

UFO

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NEWS@NORMAN, Denver, NC - June 20, 2001 CR: G. Fawcett

Lake-area UFO sightings have dwindled in recent years

Where Have All the UFOs Gone?

By Ken H. Fortenberry
news@norman

Early on the morning of October 18, 1982 two employees of the McGuire Nuclear Station at Lake Norman were driving to work along Highway 73 when they spotted an unidentified flying object hovering in the air near them.

The men, who had worked at the plant for six years and had never seen anything unusual in the area, watched a dull silver UFO with "four legs" over a fogbank.

At first they thought it might be a water tank, although there were no water tanks in the area. Jimmy Bumgarner and Gary Fortenberry of Stanley watched incredulously for about 45 seconds as the object hovered about 250 feet above the ground. Later, they described their sighting in detail to a UFO investigator.

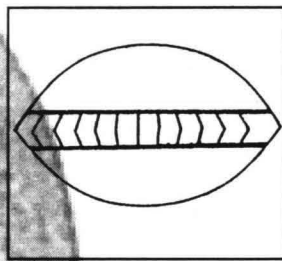
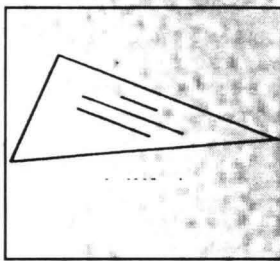
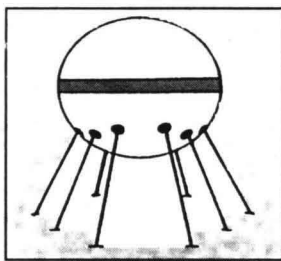
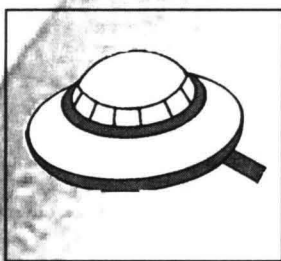
Their sighting remains one of the most intriguing in a long list of UFO sightings in and around Lake Norman over the past several decades.

Late one summer night in 1968, a couple sat on a swing in the front yard of a Denver residence.

What happened next frightened the wits out of them.

"The lights came from behind. I thought it was a car coming. . . then I noticed that the lights weren't steady, but kept changing colors. Then we heard a hum. We got up from the swing, turned around, and the object was above the road but a tree prevented us seeing very well. We started running towards the house. About halfway, I turned back around and I could see the object clear of the trees. It was shaped like a cigar. . . sort of hovering above the road. A metal rod was coming out toward the power line. Lights of various colors came and went from upper dome windows," stated Jeanne Abernethy who lives near Lincolnton.

These two sightings are



These are sketches of some of the UFOs reported in the Denver/Lake Norman area through the years

... the most recent reported sighting occurred in 1993 near Reed Creek off Highway 150 in the Sherrills Ford area

among thousands of UFO sightings documented in the Carolinas by noted UFO expert George Fawcett, a Lincolnton resident.

Fawcett said the Lake Norman area - because of its proximity to the McGuire Nuclear Plant and to other power sources - has been a hotbed of UFO activity through the years.

Fawcett says that UFOs are often spotted near power lines and large masses of water. He believes they may draw power from water and electric-generation sites.

In addition to congregating around power generation sites, Fawcett says the UFOs are frequently seen around military sites.

"They're checking our military reservations."

One morning in the summer of 1972, a Lake Norman area businessman named Robert P. Sartin heard children shouting as they fished at a pier near his house off Highway 150 near the Marshall Steam Plant.

Sartin said he children were shouting about an object they saw in the sky, and within minutes Sartin saw it himself.

Described as about the size of a basketball court, the UFO looked like "one saucer inverted on top of another and had a row of flashing windows through its middle."

The red, white and yellow lighted windows highlighted the UFO as it hovered overhead for about 10 minutes before it flew sideways, and disappeared at an unbelievable speed into the sky.

Sartin was among five peo-

ple who saw the UFO.

"UFOs are real, no doubt about it," says Fawcett, a U.S. Army veteran who holds a B.A. in psychology and education from Lynchburg College.

"Some could be friendly, some could be hostile," he says, adding that some very famous people - including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and U.S. astronauts - are among those who have seen UFOs.

"They are not a natural phenomena. They are unconventional objects with a very high degree of technology," he said.

Fawcett believes the UFOs represent a threat to national security and to the survival of mankind.

"We do have a major problem," says Fawcett, a former YMCA director.

In an article written for England's *Flying Saucer Review* in 1991, Fawcett issued an alarming warning:

"If UFOs can interact with our power sources and affect or interact with our water resources, then they could both knock out our power and poison our water supply. Whether from Mars, Moscow or elsewhere, they should be regarded as potential threats to our national security and also to the international security of mankind as a whole."

Despite the increasing interest in UFOs, they remain among the most secret of any subject in the United States government, he says. Fawcett and other UFO believers say the FBI, the CIA and the mil-

itary continue to cover up UFO evidence.

The U.S. government has just about closed the book on UFO investigations, saying that after years of research no firm evidence was found that would warrant any further investigation.

Philip Parker and H.T. Mayhew were flying above Lake Norman in October 1965 taking aerial photographs when they noticed three "bright objects" below them. Pilot Mayhew applied full throttle, barely escaping the UFOs that were flying in formation about 100 feet below.

Parker managed to take one picture of the UFOs which was later published in the *Mooreville Tribune*.

UFO debunkers, as non-UFO believers are called, say that UFOs and alien spacecrafts are nothing more than unexplained natural phenomena or secret aircraft being tested by the military. This is a claim hotly disputed by Fawcett and thousands of UFO enthusiasts.

A Charlotte website has an interesting account of a UFO sighting on Lake Norman: "Approximately one year ago

my late wife and I were taking a night cruise in the boat on Lake Norman, heading out Mountain Creek. We noticed a bright flashing light in the sky over toward the northwest. I put the boat in neutral and we watched for about 10 or 15 minutes. We seeing no specific shape to this object, we did not see any accompanying colored lights. This object only emitted a bright silver-white flashing light. Having spent a lot of years around aircraft of all known types, I knew that this object was not a conventional aircraft. The object eventually moved eastward in a very erratic manner. Losing sight of it after this length of time, we continued our cruise. After about 45 minutes and heading south and then east, we observed it once again over the Davidson area above I-77. Watched it again for about 15 minutes before losing sight again. Weird!"

The website posting was signed by J.S. of Sherrills Ford.

Not all UFOs are saucer-shaped. In fact, Fawcett says that many are triangular-shaped, including one seen in 1989 near McGuire.

For More Information

- * George Fawcett, Lincolnton, NC (704) 735-5725 or g.fawcett@conninc.com
- * The UFO Evidence by Richard Hall. Scarecrow Press, Summit, Pa.
- * UFOs (1947-1997) - 50 Years of Flying Saucers by Evans & Stacy.
- * www.mufon.com - The Mutual UFO Network.
- * International UFO Museum & Research Center, Roswell, NM. (505) 625-9495.

(continued on page 2)

About 3 p.m. on August 18, 1989, a large triangular craft was spotted near the McGuire Nuclear Plant. Paul Moore, a retired security guard, spotted the UFO at a height he estimated at 300 ft.

Moore said the object moved in silence towards the nuclear plant, and appeared to him to be about the size of a Stealth bomber. The UFO vanished from view in only a few seconds.

Although reported UFO sightings around Lake Norman have become rare in the past few years, Fawcett says they are still out there.

"I've had UFO reports myself in your area that I was unable to follow up on because of time, money and energy required to do the job properly," said Fawcett.

One such sighting near Denver a few years ago was later identified by authorities as a Blockbuster blimp traveling through the area.

"I'm still not sure that was a blimp," says Fawcett.



Noted UFO expert George D. Fawcett

... reviews some UFO material in his collection

About 8:15 a.m. on June 19, 1993, two girls reported an encounter with a silver-white Frisbee-shaped object overhead.

The girls told a UFO investigator that the object seemed to "wobble" as it moved from the northeast to the southwest.

The girls watched the UFO for 5-10 seconds before it went out of sight behind some trees on Reed Creek that empties into Lake Norman near Sherrills Ford.

One of the girls ran to a neighbor's house to report it, only to learn that interference had been

observed on the neighbor's TV set about the time of the sighting.

Visibility was reported good, and the skies were clear. The object remains unidentified.

Since the beginning of time, people have observed unusual and unidentified objects in the sky.

The Biblical prophet Ezekiel described chariots of fire that some say may have been "transportation vehicles" for God's messengers, his angels.

Throughout history people have been mystified by the universe and have asked the question: Are we alone?

Movies such as "E.T." and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and TV shows like "The X Files" have raised the consciousness of people everywhere to the UFO claims.

Despite government assurances that there is no evidence to support belief of life on other planets or elsewhere in the universe, people like George Fawcett are convinced otherwise.

"They are so consistent... there is so much evidence," he says.

What do you think?

Speaker: Aliens monitor Earth

More than 600 UFO enthusiasts hear N.C. man's theories

By Sandra Fish

Camera Staff Writer

They came from Tabernash, Fort Morgan and Aurora. They came from Peyton, Berthoud and Boulder.

Who knows? Maybe some even came from outer space.

This much is certain: More than 600 UFO enthusiasts crowded into a University of Colorado auditorium intended for about 500 Saturday, sitting on stairs, the floor and standing at the back of the room.

They came to see a two-hour video of testimony from former

government and military employees about the existence of extraterrestrial beings and the government's monitoring of them. It's part of Dr. Steven Greer's "Disclosure Project," in which the North Carolina physician is trying to get Congress to hold hearings on the government's interaction with alien life forms.

As a child, Greer witnessed a "disc-shaped craft" at close range and began studying aliens. He said he thinks people from outer space are monitoring Earth, in part to monitor weapons use.

"I think they are waiting for us to reach the early stages of maturity, where we can live peacefully, so they can interface with us," Greer said.

Katie Hofner of Fort Collins was among the hundreds who watched Greer's video, a program that began a 17-city tour in Boulder.

"I think it's fascinating," she said. "It's very compelling information."

Others weren't so enthusiastic. Maureen Murphy of Boulder handed out fliers inviting people to "The Alien Cover-Up," a panel from noon to 1:30 p.m. today at the Boulder Public Library sponsored by the Allies of Humanity.

"We don't disagree with Dr. Greer on the disclosure agenda," Murphy said. "We just disagree on the aliens' agenda. They're taking women against their will, they're taking the eggs, they're creating a race that will have an allegiance to the visitors."

Greer said he's unfamiliar with that group's efforts.

Contact Sandra Fish at (303) 473-1356 or fishs@thedailycamera.com.

CHIEF, Clatskanie, OR - May 17, 2001

UFO Reported Recently Near Scappoose

(Editor's Note: The Chief received a call Monday from the writer of the following letter regarding a reported UFO sighting near Scappoose. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office confirmed it had received a report of a UFO from an anonymous source.)

To the Editor:

The National UFO Reporting Center recently received a seemingly credible report from an Oregon resident, who describes having witnessed a very unusual object in the vicinity of Scappoose, OR, over the weekend of May 10-12. The witness reported that a very peculiar object descended out of the night sky, altered its appearance somewhat, and proceeded to hover and maneuver nearby.

Our Center is very interested in this alleged incident, and I write to inquire whether any of your readers may have been witness to the event.

The principal witness has reported to us that several other individuals, apparently local residents of the area, stood observing the object for several minutes, so we believe that there are other witnesses involved.

We would like to invite anyone who may have observed this incident to contact our Center in Seattle, either by telephone [Hotline: (206) 722-3000], or by e-mail at <director@ufocenter.com>. Our long-standing policy is to not release any personal information about the individuals who contact our Center, so anonymity is guaranteed.

For the sake of obtaining independent reports from other possible witnesses, I refrain from describing here the details of the alleged sighting. However, I would be happy to share our findings with your newspaper at

a later date, if the witnesses do not object to our releasing the facts of the case.

Thank you very much!

Cordially,
Peter B. Davenport, Director
National UFO Reporting Center
PO Box 45623

University Station
Seattle, WA 98145

director@ufocenter.com

http://www.UFOcenter.com

Hotline: 206-722-3000 (From 8AM to Midnight Pacific preferred)

Spaceship City, USA

Controversial UFO documentary debuts in Boulder

Move over Mork, Boulder will take on a new alien claim to fame with the debut of Dr. Steven Greer's two-hour "executive summary" video that features 50 scientists, government and military officials who claim to have witnessed UFO and extraterrestrial events.

Greer, a medical doctor from Virginia, has put together the world-famous Disclosure Project that consists of some 400 scientists, military and other government officials who boldly and publicly claim that the United States federal government has secretly researched UFOs and extraterrestrials—and has inventory of both—for some 50 years. Their claims were heard by millions May 9, when Greer held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., calling for congressional hearings about UFOs and extraterrestrials.

"Many members of Congress are listening to us, and taking this quite seriously for the first time, because of the credibility and reputations of the people who are coming forward," says Greer.

Greer says most of his work on Disclosure Project is funded by his fellow physicians, who believe him. Greer says nobody will ever convince him UFOs don't visit Earth, because he saw one.

"It was 1964, and I was nine years old," says Greer. "I saw a disc-shaped, anti-gravity vehicle hovering in the air in broad daylight, and it was quite visible for some time. I absolutely saw it, I remember it vividly, and there is simply no question about it. And about 10 percent of all Americans have had similar experiences, but many are afraid to talk about it because the subject has such little credibility."

