SPRINGS — They all want to believe. Or, at least, try to figure things out. This weekend, anywhere from 350 to 500 people — some from out of the country — will gather in Eureka Springs to discuss what they've seen, experienced or are just curious about yet don't understand at the annual Ozark UFO Conference. It could be crop circles, mysterious lights in the sky or, in extreme-case scenarios, abductions. In short, if it can't be explained, maybe some answers will come about at this weekend's meeting.

"Probably the majority of people who come, either they just have a simple intellectual curiosity on the subject or they've had some kind of experience, sighting or whatever," says Lucius Farish, conference organizer.

As is customary with the gathering, there is no prevalent theme.

"I don't think we have anything that anyone is going to concentrate on," he says. "It's just kind of an overview of all the evidence."

There will be a number of speakers, including the following nine:

■ Timothy Good, author of *Above Top Secret* and *Alien Base*. He will discuss cases of UFO sightings and extraterrestrial contacts.

■ Linda Moulton Howe, documentary producer, radio science reporter and author of several books, including *Mysterious Lights* and *Crop Circles*.

■ Antonio Huneus, science journalist and columnist for *Fate Magazine*, who will offer a report of recent UFO events from around the world.

■ John Schroeder, a UFO researcher from St.

SPECIAL EVENT

Ozark UFO Conference

1 p.m. today-noon Sunday, Victoria Inn, 4028 E. Van Buren St., Eureka Springs

Admission: \$40, though special prices will be arranged for those participating for a limited time (501) 354-2558

Louis, who will recount personal experiences with UFOs dating back to childhood.

■ Graham Sheppard, retired British Airways pilot, who will give details of personal experiences while flying over Puerto Rico as well as information on UFO sightings and contacts.

■ William Sherwood, retired from Kodak, will analyze UFO photos and films and examine sacred texts and UFOs.

■ Jim Sparks, who will discuss abduction experiences and learning techniques used by extraterrestrials.

■ Wendelle Stevens, a UFO investigator, will examine abduction cases and contacts that are rarely publicized.

■ Nancy Talbott, associate of W.C. Levensgood (a plant biophysicist noted for his crop circle studies), will speak about the importance of continuing the search for hard, physical evidence from crop circle and animal mutilation sites.

In Arkansas, Farish says, there's been a recent report of a triangular aircraft hovering over the Buffalo River and then taking off, out of sight — similar to other reported incidents from all over the world during the past 15 years. He says one explanation is that it is experimental aircraft kept secret by the government.

"But I can't see when the government has thousands, or millions, of acres of test area why they would be flying these things up in the Ozarks at treetop level in the middle of the night," he says. "It doesn't make a lot of sense to me."

The conference was originally scheduled for the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks convention center, but a fire in February has caused the event to be moved to the Victoria Inn. Hotel rooms at the Best Western Inn were not affected by the fire, and a shuttle bus will transport attendees back and forth, Farish says.

As for public opinion, Farish says he understands that there are some people who may think the conference attendees are "nuts." He doesn't let them get to him.

"We try to maintain a sense of humor about it," he says. "We put a sign on the registration desk [stating] that all government agencies must register."

UNION LEADER, Manchester, NH - March 8, 2001

Photo may show clip of alien ship

■ A Windham entrepreneur is making the most of his grandfather's UFO sighting.

By JANINE GILBERTSON
Union Leader Correspondent

WINDHAM — When his grandfather died in 1988, Claude Riendeau of Windham inherited something out of this world.

Wilfred Stringer bequeathed Riendeau his 1977 photograph of what he believed was a spaceship he captured on film near his hometown, the small Canadian town of Chartierville, just across the border from Pittsburg.

Riendeau, who copyrighted the photo, recently launched a Web

site to sell T-shirts, posters and postcards bearing the extraterrestrial image.

"The orders are coming in," Riendeau said. "We've had orders from Canada, Mexico and as far away as Russia. We also got an order request from the UFO Museum in Roswell, New Mexico."

According to Riendeau, his grandfather was driving near Chartierville's famed "Magnetic Hill" one September evening when he heard a heavy wind blowing. He then claims to have seen a glowing half-orb descend silently and land a few hundred yards in front of him. Stringer had his camera in the car and snapped a picture.

Riendeau said it is not considered unusual to have such an encounter in that area.

"My cousins and I used to see things up there all the time," he said. "People all over Chartierville claim to have seen UFOs."

When the picture was left to him, Riendeau knew he had to do something with it.

"I decided that if it was a good picture, I would start the copyright and trademark process and do something with the picture," he said.

He took the photograph to a 1996 Mutual UFO Network gathering in Portsmouth to hear what the experts had to say about the authenticity of the image.

Riendeau said Dr. Richard Haines of NASA's Ames Research Center called it "a very interesting photo." UFO expert

Stanton Friedman, a UFO researcher for more than 20 years, also examined the picture. Riendeau said that Friedman called it "a great photo."

Another noted UFO researcher, Antonio Huewmes, told Riendeau he thought it was probably one of the finest examples he's ever seen of a UFO photo. While at the gathering, Riendeau also made contact with the inspiration for the movie "Fire in the Sky," Travis Walton.

Riendeau took his faded photograph to a Boston graphics firm so the image could be enhanced and made into a four-color process that could be printed on T-shirts.

Riendeau said the company tried to retain rights to the image that they produced from the original photo.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - April 1, 2001

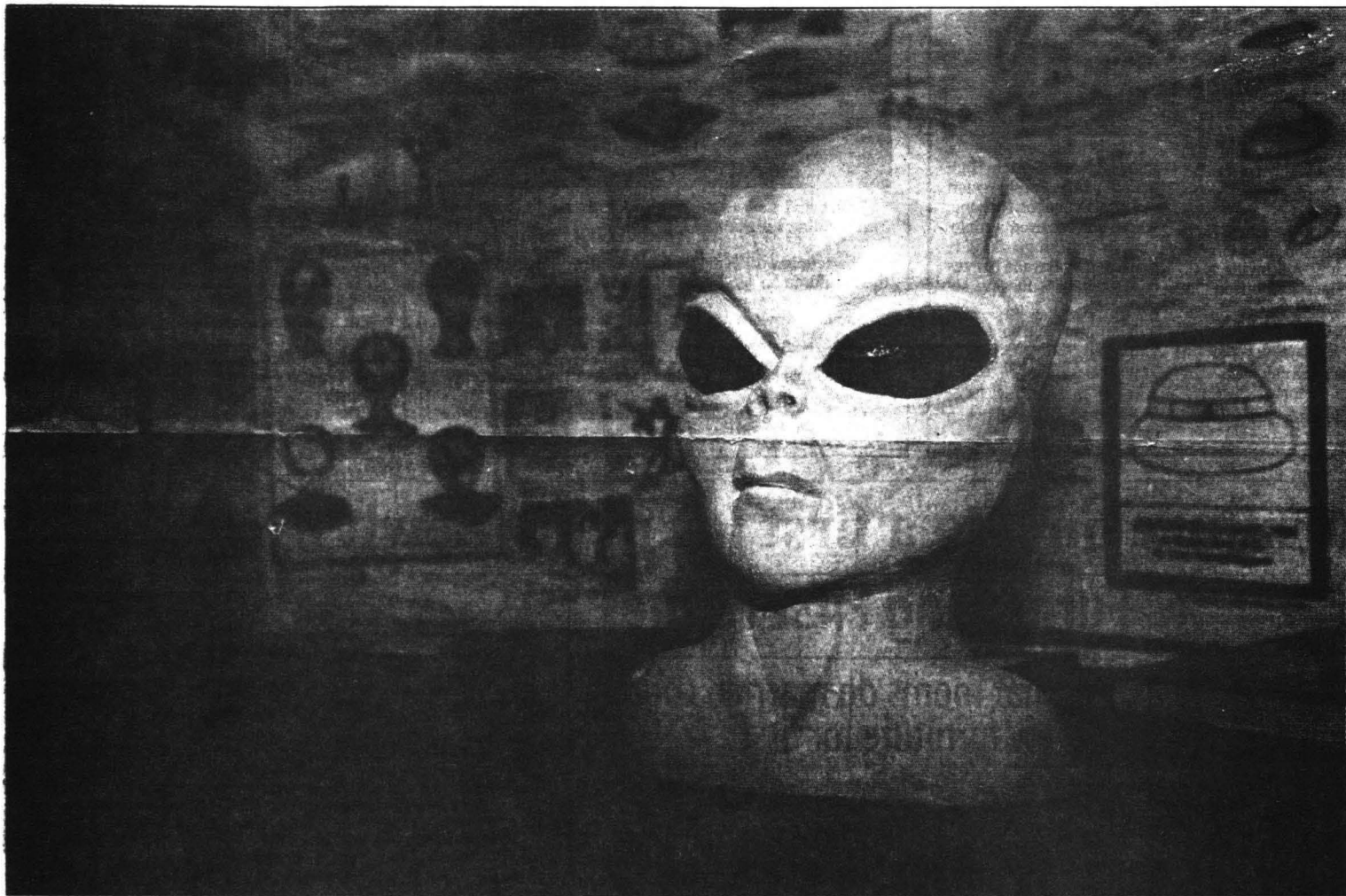
Way out there: The Sci Fi Channel is phoning home to Steven Spielberg for a new miniseries about alien kidnappers. (And no, this is not an April Fools' joke.)

Spielberg, director of space-visitor blockbusters *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, plans to produce a 20-hour program about three fictional families who experience alien abductions, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Tentatively titled *Taken*, the show is to premiere next year in 10 two-hour installments, says Bonnie Hammer, executive vice president and general manager of the Sci Fi Channel.

Eric E. Harrison's *Sunday Tattle Tales* column is partially compiled from Arkansas Democrat-Gazette wire services. Send e-mail to

eric_harrison@adg.ardemgaz.com



BRUCE MATLOCK/RECORD & LANDMARK

Among the numerous items on display at a recently held meeting of MUFON (The Mutual UFO Network) is a model of a head many claim is representative of aliens they have encountered. People from all walks of life attended the

meeting, including author Brenda Denzler, who holds a doctorate in religious studies from Duke University. She discussed her latest book, 'The Lure of the Edge: Scientific passion, religious belief, and the pursuit of UFO's.'

Strangers among us

BY JONATHAN WEAVER
RECORD & LANDMARK

Wayne LaPorte of Indian Trail was enjoying his backyard spa a week ago when he heard the dull thumping of rotor blades.

It was a helicopter, but that's not what peaked his interest.

About 100 feet ahead of the helicopter, a tadpole-shaped black object glided silently through the night sky.

For the UFO aficionado, interest outweighed fright.

"There's been rumors of a stealth helicopter, and that could have been what it was," LaPorte said. "But I don't know."

LaPorte demonstrated his encounter in front of 50 North Carolina believers. On a table to the side, a wide-eyed, slightly domed alien head stared intently.

LaPorte was the first speaker at the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina meeting held Sunday at Statesville's Iredell County Library.

The network is an agency that studies UFO sightings and abductions and aims to provide the ultimate answer to the UFO enigma. It serves as a sounding board for those who have had UFO encounters without ridicule or censor-

ship. The group meets quarterly. Individual membership is \$5, \$10 for the whole family.

"I saw one in Nashville," said Jack Webb, a Statesville resident and Piedmont Amateur Astronomy Club member. "It was a big ball of light flying about 20 feet above the ground. When it got to a group of trees, it dodged them. There's a lot of things that have been seen that people can't explain."

Tim Ceritello of Statesville brought the UFO event to Statesville. He has followed UFOs since grade school.

"When you first start looking at it, it's just a small saucer flying around," Ceritello said. "But the more you get into it, the more you realize there's abductions, cattle mutilations, crop circles and other things."

Ceritello will soon begin work on his MUFON field investigators license.

After poring through a manual, future field investigators learn how to effectively interview witnesses, properly take soil and grass samples and give a complete report to the Mutual UFO Network, said MUFON director George Lund III. An open book test is given when the applicant is ready.

Sunday's centerpiece was a lecture on UFO reality by the man Lund called the "Dean of

UFO investigators" — George Fawcett.

Fawcett, whose mother hails from Statesville, has investigated more than 1,200 UFO reports since 1944. In 1975, he wrote "Quarter Century Studies of UFO in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee."

Using slides, eyewitness stories and case histories during his presentation, Fawcett covered the scientific, political, social and emotional implications of UFO sightings.

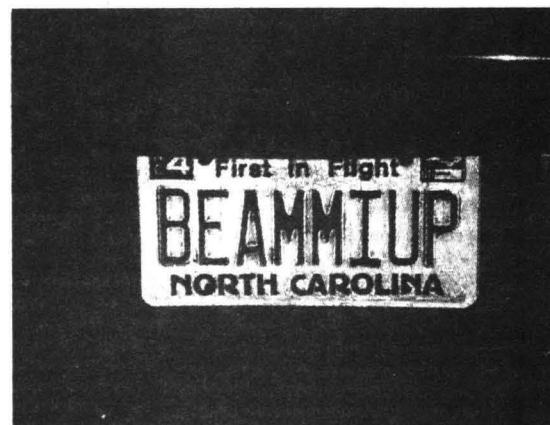
Many dismiss believers of otherworldly life as publicity-seeking oddballs.

"Most are not nuts," said Brenda Denzler. "Most have legitimate reasons for their beliefs."

Denzler holds a doctorate in religious studies from Duke University. She attended the gathering to discuss her new book, "The Lure of the Edge: Scientific passion, religious belief and the pursuit of UFO's."

Her audience was the same group she explores in the book. "I'm trying to find legitimacy in the UFO community," Denzler said.

Denzler became fascinated with the UFO-absorbed culture after reading "Communism" by Whitley Strieber. "I



Perhaps this license plate best expresses the sentiments of UFO believers.

was hooked," she said. "I thought, this is what I need to do."

Denzler formed a focus group by sending questionnaires to witnesses from which she draws her data.

"Those who report sightings tend to be more highly educated than the general population, she said. "They may be less affluent. They are overwhelmingly white and male."

Denzler hasn't had a close encounter of any kind. Yet.

"I would love to have a sighting," she said. "But I don't just want to see one in the treetops. I want to have one land in my front yard."

In the meantime, Fawcett said, "We'll keep searching for the truth."

Local man seeks stories of UFO sitings in region

By HAL McCUNE
of the East Oregonian

Roy Timm says he saw three saucers when he was a boy

Roy Timm's vision began to fade when he was still young. Now 66, he's been legally blind for nearly 10 years. But he's absolutely certain of what he saw 54 years ago while at the family ranch a few miles south of Pendleton — flying saucers.

His mother was on the porch watching as he and his brother reattached telephone lines to poles in front of the house to make room for hay trucks to pass under. Suddenly, three objects in the sky caught their attention.

"They came whizzing by just a little to the left of our house," Timm recalls. "The altitude was low enough that my brother (who was at the top of a pole) could see the windows in the front."

The ships, which the Timms

Want to know more?

For people who want to know more about UFOs, Roy Timm suggests the following books:

- "The Day After Roswell," by Phil Corso
- "Leap of Faith," by Gordon Cooper
- "Unidentified Flying Objects," by Paul Hill
- "Above Top Secret," by Timothy Good

Regional "ET" specialist

■ James Gilliland of Trout Lake, Wash. Write him at: P.O. Box 281, Hood River, OR 97031.

Gilliland is willing to arrange opportunities to see flying saucers around Mt. Adams.

Share your experience

■ Timm is interested in talking to anyone who has seen a UFO, crop circles, livestock mutilations, or had an experience with ETs. Call him at 276-2756.

anything traveling that fast, perfectly silent, no sound whatsoever.

later agreed looked like two saucers tipped together, came from the southeast "at a very high rate of speed. I have never seen



Roy Timm of Pendleton and Lee Finley of Pilot Rock hold model replicas of commonly reported flying saucers. Timm says he and his family saw flying saucers near Pendleton when he was 12. Staff photo by Don Cresswell

ever."

The date was June 24, 1947. Timm was 12, his brother 18, his mother 44. They were amazed and baffled by what they saw, but they received some confirmation from an unexpected source: the local newspaper.

On the front page of the East Oregonian the next day, a small article told of a pilot who landed in Pendleton and claimed to have seen nine "saucer-like aircraft" flying at about 10,000 feet near Mt. Rainier at an estimated speed of 1,200 mph. The next day there was a much larger story about Kenneth Arnold, a pilot and businessman from Boise. The wire services picked up the story and it was printed around the country. In retrospect, Timm wishes his family had spoken up at the time about what they'd seen. Others did. The June 30 EO included a short story reporting that Bill Schuening, foreman of the Lester King ranch about 15 miles north of Pendleton, saw flying objects similar to those Arnold described seeing that same Tuesday. Morton Elder, a McKay Creek farm wife, reported in the same story seeing flying saucers the Sunday afterward.

In 1987, at age 70, Schuening reiterated his story shortly before he died. "I told my wife about it. She said I was crazy to say anything," Schuening recalled in that '87 story.

Fear that people would scoff is one reason the Timm family kept mum. But Roy Timm doesn't care what people think now, although he's sometimes annoyed many don't have more open minds on the topic.

"I hate to see people so dogmatically sure there's nobody out there but us," he says.

The fact that several people reported seeing "saucers" the same day as Arnold and the Timms helps substantiate the sightings, Timm says. Once Arnold's story went on the wire, reports of similar sightings were reported from as far away as Oklahoma City.

The reports had many similarities. Arnold reported the flat, shiny objects weaving "like the tail of a Chinese kite." Timm says the saucers "wavered through the air as though they were bucking wind" even though the day was still and sunny. Scheuening, the Timms and the report from Oklahoma City all noted that the objects made no noise.

That experience as a 12-year-old started Timm on a quest for information and understanding that has intensified in recent years. He has collected shelves of books and memorabilia on the topic and talked to dozens of people who contend they have seen flying saucers and extraterrestrial beings, been abducted by "ETs" or seen physical signs that flying saucers exist. Most of those conversations have been with people who live in northeast Oregon, which along with southeast Washington seems to be a particularly fertile area for sightings.

Timm says matter-of-factly that he knows of six people in the Pendleton area who have been abducted. He knows of many more people who say they have seen flying saucers. He's also witnessed the aftermath of local cattle mutilations he says were obviously not done by man, and he's studied crop circles, many of which he believes are created by ETs, including one discovered near the Pendleton airport in 1998.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3 - EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - March 10, 2001)

"All the leaves, all of the beards and all of the heads were intact," he said of the compressed wheat. "The grain was not broken at the ground, you cannot bend ripe wheat, even green wheat, once it has formed a tube and headed without breaking it." He and the farmer agreed it couldn't have been done by people.

He contends there's also no human explanation for a swath of trees that were twisted, uprooted or notched with strange grooves in the Blue Mountains near Granite in 1956. Lee Finley of Pilot Rock discovered the unexplainable devastation while elk hunting with his son. Deep in a thicket of trees they found a zig-zagging path 12-15 feet wide where a number of trees had been scarred, broken and in some cases completely uprooted. Grooves were slashed into several trees at heights from two to six feet.

Finley surmised at the time that a flying object crashed through the thicket and took off again. The Finley family still has photos taken of

the notched trees, which Timm also has added to his collection.

In October, Timm went to Roswell, N.M., site of the infamous UFO crash in 1947 and subsequent military cover up alleged by UFO believers. He visited the UFO Museum there and recorded interviews with several people, including a mortician who worked with the Air Force at the time of the alleged crash and a former soldier who says he investigated UFO crash sites while with the U.S. military.

After collecting information on flying saucers for most of his life, and concluding that "there is something out there," Timm is intent on sharing that knowledge with others. Since returning from Roswell he's been amazed at the number of people who have spoken to him about their own brushes with ETs. But he'd like to go beyond that and hold a public forum where he could share his information with others.

"I've got a more open mind than most people," he says.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - March 23, 2001 CR: G. Fawcett

UFO references available for truth seekers

I recently finished reading my 1,045th book on UFOs. Over the past 57 years I have tried to continuously review all the literature, both pro and con, in the UFO field.

In 2000, two massive updated and documented volumes of UFO information (needed for a clear understanding) of the phenomenon were published.

Richard H. Hall's "The UFO Evidence" (Volume II, A 30 Year Report) 1964-1994, Scarecrow Press, Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania follows up Volume I, 1944-1964 of the same title. That work sparked Congressional UFO hearings in 1964 and was recently republished by Barnes and Noble Books, also authored by Hall.

The second major work was Richard Dolan's "UFOs and the National Security State: An Unclassified History," (Volume I, 1941-1973) Keyhole Publishing Company, Rochester, N.Y.)

A third book, "Leap of Faith" (An Astronaut's Journey into the Unknown) (2000) by Astronaut Gordon Cooper with Bruce Henderson details Astronaut Cooper's jet fighter chases of UFOs over Europe in World War II, the filming of a UFO that landed in a restricted area of Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. and Cooper's testimony during United Nations UFO hearings in New York in 1978. This book was published by Harper Collins, Publishers, Inc. in New York.

These books should be reviewed by news media and placed in local and area libraries for truth seekers everywhere.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

POST, Denver, CO - July 28, 2000 CR: P. Noonan



Dan Winters of Vacaville, Calif., peers at a display in the International UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M. recently.

Aaron J. Walker
Associated Press

Roswell museum no alien to visitors

By Andres Ybarra
The Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — In a town where the Wal-Mart is decorated with a big alien head and restaurant signs welcome space creatures, is it any wonder the biggest attraction is a UFO museum?

This small southeastern New Mexico town, known as the alien capital of the world, opens its doors to tourists obsessed with the idea that we are not alone.

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

The museum, which fits right in with its exterior paintings of little green men, is a warehouse of infor-

Open mind about UFOs encouraged

mation on the alleged flying saucer crash landing near Roswell in 1947.

The theme of government cover-up hangs heavy in the museum along with the pictures and documents of the crash site. But despite the fact that many of the museum's workers have a strong belief in UFOs, their goal is not to convince people of alien existence.

"We just ask you to come through with an open mind and then make up your own mind," said museum director Carol Syska.

There are also displays on other UFO sightings around the world —

including those proven to be hoaxes.

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

The only physical evidence on display is a small piece of metal that the museum purports to be debris from a crashed spacecraft. The government denies the claim and has said the only thing that crashed was a weather balloon.

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

information they present. It's very informative."

For a less-academic experience, Stacy Wolkwitz's Alien Zone store a block away sells T-shirts, key chains and other alien paraphernalia. The store also features an alien photo studio with backdrops ranging from aliens barbecuing to an Area 51 toxic spill.

If you go: Roswell is in southeastern New Mexico, about a four-hour drive from Albuquerque. Head east on Interstate 40, then south on U.S. 285. The UFO museum is located at 114 N. Main St. Admission is free. Call the Roswell Convention and Visitors Bureau at (505) 624-0889 or visit www.roswellcvb.com.

Top-secret military planes get a stealthy burial in Area 51

Aviation • The Nevada desert serves as the final resting place for crashed aircraft and failed experiments.

By KEITH ROGERS
Las Vegas Review-Journal

LAS VEGAS

As big as football fields and deep enough to bury airplanes, the graves at Groom Lake lie scattered around the government's secret installation in the desert.

There are no headstones or markers to denote the final resting place for such high-tech aircraft as the predecessors to the F-117A Night-hawk stealth fighter jet and the SR-71 Blackbird spy plane.

But people who worked at what is widely known as Area 51 and researchers who track aviation history say some planes that crashed and other experiments that failed were hauled to the bottom of 40-foot-deep holes and covered overnight with mounds of dirt.

According to aviation writer and historian Peter Merlin - who has obtained declassified flight documents and interviewed personnel involved with Groom Lake programs since 1955 - more than a dozen aircraft are buried around the installation.

Combined, the craft were worth at least \$600 million and might be valued as much as \$1 billion.

This practice of disposing of secret, high-tech equipment continues today, he said.

Because it is cloaked in secrecy by presidential order, Air Force officials will not discuss what is acknowledged only as "the operating location near Groom Lake," which is 38,400 acres of desert along the dry lake bed 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The equipment that now lies 40 feet beneath the surface represents cutting-edge technology that in its time kept the U.S. military and the nation's intelligence community ahead of foreign adversaries, Merlin said.

For example, three generations of high-flying spy planes - U-2s, A-12s, and SR-71s - have been demon-

strated at Groom Lake, each becoming progressively superior to foreign forces. "Nobody ever shot down an A-12," Merlin noted.

Even former Soviet bloc aircraft, such as the 1970s-vintage MiG-23, have been obtained by the U.S. intelligence community and tested at Groom Lake to see how U.S. planes and radar stack up against it, said Merlin.

A 1982 burial site described by a former Groom Lake worker was near a gravel-pit road and system of trenches where secret documents and materials including drums of toxic coatings for stealth fighter jets were routinely burned for years. A lawsuit by former base workers alleged they had developed illnesses from toxic fumes, but the Air Force has declined to release documents regarding the disposal practice, citing national security concerns.

John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org - a Washing-

'You would want to dispose of them so they don't come back to haunt you.'

JOHN PIKE
defense policy expert

ton, D.C.-area defense-policy organization - said "the notion that the Air Force is burying its mistakes at Groom Lake makes sense." It is patrolled by helicopters carrying door gunners manning machine guns.

The Groom Lake graveyard, according to Merlin, includes several 1960s-vintage A-12s, predecessors of the fast, high-flying SR-71 Blackbird spy planes; four U-2s from the 1950s; a F-101 chase plane that crashed in 1965; and wreckage of a MiG-23 that crashed in 1984.

Merlin and three other sources who worked at the base said base officials wanted to retrieve one of the Have Blue airframes used to demonstrate technology for the F-117A that was buried somewhere near the Groom Lake installation but were unable to find it.

There was a plan to bury a unique surveillance aircraft, Tacit Blue - a white plane equipped with sensors and radar that could survive flying

close to war zones - but it was rescued and placed in the U.S. Air Force Museum in Ohio instead. Tacit Blue was tested at Groom Lake from 1982 to 1985, Merlin said.

Not all once-secret planes from Groom Lake that crashed have been buried there, including the first production F-117A, tail No. 785, according to Merlin and others who worked at the base at the time.

On April 20, 1982, Lockheed test pilot Robert Riedenaer was at the controls of that plane when it cartwheeled wing over wing attempting to take off from a Groom Lake runway.

To this day neither Riedenaer nor Air Force officials can say where the ill-fated takeoff occurred - but other sources who worked at the base as well as Merlin say that crash was indeed at the Groom Lake installation.

The wings of the \$46 million plane were shattered. The plane was to have been the first of 59 stealth F-117As delivered to the Air Force.

Much of it, however, was salvaged and spared from burial, according to Merlin.

The damaged aircraft was returned to Palmdale, where it now sits on a pylon on display. The first preproduction F-117s have also been converted to displays. One of them, tail No. 780 is at Freedom Park at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas.

Bob Pepper, a spokesman for the F-117A stealth fighter jet unit at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, said the policy for disposing of wrecked stealths is to store them temporarily at Holloman and then to follow the procedure for disposing of other military aircraft.

The current procedure for disposing of Air Force planes developed from unclassified technology, according to Pike, is to take them to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson, where they are kept for parts, chopped up and melted down to recycle their aluminum and other metals.

"A stealth composite airplane is not the sort of thing that can be melted down to make pots and pans. You would want to dispose of them so they don't come back to haunt you," he said.

By Judy Delacetta
Copley News Service

While a journey along Extraterrestrial Highway may not lead visitors directly to aliens or other planets, it does lead folks from around the globe to the tiny town of Rachel, Nev., and the Little ALe Inn, a sort of cosmic restaurant, bar and motel, where the rooms are cheap and the locals welcome tourists with open arms.

The town attracts earthy visitors who make the 150-mile trek from Las Vegas in sport utility vehicles, motorcycles and even bicycles.

Rachel is about the closest place for a chance to catch a glimpse of Groom Lake, inside Area 51, long-rumored to be a top-secret U.S. government military test facility operated by the U.S. Air Force, and one of the Nellis Ranges, north of Las Vegas. The name Area 51 originated from old maps from the early 1950s, in which the property surrounding Groom Lake was marked as Area 51. The

term was officially used from the 1960s to the 1980s, when the name was changed to the Air Force Flight Test Center.

Rachel gets lots of visitors, from Europe, Asia and around the globe.

The drive to Rachel—about 150 miles northwest of Las Vegas—sets travelers in the middle of the high desert for long stretches of road from Interstate 15 to the green pastures of Panamint Valley. Alamo and Ash Springs, just up the highway, are about the only places to stop for such services as gasoline, food and lodging.

Sherry Artas, who works at the Chevron station in Alamo, has heard just about everything. "We're asked if we've ever seen strange things, or if it's true there are aliens along Extraterrestrial Highway," Artas said. "My grandfather told us he saw the mutilations of cows up here a few years ago. Their organs were gone and the coyotes wouldn't go near them."

Along Extraterrestrial Highway (Nevada State Highway 375) and arrival into the town of Rachel, visiting earthlings seem to be hoping to catch sight of something—anything—by the night sky, and who can beat it? The room rates are cheap (\$30 a night), the sunsets are beautiful and the Little ALe Inn staff members are about as friendly as folks you'll ever want to meet.

The Little ALe Inn is almost in the middle of nowhere—but a fun spot to stop for lunch, meet the locals and tourists, and pick up a few alien-inspired souvenirs.

Should you choose to stay overnight, the 10 rooms—two or three in each trailer—have no television reception, no cellular service and no telephones, so don't plan on surfing the Web during your ET-chasing downtime. There are, however, VCRs in every room and a pay phone on the premises. Visitors also should plan on sharing bathrooms with other guests.

Guests may visit the Little ALe Inn restaurant and bar to borrow videos. Don't count on the latest blockbuster hits. There is, instead, an assortment of films like "Dances With Wolves," "The Shootist," "Foreman vs. Hernandez Fight," and recorded TV specials and magazine-format shows about aliens, outer space and beyond.

Inside the ALe Inn restaurant, bar and gift shop, open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., are interesting photographs of UFOs, celebrities and retired U.S. Air Force personnel, memorabilia, a few choice bumper stickers and visitors ranging from local residents to bicyclists, and from journalists to those who think they're aliens.

The locals admit some of those visitors—men in black suits and military personnel—occasionally stop in to ask questions.

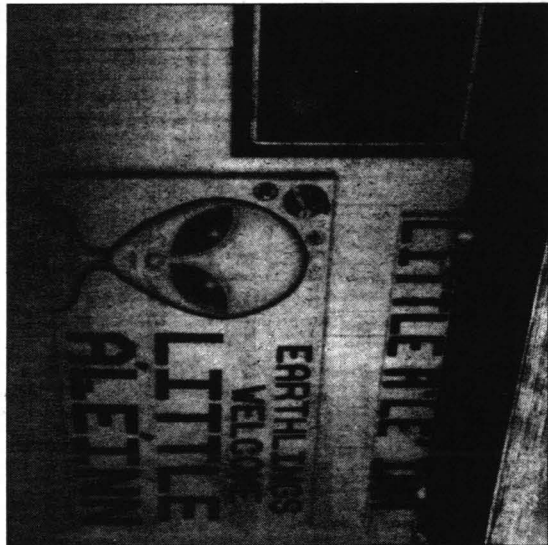
Teresa Anweert moved to Rachel to spend time with her sister, and has been asked some questions herself. "Every now and then, these guys will come in and ask if anyone has seen anything," Anweert said. "I've seen a few lights up in the sky out here. But, I'm not too worried."

Rachel, visiting earthlings seem to be hoping to catch sight of something—anything—by the night sky, and who can beat it? The room rates are cheap (\$30 a night), the sunsets are beautiful and the Little ALe Inn staff members are about as friendly as folks you'll ever want to meet.

The Little ALe Inn is almost in the middle of nowhere—but a fun spot to stop for lunch, meet the locals and tourists, and pick up a few alien-inspired souvenirs.

Should you choose to stay overnight, the 10 rooms—two or three in each trailer—have no television reception, no cellular service and no telephones, so don't plan on surfing the Web during your ET-chasing downtime. There are, however, VCRs in every room and a pay phone on the premises. Visitors also should plan on sharing bathrooms with other guests.

Guests may visit the Little ALe Inn restaurant and bar to borrow videos. Don't count on the latest blockbuster hits. There is, instead, an assortment of



Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway, state Highway 375, can be a far-out 150-mile trek from Las Vegas. It gets its name from being close to high-security military bases. One favorite rest stop along the way is the Little ALe Inn, in tiny Rachel. Extraterrestrial Highway leads to town of Rachel.

Extraterrestrial highway provides look at oddities

UFO Conferees At Eureka Springs Share Otherworldly Experiences

By Daun Eierdam
THE MORNING NEWS • DEIERDAM@NWONLINE.NET

EUREKA SPRINGS — Chloe lay on a table surrounded by seven beings who were not of this Earth.

Only moments before, she had been lying on a massage table at her friend's home in Springdale, preparing herself for a therapeutic rubdown.

"I wasn't on her table two or three minutes when I was no longer there," said Chloe, a woman who appears to be in her mid-thirties and who did not

want to use her real name.

The otherworldly beings who surrounded her had orange, gel-type faces with eyes and noses, but no mouths. Their bodies were yellow and gray. As she lay amongst them, the beings prodded her on the arm and the leg with four-fingered hands.

Though they did not speak to her, the beings telepathically let Chloe know that their society was so technologically advanced that they had shed their emotions. They were studying her, they communicated, so that they could learn about emotions in

an effort to regain them.

Chloe said she wasn't afraid until the aliens shined a bright light into her eyes — then she began to scream. The next thing she knew, she was being lifted up by her massage therapist friend in Springdale.

"My body was still on her table, but I wasn't," said Chloe, who adds that the aliens continue to communicate with her. The beings call themselves the Spirits of the Seventh Plane Universe.

Chloe traveled to the 13th Annual Ozark UFO Conference on

Saturday just to find someone who could help her understand what was happening to her. Before the conference, she had told only a handful of people about her experience, including her mother.

"Her reaction was, 'anything is possible,'" Chloe said. That was not the response she expected to get, she added.

That experience occurred about a year ago. Only a month ago, Chloe said the aliens physically took her to three different planets.

One planet was all browns and reds and oranges, very sandy, and had high peaks. It had been an experimental station for an alien race that died in some kind of catastrophe, according to Chloe.

(continued on page 6)

The second planet had no defined walls, she recalled, and she could see through everything. The beings there communicated through telepathy.

The third planet had heavy vegetation, and the plants were the sentient beings.

"There was no doubt I was there," Chloe said. "When I came back, my whole body was swollen."

Another conferee, Raymond, of Belleville, Ill., told of his travel to Mars.

He did not physically go to Mars, Raymond insists, but traveled there in a vision.

In another vision, Raymond traveled in a space ship, where his job was to eliminate the Grays, an alien race that was abusing humans. He did so using a sonic device that stunned the Grays and bound them in a stasis field.

Not everyone at the conference put stock in stories of extraterrestrial travel.

"I've never been to Mars, I've never been abducted, but I just have an interest in it," said Linda Kee, an El Paso, Ark., attendee.

Kee said she put more faith in some of the conference speakers, such as Timothy Good, the author of "Above Top Secret" and "Alien Base," who spoke during Saturday's evening session. Good spoke of aliens who are here on Earth, who look remarkably like humans and who have plans for the human race.

Alien abductions are a reality, Good told the conferees, though he cautioned that not everyone who claims to have been abducted is telling the truth.

Abduction wasn't the top topic for all attendees. Michael Steuer of Kansas City said he was more interested in phenomena such as crop circles.