Greer and his colleagues say it lacks credibility for several good reasons. First, says Greer, research of UFOs and beings from other planets has led to technology that some in government feel could destroy the world if misused by the wrong people. Therefore, their findings are the most tightly held secrets in the world.

"There's a fear that this information and technology could end up in the hands of our adversaries," Greer says. "Throughout the cold war there was a very real fear of what might happen if it fell into the hands of the Soviets."

It also has enormous political and economic ramifications. People in power stand only to lose control when the secrets are known.

"This knowledge and information we've gleaned from research into extraterrestrial visits is the solution, in a black

"These are highly intelligent beings who have advanced beyond aggression and hostility. They, in fact, see us as hostile. They view us as an adolescent, hostile environment with a lot of great potential."

— Dr. Steven Green



box so to speak, that will forever mothball the use of fossil fuels as an energy source," Greer says. "Today that has the potential to create transfers of wealth totaling some six to seven trillion dollars annually all over the globe. I'm talking about knowledge that will so dramatically change the way we do things it will even negate the need for paved highways between cities."

By studying UFOs, says Greer, the government has learned that every cubic centimeter of space contains enough energy—if properly harnessed—to meet Earth's energy needs for a year.

"In this research are the answers to all of our major energy and environmental concerns," he says.

Greer says the Central Intelligence Agency and the military intelligence community have been so successful at keeping UFO research a secret that two presidents, Carter and Clinton, have sought access to the information only to be denied. The Disclosure Project, as Greer describes it, is first and foremost a structure of safety for people with valuable

credentials to testify publicly about UFO and extraterrestrial research without being ridiculed and hung out as kooks on the fringe.

"The reason this subject has so little credibility is that 90 percent of what people hear is a bunch of fantasy and nonsense," Greer says. "It's always a story about someone living in a trailer park who gets taken onto a spaceship to have sex with a Venusian. Meanwhile, there is legitimate research into known visits by extraterrestrials being done in secret. And it has been easy for the government to keep this classified, because all the kooky UFO stories make it easy for anyone to discredit the entire subject. If you're a scientist, or a ranking military official and you come forward with information about this, you will probably be ridiculed and treated as an outcast. We're trying to counter that."

Greer's interest in UFOs has led him all over the world, speaking with ranking political, military and religious leaders. He has more than 120 hours of videotaped testimony from what he calls "credible" witnesses to UFO visits or secret government research projects. He's even visited at length with astronomers at the Vatican's observatory in Rome, where scientists told him they're certain the Earth gets visits from outer space.

Through his research, Greer says he has concluded that extraterrestrials may be visiting from up to six planets within our galaxy, and from as many as 50 planets in other galaxies. They travel at many times the speed of light, he says, but exist in a non-linear dimension that allows one particle of matter to be in more than one place at a time.

"These are non-threatening beings," Greer says. "If they were hostile toward us, we'd all have been dead a long time ago. These are highly intelligent beings who have advanced beyond aggression and hostility. They, in fact, see us as hostile. They view us as an adolescent, hostile environment with a lot of great potential."

The beings, says Greer, have tried to communicate to us in such a manner as to not frighten anyone. They've hovered over large cities and been seen by thousands.

"They've done everything but land on the field at Super Bowl games, and no matter what they do anyone who sees them or communicates with them is discredited by the government, and the media follows suit," Greer says. "People can give eye-witness testimony and they can shoot video-

tape, and it all gets shot down."

Among the members of Disclosure Project is Lieutenant Colonel Charles Brown, US Air Force (ret.). Brown testifies that no matter what people see, hear, photograph or videotape, the government will discredit it as a hoax.

"It is sort of strange but we send people

to prison, we send people to their deaths because of eyewitness accounts of crimes," Brown says. "Our legal system is based on that to a large degree. Yet in my following of unusual aerial phenomena for the past 50 years, there seems to be some reason to discredit very viable and very reputable witnesses when they say something is unidentified." ❧

DAILY ARGUS OBSERVER, Ontario, OR - April 29, 2001

See bizarre lights in the sky? Then call MUFON

Two national organizations take UFOs seriously

By Shannon Filoncuk
ARGUS OBSERVER

Seen a mysterious light in the sky, moving along the horizon that suddenly darts off and disappears?

Should you call someone to report the bizarre light? Would anyone take it seriously?

These are good questions, and people may be surprised that there are actual organizations devoted to seriously investigating unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

The Mutual UFO Network and the National UFO Reporting Center are two such groups that take exploring UFOs seriously.

Both organizations are currently investigating UFO cases in the Northwest.

One establishment not to call is the U.S. Air Force. The U.S. Air Force no longer investigates sightings.

Still, the Air Force receives calls from residents in Oregon and Idaho reporting "strange" sights.

According to 2nd Lt. Kim Melchor, deputy chief of public affairs at Mountain Home Air Force

Base, the military installation receives several calls a year from people concerned about UFOs. Melchor said the calls are referred to the National UFO Center.

The U.S. Air Force did, at one time, put a large amount of resources into its own UFO project. The effort, called Project Blue Book, began in 1947 and wrapped in 1969. The air force concluded: "No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force was ever an indication of threat to our national security, there was no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of modern scientific knowledge and there was no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' were extraterrestrial vehicles."

Ike Bishop, Idaho State Director and Chief Field Investigator for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is currently pursuing five cases.

Bishop said he investigates crop circles, cattle mutilations and UFO sightings.

"It has to be scientific or we're not interested," Bishop said.

Bishop investigates 50 case a year, approximately one a week and of the fifty only 10 percent are unidentifiable.

Bishop is currently investigating a case in Lewiston, where several people saw mysterious lights.

Reports of the case from the Lewiston Morning Tribune on October 25, 2000 said,

"By some accounts, they

were 30,000 feet in the air and sounded like planes. By other reports, they were just 300 feet up and made no noise at all. Alien or otherwise, several Valley residents reported seeing strange, bright objects in the air this week.

A Lewiston Orchards woman who contacted the Tribune Tuesday morning said she and other family members observed what appeared to be four V-shaped, lighted objects in the sky Monday night."

The National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) is following a similar case that occurred on March 13, Peter Davenport, Director of NUFORC said.

The lights were seen from Portland all the way to Vancouver B.C., Davenport said.

"We're dealing with objects that can travel hundreds of thousands of miles an hour," Davenport said.

NUFORC's purpose is to collect the UFO case reports and pass the information on to the people, Davenport said.

"Let the American people know what the hell is going on," Davenport said. "The U.S. Government does not want us to know what is going on. We don't understand why people are slow to awaken to the apparent phenomenon of this reality."

NUFORC has 398 reported UFO cases from Oregon residents, between fall of 1997 and April 2001. Idaho residents

At a glance

What: Disclosure Project video presentation.

When: Saturday, June 23, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

Where: University of Colorado, Chemistry Building Auditorium Room 140, behind University Memorial Center

Cost: Free

The Disclosure Project provides a safe venue for whistle blowers who want to unveil secret government research into UFOs and extraterrestrials. Some who have come forward include:

Lt. Col. Charles Brown, US Air Force (Ret.); Lance Corporal Jonathan Weygandt, US Marine Corps; Major George A. Filer, III, US Air Force (ret.); Nick Pope, British Ministry of Defense official; Larry Warren, US Air Force security officer; Robert Wood, McDonnell Douglas Aerospace engineer; Dr. Paul Croy, McDonnell Douglas engineer; Astronaut Edgar Mitchell; John Callahan, FAA head of accidents and investigations; Michael Smith, US Air Force Radar Controller; Franklin Carter, US Navy Radar Technician; Lieutenant Frederick Fox, US Navy Pilot; Captain Robert Salas, US Air Force, SAC launch controller; Prof. Robert Jacobs, US Air Force; and James Kopf, US Navy crypto-communications. ❧

have reported 88 cases to NUFORC between the fall of 1998 and April 2001.

Bishop said the Southwestern Idaho, Eastern Oregon region is a good area for spotting UFOs because of the open skies where one can see for long distances.

"If there is something up there we have a good probability of seeing it," Bishop said. "When we find the answer, and we will find the answer, it will come from the common people."

As to if there is evidence of visitors from other worlds coming to earth, Bishop said, "without a doubt."

When MUFON investigates

cases they take samples and have the samples scientifically tested and analyzed, Bishop said.

UFO-ology, Bishop said, is getting more sophisticated and the data base of evidence has been building for the last six years. Soon the individual data bases will be linked to show how different events in different areas are connected, Bishop said.

You can reach MUFON on the web at www.mufon.com. The National UFO Reporting Center can be reached at www.ufocenter.com and by phone on their hotline at 206-722-3000.

NEWS

THE ALIEN IN MY FREEZER

Radio host Art Bell and some Seattle fans squabble over a local UFO encounter.

BY LEAH KOHLENBERG

LIKE THE LATE-NIGHT RADIO UFO talk show host they admire, Seattle Art Bell Chat Club members believe aliens are out there. They just question whether the evidence ever existed in Jonathan Reed's freezer.

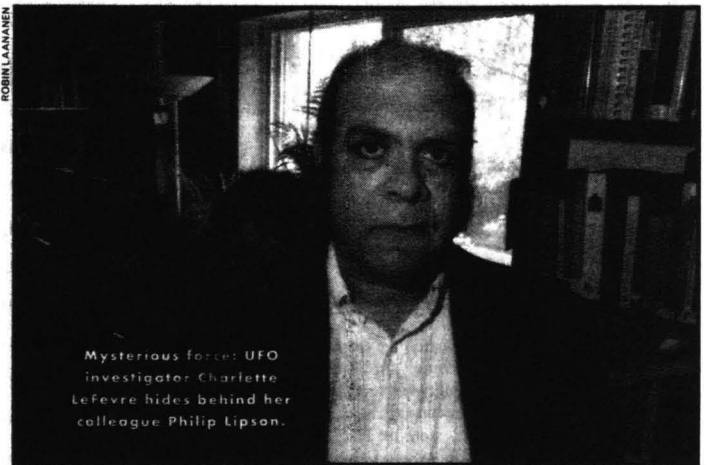
Club members thought they were doing Bell a favor by unearthing information that one of Reed's supporters, who claims to be a microbiologist who conducted DNA test on Reed's alien nemesis, may be employed at a gas station in West Seattle. What the club members got for their pains was the hoot: a request from Bell to remove his name from their fan club about three weeks ago.

The group complied, adopting the more generic title "Seattle Chat Club," but "We're hurt," says Philip Lipson, who runs the Seattle Metaphysical Library, which is perched above a dry cleaners shop off Broadway and is the site of the club's regular meetings. "We have always supported Art Bell. We didn't think we

had to believe the stories he broadcast to remain a part of the club network."

Details of Reed's alleged alien encounter are hardly new and are widely questioned even within UFO circles. For the uninitiated: Reed claims he discovered an alien and its obelisk-shaped spacecraft while hiking in the Cascades in 1996, and that he killed the alien after it turned his beloved golden retriever, Suzy, into dust. (See Reed's Web site, www.aliendestiny.com, for the full story and "photo evidence.") Reed says he then dragged the body home and threw it in his freezer, where it came alive again and screamed before it was mysteriously whisked away as part of a government conspiracy.

Bell, who created *Coast to Coast A.M.*, the phenomenal late-night radio program about UFOs and the paranormal, has had Reed appear four times on his show as a featured guest. Since the show dominates its time slot, 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., in 430 markets



Mysterious forces: UFO investigator Charlette LeFevre hides behind her colleague Philip Lipson.

around the country, Reed's appearances have raised his profile significantly in UFO circles. In the Seattle area, where Bell's show has its highest ratings in the county, Reed's story raised great interest and serious questions among local UFOlogists.

In an earnest tone, Charlette LeFevre, the Seattle Chat Club coordinator, explains her concerns: "Let me explain that I believe in the existence of UFOs," says LeFevre. "But there were things about Jonathan's story that just seemed wrong. Hoax stories like Jonathan's discredit true UFO sightings."

Reed claims he has a Ph.D., but says his records have been expunged and that he's been shot at and targeted by the

same government officials who lifted his alien. Questions have recently surfaced about his compatriots, including Robert Raith, the coauthor of Reed's published account of the encounter, *Link: An Extraterrestrial Odyssey*, and Harold Chacon. Chacon appeared on a recent edition of Bell's show with Reed, claiming he was a certified microbiologist and that he had examined the alien's DNA and could confirm it was neither animal nor human. Bell says he never bothered to check Chacon's credentials.

"He presented himself as a microbiologist," says Bell. "Look, I'm a radio talk-show host, not an investigative journalist. In these types of stories,

people always claim their records have been erased or destroyed."

WHEN A MAN claiming to be Raith's roommate strolled into the Metaphysical Library about a month ago and said Raith's "real last name" was Aria and that he and Chacon worked at a Chevron gas station in West Seattle, LeFevre and Lipson decided to check it out for themselves.

LeFevre contends she called the station and confirmed both Chacon's and Aria's employment with the manager. They then visited the gas station, where LeFevre claims she saw Raith (whom she had met previously) behind the counter.

"When [Raith] saw me, he took off like a chickenshit," she says, chuckling. "I know it was him."

LeFevre acknowledges that she never saw Chacon in person at the station. But she received surprising support for her skepticism when she next brought the matter to the attention of Kathleen Andersen, a Washington state director of the national Mutual UFO Network.