The circles represent a manifestation of higher consciousness. They are the work of angels who oversee the plant kingdom, he said.

"However you want to call it — extraterrestrial or extradi-dimensional," Steuer said. "They're beautifully phenomena and meaningful."



RICHARD A. CHAPMAN/SUN-TIMES

Chris Fleming of Schaumburg reports on the paranormal in his Unknown Magazine, which has a circulation of about 10,000. The idea for the publication grew out of a UFO discussion group.

The Unknown truth

UFOs, Bigfoot in Schaumburg man's magazine

BY ART GOLAB
STAFF REPORTER

Chris Fleming says when he was a kid, he saw dead people.

Now, he writes about them.

Ghosts fly through the pages of Unknown Magazine, which he publishes out of his Schaumburg apartment.

The specters keep company with UFOs, aliens and Bigfoot-type creatures in the slick publication Fleming started three years ago.

Fleming, 33, said he saw his first ghost when he was 4 and has been interested in the paranormal ever since.

"I was one of those select few who grew up as a kid seeing ghosts, having angelic experiences and all that type of stuff," he said.

Thanks to his early experiences, what others might think of as paranormal Fleming views as normal. He said he believes in UFOs and in the elusive Bigfoot, which graces the cover of the latest issue of Unknown.

Why don't more people see these things? Fleming says they may exist in different dimensions, undetectable to human senses.

"The fact that animals, like dogs, can hear and see things we can't is proof that we don't know everything that's going on around us," he said.

What we can't see, Fleming is quite willing to show us.

Unknown is full of photos of purported UFOs. Drawings and computer-generated images show scenes that the camera cannot capture.

When using the computer to create "re-enactments," Fleming always adds a note saying the images are not real.

"I don't want to throw stuff out there that's not true," he said. "I'm all about trying to get to the truth and reality of the situation."

The magazine grew out of a UFO discussion group

to which Fleming belonged.

"I wanted to start a newsletter," he said. "Someone else said, 'Why not a magazine?' So that's what I did."

Fleming had a degree in graphic arts from Beloit College in Wisconsin and 10 years' experience, including a stint with the Pioneer Press suburban weeklies, when he started the magazine.

He said other magazines in the field, such as Fate, publish stories by writers who specialize in the paranormal.

"My magazine focuses on people's firsthand experiences and gives people themselves the opportunity to tell their story."

Fleming gets stories from people he has met through the Internet, word-of-mouth and documentaries on cable television.

Unknown has a circulation of about 10,000, is distributed across the country and has subscribers all over the world, but Fleming hasn't given up his day job yet. He works as a mortgage broker to help pay the magazine's bills and is developing a pilot for a TV series based on the publication.

The magazine, in its fifth issue, is published whenever Fleming can get the time and money to put one together.

And he is aware that not everybody is on his frequency. In fact,

when he started the magazine, it caused friction between him and his father, former Chicago Blackhawks star Reggie Fleming.

"He calls it 'that creature magazine,'" Fleming said.

When he meets people for the first time, "I tell them I'm a mortgage broker."

Fleming makes clear he never pushes his beliefs on people.

"If you don't believe me, fine. Go investigate it for yourself," he said. "If you don't even bother to investigate it, don't say there's no such thing."

On the Web: www.unknownmag.com

EVASIVE 'SAUCERS' WINK AT US AGAIN

In Scattered Parts They Make a Nation Blink

BY SAUL PETT

NEW YORK, July 26 — (AP) — Animal, vegetable or mineral, optical illusion, light reflection or actual substance, the phenomena known loosely as "flying saucers" were as busy as the Democrats this week.

In the New York area, in Washington, D. C., in New England and Ohio, reports came in of strange aerial objects that defied explanation. The air force said the volume of such reports was the heaviest in five years.

Most of the sightings were made by relatively competent observers, by pilots, airport control tower men and civilian air defense spotters. In one case, radar technicians at the airport in Washington reported unidentified, unexplained "blips" on their radar scopes the same night other people saw strange sky lights.

All this added significance but no solution to the celestial mystery which has puzzled, fascinated and sometimes frightened the nation since the first "saucers" were sighted in 1947.

No Concrete Evidence

But the air force could only say what it has said before: "There is still no concrete evidence to prove or disprove the so-called 'flying saucers,'"

A Pentagon spokesman said the air force now is receiving about 100 "saucer" reports a month. About 75% of the sightings, he said, have been satisfactorily explained as mistaken conventional aircraft, balloons, birds, planets, shooting stars or hoaxes.

But the remaining 25 per cent, he said, can not be explained, at least not without many more details.

The fact that radar picked up unidentified "blips" does not, the spokesman said, necessarily indicate the presence of actual substance instead of mere light. A radar contact, he said, can be caused by an electronic disturbance in the sky, mal-functioning of the radar set or an actual substance.

But on the same night, Saturday night—and in the same general area—that the radar made its unexplained contacts, two airline pilots reported strange lights.

Flier Sees Seven Objects

Flying between Washington and Martinsburg, W. Va., Capt. S. C. Piernan said he saw seven objects moving at tremendous speed at times, hanging almost motionless at other times. He said they were like "falling stars without tails" but added he had never seen a shooting star move so fast. Another pilot said he saw a light trail his plane to within four miles of Washington.

And on the same night, an Associated Press reporter told of a strange sight over his home in River Edge, N. J.

He said he saw an orange ball, the size of a quarter, moving in a steady course from northwest to southeast.

"It moved too quickly for a balloon, but too slow and remained too long in sight for a meteor," he

LOOKING BACK

GLOBE, Boston, MA - July 23, 1963

Martians Blamed

Sky Rains Metal, Pebbles and UFOs

The skies around Boston of- warm when it landed. It ap- ferred Monday a surprise en- peared to be of industrial core to Saturday's eclipse of origin, but there were no the sun.

In Quincy, a 15-pound chunk of metal hurtled through a window of an electrical shop at Bethlehem Steel's Fore River Shipyard.

Measuring six to eight inches in diameter, the metal was

It was handed over to the Navy for examination. Earlier in Quincy, several persons reported being show-

ered by "exploding pebbles" in the parking lot of the Wonder Bowl on the Southern Artery.

They appeared to come from the sky, some exploding with a small pop when they hit the ground, others going off sometime after they had landed.

Physics Prof. John S. Rigen of Eastern Nazarene College said they appeared to be similar to samples taken from nearby gravel areas, the density being the same.

In Woburn, 10 youngsters said they sighted "five yellowish-white oval objects" in the sky above Grace rd.

Michael Hennessey, 13, of 7 Menchin rd, said they made "an eerie whistling sound like that of a jet plane."

George Fawcett of 9A Warren av., member of the Massachusetts-Rhode Island Two that reports of unidentified flying objects have been increasing recently, "not only in this area, but around the world."

All articles on pages 7, 8, 9 from Cleveland, OH papers unless otherwise indicated.

July 25, 1948

Airliner Pilots Say They See 2-Deck Wingless Aircraft

ATLANTA, Ga., July 24—(AP)—Two Eastern Air Line pilots said they met a wingless two-deck plane early today southwest of Montgomery, Ala. They said the strange ship shooting red flames and with a blue glow underneath the fuselage, passed the E. A. L. ship at 5,000 feet headed toward New Orleans.

The pilots said the stranger looked like a "Buck Rogers rocket ship."

The two pilots—Capt. C. S. Childs, and Co-Pilot J. B. Whitted—were flying the Houston-to-Atlanta-to-Boston run. This morning at 2:45 o'clock 20 miles southwest of Montgomery they sighted the strange ship.

After reaching Atlanta at 3:49 a. m. (E. S. T.) the two pilots told of their strange experience. Capt. Childs said that they first sighted the object up ahead when nearing Montgomery.

"It was in line almost with our flight," he said. "We veered off to the left and this object turned to its left. When it came nearer to us, within better sight, its fuselage appeared to be about 100 feet in length and about four times circumference of a B-29 fuselage."

"It had two rows of windows, an upper and a lower. They were

square. Out of the rear of the ship red flames were shooting 25 to 50 feet. There was a blue glow underneath the fuselage. The ship appeared to be doing between 500 and 700 miles an hour, and heading toward New Orleans.

"When it got along side of us it pulled up with a tremendous burst of flame out of the rear. The flames were so bright they blinded us for a second. Then the ship disappeared into the broken clouds. The moon was shining intermittently and the ship could be seen for a few seconds and would then be obscured. The ship had no wings. It seemed to have an upper deck and a lower deck and was fully lighted inside. We saw no occupants."

Of the 20 passengers on board Childs said only one was awake and saw the other ship. He gave this passenger's name as C. L. McKelvie, Columbus, O.

(McKelvie, the United Press reported in Kennett Square, Pa., confirmed the pilots' story.)

Both pilots live in Atlanta and both served in the army air corps as fighter pilots in the war.

July 21, 1962

SPOTTED ON RADAR

Cleveland Sees Own 'Saucers'

BY GEORGE GHETIA

The control tower at Cleveland Hopkins airport today announced that flying saucers, real or imaginary, are looking over "the best location in the nation."

George Beers, senior operator at the tower, said official reports are being filed with the Civil Aeronautics Administration in Washington, D. C. describing unexplained "golden colored lights" circling Greater Cleveland.

Light Over Elyria

Beers said the "objects" have been sighted by the tower staff, which on one occasion requested an approaching commercial aircraft to investigate a light flying over Elyria. Its presence had been confirmed on the radar screen.

Residents of Parma, Beers said, also spotted the phenomenon and began telephoning the tower. The calls, he said, are not shrugged off.

"One night six of us watched from the darkened tower room while a light hovered north of the field. We don't know what it was but all six of us saw it," he said.

Picked Up on Radar

"Another time I personally saw a light making a circular pattern over or near Elyria. I picked it up on the radar screen and watched it."

"I sent an incoming airliner over to take a look and the thing disappeared from the screen."

Beers told of another "light" seen north of the airport by a tower operator. It apparently was near the field.

The operator reported that the light "climbed and traveled in an easterly direction much faster than the normal operational speed of any aircraft known to be in this vicinity."

said. "I was able to follow it from horizon to horizon. Its light was not like the light of any plane."

Jets Chase—A Balloon

In Columbus, O., six armed jet planes took off to chase a mysterious object which turned out to be a high-soaring weather balloon. But no such simple explanation solved the mystery that confronted professional control tower personnel at the Cleveland airport where weird "golden lights" were reported.

Clark Croft, chief of the Civil Aeronautics Administration's tower staff, said:

"I'm ready to say there's some-

thing doing. Our people have seen the lights and experienced pilots have seen them. I haven't the slightest idea what they are. I'd like to think that whatever they are, they are our own."

In Massachusetts, "silver disks" were reported by two members of the ground observer corps and a wartime flight engineer. Other sightings, varying in descriptions, were reported from Burlington, Vt.; South Portland, Me., and New York City, and in France a man claimed to have photographed a brilliantly lighted "oval saucer" flying between 9,000 and 24,000 feet.

SKY ROAMERS CUT CAPERS FOR CAMERA

C. G. Station's Photograph
Given 'Saucer' Researchers
as Jet Pilots Add Data

(Photo on Picture Page)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1—(AP)—A mystery photo of four blazes of light in the sky, plus a report from jet pilots on a night light which they said was not a reflection, added new twists today to the aerial whatzit puzzle.

Coast guard headquarters here released the strange photograph taken from its Salem, Mass., air station at 9:35 a. m. July 16. The picture showed four large light spots, in a sort of "V" formation in a clear sky.

The new sighting report was turned in by interceptor pilots at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, O. This is the location of the air force's air technical intelligence center which checks up on reports of outlandish things aloft.

10 Seconds of Maneuvering

The pilots said that at an altitude of 17,000 feet they watched an object having a bright red light, for 10 seconds. They said they deliberately maneuvered around to be sure it was not a light reflection. It hovered, they said, then disappeared at a high rate of speed.

The picture released by the coast guard was taken by one of its photographers, Shell R. Alpert. Alpert was quoted in a news release as saying the phenomenon was "a quick flash."

"I actually could not say it was anything—it could have been reflections from passing cars or from the ocean," he said.

The coast guard said it had no opinion as to the cause or source of the "objects"—it also described them as "unidentified aerial phenomena."

The headquarters said it was releasing the photograph only because of the widespread public interest.

Aerial Activity Denied

To suggestions that the lights might have been caused by flares or anti-aircraft bursts, a navy spokesman said the navy was not firing anything in that area at that time. The air force similarly disclaimed activity in the area.

The army said it had no information here and referred queries to its public information officer at Middletown, N. Y. At Middletown the officer was not available for comment.

Alpert was quoted as saying he saw several brilliant white lights through his photo laboratory window and watched them wavering for a few seconds, only to have them dim down by the time he had focused his camera.

Alpert summoned a companion, Thomas Flaherty, 26, and then, noting that the lights were again burning brightly, snapped the picture. He said an instant later there was a "momentary flash" and the lights disappeared.

Alpert said he could not honestly identify the sighting as "objects or aircraft—merely some manner of lights."

Pitching Horseshoes

Sees Flying Saucers
They're Really Real
One Found in Texas

BY BILLY ROSE

At the risk of being laughed out of court and countenance, I'd like to report that I've seen flying saucers.

It happened on a clear and moon-minus night two summers ago in Newton, Conn., on the lawn of the home belonging to Paul Osborne, the playwright. Among my fellow ogles were Paul and his wife, Director Josh Logan and his missus, and Author John Hershey and his.



What's more, none of us was in his cups the night we watched the flying saucery.

As nearly as I could judge, these whatzises were at least 200 feet in diameter and were flying at

[Date Unknown, 1950]

an altitude of from 3,000 to 5,000 feet. Their edges gave off a ghostly glow, very much like blue neon tubing seen through a heavy fog.

When the searchlights finally cut off and the disks got lost in the stars, we put what was left of our heads together and decided that what we had witnessed must have been some kind of hush-hush military exercise. We also decided that if we didn't want a butterfly net slipped over our heads it would be smart to keep our lips zipped about the whole thing.

It's Becoming Evident the Saucers Are Real

Recently, however, documentation has begun to replace delirium, and it's becoming evident that the overgrown manhole covers are not only real, but, despite all denials, one of the top-secret weapons of our own navy and air force.

The most convincing testimony was offered April 3 by Henry J. Taylor on a General Motors broadcast over the A. B. C. network. Taylor, after trekking all around the country and talking to people who had seen, touched and even flown these credulity cracking craft, made the following flat and unfrivolous statements about them:

One type of saucer is the "true" disk, which ranges anywhere from 20 inches to 200 feet in diameter, is unmanned and generally guided by some form of remote control. The other is a jet-driven platter which carries a crew and is capable of such supersonic speeds that in flight it looks like a hundred-

foot flaming cigar.

True Disk Was Found
Near Galveston, Tex.

Furthermore, according to Henry J., a "true" disk was actually photographed near Wildwood, N. J.; another was found in the vicinity of Galveston, Tex., and stenciled on its surface was the following:

Military Secret of the
United States of America

Anyone damaging or revealing description or whereabouts of this missile is subject to prosecution by the United States government. Call collect at once. (Then a long distance telephone number, and the address of a United States air base, and finally the words on the "saucer" in big, black letters: non-explosive.)

"I know what these so-called flying saucers are used for," Taylor concluded. "When the military authorities are ready to release the information it will be a joy to tell you the whole story, for it is good news—wonderful news."

As you may remember, I wrote a column last week about the bureaucratic blabbermouths in our nation's capital who, at the drop of a daiquiri, blurt out top military secrets to anyone who will listen. Well, I'm plenty happy to learn that—at least as regards one vital weapon—there ARE some folks in Washington who not only know their beans but can keep from spilling them.

(Copyright, 1950, by Billy Rose)

July 28, 1952

'Saucer' Fireworks Light Indiana Skies

WASHINGTON, July 28—(INS)—Hundreds of Indiana motorists today reported seeing "flying saucers" over the state last night.

The mysterious objects were reported seen over Indianapolis, Franklin and Cannonsville.

Many motorists said the objects threw off varicolored lights and "were like shooting stars." They doubted that the objects were weather balloons or a searchlight beam on clouds.

State police said the objects were high in the sky and that they "chased each other."

Robert Wolfe, civil defense director at Franklin, said that he had gone out into the countryside with the police and had seen the objects clearly. He added that in his opinion the objects were traveling at a "high rate of speed."

Meanwhile the air force disclosed today that jet pilots are

under orders to maintain a nationwide 24-hour "alert" against "flying saucers" and to shoot them down if possible.

The air force expressed the belief the unidentified flying objects are not a threat to the United States and stated also that they are not a secret United States military development.

It added, however, that jet pilots are under standing orders to pursue on sight all unidentified flying objects, especially on the eastern seaboard, and, if necessary, force them to land. The alert is applicable to "flying saucers."

The air force admitted, however, that no jet pilot has yet gotten close enough to take a shot at a "flying saucer." One pilot estimated that he was within five miles of a mysterious light over Washington last week end, but the light disappeared when he tried to draw close.

No "Reasoning Body"

The Pentagon issued a statement in an effort to quell public excitement over the latest rash of mysterious objects sighted in the skies.

Air force headquarters stated: "During the past few years, over 1,000 sightings of unidentified flying objects have been reported to the air force. Of this number, only a small per cent of those received from reliable sources remain unexplained."

"The remainder of these sightings could be accounted for as misinterpretations of various conventional objects, a mild form of hysteria, meteorological phenomena, or hoaxes."

"Of the unexplained sightings it can be stated that they appear in haphazard fashion and show no pattern which would indicate that the objects are being controlled by a reasoning body." The statement added, "each report is being given a most careful and complete analysis."

NUEVITAS, Cuba, July 28—(AP)—Four strange, luminous objects were reported over this north coast Cuban port yesterday. The objects moved in formation, at great speed. Hundreds of citizens reported seeing them.

He added that "perhaps some sort of refraction of ground reflections could possibly have accounted for the lights, but in my estimation this is an improbable explanation."