"I was floored.... [Chacon and Raith] lived down the street from me four years ago," says Andersen, a former West Seattle resident. "You could have knocked me over with a feather," she continues. "I knew both Harold Chacon and Robert—we had dinner together, and I know they both worked at the Chevron station. Robert was always talking about writing a science fiction book about UFOs and people from other dimensions."

When asked by the *Weekly* if Harold Chacon and Robert Raith were employed there, the manager of the Chevron station

refused to comment, saying he "didn't want to get involved."

While Reed, Raith, and Chacon were unavailable for comment, their friend and spokesman, Dan Iaria, did agree to an e-mail interview. He didn't, however, directly answer the question about Raith's and Chacon's employment. "Many authors, freelance writers, and actors take on part-time jobs that are flexible in order to supplement their income as they struggle to survive. Again, how is this relevant to Dr. Reed's evidence?" writes Iaria.

He continues, "Harold Chacon, at the time he began helping Dr. Reed with the specimen analysis, was a student at Seattle University. Again, it is not unusual for students to take on flexible, part-time work to supplement their income while they complete their education."

One week after the gas station visit, LeFevre got an e-mail and subsequent phone call from Bell requesting his name be removed from her group. This is because, LeFevre believes, she's revealing evidence that one of Bell's best stories might be false.

Bell denies he has a problem with the club proving or disproving the credibility of any guests on his show. "I welcome the Seattle Chat Club to investigate Jonathan Reed," says Bell. "That's not the issue at all." What did worry him, he said, were reports that the Seattle chapter, specifically LeFevre and Lipson, were supposedly "interrogating" people in a "Nazi-like" fashion.

"I'm not a fan of fan clubs in the first place," says Bell. "I've never encouraged them, but nevertheless, they've formed anyway. None of them have a direct

legal connection to me. But I thought the purpose was to allow people to come and speak to them about these topics, not to use my name to conduct an investigation."

Bell is understandably sensitive to legal disputes. He returned this February to *Coast to Coast A.M.*, following a nearly yearlong hiatus, after pursuing and winning a libel case against a former FBI agent who accused him of child molestation. The lawsuit occurred after a schoolteacher actually sexually assaulted Bell's own son.

The veracity of Reed's claim, says Bell, is unimportant, though he admits he wouldn't feature a guest who was a proven fraud. "It's a fascinating story—you don't get many like Jonathan Reed's, with pictures," says Bell. "But anything on my show could be true or a hoax. I feel my audiences are adults and can decide for themselves what to believe."

But LeFevre and Lipson say that, despite the disclaimers, people look to Art Bell as an authority and that he lends legitimacy to a story when he features a guest repeatedly on the show.

Doubtful stories like Reed's subsequently tarnish the more authoritative, scientifically based UFO research, claims LeFevre. "We will continue to look into the Reed case," she promises.

info@seattleweekly.com

The Seattle Chat Club is hosting the Northwest UFO/Paranormal Conference, from May 25-28, at the Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac. For more info, call 329-1794 or go to www.seattleartbellchatclub.com.

REVIEW JOURNAL, Las Vegas, NV - May 11, 2001

UFO probe sought

Believers want to tell their tales to Congress

By RACHAEL MYER

DONREY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Donald Phillips insists he saw seven silver objects hover high above an Air Force encampment outside Las Vegas one night in September 1966.

Phillips, a noncommissioned officer at the time, said he was asleep at 1 a.m., when he awoke to hear others talking about objects in the sky. He got up and for 10 minutes watched strange rectangular aircraft dart high overhead. The UFOs would dash across the sky and then come to a sudden halt.

"I thought it was absolutely beautiful," he said. "I think they were communicating with their brotherhood."

Two years earlier, outside a church in Glendale, Calif., Phillips said he was on his way to a night service when he spotted a hovering craft and could somehow see inside. He saw what he described as pilots who "look just like us, only a smaller version."

Phillips, now a construction contractor in Glendale, swears he would tell the same stories to Congress under oath, if only someone on Capitol Hill would listen.

He was one of 20 former military or government employees who described their contacts with UFOs at an unusual news conference Wednesday organized by a group called the Disclosure Project.

Group director Steven Greer said he wanted to pressure Congress to hold hearings about extraterrestrials, which would be the first such session since the House Science and Astronautics Committee addressed the issue in 1968.

The organization, which aims to promote the existence of aliens, pointed to Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., as an ally in Congress who would take up the charge of investigating extraterrestrials.

"We have no record of a meeting with [Greer], and he's not involved with the issue. There are a lot of things on his plate," said a Byrd staffer who refused to be identified. Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., also was offered as a proponent. His staff said it would check but did not report back.

Greer said the country could benefit from the study of extraterrestrials because he said they use new technologies that could solve the energy crisis. He also warned that weapons in space will cause other life forms to believe Earth is hostile.

The participants told their stories during a three-hour session. Most of their stories took place 40 to 50 years ago, and in some cases were second-hand. All ended their accounts by saying they would testify before Congress that they spoke the truth.

■ Retired Navy Cmdr. Graham Bethune, a pilot, said he saw an object with bright lights glow near Newfoundland in 1951.

■ John Callahan, who once worked at the Federal Aviation Administration, said he had video and audio cassettes detailing a 1986 incident involving extraterrestrials and the military.

Greer, who said he is a licensed emergency physician, said the panel was screened, and he believes they told the truth about their encounters. He admitted it was possible he could have been fooled.

"The group before you are very credible. We have done very serious interviewing," he said.

Art Bell, who hosts a late-night radio show from Pahrump, said extraterrestrial sightings should be taken seriously.

He said he saw a triangular craft floating about 150 feet above him one night in September 1996 as he was driving in Pahrump. The craft seemed to defy gravity 10 minutes, then darted toward Groom Lake, also known as Area 51, the classified Air Force base where UFO theorists say the government keeps evidence of flying saucers and aliens from outer space.

"There is a significant body of evidence, some of what you heard today, that is pretty damn credible," Bell said.

SPOTLIGHT, Scappoose, OR - May 23, 2001

UFO center seeks sighting witnesses in Scappoose

To the Editor:

The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, recently received a report from a resident of Astoria, regarding an alleged, and dramatic, sighting of a very unusual object in the vicinity of Scappoose two weeks ago. The witness seems to us to be quite sober-minded, and the report seems quite credible, at the time of this writing.

Given that there allegedly were other witnesses to this event, I write to request that anyone who may have seen any kind of unusual craft

in the night skies above Columbia County over that weekend please contact our center. We can be reached either by telephone at 206-722-3000, or via e-mail director@ufocenter.com. We invite any witnesses to submit a brief written report of any sighting, using the Online Report Form at our Web site www.ufocenter.com.

We are very interested in this alleged event, and would be most grateful if witnesses would contact us at their earliest convenience. Our policy is to guarantee anonymity to anyone who contacts our facility.

Peter Davenport, Director
National UFO Reporting
Center, Seattle

UFO legend keeps going

Speakers at anniversary event talk about photos published by paper in 1950

By PAT FORGEY
Of the News-Register

There may be something "out there" but two of the most knowledgeable observers of 1950's McMinnville unidentified flying object case say they don't know what it is.



"I don't know whether flying saucers exist or not," said Phil Bladine, the retired newspaper editor who first published the celebrated photos. His paper, a predecessor of the News-Register called The Telephone Register, heard about the photos taken by Paul Trent at his farm off Highway 18 west of McMinnville, and sent a reporter to retrieve them.

The paper published them in what became its biggest selling issue ever, and the photos have since been published around the world.

The McMennamins brewpub chains recently opened the Hotel Oregon in McMinnville and company historian Tim Hills got interested in the story.

For the 51st anniversary of the taking of the Trent photos, McMennamins brought Bladine and videographer Terry Halstead to speak about the Trents and their photos.

Both Bladine and Halstead dealt with the case as journalists, unlike most of the others in the UFO community, and haven't taken sides on the issue of whether UFOs exist. Both, however, were willing to speak about the Trents, their photos and their opinions of them.

Bladine related how reporter Bill Powell retrieved the photo negatives from the Trents' farmhouse, where they'd been misplaced under a davenport.

They blew the photos up on the wall of the Telephone Register darkroom, and couldn't see any wires or other evidence of fakery.

"Well, they look legitimate to me," Bladine said he told Powell.

With that, there was only one thing to do. "So we put them in the paper," he said.

National news media coverage, including Life magazine, nationally syndicated radio and television, resulted in so much interest in the June 8, 1950, edition of the Telephone Register that it was forced to reprint 10,000 extra front page copies to meet the demand. At the time, the paper's circulation was about a third of that.

Bladine said that he doesn't know what it was that Paul Trent snapped two frames of in 1950, but he's convinced that the photos themselves weren't a hoax.

"We know the Trents aren't the kind of people who'd do that," he said.

Halstead, who did a video documentary of the Trent case, said that the Trents told him that they were interviewed by FBI agents after the news media coverage began, but Halstead said he was unable to obtain any FBI reports on the case, either from Washington, D.C., or the Portland field office.

Halstead's documentary was done in the early 1990s, and features Paul and Eveyln Trent, who have since died.

He said his research led him to the same conclusion as Bladine — that the Trents were telling the truth about what they saw and photographed, but that he didn't know what it was.

When UFO fans in the McMennamins audience asked Halstead questions about other UFO cases he declined to answer, pointing out that he was a videographer who covered the Trent case, not a UFO expert.

He did say that the government's UFO secrecy was suspicious, and that he had dealt with it for years while trying to use the federal Freedom of Information Act to get information about the case.

"The government has been so secretive, it makes you question," he said.

Historian Hills said his research into the case left him convinced something was out there as well. "It's made a believer out of me," he said. "I don't know what else to think."



Michelle Bladine/News-Register

An attendee at festivities Friday in McMennamins Hotel Oregon shows support for the belief that UFOs are out there.

PRESS, Johnson City, TN - June 18, 2001 CR: A. McGee

UFO gathering seeking to open minds of the skeptical

By Robert Houk
Elizabethon Bureau

ROAN MOUNTAIN — UFO enthusiast Allen McGee hopes next weekend's gathering at Roan Mountain State Park will "open the minds" of the skeptical to the possibility of both "ultra- and extraterrestrial contact."

The United States UFO Information and Research Center will host its 7th Annual UFO, E.T. Contact and Bigfoot Outdoor Conference and Sky Watch at the park Saturday and Sunday. McGee, founder of the organization, said the conference is for both those who believe in UFOs and those who are not quite sure what to believe.

"We hope to be able to educate the public to our work," he said. "Someday I would like to be able to build a museum and Imax theater right here in Northeast Tennessee."

McGee — a Unicoi County resident who designs Web pages when he's not researching UFOs — became interested in extraterrestrials when he was 10 years old. That's when he says he spotted a UFO while waiting for a school bus.

"My personal experiences are very complex," McGee said last week. "I have had my own contact with ultra- and extraterrestrial



The group's logo

beings."

He says that's one of the reasons he started the United States UFO Information and Research Center in 1994. McGee also maintains a Web site — www.dreaman.org — which is devoted to UFO research.

According to his Web site, McGee's organization "actively investigates a wide range of phenomena" that includes UFOs, as well as research on Bigfoot, ghosts and angelic visitations.

"We have recently adopted the acronyms OWV (Off World Vehicles), and OWC (Off World Craft) to differentiate between what is thought to be true 'extra-terrestrial' flying objects and what are actually covert, black-ops aircraft being tested and flown in our skies overhead," McGee wrote on his Web site.

He said the center also "incorporates in its research the study of alien abduction and contact with extra- and ultraterrestrial beings, also affectionately referred to as the UFOonaut."

McGee said this year's conference at the park will provide participants with a chance to hear from experts on extraterrestrials and UFOs.

"I hope people will open their minds to out-of-the-way possibilities," McGee said.

Robin Quail, a UFO researcher and regression therapist from Georgia, will be one of six lecturers who McGee says will be featured at this year's conference. He said Quail will speak on telepathic communication between extraterrestrials and humans "as reported in the many thousands of abduction cases she has uncovered" through her regression techniques.

"Robin says that in her investigation of the UFO phenomenon, which began from other interests over 30 years ago, she has regressed approximately 30,000 people with a greater percentage of those cases being related to contact with other-worldly beings," McGee said.

Participants can register for the conference by calling 735-0848 or by clicking on the registration link at www.dreaman.org.

COVER STORY

The Real Story

by William P. Barrett

**ROSWELL: INCONVENIENT FACTS
AND THE WILL TO BELIEVE**

Karl T. Pflock
PROMETHEUS BOOKS

In various accounts of the celebrated Roswell Incident, witnesses reported seeing strange hieroglyphic-like symbols along one edge of whatever fell to earth in southern New Mexico during the summer of 1947. What were their origin? Distinctive trappings of an alien culture? An extraterrestrial effort to communicate in a universal language?

How about Merrick Manufacturing on Canal Street in New York City?

According to Karl T. Pflock's revealing new book *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe*, the markings came from this very terrestrial company, which sold industrial-strength adhesive tape for use in a top-secret aerial project operating over New Mexico. Pflock quotes one researcher who helped build the devices in 1947 as saying he and others giggled the first time they saw the bizarre markings.

Sure, you're thinking, here's another cheap, sensational book about Roswell, released to capitalize on whatever worldwide attention the city will draw from the tourists, hucksters and opportunists gathering next week for its seventh annual UFO Festival over the Fourth of July holi-

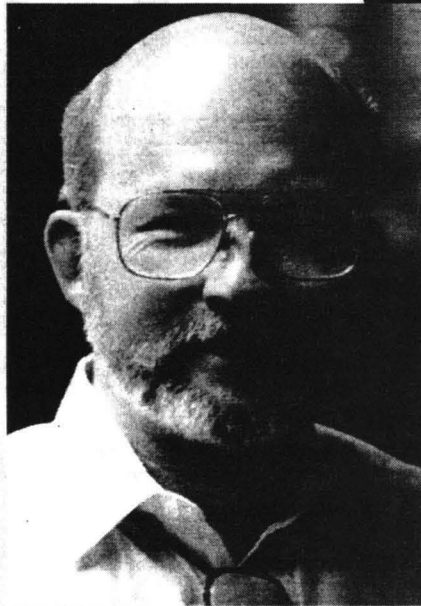


An Air Force meteorologist with some of the debris found on the Brazel Ranch in 1947. Pflock says the government hid the fact that it was from a top-secret project. photo by Charles A. Cashon USAF

day. Not so. Pflock, who lives just north of Albuquerque in Placitas, writes with unusual force from a perspective that gives his conclusions considerable credibility. A former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, he is an ardent proponent of the notion that alien UFOs *do* exist.

Pflock was quite willing to believe the essence of the Roswell Incident — until he started researching it in 1992. Many of the key witnesses were still alive, and Pflock interviewed almost all of them. Within two years he concluded the Roswell Incident was sheer hokey.

Why? Take Frank J. Kaufmann, one of the relatively few persons around Roswell who professes first-person knowledge of a badly damaged, but recognizable flying saucer festooned with alien bodies. He has said the space-



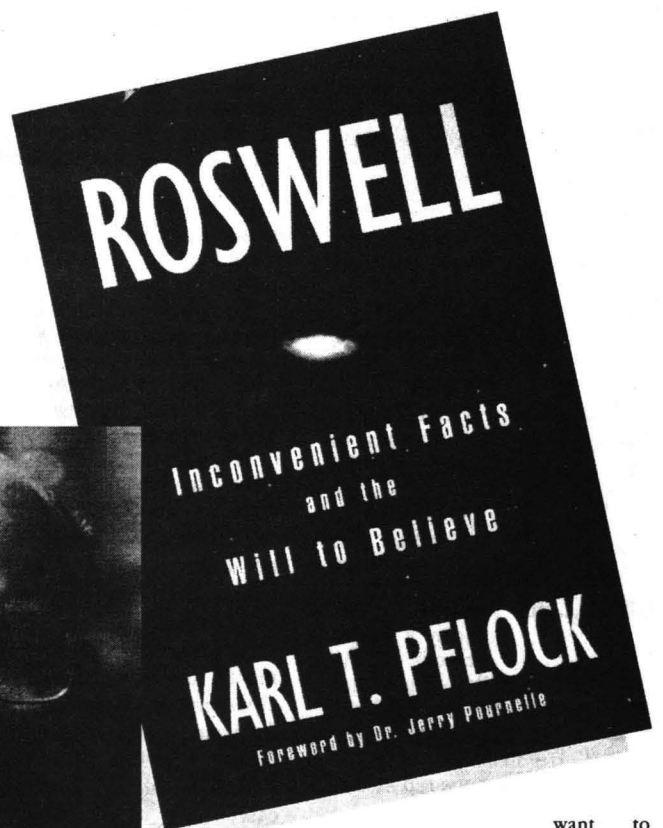
Pflock: "In ufology there is life after lies for those with chutzpah and a gift for saying what those with a will to believe want to hear." photo by Gildas Bourdais and Karl Pflock

ship was quickly flown away intact to an Air Force base. Kaufmann also estimated the craft was at least 22 feet long, 15 feet wide and five feet thick. Pflock writes that in 1947 no airplane in the world was big enough to cart away so large an object.

Or this: Other UFO researchers quoted the now-deceased Jim Ragsdale, who claimed he was cavorting with a lady friend in the remote desert when the spaceship crashed nearby, as saying he knew the location well because at the time he was helping to survey it for a planned El Paso Natural Gas Co. pipeline. But Pflock produces a retired company official who declared the route wasn't even conceived of, much less surveyed, until 1952 — five years after the Roswell Incident. This tardy time line is confirmed in a 1953 article in El Paso Gas's employee magazine. The other UFO researchers now say they misunderstood Ragsdale, but don't explain why they didn't seek verification.

By the time Pflock winds down his 331-page, 421-footnote book, the Roswell Incident contains more holes than disputed presidential ballots in Florida. In a nutshell, here is Pflock's well-supported take: There was no crash of an alien spaceship filled with little green men, or little men of any other color. What hit was a football-field-long U.S. government-sponsored radar balloon, part of something called Project Mogul, intended to monitor, among other things, Russian nuclear testing. For national security reasons, the cover story was put out that the mishap involved a weather balloon. Witness accounts transported unrelated events that happened years later into the summer of 1947. A fair amount of lying, forgery and ego nursed along the tale.

"In ufology, there is life after lies for those with chutzpah and a gift for saying what those with a will to believe



want to hear," Pflock writes acidly. His blunt conclusion: "This body of testimony and evidence establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that alien voyagers were not shipwrecked here over a half century ago."

You can imagine the whispering campaign from the noisy pro-UFO lobby, some of whose members reap lucrative lecture fees around the country talking up Roswell and other purported alien episodes. *Pflock's brain has been taken over by mysterious government forces — or maybe even aliens — determined to continue a 54-year cover up.*

But here is Pflock's mocking retort: "Never mind the contradictions. Never mind the lack of independent supporting fact. Never mind the blatant absurdities. There is so much here, there has to be something to at least some of it, and if this or that witness or bit of data proves bogus, well, there are plenty more of both where they came from."

Pflock actually breaks relatively little ground for those familiar with the large amount of Roswell Incident literature, which he carefully credits. Pflock himself expressed skepticism in a 1994 book, *Roswell in Perspective*. In 1997, *The Real Roswell Crashed-Saucer Cover up*, by Philip J. Klass, the unquestioned dean of UFO skeptics, covered much of the same terrain.

Indeed, five years ago *Crosswinds Weekly* detailed the Roswell Incident's shifting crash sites, hidden financial arrangements and dubious research techniques, including a phony notarization ["Now Where Was It Those Aliens Crashed?," *CW*, Aug. 1996, viewable on the Web at: <http://members.aol.com/wmpb/CrossRos>]. Accompanying our story was a large map (see next page) showing six



One of several artists' sketches, this one by Vincent DiPaula, that have surfaced over the years depicting a purported victim of the Roswell Incident. Illustration courtesy of Clifford Stone

(continued on page 7)

alleged crash sites stretching across a startlingly wide, belief-defying 200 miles of New Mexico desert — a format that Pflock mimics on his book's inside covers.

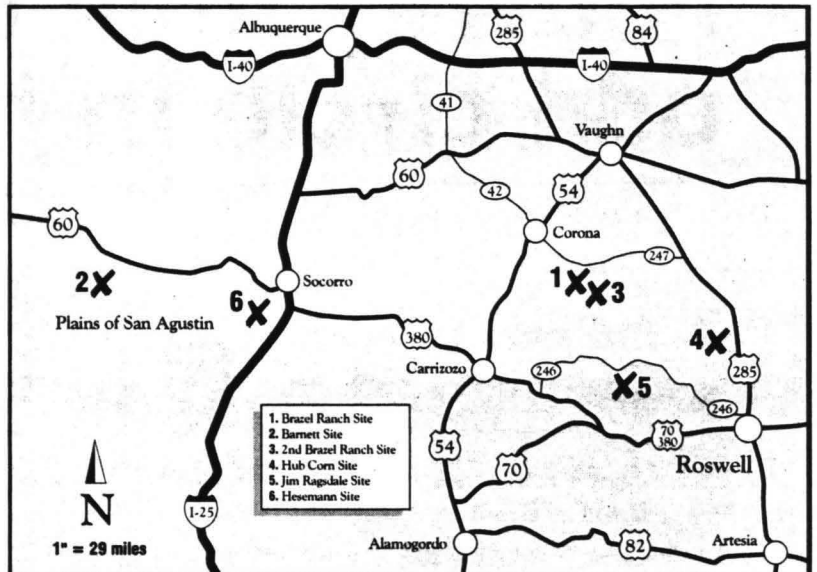
Pflock's effort does suffer from a writing style drier than the Plains of San Agustin — one of those six crash sites, and nowhere near Roswell. But the illuminating detail and documentation he musters more than makes up for any literary shortcomings. Pflock goes after just about every pillar supporting the Roswell Incident. Among his other points:

- Most accounts now say the crash occurred around July 4, 1947. But persuasive evidence exists that William W. "Mack" Brazel actually found the famous debris on his ranch three weeks earlier. In stories dated July 8, 1947, the Associated Press and the *Roswell Daily Record* both quoted Brazel as saying he found the debris on June 14. This would render irrelevant the many witnesses who say they saw something mysterious streaking across the skies around Roswell during the Independence Day weekend.

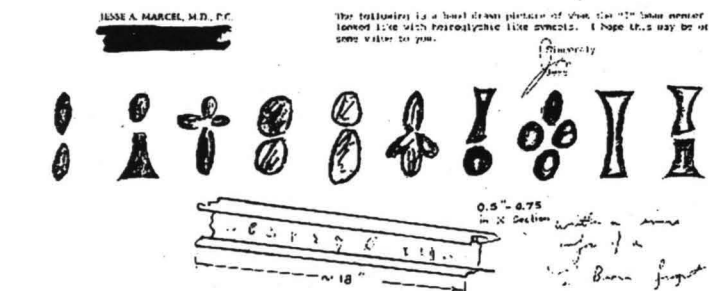
- Now-retired New Mexico Institute of Mining professor Charles B. Moore was the project engineer who launched the doomed balloon, one of a series coordi-

bureaus in Denver and Santa Fe. Denver: "LET'S HAVE TEXT ARMY ANNOUNCEMENT FASTEST." Santa Fe: "ARMY GAVE VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENT. NO TEXT."

- UFO researcher William L. Moore (no relation to Professor Moore), co-author of *The Roswell Incident*, the 1980 book that started all this madness and coined a memorable phrase, got caught passing on a doctored memo. Dated October 30, 1947 — less than four months after the incident — the memo by Air Force Brigadier General George F. Schulgen summarized UFO research to date. The version that Moore publicized declared, "It is the considered opinion of some elements that the object may in fact represent an interplanetary craft of some kind." Pflock's book reproduces both the original memo, which sits in the National Archives, and the altered version produced by Moore. The above-quoted language, with its unspoken suggestion about Roswell, is not in the original.



CW's 1996 map showing six alleged Roswell Incident crash sites spread across 200 miles of southern New Mexico.



This drawing by Jesse A. Marcel, M.D., P.C. depicts markings found on the debris. Pflock says they came from a New York City manufacturer. Illustration courtesy of International UFO Museum and Research Center

nated by the federal government through New York University. His account is buttressed by other participants.

- Jim Ragsdale's I-saw-it-crash-while-trysting account is worthless — Pflock calls it the "Jim Ragsdale scam" — because over time, and after monetary inducement, he altered too many crucial facts, including moving the location 35 miles west.

- Over the years, Roswell mortician Glenn Dennis changed so many details about his story of a military nurse girlfriend at the local Air Force base who told him about the bodies she saw that his credibility is gone. He first identified her as Naomi Self, then Naomi Selff, then Naomi Snipes, then said he was still hiding her identity. Dennis claimed she later died in an airplane accident. Pflock and other researchers have amassed considerable evidence that no nurse with a name anything like these ever worked at the base. Pflock believes that Dennis patterned her after an actual nurse, Eileen M. Fanton, who was at the base — and who is now dead, apparently of natural causes. Pflock also suggests that Dennis' gruesome descriptions of burned aliens really came from three victims of a 1956 Air Force plane crash whose bodies were autopsied at the Roswell funeral home still employing Dennis then.

- UFO proponents claim government agents immediately confiscated all copies of the July 8, 1947 press release by Roswell military authorities announcing the capture of a flying saucer (the claim was withdrawn a few hours later). This is often cited as evidence of something big and evil. Pflock says there's a far less sinister reason no copies have been found: The release was read over the phone to media outlets and not issued in written form. Pflock's book reproduces the actual print-out of a Teletype exchange that day between the United Press International

Many Roswell Incident supporters play up the fact that more than 270 witnesses say they saw something. But Pflock — calling Roswell "the triumph of quantity over quality" — says that means nothing if there is no agreement on essentials such as when and where. Kaufman and Ragsdale, for instance, put the crash site in different counties. On

that July 4 weekend — which, as noted above, might have been several weeks after the actual crash — witnesses couldn't even agree on what direction the object they say they saw in the sky was heading. (Pflock says it likely was a meteorite.)

His biggest point of all: A series of secret Air Force and CIA memos written through 1955, and later declassified, make clear that no extraterrestrial vehicle was recovered at Roswell or anywhere else. For example, on September 23, 1947 — shortly after the Roswell Incident — Air Force Lieutenant General Nathan F. Twining noted there was a "lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash-recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects." In these and other documents, Roswell was never mentioned, even in passing.

Of this paperwork, Pflock writes, "They were created by those whose job it was to crack the flying saucer mystery, who wrote and spoke with the certainty that no unauthorized person would ever be privy to their words ... They had no qualms about

being forthright with each other ... They were candid with each other, utterly so."