Gaze at Day 'Flotilla'

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 1—(AP)—Flotillas of mysterious bright, shiny objects were reported flying high in the sky over south-central New York today. Hundreds of persons said they saw them.

But jet pilots from Griffiss Air Force Base at Rome, N. Y., said they could find nothing.

Residents of Afton, in the upper Susquehanna River Valley, lined the streets of the village and many business places were deserted. They said round objects sailed through the skies in large numbers for about two hours. Scattered ones were seen later, they said. All agreed they seemed to appear near the sun and move away from it.

April 27, 1949

Flying Saucers 'No Joke,' Air Force Says After Probe

DAYTON, O., April 26—(P)—The Dayton Journal-Herald said tonight that the air force, after an extensive investigation, has decided that flying saucers "are not a joke."

The paper said its story was based on a report, now in the files at Wright-Patterson air force base here, which stressed that the flying saucers were not "a cause for alarm."

The air force, it was learned, still is receiving about 12 reports a month from persons sighting flying discs.

So far, 240 and 30 foreign reports of flying saucers have been investigated.

Intelligence section officers said 30% of the reports have been due to conventional aerial objects, such as weather and cosmic ray research balloons.

Commonplace answers are expected to be found for another 30%. But 40% remain a mystery.

The evaluation teams, commenting on the mystery saucers, reported:

"We can't prove or disprove the existence of some of the remaining unidentified objects as real aircraft of unconventional design."

The air force even has considered that flying saucers may be visitations from other planets.

"The possibility that the saucers are foreign aircraft also has been considered."

"But the reported performance of the discs is so superior to anything we have yet approached in this country that it is not considered any other nation of the earth could have knowledge so far above ours," it was declared.

Aug. 9, 1952

HE'S READY FOR THEM

Saucers 'Dad' Thinks They're Living Forces

BY INEZ ROBB

BOISE, Idaho (INS)—This is an up and coming community, and the city fathers do not intend to be caught flat-footed if a flying saucer decides to land here to visit Kenneth Arnold, the Boise flyer and engineer who spotted the first such phenomena in 1947.

The airport commission and the city council have approved a fee-schedule for flying saucers wishing to use the Boise airport. The land-

ing fee has been fixed at \$50 per saucer for non-scheduled flights and the fee must be paid in U. S. currency. Interplanetary greenbacks will not be accepted.

If the saucer radios in for a scheduled landing, all fees will be waived. If the saucer merely desires to hover over the field at an altitude of less than 100 feet, there will be a standard fee of \$10 for the first three minutes of hovering and \$10 for each additional minute.

It's Free Elsewhere

"This is merely the city's usual forward looking action," says Mayor R. E. Edlefsen.

Arnold, who set off the flying saucer uproar five years ago when he reported the first flight of nine, will allow any saucer to land for free in his own private landing field on the outskirts of the city.

But he does not expect any little green men two feet high to scramble out of the saucers, if and when they land. He is convinced after devoting much time and \$12,000 of his own money to private investigation that the saucer is a living, thinking force from the stratosphere or beyond.

The solid citizen still looks like the football player he used to be. He is one of the least hysterical or psychotic persons I have ever interviewed. He is, naturally, delighted at the announcement that U. S. radar screens have picked up formations of this mysterious phenomena.

He has become an informal clearing house for saucer news and magazine reports from the four corners of the globe.

It is a big mistake to believe that flying saucers have been seen only over this continent, Arnold said.

"They have been seen all over the world, including Russia, Africa, Korea and northern Europe."

Explains Accidents

Although Arnold is convinced that the saucers are not a menacing or attacking force he is not at all certain that aircraft have not collided with them in recent years. No one has lived to tell the tale, but this would explain some otherwise inexplicable air disasters in the

past five years.

The Boise man believes the saucers are large, gelatinous masses that vaporize when they hit the ground. This, too, might explain why the phenomenon seems able to change its density in flight, a peculiarity noted by a number of observers.

It was while on a search mission in 1947 that he saw the first saucers and accidentally gave them the picturesque name that has stuck ever since.

At that time he said "they flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across water." With Ray Palmer, he is the author of one of the first books about the flying objects, a volume called "The Coming of the Saucers."

To unbelievers and scoffers he simply tells the story of the pigeon that flew head-on into a plate glass window, limping home with feathers be-draggled, the pigeon told his companions of his terrible experience.

"The air suddenly froze solid in front of me," he declared. The other pigeons looked at him in disbelief and sneered:

"Tell that to the sparrows."

July 22, 1952

Reports Flying Saucers Over New England

BOSTON (AP)—Flying objects described as silver disks were reported sighted over New England Tuesday night and early today. All observers concurred in saying the objects were "silvery."

At Nahant Coast Guard station, Seaman Henry Arnpriester said he sighted two disks flying at about 2,000 feet, which slowly circled above the station and headed back to sea.

March 10, 1950

Revises His Story of Flying Saucer Wrecked in Mexico

LOS ANGELES, March 9—(P)—A dynamite salesman told reporters today he had seen the wreckage of a flying saucer in Mexico, but later changed his story to say he saw only a strip of metal which business associates told him came from a space ship.

Ray L. Dimmick, sales manager for the Apache Powder Co., refused to name the associates, saying only that one was an American and the other a Chilean-Mexican. Dimmick added he would furnish the names "if requested by the proper authorities."

He said he was told that the wreckage was on a mountainside in Mexico City and that top United States military officials had viewed it. However, the air force in Washington said it has heard nothing about it and there was no confirmation from Mexico.

Dimmick said his friends told him that a "man" 23 inches tall was killed in the crash and the body embalmed for scientific study. The crash occurred three months ago,

Dimmick said. He recently returned from a business trip to Mexico City.

He added his associates described the aircraft as 46 feet in diameter, built of a metal resembling aluminum but much harder, and powered by two motors.

In his original account, Dimmick said he had seen the wreckage, which he said was roped off. In his later story, he described the piece of metal as about six feet long, eight inches wide and three-quarters of an inch thick.

At Dayton, O., Col. C. H. Welch, public information officer of the air materiel command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, said he had no comment to make on Dimmick's report.

Col. Welch repeated a statement he issued recently:

"We have carefully investigated all of the evidence presented to us regarding reports on flying saucers, and there is no evidence to support the existence of any interplanetary machines."

May Be Venus?

MEXICO CITY, March 9—(P)—A Mexican astronomer thinks some of his countrymen have been mistaking the planet Venus for a flying saucer.

Joaquin Gallo, former head of the government's Tacubaya Observatory, suggested today that this might explain the recent rash of reports of flying saucers.

In the past three days, strange objects in the sky varying in shape from a disk to a horn, have been reported seen in Chihuahua City, Mazatlan, Durango, Torreon and Jalisco.

April 22, 1952

Flying Saucer That Sounds Like Bat Is Painesville Report

PAINESVILLE, O., April 21—William J. Pugh, jr., of Painesville claims to be the first person to hear a flying saucer.

Pugh, head of the Lake County cancer drive and employed by the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. in Mentor, today said he heard the flying saucer buzz over his home at 9:05 Sunday night. He said he heard a noise similar to that of a flying bat making a dive, just before seeing the object.

"I heard the noise three times, of short duration each time. The sound prompted me to look up into the sky," he said. "What I saw was a disk-shaped object directly overhead and moving in an easterly direction."

Pugh claimed the object was moving rapidly and seemed to float and wobble much as a flat stone skips across water.

He thought it could not have been more than 1,500 feet above the ground and said it seemed to be about 30 feet in diameter.

"The disk-shaped bottom appeared to be covered with a greenish-yellow phosphorescent material which produced a faint glow," he said.

Pugh reported he saw the saucer for about 15 seconds and at the same time the bat-like noise was heard again correlating the sound with the object. The object then made a right turn to a southerly direction and disappeared, he said.

NEWS, Jan. 2, 1954

Ice Shower From Plane Strikes House

Out of a clear, blue sky, Mrs. Anton Golic, 19602 Shawnee Ave., heard a "boom" that seemed to envelope her home today. She ran out to find that a shower of ice "cubes" had scored a direct hit on the house.

Shingles were knocked off, rain-gutters dented, and hunks of ice were scattered all over the yard. She called the fire department.

After investigation, Battalion Fire Chief David Grant said that the ice apparently was dropped by an airplane that was de-icing while passing over the house. He estimated that about 25 pounds of ice were dropped.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - March 20, 2001

Desmond Leslie

Eccentric Irish aristocrat whose book *The Flying Saucers Have Landed* underpinned the New Age movement

DESMOND LESLIE, who has died aged 79, was a celebrated Irish eccentric and self-styled "discoligist" best known for his book *The Flying Saucers Have Landed* (1953), which became a key text of the New Age movement.

The prevailing scientific materialism of Leslie's time held no appeal to him, and he turned his attention instead to the world of mysteries. Attracted to ancient history, archaeology and esoteric philosophy, he saw in them evidence of a world view quite different from that of more soberly academic contemporaries.

To Leslie, ancient monuments and artefacts were proof of a sophistication of culture and technology that could not be attributed to the people of their times. The makers, he concluded, were evidently super-human — or came from elsewhere. In the 1950s, there were regular reports of "flying saucers" and of encounters with alien creatures, and Leslie's merger of these accounts with his antiquarian researches led to *The Flying Saucers Have Landed*.

During his investigations, he wrote to the Californian mystic and ice cream salesman George Adamski, who in the presence of witnesses had encountered blond visitors from Venus and taken photographs of their spacecraft. Adamski replied with pictures and an account of his experiences. Leslie added these to his text, and credited Adamski as co-author.

Leslie asserted that the first inter-planetary vessel had arrived from Venus in 18,617,841 bc. He made no apologies for his precision, saying that "it was calculated from ancient Brahmin tables". Brahmins, he explained, were "exceedingly accurate people". He addressed potential doubters and seekers of proof with matter-of-fact disdain: "Why should they risk a public landing? Their ship would be impounded for evasion of custom duties. Their clothes would be torn off and sold as souvenirs."

The Flying Saucers Have Landed



Leslie and his first wife in 1963 reading reports of his televised altercation with Bernard Levin

became a bestseller and was translated into 50 languages. To Leslie's gratification, it was denounced by the sort of people he liked to infuriate. Arthur C Clarke attacked it as a "farrago of nonsense". Professor Bernard Lovell suggested it be "dumped overboard in space".

With his mystical doctrines and cult following, Adamski was an easy target for the sceptics, but Leslie stood by him. In 1954, Leslie visited his co-author in California and enjoyed with him several flying saucer sightings. In a letter from San Diego to his wife, he described seeing "a beautiful golden ship in the sunset, but brighter than the sunset... It slowly faded out, the way they do."

Back in London, Leslie joined forces with another Anglo-Irish

aristocrat, Brinsley le Poer Trench, who as the 8th Earl of Clancarty later promoted a debate on UFOs in the House of Lords. Together they founded *Flying Saucer Review*. Contributors included CG Jung, who published his own book on flying saucers in 1959.

Thereafter, Leslie continued to preach the message of the space people. Their intentions, he was at pains to explain, were wholly peaceable.

Desmond Arthur Peter Leslie was born on June 29 1921 and grew up at Castle Leslie beside Glaslough in County Monaghan.

Glaslough, "the green lake", has been extolled in verse and song. Richard Hayward, the balladeer, sang: *For there's no place like lovely Glaslough/In all Monaghan*

wide. Dean Swift, on the other hand, once wrote in the visitor's book: "Glaslough with rows of books upon its shelves/Written by the Leslies all about themselves."

Desmond's father was the colourful man of letters Sir Shane Leslie, 3rd Bt, who supported the Nationalist cause and habitually wore a saffron kilt. Shane's father, Sir John, had married Leone, one of the three beautiful daughters of Leonard Jerome, of New York. Her sister had married Lord Randolph Churchill, and their son Winston paid regular visits to Castle Leslie until banned by his uncle (a staunch Ulster Unionist) on account of his espousal of Home Rule.

Sir Shane's interests extended from politics to the paranormal —

his works include *Shane Leslie's Ghost Book* (1955) — and his fascination with the latter rubbed off on his younger son.

Desmond later recalled that one night at prep school, his dormitory was "suddenly lit by a brilliant green glare" as "an immense green fireball moved slowly across the sky and disappeared behind the Sussex Downs".

After Ampleforth and Trinity College, Dublin, Leslie became a fighter pilot in the RAF, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes during the Second World War; according to family legend, he destroyed several aircraft, most of which he was piloting himself. He celebrated VE day with his cousin, the Prime Minister, at 10 Downing Street.

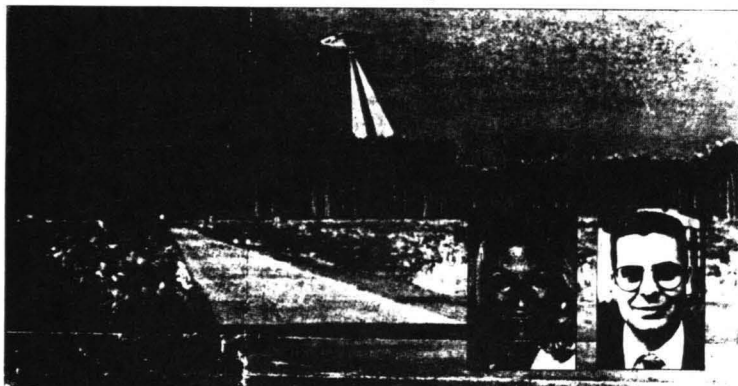
During the war, Leslie had met Agnes Bernauer, the daughter of a German Jewish impresario (Marlene Dietrich's first employer); they married in August 1945. In 1954, Agnes Bernelle — as she now styled herself — became the first non-stationary nude on the English stage as Salome at St Martin's theatre. A decade later, Leslie caused a sensation by throwing a punch at Bernard Levin during a live transmission of *That Was Week That Was* (Levin had given Agnes Bernelle an ungenerous review).

For all his enthusiasm for UFOs, Leslie was no zealot and enjoyed all the pleasures of life, imaginative conversation above all. He published several other books, including *Hold Back the Night*, and *The Jesus File*.

In 1963, he moved back to Castle Leslie, where in a bid to restore its finances he opened a night club, Annabel's on the Bog, and entertained such house guests as Marianne Faithfull and Mick Jagger. A gifted musician, he also experimented with Musique Concrete, using samples of recorded natural sounds.

Desmond Leslie's first marriage was dissolved in 1969. He married secondly, in 1970, Helen Strong, who survives him, together with his two sons and four daughters.

PUBLISHING NEWS, London, England - Nov. 24, 2000



Georgina Bruni and Nick Pope (insets) believe something very strange happened in this Suffolk forest

Macmillan's UFO (or is it PoS?)

CALL me naive, but thanks to Macmillan I have become hooked on the Rendlesham Forest incident, about which I knew nothing. In brief, according to numerous military and civilian witnesses, during Christmas week in 1980 strange lights were seen in Rendlesham Forest in between the twin RAF bases of Woodbridge and Bentwaters in Suffolk. On going in to investigate a number of US Airforce personnel claim they saw the proverbial alien craft bobbing about amid the trees.....

So far, so bonkers I thought, a feeling not dispelled by Macmillan's gush about Georgina Bruni, author of *You Can't Tell the People*, the 'definitive account' of the affair. Exhaustively researched as it is, I don't think her credibility is helped by her publisher biog'

which lists her 'varied careers' as a 'clothes designer and director of a fashion business....as well as setting up the first British Internet magazine (*Hot Gossip UK*)'.

But at the title's unusual launch at the MoD on Whitehall attended by her publisher Gordon Wise and agent Andrew Lownie, a number of people pointed out that some US Airforce personnel were perhaps more likely to open up to someone like her, than to a man. The person who has swayed me is the sober-looking and very credible Nick Pope, a guest at the party and someone who, for three years, was employed by the MoD to investigate UFO incidents and has written a number of books on the subject for Simon & Schuster. He still works for the

agency but will not reveal in what capacity. He had this to say: "Rendlesham Forest is the most interesting and significant UFO incident, not least because of the reliability of the witnesses, most of whom were US Airforce personnel, coupled with corroboration that the object or objects was tracked on military radar at RAF Watton and the physical evidence at the landing site itself — the damage to the trees, the indentations on the ground and the radiation readings which peaked in those indentations. It's as good as evidence that I've seen of the evidence of extraterrestrials."

Unless, of course, it was simply surreally early PoS for the title en route to Grindley's bookshop in Woodbridge.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - Nov. 11, 2000

SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

Frightening tales of aliens in a Scots glen

"There were strange marks on the ground like little footprints." The East Kilbride area was also the site of Scotland's weirdest incident — a bizarre being seen on the hills overlooking Calder Glen.

Martin thought of the creature as a 'goblin' but was it an alien?

Eyewitness Martin, who was out training his dog, recalls: "The creature came towards me through the heather. I could see that it was an owl shape, with a rounded head sunk into its shoulders. It seemed to be made of leather, partly wrinkled like a diver's suit and it was 20 to 22 inches in height.

"It didn't have any arms, legs, nose or mouth and seemed to be gliding along, not making any sound. It looked like something skinned or plucked."

Martin thought of the creature as a "goblin" but could he have encountered an alien dressed in a space suit? This would explain the lack of arms or legs and its strange shape. Maybe it was even moving on a motorised platform.

In May, 1995, Mark Little was sitting in his top storey flat at around 9pm watching a commercial plane when he saw a red light emerge from behind it descend slowly, hover, then manoeuvre in a snake like fashion before disappearing into Calder Glen. Later Mark and his mother saw a disc shaped UFO with port holes sitting on the higher land.

Maybe, like the infamous Bonnybridge triangle, we are seeing the development of some kind of window into another dimension taking place in the East Kilbride area.

COULD alien beings be roaming the hills around East Kilbride?

UFO witness Steven Holt from the Westwood district of the town believes he may have the evidence.