The Roswell Incident has certainly been good to the economy of Roswell, whose International UFO Museum and Research Center helps draw a steady stream of out-of-towners to a pretty out-of-the-way place. Pflock doesn't fault the city for cashing in, but suggests something akin to a profit motive is a major reason for all the disinformation. Almost regrettably, he writes: "The Roswell treasure hunt has inspired a tremendous and often uncritical gathering of material and a rush to often equally uncritical interpretations of that material, pro and con." CW

Veteran national journalist William P. Barrett lives in Albuquerque. Besides his 1996 look at the Roswell Incident, he has authored or co-authored for Crosswinds Weekly articles detailing the FBI files of Georgia O'Keeffe, the record of New Mexico Governor Lew Wallace, the state's 25 richest persons and the 40 largest landowners. His e-mail address is wmpb@aol.com.

If you still want to go...

If you're still a believer (or if you just enjoy being surrounded by believers) you'll want to be a part of Odyssey 2001 — Roswell's UFO festival. This annual event, co-sponsored by the International UFO Museum and Research Center and the Roswell Chamber of Commerce, is July 5 through 8 (or crash-land a day early to celebrate Independence Day). It's packed full of funky events (don't miss the alien costume contest), and the people-watching opportunities are out of this world. For a complete schedule visit www.roswellnm.org/odyssey/calendar.shtml. Here are some of the highlights:

WEDNESDAY 7/4:

Fourth of July Celebration: 4pm gates open, 5-8pm entertainment, 9pm Fire works, laser light show; Cielo Grande Rec. Area

THURSDAY 7/5:

12:30pm Opening ceremony; Conv. Ctr.
1pm Trade show opens; Conv. Ctr.
2pm Alien Zone puppet show; Alien Zone
7pm Ryan Wood lecture on the MJ12

documents; UFO Museum
7:30pm *The X-File of Roswell* one act play; Roswell Comm. Theater
8pm *Roswell Live* musical revue; NMMI Amphitheater

FRIDAY 7/6:

10am Trade show opens; Conv. Ctr.
2pm Alien Zone puppet show; Alien Zone
7pm Dennis Bossack lecture on his father-in-law's involvement in the 509th, stationed in Roswell in 1947; UFO Museum
7pm *Six Days in Roswell* film screening; Del Norte Twin
7:30pm *The X-File of Roswell* one act play; Roswell Comm. Theater
8:30pm Little Green Men Concert; venue TBA

SATURDAY 7/7:

7am Alien Chase 10K & 5K run & walk; Convention Ctr.
9am Alien Parade; Main St.
9am *UFOs over Roswell* radio controlled aircraft fly-in; RAF field on Old Airport Rd.
10am Alien Costume Contest; Roswell

Museum & Art Ctr.

10am Trade show opens; Conv. Ctr.
7pm Al Bieleck lecture on the Philadelphia Experiment which propelled him into the future; UFO Museum
7:30pm Little Green Men Concert; venue TBA

SUNDAY 7/8:

10am Closing ceremonies; Conv. Ctr.

The Places:

Alien Zone

216 N. Main St., 627-6982

Cielo Grande Rec. Area

1500 W. College Blvd.

Del Norte Twin

2800 N. Main St., 623-5139

International UFO Museum & Research Ctr.

114 N. Main St., 800-822-3545,

www.iufomrc.com

NMMI Amphitheater

East College & North Grande Ave.

(tickets: 622-4950)

Roswell Community Little Theater

1101 N. Virginia, 622-6898

Roswell Convention & Civic Center

912 N. Main St., 888-ROSWELL

Roswell Museum & Art Ctr.

100 W. 11th St., 624-6744

Midway man encounters odd circle in his pasture



Daily Record - Bill Moffitt

Glenn Graves stands in the middle of an unexplained phenomenon on his property in Midway. What looks like a crop circle has darker soil than that surrounding it as shown at the bottom of the photo. Mr. Graves was hesitant to report the circle but did call the Chaves County Sheriff's office to report it earlier. Graves said there was no vegetation when he first found it but now weeds are starting to grow in the circle.

JAN GIRAND
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Glenn Graves said he was surprised to see an unusual sight when he went into his pasture late one morning about three weeks ago.

"It's a curiosity," he said.

Graves lives in Midway south of Roswell.

"I guess I stood there and just stared at it for several minutes," he said.

The strange spot had not been there the previous day, and he had no idea what caused it, Graves said.

He called it a circle, but it is more oval in shape. It is 29 feet across in one direction and 43 feet across in another direction.

When he first saw it, he said, the edges were sharply defined and cut about six inches into the ground. Then, the entire area within it had no vegetation.

In the weeks since he first saw it, Roswell and the surrounding area has received heavy rains. Vegetation has begun to grow along the edges and inside "the circle." Also, the large spot lies in the path

his goats take as they amble across the pasture. The nanny and her kids walk directly across the middle of it.

The real oddity is that nanny; she is badly misshapened, but that did not prevent her from being a mother to two kids.

"She was careless. She broke her neck running into a fence," said Graves. He said she was that way, and already had her kids, when he bought her. He buys goats in the spring and sells them in the fall, "to keep the weeds down," he said.

"Guess I should have called when I first saw it," he said, referring to his pasture. "But with all the talk about UFOs and the like, I was afraid people would think I was crazy." He seemed embarrassed about it, but also perplexed about what he called the "oddity."

The soil in his pasture is a hard-baked clay and light in color. The soil within the "circle," however, is dark and loose, and rich with organic matter similar to potting soil.

Graves said his wife wasn't happy he told anyone about

the spot in his pasture. In fact, he said, she has never seen it; she refuses to go out and look at it.

About a week after he first saw it, he called the Chaves County Sheriff's Department to go out and look at and document it, he said. A deputy did come and see it, said Graves.

Chief Deputy Rob Coon looked for a filed report at the Sheriff's Department. He said apparently the deputy did not write a report.

Graves, 86, said he was born in Elida. His family has lived in the Pecos Valley for about 75 years. He said his family, including his father, settled on this patch of land in 1962.

Patrick O'Grady, a friend who lives nearby, said when referring to Graves, "He is the most level-headed man I've ever known. He's a good man."

UFO center up for invasion

Alien believers, tourists at home there, owner says

By Bill McKeown
Colorado Springs Gazette

SAN LUIS VALLEY, Colo. — With her long business hours, Judy Messoline reckons she'll be open when the aliens come.

Mary Munoz, who is perhaps Messoline's most faithful customer, is counting on it.

Messoline's hours at the UFO Center, in nearby Hooper, are officially 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week — good enough, you'd think, for most aliens — and for the tourists visiting the Great Sand Dunes just to the east. But should an alien pass over, hover or land any time after 10, Messoline lives just through the campground and up a short lane. She'll be down in a minute. Sometimes, "when things are happening" in the sky, Messoline goes with it and keeps the UFO Center open until 2, 3 or 4 in the morning.

According to Messoline and Munoz and hundreds of others lured to this high desert plain, there's something special about the San Luis Valley. It has an ... aura.

Native American legend has it that "ant people" live under its sun-baked soil. Scores of modern residents and visitors have reported seeing strange lights or strange aircraft in the



Jay Janner/Knight Ridder Tribune

Judy Messoline says she has had many interesting visitors at her UFO Center and campground in Hooper, Colo.

sky. Some believe alien "mother ships" come and go from secret caves high in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which run jagged down the eastern side of the valley. Folks even whisper there are one to four secret "bases" somewhere in the valley, either alien or government or both. At least one writer has made a cottage industry out of UFO sightings, churning out books of anecdotes from people who have seen something weird, from mutilated cattle to pulsing lights in the sky.

When Messoline moved to the valley from Golden, Colo., six years ago, she wasn't attracted by the aura that has made nearby Crestone a metaphysical mecca for such people

as actress and past-lives guru Shirley MacLaine. No, Messoline bought her place, the 164-acre TLC Ranch, intending to raise Scotch Highland cattle. But she didn't have the water to grow feed, and the cost of hay eventually forced her to sell most of her herd.

Casting about for a way to keep her land and house and support her three grandchildren, the 56-year-old decided to throw her lot in with the aliens.

After winning permission from perplexed county commissioners, Messoline set about to construct the UFO Center and a campground. By Memorial Day 2000, she was ready for visitors: alien or human, preferably both.

So far, the aliens have been a bit shy, although one may have hovered over Messoline's campground one predawn morning, she said. But human traffic has been good, a mix of tourists passing through and true believers visiting their holy land. They drop coins, sometimes even bills, into Messoline's donation box and climb the stairs to the UFO watchtower, a long, wide platform of pipes and steel mesh raised about 15 feet off the ground.

The watchtower offers a wide view of the Sand Dunes and the Sangre De Cristos to the east and a lot of sun-baked sagebrush to the west. At night visitors can unfold lawn chairs and blankets on the spacious deck of the watchtower and gaze up hopefully at a velvety blanket of stars, an alien interstate.

If little green men don't pop down for a photo-op, visitors needn't worry. Messoline has a

bunch of them in the gift shop, a concrete igloo just below the watchtower. There are green ones, of course; they look remarkably like dolls made in Taiwan. There are alien pens, suitable presumably for two- or three-finger writing. There are even must-have saucer accessories: alien key chains, bumper stickers and dashboard dolls.

It's all been great fun, says Messoline, who's a bit coy about whether she actually believes in UFOs. She hasn't seen one or been abducted by one. But since she has been in the alien biz, she has seen some strange lights in the sky above the valley. Besides, she says, it doesn't matter what she believes. Like a good bartender or barber, she's there to listen.

"A lot of people who come in don't like to talk about what they've seen because people make fun of them," she says. "We don't make fun of them here; that's the big thing."



IAN LINDSAY/VANCOUVER SUN

Since 1974, Dorothy Izatt of Richmond has used her trusty Super-8 movie camera to record images of UFOs like the one behind her. The print will be a prize at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre this weekend when she shows her home movies of extra-terrestrials.

Something out there is reading my mind, UFO spotter says

Dorothy Izatt to show 26 years of film of unearthly visitors at planetarium show

By JOHN MACKIE

On Nov. 9, 1974, Richmond resident Dorothy Izatt says she awoke at 4 a.m. and went to the window. She looked up to see a huge spaceship hovering in the sky, with all sorts of smaller craft coming and going out of it, "like little bugs."

Alarmed, she phoned the Vancouver airport tower to report her sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object, a UFO. They told her nobody else had seen it. She tried the newspapers, who said nobody else had seen it. She phoned radio hot-liner Pat Burns, whose producer suggested she document the UFOs on film.

So she went out and bought a Keystone XL 200 Super-8 movie camera, and started filming. Twenty-seven years later, she has 500 home movies she says capture the strange phenomena she sees most everywhere she goes: flashes of light, squiggly lines that look like "neon spaghetti," and round dealies that look like mini-planets.

Izatt's UFO movies have brought her worldwide renown among those who believe we are not alone in this universe. She's been featured on TV shows like *Unsolved Mysteries*, *Sightings*, *Strange Universe* and *Hard Copy*, and this Saturday night at 7 p.m. at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre she'll be show-

ing her movies for local UFO buffs.

"Saturday I'm going to show something special that has never been out... families of beings, aliens, getting on their ship," said Izatt. "I call them light beings. I don't call them aliens, because we are aliens, too."

Since her fateful 1974 UFO sighting, the 78-year-old Izatt claims to have had almost daily contact with the "light beings" and their craft.

"There are all different types of beings," she explained. "Some are like us. You wouldn't be able to tell the difference if they walked among us. Some are different, but down here on this earth we are all different, too. It all depends on where you come from and where you are born."

"With them it's the same. I guess it depends on which planet or dimension they come from. Their skin colour, hair, everything is different. I've met many many many many different ones."

She claims to communicate with the extra-terrestrial visitors telepathically.

"You talk mind to mind," she said. "They can pick up your thoughts, and I have the ability to pick them up, too."

She feels her own ability to see them is the result of having a special sense she possesses.

"I was born with it," she said. "My parents have it, and my family all have it. My aunts and uncles all seem to have this second sight. People call it the sixth sense."

"To me everyone has it. We're born with it, it's just some of us don't make use of it, and you lose it."

She said "hundreds" of researchers from

around the world have studied her to ascertain what is going on in her films, but have come up empty. Her Web site (www.man-ari.com) includes stills from her UFO movies, along with commentary from UFO experts who have met Izatt.

"It's not some kind of flaky, wishy-washy, woo-woo type phenomena," said Dr. Lee Pulos, a clinical psychologist and paranormal researcher who will be one of several UFO experts speaking Saturday night.

"Something's there, but we don't know what. I have no doubt that whatever she's experiencing is real, but the question is... what is it?"

Incidentally, Sunday has been dubbed Worldwide International UFO Research Day. If you spot a UFO that day, you can report it to www.ovni.net, which deals with all sorts of UFO phenomena.

Izatt herself doesn't belong to any UFO group. Until she spotted the spacecraft in 1974, she was just a regular mother of four who worked at Eaton's, the post office and Canada Manpower.

She figures she has spent about \$50,000 making home movies of the aliens and UFOs she has encountered over the years. When she wants to make contact, all she has to do is concentrate, and they appear.

Oddly, some people can see the aliens when she points them out, others can't.