Steven explained: "Me and some friends went out to the Darvel Road to look at the night sky. We saw this strange bright light in the woods straight ahead from where we'd stopped the car.

"The light was shining from the edge of the forestry plantation and seemed to be stationery or maybe hovering. So we started videoing it and noticed there was movement around it. Then we got a real fright.

"One of my friends said that in the glow of the light he saw a group of strange shadow-like figures with weird heads. They looked like deformed humanoids.

"It wasn't funny. He got such a fright he has refused to have anything to do with UFOs again.

"We had a look at the site in daylight and it really spooked us. A broad circular area of reeds and grass was flattened. Several metres of electrified fence alongside it had been knocked over.

Mervyn's life-long quest to explain UFOs

By TOM PHILLIPS

"When you investigate UFOs you investigate people - and people lie."

So says Mervyn Newell who has spent 40 years chasing the mysterious flying objects.

It is a misconception that the only people who do not believe in UFOs are cynics.

After sifting through mountains of documents analysing secrets and lies, it is often the believers who become the most cynical of all.

Four decades of examining all kinds of unidentified objects has created in Mervyn Newell the simple belief that most things are not always what they appear.

He lives in Greenhill, Herne Bay with his wife and three boys, and is co-ordinator of the East Kent UFO Research Unit. He works from home and speaks regularly to

Ufologist keeps eye on military

the media. "We get contacted by the press, radio, TV and local radio stations looking for features," said Mervyn. "They only seem to be interested when they need a story, but it suits us because we enjoy the publicity."

Whatever your stance, there is no denying the public's fascination for people like Mervyn and his group.

They are often seen as eccentrics with wildly-mad passions and fantasies.

To label Mervyn as merely a UFO 'nut' ignores the huge amount of detailed research that only the truly dedicated would attempt to delve into.

But scepticism goes with the territory. "We get a lot of people who say 'let's go and upset the UFO boys'," Mervyn added. "But we don't immediately jump to conclusions, we work on a scientific basis of proof."

"We come across problems because we don't go along with the general format of UFO study. Our group is considered a loose cannon."

"And we distance ourselves from other groups because it is counter productive."

"There is a lot of people involved in Ufology for the money - many of the books published are codswallop. It's a bit of a mine-field."

A large part of his work involves research into sightings and keeping a very close eye on the military.

"The Government would much rather have us chase aliens than its secret projects," he said. "About 95 per cent of UFO sightings can be explained away, which leaves us with five per cent to investigate."

"Sightings in east Kent have dropped by 87 per cent now that the RAF has pulled out of Manston. The actual increase nationally is phenomenal."

The public don't know the half of it. The question must remain, 'what are these



CO-ORDINATOR: Mervyn Newell



The Stealth Bomber

things?' The Government has to realise that they are not all alien craft. If they were, why do none of them stop for tea?"

Mervyn often encounters Government officials and has a great distrust of those in the highest positions of power.

"I believe that technology on this planet is 50 years more advanced than the public realise," he continued.

"Nuclear power was discovered in 1919, but was not made public knowledge until 1969."

"The Stealth Bomber was in service for eight years before anyone knew about it."

"In this country, there are documents from the Second World War that won't be released until 2042."

"Obviously, the Government can't tell us everything, but the Americans have been interested in building saucer-shaped craft and disks since 1955. I have the documentation to prove it."

"We're not going to give away military secrets and I know it's a fine line. All I'd like to see is the truth about UFOs."

"A little bit of truth, then I could take up fishing and forget about it."

Mervyn's passion is curbed by his professionalism. The UFO hysteria is a multi-million dollar industry and his group want no part of it.

Mervyn takes care to maintain his credibility in this fickle environment. He won't disclose how many members are in his unit, but he does admit to having qualified physicists in the team.

"I'm a ufologist but I'm not a stupid ufologist. If we get more scientists involved, we could get the mumbo-jumbo merchants out of ufology."

"Generally, I've found that those who know don't talk and those who talk don't know."

Mervyn's response to the UFO has been carefully considered. "There is no single answer to the UFO mystery," he said.

"The conclusion I've come to is that they are military spy machines. The alien theory can't be discounted, but it doesn't add up."

"There is definitely, in my view, a massive orchestration of these things - and all I want to know is who's doing the conducting."

SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

Encounters with ghouls and aliens

MOIRA ROBERTSON of Garthdee in Aberdeen has been through a series of strange experiences which raise questions over where strange entities are coming from.

Her first was when she was 17 and living on the Abergeidie estate close to the Queen's Balmoral residence. She recalls seeing "a glowing ball of light zig-zagging across this hill and jumping over my head like a bouncing ball".

Then in 1977 she was living in Aberdeen and woke one morning thinking: "What a weird dream about being in that spaceship, especially as just before we left we splashed our faces with 'water'."

"Then I saw clumps of grass and earth on the bed and felt wetness the texture of baby oil was over my naval area. Then I remembered being in the spacecraft, standing in a group. In the centre of the craft there was a huge glass container reaching high up. Inside were two huge tunnel shaped blocks with strange markings. A low platform had what looked like a heap of shop window dummies piled on it but I was ushered away before I could ask about it. It looked creepy."

Other times Moira's experiences seem more ghostlike, "two figures by the bed, dressed in some sort of uniform with a plate half way over their faces with hinges at ear

I thought, what a weird dream about being in that spaceship

level", which sounds more like Roman soldiers than spacemen.

Just as hard to explain is Eleanor Harvey's bizarre encounter at her home at Glasgow's Cumnock Road in July, 1971, as she watched rush hour traffic outside.

"I heard a noise as if something had landed on the roof and what sounded like the engine of a small aircraft being switched off. A thin beam of light shone through the window and hit me above the eyes."

"Then a face appeared. It looked beautiful but sad. I could make out silver hair, shoulder length, a moustache and neat beard. He wore a long gown and leather sandals, he raised his hand with the palm facing out in what looked like a gesture of peace."

Then came a scratching sound and a noise like a motor being started, then a rattle on the roof. Eleanor ran to the window but couldn't see anything to explain the encounter.

Spiritualist and psychic healer Terry Salter speaks both to spirits of the dead and alien beings. His contact on 'the other side', White Eagle, beamed three aliens into a Lossiemoth guesthouse bedroom to meet Terry in December 1997.

Terry reported: "There were three, two about 4ft tall the other 3ft 6in, very thin but humanoid with large eyes. I wasn't sure if they were dressed in rubber suits or if I was seeing their skin. They were an olive yellow colour."

More UFO sightings over the Dales...

...but mystery will probably never be solved

THE MYSTERY of UFO sightings in the Derbyshire Dales over recent weeks looks set to remain so, according to the Phenomenon Research Association.

There have now been 13 unexplained sightings reported to the Mercury over the last two months, ranging from bright white lights to a flying saucer caught on videotape.

Since last week's story, two more people have come forward, saying they saw bright lights in the skies over Matlock and Tissington.

Now Alan Hitchcock, an honorary member of the Phenomenon Research Association, has spoken out about the mystery.

He said: "Certain areas get more attention than others and Derbyshire has had more than its fair share with the Bonsall and Stanton Moor area getting quite a lot of sightings over a number of years.

"This is common. It comes in waves

By
Andy Darlington

then dies down. Then it will re-appear somewhere else in the country or another country."

Mr Hitchcock said he had no idea why the UFOs were 'visiting' the Dales.

He added: "People like to think they're invaders from outer space but I never came to that conclusion myself.

"Some people find it frightening and it's been known to give people mental problems.

"All the stuff the Government give you that there's no such thing, I don't believe at all. I'm sure there will be more reports.

"I've never got any answers so if anyone ever finds out what it is, they will be the first."

The latest sighting was over Matlock on the evening of November 13 at 6.40pm.

A 44-year-old Matlock man, who does not wish to be named, spotted a bright white light over the Hurst Farm Estate.

He described it as silent and brighter than any star with no navigation lights.

After watching for five seconds, the man said it seemed to shrink and completely disappear.

"It was impressive," he remarked. "There's no reasonable explanation as to what it was so it must have been a UFO."

"I do believe in UFOs and Matlock seems to be very popular at the moment.

"I'm looking at it very seriously but I don't think we're in any danger."

A 38-year-old Bakewell man, who also wished to remain anonymous, saw another strange light around five weeks ago over Rowsley.

He watched for five minutes as a bright white light seemed to shine through the clouds at around 4.30pm.

He said: "I thought it may be the sun setting but that was further over. I don't really know what it was."

And mum-of-two Jacky Swift (32) from Mornington Rise, Matlock said she had a close encounter on October 21.

Shortly after 7.15pm, she was travelling along the Ashbourne road close to Tissington when she saw a light show in

the sky.

She described a series of white beams which filled the skies for 20 minutes.

"They were behind the clouds," she remarked. "It wasn't lightening although they were sporadic bursts of light."

The only possible explanation so far has come from Stanton Lees pensioner Terry Green who saw a similar light show over Rowsley.

The retired mechanic claims the lights were simply lasers which may have come from a party in the Sheffield area.

Have you seen any strange lights in the Derbyshire Dales skies? If so, call one of our reporters on (01629) 582432.

THE SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland - Nov. 7, 2000

F.A.Q.

UFOs

The Bonnybridge Triangle



The Bonnybridge Triangle? You're telling me that the skies of central Scotland are being darkened by mysterious goings-on? Pull the other one. I'm afraid this one's for real. Apparently, there have been no fewer than

60,000 recorded UFO sightings in the Bonnybridge area over the years, leading local boffins to name the area after the more famous Bermudan equivalent.

And don't tell me, the sudden rise in sightings correlates to an equivalent boom in the malt whisky trade.

Au contraire. In fact, with Bonnybridge rapidly becoming the unrivalled centre of extra-terrestrial activity over Britain, a local councillor is keen to cash in on the opportunities the sightings offer. You mean that local government is going to invest in a state-of-the-art research laboratory, packed with gizmos for communicating with visitors?

Er ... not exactly. In fact, councillor Billy Buchanan - who has long campaigned for Bonnybridge to become the official UFO capital of the world - is planning a theme park to celebrate the area's unique alien heritage. Recently teaming up with a North American firm, Catalyst Entertainment, Buchanan is scheduled to hold a public meeting this week to sell the idea to the Scottish Tourist Board, local authorities and employers.

OK, so Buchanan's a prankster from the Raving Loony Party, hoping to bring an appendix on inter-planetary relations into next year's election manifesto.

Nope. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Billy "Close Encounter" Buchanan operates outside party politics, sitting as an independent on Falkirk Council. In fact, to show the world he's serious, he is even tabling plans to twin the town of Bonnybridge with Roswell, the US city linked to many of the world's most famous UFO sightings and the alleged site of a bona fide alien crash-landing.

Oh that. Wasn't all that Roswell hoo-ha just the result of some guy with sunstroke and a skin-full of moonshine stumbling on the remains of a dishevelled weather balloon?

Whatever. Besides, Buchanan is no ordinary councillor. He can testify to seeing one of the area's more remarkable visitors first-hand. You mean he fell asleep during a conference on the state of local drainage and dreamed about having a go at the helm of the Millennium Falcon. Hardly proof positive of an alien civilisation, I fear.

Oh, come on. This is serious. Buchanan claims he witnessed a "craft as big as a battle ship", hovering 12 miles north-east of Grangemouth. He also mentioned that it was orangey-yellow in colour. Unfortunately, despite Buchanan's exhaustive efforts to capture the pulsating craft on video, it "sped off in the direction of Fife" before he could take comprehensive footage of it. Mmm. I still can't see Mulder and Scully tabling plans to stake out Bonnybridge High Street.

Stop being so cynical. Besides, there is a more serious side to all this. Following the demise of the area's heavy industry, Buchanan hopes that capitalising on Bonnybridge's UFO sightings will bring fresh cash into the economy, bringing about a "millennium revolution" in the region's fortunes. After all, with the town already boasting eight National Lottery jackpot winners, it looks like Bonnybridge has long been benefiting from the unexpected.

'Burned by the aliens'

DURING our research into UFO phenomena, a matter that has kept us fully occupied over the last six years, we came across a number of UFO incidents that have taken place around the Bournemouth area.

One in particular involved a Mrs Ethel Field who, according to the publicity at the time, had been burned by close contact with an "alien spaceship". The Coastguards had also confirmed the sighting of the UFO.

As a result of a previous appeal, we were put in touch with Mr Leslie Harris, who was responsible for running a Bournemouth-based UFO Group back in the 1970s. His assistance to us in this matter, and other incidents, has been invaluable.

We would like to know if any of your readers have knowledge of the current whereabouts of the following people whom we would like to contact:

- Merita Leslie.
- Anthony Charles Boys.
- Mr Terence Broadbank (ex-astronomer).
- Mr Terry Burnell.

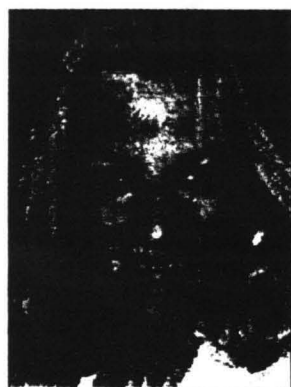
JOHN HANSON, PO Box 6371, Birmingham B48 7RW

DAILY ECHO, Bournemouth, England - Nov. 4, 2000

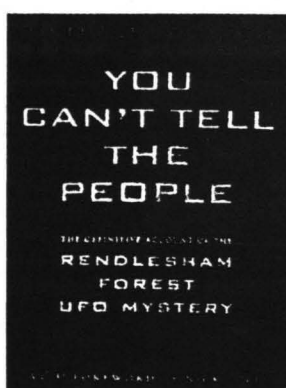
'UFO threat put our prisons on red alert'

THE mystery over the alleged UFO sightings at Rendlesham Forest 20 years ago has taken a twist with the publication of a new book.

RICHARD SMITH
reports on the author's conclusions.



NEW THEORY: Author Georgina Bruni, left, and the book about the Rendlesham Mystery, *You Can't Tell The People*



THREE prisons were placed on a red alert in December 1980 with the possibility all prisoners would have to be evacuated, claims Georgina Bruni in her book.

Former prison officers and inmates have told how Blundeston, Highpoint and Hollesley Bay jails were put on alert on December 27 in case a possible incident of 'national security' occurred that night.

The evacuation never took place, but these reports attracted the attention of former Chief of Defence staff Lord Hill-Norton.

He asked the Government on October 23, 1997 whether staff at Highpoint Prison in Suffolk received instructions to prepare for a possible evacuation of the prison at that time, and why?

In reply Lord Williams of Mostyn said prison records were not available. He added that the governor's journal could not be found either.

But Ms Bruni says in her

book: "I concluded they were preparing for the worst - a possible biological hazard posed by alien contact. In the event of such a threat, the prisons would be used as isolation units."

She believes the authorities were extremely concerned a UFO, which had been sighted twice, was about to return.

"They wanted to make sure the prisons were on alert in case something happened. Where you have a possible crisis, the first thing you want to do is to move the prisoners to a safer location," said Ms Bruni.

"I think this was related in some way to the UFOs because there was nothing else happening in that area at that time."

Ms Bruni only spends a few pages out of her 400-plus page book *You Can't Tell The People*, the sixth book about the Rendlesham UFO, on this

intriguing theory.

The title is a reference to what Lady Thatcher said to Ms Bruni when they were discussing the UFO phenomenon. She said: "You must have the facts and you can't tell the people."

Ms Bruni, from London, first became interested in the UFO during 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident in New Mexico. It was believed alien bodies were recovered at a crash site in 1947, but 50 years later the United States Air Force said they were test dummies.

Ms Bruni said: "People were beginning to call Rendlesham the British Roswell and that is why I took a real interest."

The book examines the claims by witnesses who saw an object on legs hovering over the forest for many hours. It apparently touched down and small

beings came out.

A witness uncovered by Ms Bruni is Gary Collins, who lives at nearby Capel St Andrew.

He said: "I looked up to see what appeared to be a 30-foot object hovering about 60 feet above me."

"I can only describe its underside, which seemed to be triangular-shaped, black in colour, and dripping liquid."

"Suddenly it went at an angle, slowly, then took off at tremendous speed."

New information also comes from Sgt Rick Bobo, who was stationed in the Bentwaters tower and watched the so-called UFO for five hours.

He said: "There were several lights and there was this huge ship over the forest. It seemed to be very low with lots of red and blue lights on it and I saw something come away from it and land in amongst the trees."

The Ministry of Defence has constantly said there was never a threat to Britain's air defences.

But Ms Bruni insisted: "We cannot be sure there was an alien crew, but the fact that a craft of unknown origin landed in Rendlesham Forest should no longer be in dispute."

She will talk about her book at the Woodbridge Community Centre at 7.30pm on November 23 in an event organised by Browsers bookshop in the Thoroughfare.

INTERNET LINKS

www.bentwaters.org.uk
www.debenweb.co.uk

Strange ice rings baffle researchers

Unidentified frozen objects

BY JIM BRONSKILL

OTTAWA • Mysterious ice rings in Ontario and Quebec are baffling investigators tracking the appearance of strange circles in ponds and fields across Canada.

Cold, hard facts about the frozen phenomena are scarce, making it too early to tell if the rings are related to their better-known cousins, the crop circles that continue to turn up in farmers' fields worldwide, says a newly released report.

Two rural ice-ring cases are among 11 sightings described in the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network's annual summary report for 2000. The network, a non-profit organization, collects information about circles from farmers and other contributors.

The round ice formations have been documented only rarely in Canada, the U.S., Germany and

Russia, said Paul Anderson, the network's Vancouver-based director. "We're lucky if we hear of one."

Early last December, a woman in the eastern Ontario town of Delta awoke to find an ice ring almost five metres in diameter on the pond behind the family barn. "She just swore up and down that it wasn't there the night before," said Mr. Anderson. "When they went out at six in the morning there it was, a perfect ring."

He said the ice was apparently too thin to walk on, making a hoax unlikely. "How someone would do that from the shore, I don't know."

Another circle, on Lac Pelletier, in Quebec's Laurentian mountains, was reported in November by a visiting British researcher. A series of circles and rings was discovered on the same lake in 1999, the report says.

One theory suggests an ice ring is formed by a current flowing into a pond. It moves in a circle and affects the freezing pattern, said Mr. Anderson. "That's the only explanation that makes any sense."



CATHIE WHITTAKER / THE MURAL

Is it a hoax? The ice in this pond in Delta, Ont., is too thin to walk on.

Though round patterns have shown up in ice, grass, dirt, clay banks and sand, crop circles remain the most common rings. Of the various types of circles reported last year, seven were found in Saskatchewan, two in Ontario, one in Manitoba and one in Quebec.

A number of the formations featured "significant physical anomalies" such as deformed, twisted seed heads on many of the stalks in a dumbbell-shaped pattern discovered last August at Moosomin, Sask.

As with a set of circles found near Orillia, Ont., dogs refused to go near the formation, the report says. The camera of a man who investigated a circle near Saskatoon failed to work properly in-

side the formation, while shots taken outside were normal.

The odd occurrences suggest that whatever might be responsible for the circles emanates a form of electrostatic energy, said Mr. Anderson.

The report says some cases, like the July, 2000, report of 20 to 25 circles that appeared in the fields of an Alameda, Sask., farmer in 1999, simply come too late for researchers to study first-hand.

"Cases like this reaffirm our opinion that a significant number of formations, mainly single circles or small groups of circles, never get reported at all. Therefore, they remain uninvestigated, and may be more common than we think."

Southam News

CROP YOBS ARE RUNNING CIRCLES ROUND EXPERTS



CROP CONCERN: Fakes are preventing people from taking crop circles seriously, says Roy Dutton SP08A

'Ignore vandals' antics and look at real cases'

A FORMER space-ship scientist yesterday condemned the hoaxers behind fake crop circles.

▼ By JON COUCH

Roy Dutton says that fakers who have admitted fabricating huge corn sculptures are nothing more than vandals, obscuring the real scientific issues.

He said: 'I cannot understand why the antics of these overgrown schoolboy vandals are considered to be so worthy.'

'Apart from anything else, why are farmers not queuing up to prosecute them for wilful damage?'

Mr Dutton, from the Centre for Crop Circles, worked in the Future Projects Department at British Aerospace before retiring, and has spent years studying crop circles all over the country.

He is also deeply interested in UFOs, although he says that he has never witnessed one himself.

In 1991, he was putting the finishing touches to a book about the phenomenon, but the publishers pulled the plug at the last minute after fakers came forward and the mystery surrounding crop circles was shattered.

Mr Dutton, who lives in Torquay, said: 'People wrongly think that all of them are fakes now, but some of them are genuine.'

'And while these hoaxers are obscuring the real issues, no-one will take the real crop circles seriously.'

'All of the real ones follow the same mathematical rules, even though they look quite different to each

other,' said the 65 year-old. 'There are other differences between the real thing and the fakes that are quite obvious when you look.'

Fakers use large boards to stamp out their creations in corn and other crops, which they design using computers.

Genuine

'I've seen a lot of the fakes over the years and the damage caused to the plant stem is quite different from the real thing as well as the pattern.'

'When you study the stems under a microscope you can clearly see they are not broken in the genuine crop circles, but simply laid flat. In the fake ones, the stems are bent and crushed.'

A force gently lays the crop down in the genuine article which have been found in many parts of the country, including Somerset and Devon, he says.

Technology

'Major problems arise in identifying the nature of the corn-flattening stimulus involved in genuine circles because, to my knowledge, no such stimulus exists.'

'However, the existence of the real ones proves that the technology is currently available to someone, somewhere.'

'There are several groups who are doing the fakes.'

'They think it's a challenge but the fact of the matter is they are preventing people from taking crop circles seriously.'

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - March 27, 2001 CR: G. Duplantier

QUEBEC SECT TO DEFEND HUMAN CLONING BEFORE U.S. CONGRESS

By GRAEME HAMILTON

MONTREAL • The leader of a Quebec-based sect that believes aliens created human life in outer-space laboratories has been invited to testify tomorrow before a U.S. Congress sub-committee on human cloning.

Raël, the French-born founder of the Raelian Movement, is among a select group of 15 scientists, ethicists and religious leaders summoned to Washington for a one-day hearing on the safety and ethical issues surrounding cloning.

Last year, the Raelians announced the creation of a company called Clonaid to help would-be parents who want a cloned child. They claim to have a laboratory in the United States where work has begun to produce a clone of a 10-month-old boy who died last year during a routine operation.

Though their project has been met with skepticism elsewhere, the U.S. Congress is taking them at their word. 'There's a legitimate concern that they may just do it,' said Peter Sheffield, a spokesman for the House Energy and Commerce Committee. 'You need to take seriously the prospect that a group like this could succeed.'

Raël was known as Claude Vorilhon before 1973, when he says he was taken aboard a spacecraft and taught the tenets of what would become the Raelian Movement. He said yesterday that it is only "logical" that he and Brigitte Boisselier, Clonaid's scientific director, should appear before Congress.

'That is why I told Brigitte Boisselier to choose the United States, because I knew it was the country that respected freedom the most in the world.'



Raël

He warned he would challenge government regulation of human cloning up to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

'It is not a question of being for or against human cloning. It is whether we are for or against scientific freedom. Nobody has the right to control science,' he said.

Arthur Caplan, director of the Center of Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, who has also been invited to testify, said he was surprised to learn he would be sharing the floor with Raël. He considers the Raelians' cloning claim a publicity stunt and says they are last on his list of people most likely to produce a clone.

National Post

GLOUCESTER INDEPENDENT,
Gloucestershire, England
Oct. 19, 2000

UFO sighting

MADAM - I am a retired police officer who has been researching the UFO phenomenon for a number of years and am interested in an incident which took place in the Birdlip area, outside Cheltenham, on July 21, 1953, when the Rev G T Haigh, who was then vicar of Oakridge, near Stroud, witnessed a most unusual phenomenon on his way home.

The sighting of the unidentified object was also witnessed by a police officer on night duty and a GPO mail van driver.

Can any reader assist me with any of the witnesses concerned, or who have knowledge of the incident, irrespective of the fact that this took place more than 47 years ago?

John Hanson
PO Box 6371, Birmingham, B48 7RW.

More spooky sightings in West Cumbria

REPORTS of UFO sightings and strange aerial phenomena in West Cumbrian skies are on the increase, according to local paranormal investigator Sharon Larkin.

Sharon, who has attracted national and international attention with her claims that the area is a hotbed of UFO activity, told the *Times & Star* that she is currently receiving an average of three calls a week from people saying they have seen unidentified flying objects.

'There is always someone seeing something. People are quite willing to ring me up with information and fill in sighting report forms,' she said.

'Sightings usually involve either cigar-shaped craft, silver balls or discs and most are spotted over the Solway Firth. They seem to be concentrated in the Flimby and Maryport area,' she added.

However, some of the most interesting reports Sharon has received recently were in the Workington area.

A witness in Stainburn spotted a long silver-coloured cylindrical object moving slowly across the sky at about 9.40am on September 30. The object was observed for several minutes before it disappeared out of view. It appeared to have been heading in the direction of Keswick.

A mysterious black sphere was seen over Schoose Farm in Workington at about 4.45pm on September 1. According to the witness's report it was being followed closely by a red light and both hovered over the roof of a house for some time before moving out of sight. Sharon said it was the latest in a series of sightings over this area.

A young woman contacted Sharon recently to say that she and her children had seen a round, silver object moving across the sky above Moorclose back in August. The object was spotted during the early afternoon and the woman initially thought it was a plane. But she was shocked at the irregular way it moved - stopping suddenly, then changing direction quite erratically before disappearing.

Sharon said one of the most spectacular sightings reported to her recently happened in Silloth during mid-August. The witness was sitting in his car looking over the sea towards Scotland. It was about 8pm, there was a beautiful sunset and a few clouds in the sky when suddenly two disc-shaped objects came into view. He described them as just sitting there, stationary, with the sun reflecting off them. They were very large and close together and he watched them for over an hour until it grew dark and they vanished from view. The sighting was also reported by another member of the public.

Sharon is investigating the reports to see if they are connected to another sighting which was originally reported to the Southampton UFO group. It was from a man from Hampshire who was on holiday with his family in Silloth in August. He claims to have seen a black or very dark grey elliptical-shaped object hovering about 150ft above the sea. The sighting was made just before 11pm on August 22.

Sharon Larkin is the investigations/administration director of North West Cumbria UFO Research and Investigations and a member of Central Investigations into Paranormal Activity and PROJECT FT (Research into Flying Triangles). She can be contacted on 0778 8543850.

DAILY STAR, London, England
Nov. 30, 2000

UFOs find Earth handy

UFOs may be using weather satellites for their own purposes, claims a top American scientist.

Researcher Philip Imbrogno says objects are regularly pictured by some of the 2,000 satellites now in orbit.

Imbrogno, who has been investigating UFO's for 15 years, says he's seen on a monitor a classic disc-like object hovering above Earth, and wants the US government to admit that UFOs exist.

Things could be looking up for star-gazing residents of Britain's UFO capital

Town with a crick in its neck



By
Esther
Oxford

THE TOWN could not be more ordinary - flat-fronted brick bungalows with fitted curtains and PVC double-glazing, bus-stops with plastic seats looking on to trimmed green verges. It is enough to make your head spin. Strangely, it is not heads that are spinning here, but Unidentified Flying Objects. More than 60,000 sightings have been made in the town of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk in central Scotland, since 1991.

Locals spend their nights standing on purpose-built platforms gazing at the sky. They bring picnics, drink beer, and share stories. Some UFO sightings sound like hallucinations until you see the video footage. They have been variously described as "like floating loaves of bread" or "like eyes", and the films show strange, translucent forms of light shuddering through the air. Sometimes the UFOs stay still, move up, move down or blink their lights seductively. They inspire awe and terror.

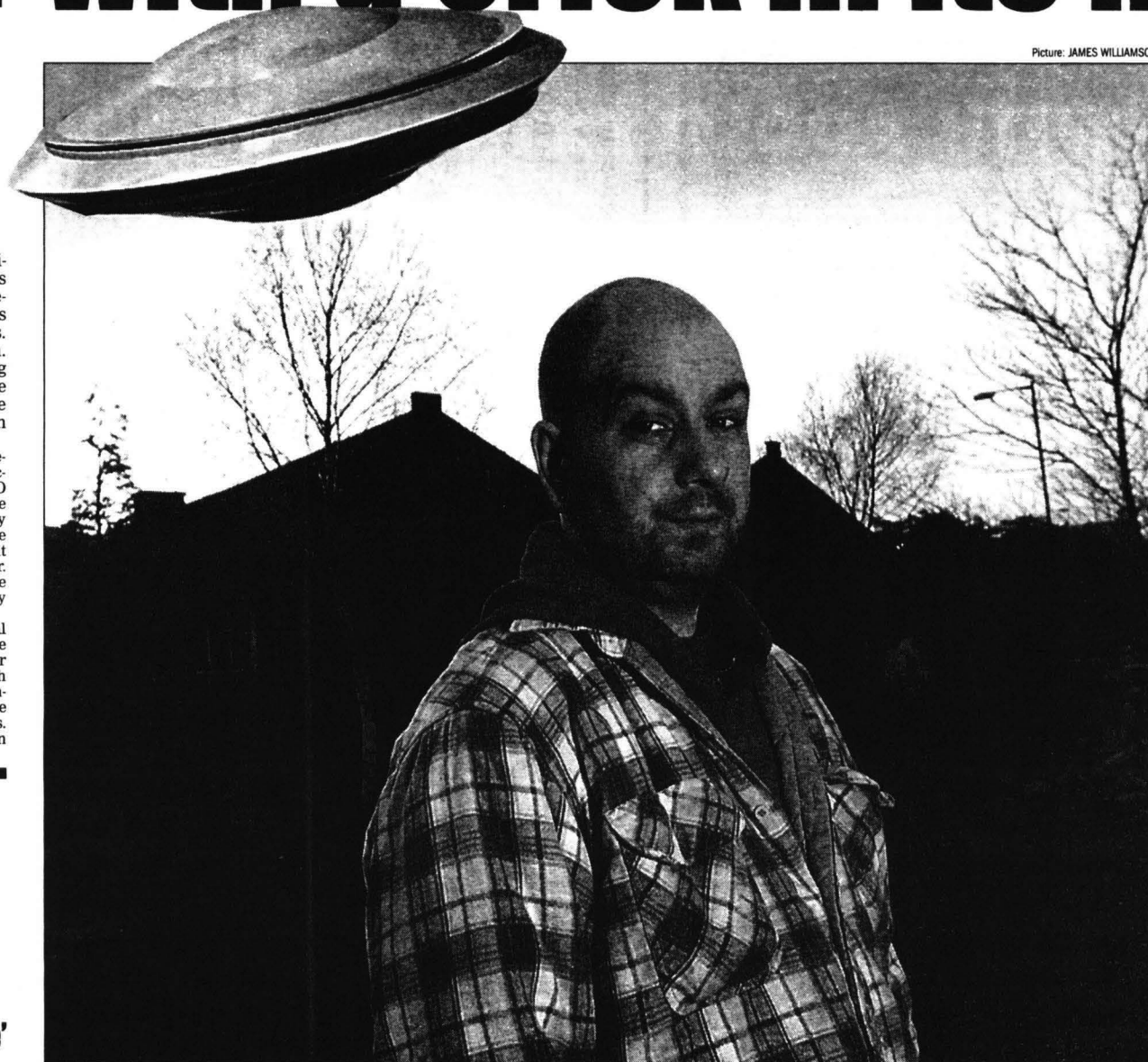
"We are the UFO capital of the world," says local councillor Bill Buchanan. "The Muslims have Mecca, UFO enthusiasts have Bonnybridge." Mr Buchanan wants to twin Bonnybridge with Roswell, the American town that has become synonymous with other-worldly encounters. "I spoke with the mayor of Roswell last week," he says. "Let's just say that we have made progress."

In 1947, grey, bulbous "humanoids" were reportedly found crushed under a space-ship in Roswell, New Mexico.

Bonnybridge can't compete with the mystery, conspiracy theories and sheer spectacle surrounding this incident. But still, it is trying.

"We want to build a high-tech theme park here, catering for 20,000 visitors a week," says Mr Buchanan. "We can't guarantee that they will see a UFO. But we can guarantee hospitali-

This big white light the size of a jumbo jet appeared and started following me'



Picture: JAMES WILLIAMSON

IT'S BEHIND YOU: Restaurateur Neil Malcolm is not the only resident of Bonnybridge to see strange things in the skies above the Scottish town

ty." The theme park, featuring virtual reality rocket rides, is expected to cost in the region of £250million. "Not everyone in Bonnybridge is happy about the proposal," admits Mr Buchanan. "But when they see how much the town could gain from new jobs, tourism and industry they will change their minds."

The Bonnybridge UFO phenomenon began with a normal family evening. "It was 1991," remembers Neil Malcolm, the eldest son of the Malcolm family, owners of a local restaurant. "I was driving down the street when this big white light the size of a jumbo jet appeared above me. It started following me. I was afraid. I didn't know what it was."

His mother, Ann, takes over the story. "I was sitting right here," she says. "Neil burst in looking like he'd been in a car crash. I ran outside to take a look at this so-called 'white light'. It was there for a long time." Her daughter-in-law grabbed a video camera and filmed the event.

Neil was badly disturbed by the incident. "I couldn't speak about it to anyone. When people asked me what happened I would just say 'nothing'." Now even his mother is reluctant to speak about the sighting, which belies cynical rumours that the family are only "seeing" UFOs to promote their restaurant business. "I get tired of people saying to me: 'Have you seen any more green aliens recently?'" she complains indignantly. "It belittles our experiences."

Soon afterwards, Joe Lemetti, owner of a fish and chip shop near Bonnybridge, endured his first encounter with a UFO at a barbecue. "A group of 30 of us were sitting in the garden when this UFO just appeared out of the sky. It looked like a ball of light going backwards and forwards, up and down. Then more came - about 16 in all. Helicopters don't do that - well certainly not at that speed." The spectacle went on for three hours.

"I've been stopped by police in the middle of the night," adds Mr Lemetti. "I tell them I am looking for UFOs and they let me go. So far I've had 12 to 15 different sightings. The last one was a year ago." Mr Buchanan mentions casually that he has seen 10. "I could see more, but I'm too busy to go out every night to look at the sky."

Investigator Malcolm Robinson is associated with the British UFO Research Association. He is a first port of call for anyone who has spotted a UFO, and was the first to be approached by the Malcolms.

He can distinguish "time-wasters" by their body language and the books under their chairs. "They usually want to get on television," he explains. If he is unsure about their credibility, he'll sift through the evidence. "I check with the air force to make sure no aircraft have been in the area. Then with the Ministry of Defence. My job is to make sure that the sceptics are satisfied." Ninety-five per cent of all UFO sightings can be explained away.

"The person may have spotted an aircraft or a comet - all of which can appear perplexing viewed from the ground. What fascinates me is the five per cent left over." This amounts to six or seven genuine sightings a year, he says. The Malcolms' was one.

BUT the case that most impressed him involved Gary Wood and Colin Wright. They were driving along the A70 between Edinburgh and West Lothian when a "black disc-shaped object" appeared before them, hovering over the road. A curtain of molten silver dripped on to their car and they were "catapulted into complete darkness".

Months later under hypnosis they "revealed" that small grey creatures had forcibly removed them from their car, taken them to a circular-shaped room, stripped them naked and subjected them to a "medical examination". Sounds like a dream? "I've never met two more honest to goodness gentlemen," Mr Robinson insists. So why has Bonnybridge become the Mecca of UFOs? "Well, it has more than

(continued on page 16)

its fair share of military establishments. Perhaps the UFOs are being used as surveillance," says Mr Robinson. Many UFO researchers feel that the disproportionate number of sightings around military bases may be associated with intelligence gathering.