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is located at 1100 Chestnut. Saturday's event runs from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is \$15, \$10 for seniors and students.

jmackie@pacpress.southam.ca 605-2126

UFO riddle quest

By Melina Cannon
melc@nqmds.co.uk

A BEOLEY man, believed to have witnessed a strange sight in 1972, is being sought by a couple researching

UFOs.

John Hanson and Dawn Holloway are compiling material for a book on the subject and are trying to find Keith Harris, who claimed to see swirling lights over Ullenhall Lane when he was 15.

Mr Hanson and Miss Holloway are also interested in tracing Pc William Hunt, of Warwickshire police who answered a call from Rita Tallis, who reported the sight.

Mr Hanson said: "We believe Mr Harris still lives locally. The interesting thing about this case, with the swirling lights, some of which were in a triangle formation, is that there is no conventional answer to explain it."

"The last thing we want to do is cause any embarrassment but we consider the importance of being able to speak to people who saw something unusual highly beneficial to our research."

The retired police officer also said he and Miss Holloway decided to write a book nearly six years ago, which they hope will be completed by the end of 2001.

The book, entitled UFOs! Chronicle of a Phenomenon, will contain three chapters, 1943-1982, 1983 to the present day and a third, more involved chapter featuring photographic evidence.

"We realised information on the phenomenon of UFOs was either sensationalised, distorted or inaccurate and have since built up a chronological record featuring interviews with hundreds of people who have experienced strange happenings," he said.

The couple mainly glean information by scouring newspapers for articles on UFO sightings and are also keen to trace anyone else who may have experienced unex-



● Ullenhall Lane in picturesque Beoley is the scene of a number of UFO sightings.

Pictures: MIKE CATER

plained phenomena.

And although the couple's research spans the length and breadth of the country, their book cites several instances in which sightings occurred in Redditch.

In September 1980, two schoolboys claimed to have seen a clover-shaped UFO hovering above rooftops in the area.

A Studley man reported a similar object which may also have caused interference to a female motorist travelling home to Alcester in August of the same year.

An Ipsley resident noticed a jet aircraft moving slowly from east to west on February 10, 1958, and as it moved across, a silver "disc of light" was seen following it. Later the same day, villagers in Studley reported seeing three similar discs moving across the sky.

Mr Hanson said: "From our research, I would say about 90 per cent of sightings happen around Roman roads."

"This is because of the way the energy lines lie. There are also many more sightings in the countryside than in towns because energy lines become blocked in towns."

"And nearly all our witnesses have experienced strange after-effects which last

for about three to four days and range from paranormal activity such as clocks breaking to tanning of the skin.

"We don't do this to frighten people. There is certainly something out there which is fascinating."

"It is about broadening the parameters of the mind."

Anyone with information can call Mr Hanson on 07870 359210 or write to PO Box 6371, Rednal, Birmingham B48 7RW.



● Farm cattle are the only signs of life near the scene of the sightings.

"It seemed to be hovering rather than moving. Then I realised it was disc shaped and seemed to be glowing rather than shining."

The police's response to Lynne Imrie's report shows the strange attitude the authorities have consistently adopted towards the UFO reports.

On the one hand they take the incidents seriously but at the same time seemingly engaged in the cover-up they so strongly deny being involved in.

As former policeman Ben Goodwin said: "During my time on the beat in Glasgow, I had my own sighting. In 1976, I saw a silver ball come down near the city while I was in Drumchapel."

"It came down just to the left of Glasgow airport. As it neared the ground it swung back and forth like a pendulum then suddenly shot upwards and disappeared."

It seems strange to spend billions sending craft into space when the answer could be on our doorstep.

EVENING TIMES, Glasgow, Scotland - Feb. 3, 2001

SCOTTISH X Files BY RON HALLIDAY

Is answer to UFO riddle on our own doorstep?

NEXT year the US will be sending the world's most advanced telescope into space.

It's sole aim will be to examine stars for signs of alien life. But are they searching in the right place?

Shouldn't scientists be taking a serious look at the thousands of UFO sightings that have been reported on our planet.

As a recognised UFO hot spot Scotland, has a host of encounters which warrant investigation.

In the 80s Lynne Imrie from Glasgow had a bizarre experience near Lennoxtown. It was 1am when Lynne and a friend saw what she describes as a 'clear star'.

She said: "In a matter of seconds the star became a craft and came right down in front of us in the shape of an oval luminous green light. It came into the earth's atmosphere at great speed."

"We were frightened because we were isolated in the middle of nowhere and our car wouldn't start."

"The craft hovered in front of us just slightly above the ground. It was as if we were being observed."

"Then the object took off at great speed. The car started again and the UFO followed us for a while."

"I reported the incident to the police. I was told to keep it quiet because of the way some people might react to information like this. But they accepted it was a genuine sighting."

The craft was in shape of an oval luminous green light

Recently Andrew Ellison from Cumbernauld had an experience in the same area.

He said: "I was hill-walking last August near Fintry and saw a bright object in the sky. It was around 3pm. I thought it was a plane but then I noticed it was coming lower and lower."

Close encounter puts town on the UFO map

A FILM fan claims he got more than he bargained for when a trip home from the video shop turned into a close encounter of the third kind.

Christopher Jarvis, aged 20, of Sherborne Road, Yeovil, was returning home from the Rainbow Video in Victoria Road last Sunday evening when he had an experience similar to an episode of the X-Files.

He said: "I noticed a large shape in the sky. At first I thought it was a plane but when I looked up I realised this was something different."

"It was large rectangle shape, just hovering very slowly above the ground with two flashing lights at the back and one at the front."

"I followed it for about 30 or 40 seconds before it sped up and disappeared at terrific speed. I was amazed."

Christopher's tale is not a one-off - his family has an unlikely history of close encounters with the paranormal.

He said: "Back in 1998 I was in Bournemouth when I saw two glowing balls which crossed over each other's path and then disappeared. My uncle and father also witnessed a UFO a few years ago."

"I believe these craft are coming from other planets and I will

Report by Nick Heath

be keeping an eye on the sky in the future," he said.

UFO researcher Dave Thomas of Somerset-based Universal Teachings of Planetary and Interplanetary Awareness said Christopher's sighting was unusual.

He said: "This is the first time we have had a report of a sighting in Yeovil. We have had them from all over Somerset but not Yeovil."

"Chris describes it as having two flashing lights at the back and one at the front. To me it sounds like the classic triangle shape from a different angle."

"A lot of people have been seeing this triangle shape in recent times. It used to be explained away as a stealth fighter but nothing we have got could sustain the G-force from the speed it's been reported at."

"The West Country is an excellent place for sightings - a lot of them can be explained away but there are a certain number that cannot be accounted for."

● IF anybody else saw a UFO between 4pm and 5pm on Sunday evening, then please call the newsroom on 01935 700500.



UFO SIGHTING: Christopher Jarvis, aged 20, of Sherborne Road, Yeovil, had a strange encounter on the way home from the video shop. Picture by Len Copland.

EXAMINER, Douglas, Isle of Man - March 6, 2001

UFO cover up allegation

By PHILIP THOMSON

ALLEGATIONS of a cover up have been made by an international magazine.

In a four-page spread the March/April edition of *UFO Magazine* examines the mystery collision on Snaefell peak which sparked a major turnout of the emergency services.

The story hit the headlines in mid-January when emergency services launched a major search after reports something had hit a mast at the top of the mountain.

Witnesses as far away as Ballaragh, Lonan, saw something collide with a mast, causing sparks, and spiral away from the mountain followed by a trail of smoke.

Despite a search involving a helicopter from RAF Valley, North Wales, the fire and rescue service, police, civil defence and coastguard, no wreckage was ever found.

Police said one of the mountain's masts had suffered minor damage and it was believed a model plane or micro-light aircraft may have crashed into it then been removed by the owner.

The magazine, which is sold



Worldwide sale: The feature in *UFO Magazine* about the mystery collision on Snaefell Mountain

worldwide, details the 'close encounter', quoting extensively from Isle of Man Newspapers' reports.

It claims officials from the

Florida-based Office of Scientific Investigations visited the Island and information on the incident started flooding into the magazine.

Emergency services' communications were cut-off by the collision, it also claims.

Under the headline 'Evidence of security clampdown' the maga-

zine lists eight points which suggest police claims the accident involved a model plane or micro-light can't be true. It says: 'There were a number

of reports of an accident from both the east and west side of Snaefell. Viewing conditions were excellent, clear skies and daylight. There was so much smoke generated that it triggered alarms in buildings on the summit.

'Eye-witnesses referred to dense, black smoke as though from burning tyres,' it continues. 'Measurements of the damage show it to be an object "seven yards long". Scorch marks and residue suggest some type of plastic was involved.'

'The area was walked over and viewed from the air by a chopper.'

'The impact damaged the red navigation lights on the mast and killed the emergency services' radio link.'

It quotes one man as saying: 'Whatever was found is now very hush-hush in a small Island community that usually has its newspapers full of local news. We now have a complete blackout on anything to do with this incident.'

Police media relations officer Inspector Gary Roberts said the file on the incident has now been closed, but no satisfactory conclusion had been reached.

A model aircraft or micro-light remain the favourite culprits.

SUNDAY LIFE, Belfast, Ireland - Feb. 18, 2001

Second UFO sighting sets village buzzing

THE Fermanagh village of Kinawley was struck by a case of *deja vu* last week, following the second mystery sighting of a UFO.

Two people witnessed what they believed to be a plane in trouble on Tuesday evening.

In the early-1990s, residents reported seeing a SAM-7 missile streaking across the sky.

The latest mystery came to light when local man Paul McCaffery raised the alarm after seeing what he thought was a plane come down on Benaughlin Mountain.

By SINEAD McCAVANA

When nothing was found following an extensive helicopter search of the area, police told Paul he must have been mistaken.

But now a second witness has come forward.

Adeline Lee, from Tamaght near Enniskillen, has given an identical description of the flying object.

Both claim they had seen "a dot in front of a black trail of smoke leading down at an an-

gle towards the mountain at around 6pm".

Paul, who was closer to the UFO than Adeline, said: "The object dropped behind the mountain and black smoke came up."

"I know what I saw, and it was definitely something with black smoke trailing behind it."

Adeline was driving from her home to Enniskillen when she looked out across Tamaght Bay and noticed a long black trail of smoke coming down from the sky.

"I could see this thing moving, going down. To me it was

like a plane, it was definitely coming down," she insisted.

A police spokesman confirmed that a number of witnesses had come forward from as far away as Cavan, saying they had seen the UFO.

In July 1991 the army dismissed claims of a missile being fired near Kinawley.

Local people reported hearing explosions and seeing two vapour trails in the sky.

Although an army spokesman confirmed an explosion had occurred, he claimed helicopters were operating in the area.



WITNESS: Adeline Lee

After a UFO sighting, the Observer looks at close encounters close to home

Uncovering the area's unXplained sightings

As we enter 2001, yesterday's science fiction seems to be closer to reality than ever before. And after reports of a UFO sighting at Barr Beacon it seems our area's reputation as a UFO hotspot is set continue into the new millennium. This week Observer reporter LEE KENNY met the local man who has dedicated his life to studying the unknown in our skies.

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Feb. 5, 2001



IS THERE LIFE OUT THERE? David Kingston says that UFO sightings are evidence that life exists elsewhere

44 UFOs over Dorset last year

I READ with great interest the article (Echo world news, January 30), regarding the Russian UFO incident. I had received an e-mail on Monday from a contact in Russia, relaying the incident at Barnaul Airport, Siberia, to me. What did not get reported by Reuters was that two Migs (fighter aircraft) were sent to intercept the UFO which then played a game of 'cat and mouse' with the fighters.

As the two Migs approached the UFO, it climbed another 20,000 feet in one and half seconds leaving them standing. This game of 'chase' continued for 85 minutes before the UFO just vanished.

It might interest Echo readers to know that we had 145 sightings over Dorset last year. Of these, 101 could be explained away after investigation with the civilian and military aviation authorities as meteors, ship flares, laser light shows, weather balloons, weather anomalies, conventional aircraft including helicopters and experimental aircraft, which left 44 sightings of unidentified flying objects for which there was no rational explanation.

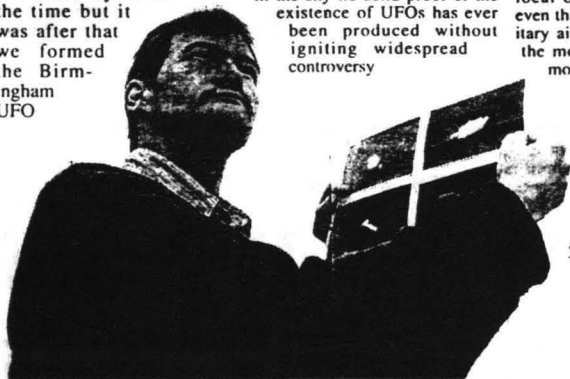
There will be many readers who find this hard to believe or unable to accept the facts. The scientists are now starting to realise that the possibility for life may well exist elsewhere apart from on planet earth. We are left finally with the question 'Is there Life out there?'
DAVID KINGSTON
Martinstown, Dorchester

On June 21 1977 Bob Bierd witnessed something that would change his life.

As he was out with friends in Erdington he noticed something in the sky and to this day he has no explanation as to what it was.

"We saw some lights shining very brightly, it was an object flying in the sky," he reminisced.

"I was only 17 at the time but it was after that we formed the Birmingham UFO



Left: Bob Bierd - "UFO research is taken very seriously."

society."

Twenty three years later and Bob, who is 42 and works as a TV engineer, has investigated the sites of UFO reports across the country.

Nationally since the 1950s UFO sightings have increased at an astronomical rate.

But despite scores of video and photographic evidence of unidentifiable objects and lights in the sky no solid proof of the existence of UFOs has ever been produced without igniting widespread controversy

and dispute.

For Bob, who lives with his family at their home in Castle Vale, the evidence is undeniable.

"Over the years I have collected evidence, physical proof, that their are things in the sky that can't be explained," he continued.

"The common theory is that UFO are from other planets, other people think they are more local or trans-dimensional or even that they are top-secret military air craft but either way, at the moment, there is no common explanation.

"UFO research is taken very seriously and I think programmes like The X-Files definitely increased people's interest."

Bob confesses he has investigated a lot of hoax reports over the years but the area's network of UFO enthusiasts have also researched a

wealth of interesting claims.

"One of the most common sightings in the area are of a triangle shaped craft, mostly black in colour, which has been seen by dozens of people," he added.

"Some reports have had UFOs affecting people's cars and in one case the light bulbs in a man's car became completely opaque after being near a UFO.

Other proof Bob and the team have collected include NASA video footage of an object flying in space and metals of an unexplainable consistency which were allegedly implanted inside humans.

"When we attend UFO sites we document any evidence we can find and send samples and photographs away to university labs to be tested," he said.

"There are lot of high energy lay lines locally and that might draw UFO to the area.

"The truth is, at the moment, that no one know what UFOs are, where they come or what they are doing here but with all the research that is being done I'm sure we will know one day," he added.

++ Dossier of sightings dating back to the sixties ++

Over the past 40 years Ministry of Defence officials have catalogued a vast dossier of reported UFO sightings in the area.

Since the early 1960s claims of sightings in Sutton and North Birmingham have increased, with descriptions ranging from fast moving disc shaped crafts to small spinning almost-transparent objects.

Printed below is a brief outline of local unexplained reports taken from books, news reports and letters which seem to suggest a high level of UFO activity in the area.

• **Date of sighting - 1962.**
Location - Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield.

At around 1.30am in early January, John Shakespeare witnessed an object described as an upturned dinner plate of dull reddish appearance hovering at around 600ft above Rectory Road, Sutton.

The craft then 'shot off at incredible speed' towards Coleshill Road and then back to its original position at a height of 1,500ft flying off towards Walmley and out of sight.

• **Date of sighting - early 1980's.** **Location - Chester Road, Streetly.**

Local man Bob Wyles and a friend were driving along the 'mad mile' in Streetly when out of the clear night they witnessed a three pointed star about 200 to 300 yds away.

It is described as dusk with a white light on the end of each tip and it made no noise. As



Watch the skies: UFO reports from the Observer's files.

they drove it followed them down the road before hovered over them and shooting off at speed towards Lichfield.

When he returned home concerned Bob phoned the police and within three to four minutes men arrived at his house carrying what appeared to be standard Ministry of Defence forms.

• **Date of sighting - 1989.**
Location - Polesworth, Tamworth.

During the summer of 1989 a local man was working in a trench he had dug when he observed a flying hoop shaped

object about 8ins in circumference 3ft away.

He told officials he felt the object watching him before it disappeared after a few seconds.

• **Date of sighting - 1995.**
Location - St George's Barracks, Sutton Coldfield.

Witness recorded observing a huge object the size of a three storey building above the former army site.

It was black, rectangular in shape and silent, it is said to have travelling slowly at about 5mph and was visible for about five minutes.

• **Date of sighting - September 1995.** **Location - Riverside, Tamworth.**

While watching the sky through binoculars in his back garden a man known only as Mr N turned his attention to a Boeing 747 flying almost directly above.

It was a very clear morning and as he watched a small silver disc flew just a few hundred feet above the plane for about two or three three minutes before accelerating out of sight.

• **Date of sighting - 1997.** **Location - Walmley.**

Public and local experts baffled as a mysterious crop circle appeared on land in Sutton.

Residents report seeing a green coloured glow in the sky and heard bangs from the direction of St George's Barracks.

And a week later the circles appeared in a field off near by Withy Hill Road.

• **Date of sighting - 1998.** **Location - Four Oaks, near Staffordshire border.**

While out watching the Hale Bop comet in country lanes near to Four Oaks television mast a Sutton scientist and his two adult sons witnessed a large triangular shaped object with a light in each corner.

The three men maintained it was not a plane and later that week they saw TV footage of a similar shaped object flying over the Arizona in front of hundreds of witnesses.

Did you see a UFO the size of 2 double-deckers?

CAN you remember what you were doing two days after Christmas Day?

Did you by any chance take a quick glance up to the skies at around 9pm and see anything out of the ordinary?

Chad has received a report from a Mansfield man who claims to have seen a mysterious flying object the size of two double-decker buses.

The man, who lives at Chaucer Street, saw a bright light move across

Mansfield towards Sutton when he looked out from his landing window on Wednesday, 27th December.

He told Chad: "It was a bright light and I have never seen anything like it before."

"It wasn't a balloon, plane or helicopter. I'm not stupid - it was definitely something."

"It looked ever so big. It was as big as two double-decker buses and it looked about half-a-mile away."

"I was watching it for around 10 to 15 seconds before it disappeared. I don't know if the lights went off or if it went behind a cloud."

"Somebody must have seen it. It was a clear night and it was just unbelievable what I saw."

Gloria Dixon, director of investigation for the British UFO Research Association, said there had been no reported sightings of any UFOs in the Nottinghamshire area

during the Christmas period.

She said: "Ninety-five per cent of all sightings can be explained if they are reported soon enough."

"The biggest culprits for such sightings are aircraft - military or civilian - and astronomical phenomena such as meteor space debris entering the atmosphere."

She also explained that laser shows are often responsible for reported sightings of UFOs.

E.T. in Turkey



FROM the World Net news comes a report that Turkish authorities have cordoned off an area near Narli village following sightings of an E.T.-like being.

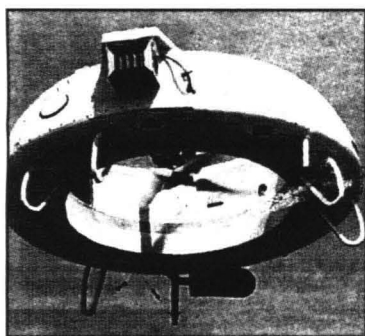
Fevzi Cam, his wife and another woman said they saw a 75cm alien with a wide, round head and big eyes and threw stones at it. "It didn't have wings or propellers but it could fly upward," Fevzi said.

The three were riding on a tractor to a tobacco field. But you have to ask whether it was tobacco they were smoking.

CR: P. Norman

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Pictures: RAYMONDS/CORBIS/ALBAN DONOHUE/AP/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



WHEN residents of Columbus, Georgia, saw this metallic doughnut hovering in the sky in the early Nineties, they could have been forgiven for believing that aliens really were about to land. The six-foot wide craft hovered and darted in different directions.

THE TRUTH It was an unmanned aerial vehicle being tested by the US Army at the Fort Benning military base. Named the Cypher, it is powered by two blades in the centre of the fuselage, which rotate in opposite directions and enable the flying machine to take off, travel in any direction and hover stationary.



THIS broken cigar-shaped shadow is what English pilot David Hastings saw as he flew his Cessna over the Mojave Desert last June. "We both suddenly realised that we had fast traffic in our 12 o'clock," he says.

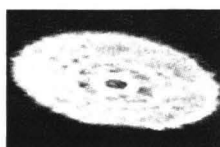
"We ducked behind the control panel. A shadow flashed over us but there was absolutely no sound."

THE TRUTH "Pilots often report strange aerial phenomena," says Dr Jacqueline Mitton. "But it is much more likely to be freak weather conditions than a flying aircraft. This image could have been produced by a single cloud casting a shadow or by a substance coming out of the plane."



IN 1996, hysteria broke out in a Miami farming community when a mysterious light surrounded by an almost ethereal glow was spotted on a number of occasions above the swamps. Radiation readings taken at the time showed abnormally high levels in both the air and the soil.

THE TRUTH The US Air Force dismissed the sightings as "swamp gas". But William Van Horn, the civil defence director of Hillsdale County, rejected this, saying that conditions at the time were too windy for swamp gas to form.



THIS picture showing a spinning pink disc was revealed for the first time yesterday, after it was filmed one night last October by Sharon Rowlands, a housewife from Bonsall in the Derbyshire Dales. Sharon says that the

object hovered above her home for 6½ minutes while expanding and shrinking. Eventually, it moved to the right before emitting pulses of light from its left-hand side. It then flipped over and blasted away in a bright red flash. Sharon 44, has now sold her footage of the object to a US TV company for £20,000. "I couldn't believe it - it was like nothing I've ever seen," she says. "It was huge and, through the lens, it looked like it was going to hit me." Sharon's UFO sighting is not the only one to be made in the area recently. In the past few months more than 20 UFO sightings have been reported at Bonsall.

THE TRUTH According to Dr Stuart Clark, an astrophysicist from the University of Hertfordshire, this image of what looks like a blurry pink button is almost certainly a hoax. "If an object of this size really was hovering above a village, people would be able to corroborate the sighting," he says. "For it to have moved so quickly it would have had to have been travelling faster than the speed of sound, which would have produced a sonic boom that would have woken up the whole of the Dales. The way it changes size is consistent with this image being some form of reflection, either from a window or the internal mechanisms in the video camera."



THIS photo, taken in the frozen wastes of Antarctica at the end of last year, appears to show an eerie red object hovering by a mountain amid the icy landscape.

THE TRUTH This is no more than a special type of cloud, known as a lenticular cloud, with a smooth, lens-like shape. These clouds often form by the sides of mountains and account for many of the UFO sightings reported during the day.

(continued on page 14)

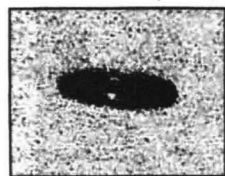
If, during the next month, you spot a mysterious red light hovering over the horizon, don't worry. These aren't aliens bent on invading Earth — the large, blood-red disc visible in the skies above Britain during June will actually be Mars. The orbits of Mars and Earth will become unusually close this month, which means the red planet will appear as a large red blob rather than the usual indistinguishable speck.

Ever since HG Wells scared the world with his terrifying vision of an alien invasion in *The War Of The Worlds*, there has been a constant stream of reports of mysterious shapes and lights in the sky. Only yesterday, another "alien" craft was revealed.

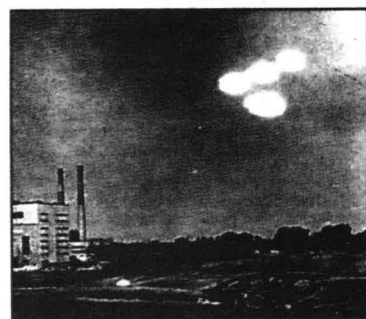
But just as the position of Mars offers a scientific explanation for any upcoming sightings, can there be rational reasons for all the others? JOHN TRIGGS and BEN SHEPPARD investigate...



HANNAH McROBERTS took a photo of some mountain scenery in the north-west corner of Vancouver Island on October 8, 1981. At the time she thought she just had a scenic shot but when her prints were developed, she noticed a small mark on the photo. This picture is an enlarged image of that mark, and appears to be some form of flying saucer.



THE TRUTH This particular photo has been examined in detail by the Society For Scientific Exploration, which, for a long time, suspected that it was simply a frisbee that had been thrown off the mountain. Careful comparisons of the saucer with frisbees led the society to conclude that it wasn't a frisbee after all. On the other hand, the experts couldn't rule out that it wasn't a dustbin lid either.



THIS picture, taken by seaman Shell Alpert in 1997, shows three bright lights apparently hovering above the coast near Washington. Many other people from nearby areas also reported seeing the brilliant lights in the sky.

THE TRUTH "There are so many different explanations for bright lights in the sky," says Dr Jacqueline Mitton, of the Royal Astronomical Society. "Extra terrestrial aircraft are really the least likely but it's still the one that most people jump to. Bright lights such as this could be the odd effect of aircraft lights being disturbed by peculiar atmospheric conditions. Or it could even be due to peculiar reflections of the moon."



THIS IS WHAT I SAW: David Ryan with the book illustration which seems to bear out his own drawing of the creature he claimed to encounter (left)

Photograph: Corn Messer

FACTOR X: Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny as agents Scully and Mulder

Be prepared – the truth is out there

THE truth is out there – at least it is according to one young Kinson Scout.

And it could be a case for Mulder and Scully.

By Darren Slade

Eleven-year-old David Ryan says he had a Close Encounter of the Third Kind during a camping trip.

He has drawn pictures of the extra-terrestrial – and says it looks uncannily similar to images he found later in a book on UFOs.

David, from Southbourne, also claims he saw spaceships flying over Butcher's Coppice campsite in Kinson the day after his meeting with the space creature.

He said he was walking between the huts at the campsite when he met the alien last Friday night.

"When I started to walk back, I saw this figure in the bush. It had yellow eyes and a funny hat on and it was about three inches above the ground," he said.

David said he saw two yellow, oval UFOs shooting overhead the following night. David told a friend at Portchester School about the alien but hesitated to tell his parents.

Mum Jan Ryan said: "He didn't tell me until Monday night. He sat down quietly and said, 'Mum, I want to tell you something. I want you to believe me.'"