However, astro-physicist Dr John Watkins, now a GP in south-east Wales, insists that multi-witness sightings are an example of mass hysteria. The human mind is apt to play games, he explains. "It tries to make some kind of logic out of a pattern of occurrences which are not logical."

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman chuckled at the mention of UFOs. "Our official line is that we remain totally open-minded." And your unofficial line? "We have no interest in UFOs at all," she said, bluntly. Then, hearing a sigh of disappointment, she added: "Unless, of course they constitute a threat to national security."

Mr Buchanan is philosophical about disbelievers. He can afford to be. His wife, a nurse and a scathing sceptic, has finally seen the light. On January 2 this year she was driving home from work when a bright white gas emerged in her path. She didn't think about national security. She didn't worry about being accused of hysteria. She didn't freeze up in fear. Instead she kept on driving. "I just knew that Billy would be pleased," she says.

Mystery that still lies deep in the desert

By Beverley Glick

ROSWELL would have remained a backwater in the New Mexico desert if it had not been for the events of July 7, 1947.

On that day, a local farmer drove into town to report the discovery of debris on his land. He had found a 300ft gash in the ground, surrounded by a scattering of silver metallic confetti over three quarters of a mile long. It appeared that an object had delivered the earth a glancing blow.

Some 30 miles away, embedded in the side of a low escarpment, some campers separately claimed to have discovered a craft slightly larger than a helicopter. Inside this cigar-shaped craft, according to witnesses, lay the bodies of extraterrestrial life forms.

The sheriff told the local airforce base. After visiting the sites the base commander issued a press release claiming a crashed flying saucer had been recovered.

The local radio station immediately reported the news. But after that, the truth became obscured in a sandstorm of controversy and a major slice of UFO folklore was enshrined.

Pick and mix as you wish from reports of aliens recovered alive and dead, authentic or faked films of autopsies and orders for small coffins, liquid metal and weather balloons, intimidation of witnesses and vacuumed desert floors, cover-ups and conspiracies, hysteria and fabrication. The list - and the number of web sites - is endless.

Whatever did happen there turned a one-horse town in the New Mexico desert into a worldwide centre of UFO interest. That same commercial magic is about to be injected into the one-kilt town of Bonnybridge.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - Dec. 2, 2000

SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

Do mystery diseases come from outer space?

BACTERIA has been discovered floating high up in our atmosphere of a type unknown on our planet.

Scientists speculate they could have come from a passing comet or asteroid - or even drifted millions of miles through space from a distant planet.

And if there is life on other worlds, could this have developed into civilisations more advanced than our own?

Even simple 'alien' bacteria could provide the answer to mysteries which have baffled scientists for years.

Take the disappearance of the dinosaurs. Almost overnight, 65 million years ago, this group of animals vanished.

A massive collision between the earth and a comet or asteroid has been fingered as the culprit.

But there's a puzzle. Why were dinosaurs alone singled out for extinction?

The answer could be disease. Viruses select certain types of creatures to attack, just as cows alone are affected by BSE.

So could it be that a bizarre alien illness was spread from the comet which collided with our planet? An illness which attacked only dinosaurs?

Alien life forms would explain another bizarre phenomenon - the sudden appearance of one-off killer diseases.

The 'Black Death' of the 1340s,

which killed millions across Europe and turned Scotland into a human desert, has still never been explained. It came out of nowhere and vanished as quickly.

It was labelled the bubonic plague and puzzles scientists even today as to what it really was.

An illness like the plague turned up in Glasgow in the 1930s but unlike the 'Black Death' didn't spread beyond a few cases - another medical puzzle.

And since the 1900s 30 new killer diseases have emerged, from legionnaires to ebola and BSE. Then there's AIDS.

Could all these illnesses be caused by alien bacteria - viruses journeying across the vast distances of space to land on earth?

But there could be a more sinister answer. For the last 50 years the world has been swamped by UFO reports and thousands of sightings of alien entities.

Many witnesses claim to have seen alien entities taking soil samples.

In 1996, in Fife, several aliens appeared to be removing vegetation from a farmer's field into a spacecraft. Large numbers of sightings have also been reported over rivers and reservoirs.

So could they be engaged in some weird experiment, or even be spreading illness by contaminating the planet?

UFO sightings high last year, but no alien abductions: report

Secret military testing could be cause of Yukon boom: expert

By Foster Smith

British Columbia and the Yukon recorded unusually high sightings of UFOs in 2000, a year that kept researchers with Canada's main UFO study group busy with the third highest number of incidents in the 11-year history of its annual report.

According to Chris Rutkowski, research co-ordinator for UFOlogy Research of Manitoba, or UFOROM, British Columbians reported 102 UFO sightings, while Yukon residents claimed to have seen 26, numbers that he said are disproportionate in relation to their respective populations.

"I suppose people can come up with their own explanations about B.C.," said Mr. Rutkowski, a recreational UFOlogist and self-proclaimed "open-minded skeptic" with an undergraduate degree in astronomy.

"As far as the Yukon goes, it's very odd. The number of sightings is usually relative to population density."

Ontario, with Canada's largest population of more than 11 million people, should record the highest number of reports. However, at 53 sightings, Ontario ranked second behind B.C., with its population of just over four million. The Yukon's 26 sightings placed the territory third in Canada, despite its population of 30,600 residents.

Mr. Rutkowski said the popularity of provincial groups like

UFO BC, which has its own hotline and Web site and whose members are monthly guests on a radio talk show, helps explain the propensity of UFO reports in that province.

UFO investigators in the Yukon, meanwhile, suspect the jump in sightings and the number of cases involving triangular-shaped flying objects may suggest the testing of secret military aircraft in the area, said Mr. Rutkowski.

UFOROM compiles its data from reports filed to the research group by provincial counterparts, police, and federal agencies like Transport Canada and the Department of National Defence.

Across Canada, reports of UFOs totalled 263 in 2000, ranking the year third behind 1997, when 284 UFOs were sighted, and 1993, with its record 489 sightings.

In an average year, there are 236 reported sightings, according to UFOROM data.

Mr. Rutkowski said most of the sightings in 1993 were attributed

to a cosmic fireball, or bolide, that penetrated the Earth's atmosphere above Canada.

Similarly, the 263 sightings in 2000 only produced 34 cases that remained unknown after further investigation by UFOROM and its provincial counterparts.

Of those 34, only 12 were considered "high-quality," based on assessments that considered the reports for factors like the colour of the object that was seen, the reliability of the information that witnesses were able to provide, and the perceived strangeness of the incident.

"If a person sees a light in the sky that doesn't move and just sits there, chances are it's a star and the strangeness of that report is pretty low," said Mr. Rutkowski.

"But if they're watching this star and it gets bigger and bigger and turns out to be a saucer that lands next to them and two men with antennas get out, that's a high strangeness event that's difficult to write off as a star."

Among the 263 reports across Canada were two close encounters of the third kind, in which a witness saw figures or entities along with the UFO.

In one such incident in Mississauga, B.C., a man claimed he saw a flying saucer outside his home, in which he observed a being that appeared human, clad in coveralls and staring back at him.

According to the report, there were no reported alien abductions in 2000. Mr. Rutkowski said such cases are difficult to examine, since those alleging an abduction can rarely provide a time of day, a description of the UFO and a location.

National Post



DISCOVERY CHANNEL

UFOs: two close encounters.

N.S. town's new postmark pays homage to UFO visit

By Les Perreux



It came from outer space - or Russia, or the United States.

The locally designed ink stamp, used to mark and date outgoing mail, depicts a flying saucer hovering over water with a lighthouse and boat beneath it. The scene refers to an incident in 1967 in which an apparent UFO plunged into the bay near the town and sent the RCMP, Coast Guard and townspeople on a fruitless search-and-rescue mission.

"There are so many people coming in who are interested in having their picture taken here or having their mail stamped, I thought we needed something with a UFO design," said postmaster Cindy Nickerson, who came up with the idea for the stamp two years ago. The design is also being used on T-shirts, hats and commemorative wooden nickels.

At about 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 4, 1967, Laurie Wickens and three friends were driving home when they saw an orange light heading toward the water, and called police. "At first the cops didn't want to

Residents of Shag Harbour, N.S., will be mailing an image of a flying saucer with every letter and package after Canada Post approved a new postmark commemorating a visit 34 years ago by an unidentified flying object.

The crash has become the subject of popular lore, including a book, and has also made the town a tourist draw.

believe us, but then we found out another cop had seen it too," Mr. Wickens recalled yesterday.

He and several witnesses, including RCMP officers, watched the light floating on the water until it sank. An all-night search found nothing except a 600-metre strip of floating, yellow scum.

No official explanation has been offered for the lights, but theories at the time had a Cold War influence and involved a Russian spacecraft or submarine. Mr. Wickens believes it was a U.S. military plane.

Canada Post has created many postmarks for communities, including a teddy bear hugging a heart for Love, Sask., and Anne of Green Gables for Cavendish, P.E.I.

"It's a concept that goes over very well with collectors," said Tim McGurran, spokesman for Canada Post.

The ink stamp will be officially unveiled in May.

National Post



FOLLOWING IN BIGFOOT'S



Are you a
Bigfoot?
Place your
foot here and
see how you
measure up

Cryptozoologist
Loren Coleman's
own foot rests on
a plaster cast of a
Bigfoot footprint
found in Bluff
Creek, Calif.
(NEWS Photos by
Anthony Robert
La Penna)

FOOTSTEPS



Loren Coleman
holds a plaster
skull of
Gigantopithecus,
which scientists
believe to be the
largest primate
to have existed.
It is believed
to have lived 5.5
million years
ago.

By Kristen Andresen
Of the NEWS Staff

Loren Coleman doesn't need to worry about burglars in his Portland apartment. The big guy on the stairs is enough to scare them off.

Eight feet tall, dark and not so handsome, the wooden model of Bigfoot stands guard near the entry, a gift from a witness who created the piece after a sighting in Ohio. It's one of many "artifacts" that Coleman has collected during his years of studying unknown creatures - Yeti (what people refer to as an abominable snowman), Sasquatch (the

traditional Bigfoot), and the Loch Ness Monster.

There's a name for what he does: cryptozoology, "the science of 'hidden animals'" as defined in his book "Cryptozoology A to Z: The Encyclopedia of Loch Monsters, Sasquatch, Chupacabras and Other Authentic Mysteries of Nature." And there are many names for what he studies, not just Bigfoot, the umbrella term under which most people tend to lump them all together.

"You know how everything's Kleenex or everything's Xerox. Well, everything's Bigfoot," said Coleman, part-time professor at the University of Southern Maine,

(continued on page 18)

teen suicide expert and lifelong pursuer of the elusive. "There are different species."

In the cryptozoological world, which is larger than you might think, Coleman is an authority. He has served as a consultant for "Unsolved Mysteries," A&E's "Ancient Mysteries," Animal Planet's "Twisted Tales," and Discovery Channel's "In the Unknown." He also has written several books, including "The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide," "Creatures on the Outer Edge," "Tom Slick and the Search for the Yeti," which is slated to become a movie starring Nicolas Cage, and "Mysterious America," which came out in 1983 and will be revised and reprinted this year. Before he retired, talk radio host Art Bell interviewed Coleman.

"I'm usually the one they bring in to make the show down-to-earth," Coleman said. "I have all of the fame and none of the fortune," Coleman said.

Coleman, 53, is used to being in the spotlight when Bigfoot sightings and unusual creatures are in the

news. Since he was a teen-ager in Illinois, he has been the one people turn to when they need an expert in the field. At 14, he was corresponding with 400 people worldwide on the subject. Now he receives hundreds of e-mails every week.

And it all started with a movie about the abominable snowman that caught his attention when he was 12.

"I went to my teachers and they said it was a bunch of malarkey," Coleman said. But he didn't buy it. So he started reading everything he could about Yeti searches, Sasquatch sightings and the like. He wrote articles and did field research, interviewing witnesses, and investigating the evidence: footprints, hair samples, scratches, tooth marks, scat, audio tapes of screeches, video and photographs.

Since his subject of choice wasn't exactly mainstream, Coleman tailored his college courses to his own liking. He holds bachelor's degrees in zoology and anthropology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, a master's degree in social work from Simmons College in Boston and has done post-graduate work in sociology and anthropology at Brandeis University and the University of New Hampshire. After vacationing in Rangeley in the summer of 1980, he decided to move to Maine.

He's a smart man. Educated.

Well-respected in the professional community. A Little League coach and devoted father of two boys. An adviser on teen suicide prevention and adoption. A professor.

"I'm just a regular guy," he said.

A regular guy who travels to Loch Ness, Scotland, in the summers to research "Nessie." Who camps out in Quebec and the Pacific Northwest listening for Bigfoot and interviewing witnesses.

It sounds bizarre, even improbable. Especially for someone so, well, normal. But Coleman tackles it like an investigative reporter. And he wants to get the scoop.

"I'm more the guy who talked to the people who did the work," he said. "It's not my goal to be a witness so much as to document the evidence."

Like an investigative reporter, he chooses his sources carefully.

"Until I have a hair sample or footprint or twisted branch, I'm really kind of skeptical," he said. "Twenty percent have some kernel of interest as far as cryptozoology [goes]. Eighty percent are mistakes and a few are hoaxes."

This is where his social work training comes into play. He doesn't just interview a witness. He talks to the witness' spouse, boss, co-workers and friends to get a read on the person's state of mind and general validity.

"When I interview witnesses, I have to evaluate their credibility," Coleman said. "You have to put yourself in these people's shoes — how they're feeling."

Regardless of how compelling the evidence is, the cryptozoologist can't get too far without a corpse or a skeleton of said unidentified creature. And corpses are hard to come by.

Some would say that is because these creatures, or "cryptids" as they are called, don't exist. But Coleman attributes it to the creatures' locales — lake bottoms, deep forest, rarely traversed mountains — and nocturnal schedules. It's not that they aren't there, he says, it's that we don't see them.

"They still are unknowns until we catch them," he said. "New animals are being discovered all the time."

The mountain gorilla, long storied before corpses were produced, could've been the Bigfoot of Africa.

Among the as yet hidden creatures, the "orang-pendek," witnessed in Sumatra, is the closest to discovery, Coleman writes in his field guide.

While Bigfoot may not be tramping around in his own back yard, Coleman still has a little to work with here in Maine.

Mark Latti of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife says

his office gets "quite a few" callers reporting unfamiliar animals.

"Most are mountain lion and wolf sightings," Latti said. "We've never been able to confirm a mountain lion sighting. We've found evidence of big cats, whether it's a mountain lion or who knows what else, or an extra-large bobcat."

And the wolf sightings usually turn out to be wolf hybrid dogs.

"We have yet to find a truly wild wolf in Maine," Latti said.

So it's not a hotbed of cryptozoological activity, but Coleman has plans to create a museum in Portland in the next few years, to showcase his vast collection of related artifacts.

Among his treasures are giant plaster casts of Bigfoot footprints, an encased hair sample, toys and promotional products that feature the abominable snowman, Halloween masks and plaster skull casts.

Soon, he will have a place to show the collection he's amassed over 40 years. He also hopes he can provide funding for aspiring cryptozoologists' field studies.

"Cryptozoology comes from a real passion place. It's something I keep focusing on and dealing with," he said. "Maybe it won't be there for me, but I want to create an institution so people can spend all their time [pursuing] cryptozoology."

THE SPORTS ETHIC

Is Bigfoot really out there (here)

BY MATT LOVE
For the Headlight-Herald

Part one of a two-part series

A few years ago when I first moved to the county, my wife and I attended a fashionable dinner in a beach-front Neskowin home. We



were served great food, great wine and excellent single malt Scotch. Fine Northwest art adorned the walls and we felt warmed by a fire that took the chill off a

rainy winter night. The conversation that evening matched the brilliance of the fare and ambiance. In other words, no one spoke of professional sports or stock speculation. Finally, there was a segue to local folklore and a man told a personal story about hiking up around Mt. Hebo years ago. He heard a shrill animal noise, unlike any other he had experienced, and he knew for certain it must be the call of...Sasquatch.

I nearly dropped a decanter brimming with Scotch and asked him in half shock and half condescension: "Bigfoot! You don't really think it exists? It's a complete hoax!"

Everyone looked at me, including my wife. I was the only unbeliever in a room of highly educated people and became the pariah at the party.

Usually I am a skeptic, practically an agnostic on divine or supernatural matters. Yet in the case of Bigfoot, recently I have reevaluated my long-standing doubt. Just maybe...he...or she...or it...is out there, roaming, hiding, evading, infrequently glimpsed, sometimes heard, never captured, a myth, a

legend that some want debunked as a prank. Others seek Sasquatch for the sake of science or to shoot and stuff it for a museum. And there are those who want the story of Sasquatch to remain a mystery,

endangered species. I even had a grade school teacher who taught a unit on Bigfoot.

And then the lunatics surfaced, claiming Bigfoot hailed from outer space and impregnated human



The author begins his hunt for bigfoot in Tillamook County.

unproved, allowing all of us the right to reserve final judgment about Bigfoot's existence to our imaginations or chance encounters in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. These people ask: In the Information Age, human genome project and Ken Starr era, does everything have to be known? Can't there be a little magic left in the world?

In my youth in the '70s, growing up in the Pacific Northwest, I often thought about Sasquatch. It was big news back then: books, documentaries, conventions, the famous Patterson film, scholarly articles, the new field of cryptozoology (study of ancient creatures that might exist today) hokey movies, high profile, expensive expeditions, experts and dozens of sightings by credible sources. The Skamania County Commission in Washington made international headlines when it passed an ordinance protecting Bigfoot and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to consider listing Sasquatch as an

females. The tabloids took over. The '80s arrived and folk and pop cultures changed. A few diehards kept the research going, but the effort was strictly on the fringe.

That is, until the last few years. Quietly, without the hype from the '70s heyday, sightings around the Northwest picked up and the World Wide Web helped connect people who believed in Bigfoot or wanted to report a contact. Furthermore, a few reputable writers reopened the case of Sasquatch and published books with a theme that suggested: it is possible.

But none of these new sightings or new books opened my mind. I had read too many articles about hoaxers from 20-30 years ago now being exposed or coming forward to confess making the footprints just for the hell of it. There was also a news item how the famous Patterson Bigfoot film, the hand held, jumpy, 16 mm Holy Grail of Sasquatch believers had been digitally enhanced and upon inspection, zippers detected on the "body" of

the Bigfoot walking away from the camera.

Luckily for the planet, though, people and ideas do change. I started to reexamine my opinion of Sasquatch this summer after reading the account of a psychologist who allegedly encountered the beast near the Oregon Caves in early July while hiking with his family. He immediately reported the incident to a ranger in the area, an investigation ensued, and he provided a dramatic narrative of the experience on the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization website (www.bfro.net/index.htm). There he wrote passionately, "I swear to God I saw it. I'm not lying."

Later, a story came out about a summer science camp for kids that based its curriculum on searching for Bigfoot. Something cynical in me began to erode. My subtle transformation made me reconsider my refusal to believe in even the possibility of Bigfoot.

Is there something really out there? Maybe even in Tillamook County?

A monster fight is on

■ by MATT ADAMS

A WHITE witch and a Swedish scientist are going head to head in a battle over the Loch Ness Monster.

Kevin Carlyon, a High Priest in the British Coven of White Witches, is planning to sail out on to the loch and cast a spell on the creature to the sound of bagpipes.

Meanwhile, Jan Sunberg, of the Global Underwater Search Team, hopes to trap the monster using a huge snare and take samples of its DNA before releasing it.

The pair are set to arrive at the Highland loch within days of each other at the end of April for a showdown.

Kevin, of Hastings, East Sussex, warned yesterday that he might sabotage the rival scientific mission.

The witch, who recently broke his leg after tripping over his pet black cat, insisted: "We plan to cast a spell on Nessie that will prevent her from ever being caught."

"If Jan turns up, we may have to put a spell on him, too. It will be a battle of the broomsticks."



MAGIC TARGET: Nessie



Chris Russell / Dispatch

Bigfoot researcher Don Keating was once within 35 feet of what he believes was the legendary Bigfoot.

OUTDOORS

Bigfoot is no tall tale to true believers in Ohio

■ Sasquatch sightings have been reported as close as Gahanna and Delaware County.

By Dave Golowenski
For the Dispatch

On a September night of a withering Ohio summer, the shuffling sound of movement drew Don Keating's attention to a frightfully tall, pale presence striding on two legs.

"It was about 10 in the evening. Something came down the hillside," Keating said.

He watched the hair-covered biped make its way through a field toward a nearby chicken coop. As it walked, Keating noticed that the towering creature dwarfed the 4-foot-tall goldenrod being flattened as it passed.

"It was light in color, which I could see in the available moonlight," Keating said. "I estimate it was about 8 or 9 feet tall. It walked very fluidly."

The creature stopped, paused, then retreated from Keating's view at a more urgent pace than it arrived. The encounter almost 16 years ago took 15 spellbinding seconds.

"I had a 35-millimeter camera around my neck with the flash turned on," he said. "I was so astounded I never thought to take a picture."

Nevertheless, the vision that occurred in 1985 about 4 miles south of his native Newcomerstown is indelibly imprinted in Keating's memory. Shortly afterward, he and three companions, who all came that night looking for the same strange thing, measured the distance from where Keating stood watch to where the creature made its farthest advance toward the snoozing, unsuspecting chickens and one haunted human.

"At its closest, I was about 35 feet away," Keating said.

Because of their separated stake-out positions, none of his three companions saw Bigfoot that night. Incredibly, Keating said he might have spotted another in the same general area of east-central Ohio.

"A couple of years after that we did see something walk up a hill," he said. "It was moving pretty fast. It wasn't nearly as good a look."

Though that first encounter convinced him a powerful ape-human creature known as Bigfoot walks the Ohio countryside, Keating has been trying to get a conclusive handle ever since. He hasn't confined himself to the wooded, hilly areas of Tuscarawas, Guernsey and Coshoc-ton counties, where many sightings



Altman, director of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society; Bob Chance, who has studied the Appalachian and Chesapeake-Susquehanna sightings; Keith Foster, an agricultural agent from Kansas who has made extensive studies of the Colorado Bigfoot; and Don Keating, host of the conference and founder of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Investigation Center.

Details and contact information can be found at www.angelfire.com/oh/yeti1/index.html

— Dave Golowenski
outdoors@dispatch.com

BIGFOOT CONFERENCE

Persons interested in finding out more about the search for Bigfoot in Ohio and elsewhere can attend the 13th annual Bigfoot Conference, which begins at 4 p.m. Saturday at Newcomerstown Middle School in Tuscarawas County on Rt. 36 near I-77.

The conference, which is the oldest in North America and annually draws from 150 to 250 Bigfoot buffs, is free and open to the public. This year's speakers include: Loren Coleman, an expert on the Eastern Bigfoot; Eric

have occurred over the years and about which he wrote a book entitled *The Sasquatch Triangle*.

As chairman, founder and chief researcher of the Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group, Keating investigates sightings all over the state. And they happen almost everywhere, a few close to cities.

For example, an enormous, rancid-smelling creature was spotted in Gahanna only last September. Delaware County has had its share of sightings. And the following is an April 2000 encounter from Sandusky reported on an Internet-sightings list by a teen-age camper:

"I turned to see a humanoid-looking creature with dark brown hair except his chest, which was ripped with muscles. His eyes were black as night. . . I saw him cock his head to the left and grin as if he was amused by us. Then he walked slowly the other way."

Keating keeps his own skeptical distance from most reported encounters with a creature, also known as sasquatch and the skunk ape, that no scientist has ever proved exists and many people relegate to the mythological toy box.

A serious amateur researcher since 1984, Keating himself refers to each sighting as "alleged" — including the three this year — and will continue to do so unless overwhelming evidence comes with it.

"I have no doubt at all that most people who report sightings have seen something," he said. "But what they've seen might've been a bush blowing in the wind at dusk."

Occasionally, a sighting will leave

17-inch tracks — it is named Bigfoot, after all. Tracks can be faked, of course. However, Keating said researchers have learned to look for certain characteristics of a genuine imprint that most hoaxers wouldn't know to counterfeit. But even casts and footprints aren't definitive.

"As far as conclusive physical evidence, that would be a substantial part of or an entire corpse," Keating said. "Another good piece of evidence would be a film or videotape showing a creature doing something that no human could do."

The idea of giants walking the earth is at least as old as Genesis, and various wild man myths have clung to European and other civilizations. Although even Daniel Boone is said to have heard and repeated wild man tales, the contemporary sasquatch saga in the Americas is best known to have grown in the vast tracts of evergreen forests in the Northwest as part Indian legend and part pioneer lore.

Ohio, though, seems an unlikely home for an animal that would have to forage constantly to maintain its huge bulk and yet apparently is cunning enough to leave little or no trace of its food gathering nor of its subsequent waste production.

Meanwhile, that hungry creature must avoid speeding SUVs and dogs every day of the year, and hunters for about half of the year. As far as Keating is concerned, though, the state has enough room for all those contingencies.

"People might think I'm crazy, but you've got to look at 41,000 square miles in Ohio and the large forest

that's out there," he said.

Still, as Joe Louis might have intoned, Bigfoot can run, but it can't hide. Can it? That would be especially true during the deer-gun season, when about 500,000 hunters take to the woods for a week when trees are bare and humans can see long distances from hilltops and ridges.

Keating acknowledged he's not sure what stealthy magic Bigfoot performs. He said hunters do see the creature, though most won't talk about it. Some have told him stories of watching a large, apelike creature walk right under their deer stands. Some who have confided in Keating haven't told their own hunting pals.

"If they do see something, they're not likely to say much," Keating said. "Imagine if they tell their buddies they saw Bigfoot. The reaction their buddies would have is, 'Well, you're not going hunting with us next year.'"

"A lot of people are reluctant because of the ridicule factor. I know people who've had a sighting and were reluctant to talk about it to their own family. Sometimes a year will pass before they tell somebody."

By then, any trail gets pretty cold.

outdoors@dispatch.com

Feared skeleton turns out to be dog

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A team of university scientists has ruled that a mysterious skeleton recovered in northern Nicaragua is that of an ordinary dog rather than the feared and fabled chupacabras, a sort of Latin American cross between the Abominable Snowman and Count Dracula, which is said to suck the blood out of livestock.

Discovery of the bones this week set off an uproar that had one Nicaraguan churchman warning that the end of the world was at hand, while journalists called from as far away as Australia in frantic search of details.

But biologists and zoologists from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua campus in Leon who examined the skeleton said it was not a cross between a wolf and a crocodile, as some local agricultural officials had described it, but simply a dog.

"It's a dog, without any room for doubt," said Edmundo Torres, an UNAN vice rector. "It's an ordinary female dog. All our investigations didn't show any anomaly. It's a dog."

His explanation didn't sit well with Jose Luis Talavera, the farmer who claims to have shot the beast and could now lose his international notoriety as a Chupacabras Slayer.

Reports of Bigfoot sightings sought

The Southern Oregon Bigfoot Society will meet at the Black Forest Family Restaurant from 6 to 9 p.m. today.

The topic will be sharing past and recent Bigfoot encounters, Bigfoot education and planning future expeditions.

For more information, call Matthew Johnson at 659-3176.

The society meets on the first, third and fifth Friday of every month to learn more about Bigfoot, collect information about past sightings in the local area, and to plan future research.

DAILY COURIER,
Grants Pass, OR - March 2, 2001

THE SPORTS ETHIC

Crafty Bigfoot eludes columnist

BY MATT LOVE
For the Headlight-Herald

"I knew something wasn't right. It had big hair and long arms. It didn't act human-like at all. I couldn't make out a face, just eye sockets. I wondered what it was wearing winter clothes for when it was 90 degrees outside. They were



not clothes. It had reddish-blond hair like hair and was about six feet tall. I have hunted and fished up at Lee's Camp for years and have never seen anything like it.

After we got home that night we talked about more, leaving us with a strange feeling. We know what it was now—a female BIGFOOT!"

This all went down on the Wilson

River, just south of Lee's Camp, near Ben Smith Road. It was a hot afternoon in August two years ago and a couple, Kurt and Shawn, had just packed up camp. They hiked to the water to cool off when Kurt spotted, "Something down river about 45-50 yards swaying back and forth with its head down the whole time."

The encounter continued for nearly an hour (considered a record for a Bigfoot sightings) and the entire narrative can be read on the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization's (BFRO) website, a gold mine for information about everything that is Bigfoot in the world. (www.bfro.net/index.htm)

Later, after Kurt and Shawn posted their account, an investigator from BFRO interviewed them and visited the scene. The complete analysis and conclusions from the investigator can also be read on the website but one excerpt is worth quoting here: "I think the Sasquatch was juvenile and inexperienced and wanted to get an eyeful of those near naked dwarves."

This 1998 incident isn't the only alleged Bigfoot contact in

Tillamook County detailed on BFRO's website.

Recently, a man who claims he heard a Sasquatch in the morning breathing outside his tent and tearing through brush near the Jones Creek Campground back in 1979, updated his fascinating story. Reading his account, it is clear that even two decades later, the episode perplexes him. "I've spent much of the last 20 years trying to come up with an explanation for what we heard. I have none other than a Sasquatch," he wrote.

Also in the late 70s, a Seaside man made local headlines when he reported seeing a Bigfoot cross Highway 101 in the early morning near Neahkahnie Mountain.

According to several residents, Bigfoot has been seen and heard in south county too, in the rugged Mount Hebo area of the Siuslaw National Forest. One notable sighting there occurred in the mid 90s and actually launched an investigation by federal officials.

From one end of the county to the other, Bigfoot has been detected. Can all these disparate sightings from disparate sources over the last

20 years (and there may be earlier stories) be a collective hoax or the product of unstable minds? In talking to many local people, including foresters, biologists and woodsmen who have spent considerable time in the field, the answer is, "No." Many of them believe Bigfoot is real, including Clyde Zeller, a recreation supervisor for the Tillamook State Forest, who remembers as a kid at the family cabin in Skamania County hearing something scream that he suspects was Bigfoot. And there is Eric Nelson, a biologist and Assistant Refuge Manager for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who doesn't automatically rule out that Bigfoot has evaded capture all these centuries. Eric also says that if he received a call in an official capacity from someone who claimed to have seen Bigfoot, he would gladly give up a day off to investigate.

Over and over I kept hearing or reading: "It is possible." Still my doubts lingered.

It was time to investigate.

Over the course of the last three weeks, in the name of science and journalistic credibility (and because I am unemployed) I visited all the

places in the county discovered in my research where Bigfoot has been witnessed. Armed with a micro-cassette recorder, two cameras, binoculars, forceps (for scat samples), a tracking dog, several knives, a Swedish brush ax, wine and other essential supplies, I have camped, hiked and sat in the woods in hopes of documenting the existence of Sasquatch.

I can report that nothing happened except that I had a very good time in the woods.

I had many moments to ponder the legend of Sasquatch on my mission. It makes for stimulating internal debate on matters of science and humanity. In the end, I am not convinced that Bigfoot exists but I also cannot be certain that it does not. We may never know. For a writer, that might be a blessing. It is a good thing to as if the stories continue.

To report a Bigfoot sighting call 1-800-Bigfoot or go to BFRO's website and fill out an online form. If you have a Tillamook County Bigfoot story and want to go on the record, please e-mail the narrative at bobcatsports@excite.com

In Arundel Creature Feature, the Bear Facts

By ANITA HUSLIN
Washington Post Staff Writer

It loomed 12 feet tall, and left 15- to 20-inch tracks, according to reports in recent days of a mysterious creature seen roaming around a construction site in northern Anne Arundel County.

In the bright light of day, however, the strange beast was somewhat less large and ominous.

It was, in all likelihood, a bear that stood no more than about six feet on its hind legs, according to Maryland wildlife officials, who yesterday inspected a track left on a knoll within the Arundel Mills mall site.

"The track was several days old and degraded, but it was consistent with the size of a mature black bear," said Clifton Horton, a biologist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Horton was called to the site yesterday to check out a print found

by a county police officer early Monday after two construction workers reported seeing a large creature running on two feet about 3 a.m. Monday. They didn't get a good look.

Yesterday, the site drew hordes of television cameras and curious onlookers, including one man who claimed to be an expert on "Sasquatch," also known as Big Foot.

This one was actually more like a "petite foot," according to Horton. The print found was 3 inches wide and 6½ inches long.

Officials believe the bear could be the mother of a year-old cub that was struck and killed in June by a motorist on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, about a mile north of the mall site.

"The man who struck the cub thought he saw two bears, and since male bears don't travel together, we're thinking this might be the mother," said Susan O'Brien, a Natural Resources

spokeswoman.

The state's top bear biologist will review the case to determine whether the bear should be captured and relocated, officials said.

The 400-acre site in Hanover, where Arundel Mills mall is under construction, is heavily wooded but surrounded by several major roads.

Vic's theory on eerie in TV spotlight

A MAN who has come up with a scientific explanation for spooky atmospheres is to explain his theories on television.

Vic Tandy, an experimental officer at Coventry University, is to appear on the BBC 2 programme Midlands Report tonight, from 7.30 pm to 8 pm.

He believes that people who feel "presences" in buildings may simply be reacting to infrasound. This is very low frequency sound which is inaudible to humans. Research shows a small percentage of the population is sensitive to infrasound. What they think is a ghostly presence is merely their body reacting to the infrasound.

Mr Tandy did some of his research in the cellar under Coventry Tourist Information Centre, in Bayley Lane, city centre, which features in the programme.

Some visitors said they felt a ghostly presence there. Mr Tandy measured high levels of infrasound in the corridor leading to the cellar which confirmed his theory.

Organ

He has demonstrated the theory using a pipe organ at Birmingham University.

"I explain that the corridor to the cellar is like a big organ pipe. The organ makes low frequency sound which resonates. Some sort of energy source, pos-

By LUCY WILSON

sibly a central heating system, is making low frequency sound which is resonating in the corridor leading to the cellar."

Mr Tandy also illustrates his theory by showing how a glass resonates in response to sound of a certain frequency.

The programme looks at a range of supernatural happenings across the Midlands in the light of Mr Tandy's theory. These include ghostly sighs and strange noises in Belgrave, Leicester-shire, hauntings at Tamworth Castle and a poltergeist in Warwickshire.



NO GHOST: Vic Tandy

Dung Rains on Sevier County Home, Leaving Health Officials Mystified

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Dime-sized dollops of dung rained from the sky over Sevier County this week, spattering a home and leaving health officials knee-deep in befuddlement over its origin.

The mess dropped Monday over a home on the outskirts of Richfield, covering two sides of the house and showering over the back yard and a hot tub, which was covered. The homeowners were gone at the time, and discovered the mess just before 6 p.m. By then the spots appeared to be at least three hours old. Health officials tested the splashes and found coliform bacteria, including E. coli, verifying the mess was fecal matter from an unknown source. The homeowner was advised to wash the mess away with disinfectant.

"It could be very risky. Feces can carry viruses and other things that cause serious health problems," said Guy Dansie, environmental scientist with the Central Utah Public Health Department.

No one can say for sure where the mess originated. When similar gooey globs hit homes in Salt Lake County in spring 1999, homeowners blamed aircraft for dumping septic tanks in flight. But the mess was devoid of tell-tale blue chemicals used in jetliner toilets, and officials from the Federal Aviation Administration maintain that aircraft do not have the ability to void their tanks while flying.

Monday's muck appeared to have come straight down from the sky, Dansie said.

"There was a spatter mark every three or four inches. It was quite a mess." -- Kevin Cantera

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TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT - March 15, 2001

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