She suggested he should draw a picture of what he saw. He then borrowed a book about UFOs from the school library and came across a similar picture.

"It's the same as something

seen in America in 1953," said Mrs Ryan.

She said David was an experienced camper and not likely to imagine things when walking in the dark.

"We're a bit sceptical about things like this but David's quite convinced. He's not taken to making up things," she said.

Jason Eastwood, of Southern Investigation and Research Into UFO Sightings (SIRIUS), said he would investigate.

"We take every sighting seriously," he said.

Jason claimed that 95 per cent of UFO sightings turned out to have a rational explanation and that claims of alien contact were "very rare".

"For someone to have seen an alien, that does make it more of an interesting case," he added.

"There are countless people I can call on for information as well as help. I'll look into it with great expectation."

UFO mag wants info on mystery of mast crash

By PHILIP THOMSON

AN international UFO magazine is investigating the mysterious collision with a communications mast at the summit of Snaefell.

A full-scale search was launched on January 14 after witnesses reported seeing something hit the mast and spiral down in a cloud of smoke.

Despite a massive search, involving the police, fire and rescue service, civil defence, coastguard and a helicopter from RAF Valley, North Wales, nothing was found.

Damage to the mast was found but the authorities said it could have been caused by a radio-controlled plane or a bird.

The search was called off on January 15. Police admitted the incident was a mystery and appealed for anyone with information to come forward.

UFO Magazine, available throughout Europe, Canada and the United States, is looking into the incident, which editor Graham Birdsall describes as 'bizarre'.

Mr Birdsall has contacted readers in the Island to collect information about the mystery collision.

"In general terms I am trying to get as much information back as possible," he said from the magazine's base at Ilkley, Yorkshire. "It does strike us as odd that no explanation is forthcoming for whatever it was. It strikes me as peculiar."

"There have been weird and wonderful rumours about something operating out

of the British Aerospace base in Warton, near Preston, for a while so the finger of suspicion is pointing at that being the culprit."

Mr Birdsall said suspicions of the incident involving a microlight, model aircraft or bird seem unlikely.

There have been claims an unmanned aerial vehicle or remotely piloted vehicle might be to blame. There were also claims on the internet that someone had video-taped a Tornado aircraft firing laser beams, but Mr Birdsall discounted the story after reading the video-maker claimed the film had been seized by the Royal Navy.

"The magazine is an objective publication trying to pin these things down as best we can," he said. "With a reasonable amount of research you can usually come up with a reasonable explanation for the most extraordinary things."

"But often you are left with situations where no reasonable explanation comes forward, and this is one."

"The witnesses seem credible. Something clearly happened because it prompted a search of the area and there is physical damage to the mast, but despite all the efforts of all concerned they could not find an explanation for what these people saw."

"The damage is there so something has happened, but what exactly? It all seems bizarre."

The investigation results will feature in the next edition of the bimonthly magazine, expected to be at newsagents on February 22.

ALIEN ENCOUNTER? Here's a closer look at the drawing from the book in the library

One was charcoal-coloured, triangular and humming' Couple baffled by their UFO sightings

By JUDITH PHILLIPS

ARE aliens making visits to the Llandudno area?

This is the question being asked by a couple who believe they have seen UFOs several times in the last 12 months.

Robert and Susie Hale, of Ffordd Elisabeth, Llandudno, say their first experience was when they saw an unusual Easter egg-shaped object in the sky above their home in March last year.

As they watched it seemed to glide before making sudden jumping manoeuvres and then appeared to change shape into a sphere and speed away into the clouds.

Three weeks later, on March 25, the couple were walking on Invalids' Walk, a footpath on the western slopes of the Orme, when they spotted what they describe as a vivid ball of light hovering above the cliffs. Robert, who was carrying a small camera at the time, managed to capture the object on film.

"Previously we had been sceptical about UFOs but these sightings made us think perhaps they do exist, so we started to keep a look out for anything else unusual," said Robert.

On July 30, above Cwm Mountain close to their home, they saw a charcoal-coloured triangular shaped craft. It carried no markings but made a low-pitched humming noise as it sped off.

On August 25, also above Cwm Mountain, they again saw an Easter egg-shaped object, this time with what seemed to be a spherical object suspended beneath it.

"It came right overhead, making a very low humming noise and then flew off," said Robert.

Again he managed to take photographs of the object but once developed it did not show up on the prints. Instead, one image turned out grey with pink circles, the other featured a beam of pink light, and a third showed several white spheres.

"It's very strange," said Robert. "Is it that there were several craft but we couldn't see them all? We are totally confused and we don't know where to go for the answers."

And Susie said: "We never used to believe in these things but we are seeing them so often that we've changed our minds."

HACKNEY GAZETTE, London, England - Feb. 15, 2001

UFO mystery + UFO mystery + UFO mystery + UFO mystery

Non-believer sees the light

A COUPLE who woke to see a strange white light above the rooftops close to their Lower Clapton home have sparked a UFO mystery.

Puzzled Michael Frangou has no explanation for what he saw and heard during the early hours of Saturday morning.

The 42-year-old magazine picture researcher, who lives in Thistlewaite Road, says he would have kept quiet about it, only his wife mentioned it to a friend who lives in Stoke Newington and she revealed that she had been woken by a strange sound around the same time.

Mr Frangou has even contacted Hackney police to see if they have received reports of similar sightings.

"I'm a total sceptic and I don't believe in aliens or fly-

Eerie sight in dead of night

by RUSS LAWRENCE

ing saucers, yet I didn't imagine what I saw and as yet I've been given no logical explanation for it," he says.

He explains that he and his wife were woken in their basement flat around 3am by a very loud and weird noise.

"It was like the doppler effect of sound waves coming towards you and getting louder and then fading away in the distance," he adds.

"Through our French windows, we could see this brilliant white light about 30 to 50 feet above the back garden.

"It seemed to linger for a few seconds, then disappeared. It was nothing like a helicopter and the white light seemed to be just part of a

much bigger object." It was the middle of the night and after a brief conversation about it, the couple went back to sleep.

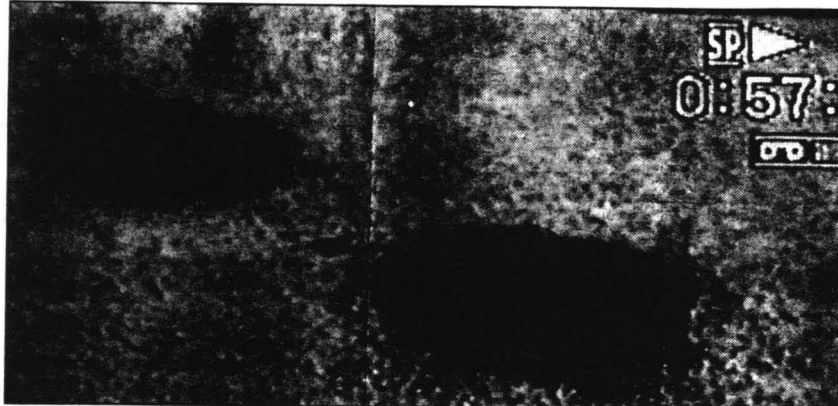
"It was only when my wife mentioned it during a phone conversation to her friend, that she, too, said she'd heard the noise," says Mr Frangou.

"She has corroborated what we saw and I'm wondering whether it was seen by other people, or they can tell me what it was."

**Did you see
the light? Call
Russ Lawrence
at the Gazette
newsdesk on
020 7790 8822...**

LOWESTOFT JOURNAL & MERCURY, Suffolk, England - Feb. 16, 2001

**MYSTERY
SPOTS:**
Two of the
mysterious
scorch
marks
found on
the beach
in 1997.



Picture:
SUPPLIED

Calling all UFO sighting reports

AFTER recent screening on national TV of my video footage of UFOs over the Lowestoft area I have been encouraged to write a book on the subject.

I would be most interested to hear from others in the area who have captured on video or film, or have had any sightings or

encounters with UFOs.

I would also be grateful to anyone who could offer me an explanation as to the origin of five burn or scorch circles, about 12ft in diameter, caught on video on October 7, 1997.

They were on the beach in front of the old MoD radar station between Corton and

Hopton (still frame enclosed).

There may well be a straightforward explanation for these. Please let me know.

DAVID SPOOR
The Fairway
Lowestoft

e-mail:
David.Spoor@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07946 261 378

Close encounters continue in Dales

National media frenzy as UFO tally rises to 21

AS the national media picks up on the long string of Mercury's UFO stories, we can now reveal yet more sightings.

Last week, sightings including the videotape episode in Bonsall were reported by the Daily Mail, Channel Five and BBC News. A German TV firm wants to film a documentary.

Now the Mercury has received word of another close encounter - the 20th sighting since the first back in September.

Paul Hannan (37) of Yeld Close, Bakewell saw a dome-shaped craft at around 8pm on Saturday, February 3.

"It was between Youlgrave and Over Haddon," he said, "more or less on the Manchester flight path."

"I shouted to my wife, 'Look at this bright light out here!' then went to get my binoculars."

Mr Hannan, who saw a sim-

By

Andy Darlington

ilar object in Bakewell during the mid-1900s said the craft was a brilliant white light in the sky.

Through the binoculars, he could see the light gradually fade and the object get progressively smaller.

"After that, you could still see something with the naked eye," he remarked.

"Through the binoculars, you could see a light around it, as

light faded, it seemed to be dancing in the sky.

"I couldn't see any colour but I could definitely make out a shape. Then it moved to the left and just completely disappeared."

Mr Hannan says he believes the UFOs are manned by alien visitors but is unsure why they are here.

"It could be something to do with water," he mused. "That is a valuable asset within the universe."

"I think the Government has been working with them for years, Area 51 and all that."

"Jets are sent up to intercept them but they just disappear. I don't think there's anything we can do..."

The 21st sighting surrounds a Wirksworth couple who saw a large blue light with an orange tail which shot across the night-sky.

The man, who refused to be identified, was going for a walk with his girlfriend on Summer

Lane, at about 7.30pm last Thursday when they saw the strange light.

He said: "At first I thought it was a plane crashing - it is the funniest thing I have ever seen."

"It had a massive glowing tail at the back of it - but it

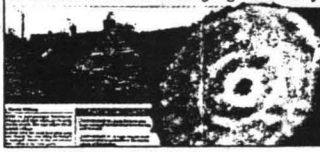
went far too fast for a plane.

"A friend also saw it. He was going from Alfreton to Tansley and stopped his car to look."

● Have you seen any UFOs in the Dales or Peaks? If so, call our news editor, Andy Darlington, on (01629) 582432.

Not another UFO!

Welcome to Bonsall, the village where life wouldn't be the same without those strange lights in the sky



● SPLASH: The Daily Mail's coverage.

though it were illuminated from within - only faintly, but enough to distinguish the shape of it.

"When I saw the light, it wasn't moving but after the

WOKINGHAM TIMES, Berkshire, England - Jan. 24, 2001

Mystery goings-on in the skies above Earley

THE suburban quiet of Lower Earley was shattered last Monday when a woman claimed she spotted a 'flying saucer-shaped' object above her home.

Margaret Ainsworth, of Easington Drive, had just parked her car in her garage when she noticed the mysterious shape hovering in the sky.

She said: "I always tend to look up because of planes passing over."

"It was only 3.45pm when I saw this object and I thought it was too early for stars, so I went and got my binoculars."

"It looked like a bright

light with black surround, then it changed shape into a typical flying saucer shape."

The mother-of-two managed to shoot footage of the entity with a handy video camera - footage that has been screened on Meridian and appeared in a national tabloid.

She said: "I zoomed in on my video camera and filmed it."

"I was on the phone to my mum at the time and it was so weird."

Mrs Ainsworth, who was set to appear on Channel 4's Big Breakfast this morning to tell her story, is still sceptical as

to whether she actually saw an unidentified flying object.

"The Ministry of Defence is looking into it," she said, "but until someone tells me it was definitely a UFO, then I'm sceptical."

"I don't believe in aliens, but this was so bizarre it was unreal."

This is the first recorded sighting of such a phenomenon in Lower Earley and the mystery remains unsolved.

Nigel Hook, manager of the Earley Retreat pub in Lower Earley, said: "If any aliens come to the pub, I'll make them feel very welcome."

KIDDERMINSTER TIMES, Worcestershire, England - Jan. 4, 2001

■ RESEARCHERS investigating unexplained phenomena are appealing to Shuttle/Times & News readers for help.

They are on the trail on an incident at Wolverley in 1958 when "impressions" were found on farmland near Brown Westhead Park.

Retired police officer John Hanson and fellow researcher Dawn Holloway, who act as consultants for the Flying Saucer Review, have been speaking to a man who made the mysterious find.

Mr Hanson said: "We would like to know if any readers have information on this matter, or know

of any UFO reports from this particular time.

"Our information on this mysterious incident is from a very genuine source."

The man has taken the researchers to the spot where he discovered the impressions along with scorched sugar beet more than 40 years ago.

They have written an account of their visit to Wolverley with the man they call just Charles in order to protect his identity.

If anyone has any information they should contact Mr Hanson by writing to PO Box 6371, Birmingham B48 7RW.

DAILY STAR, London, England - June 16, 2001 CR: N. Oliver

ALIEN AT BOTTOM OF SEA...

■ EXCLUSIVE by ADAM KENNET

RUSSIAN seamen were spooked during the Cold War by an unidentified SWIMMING object that looked like a TV Cyberman.

Secret documents which have just come to light reveal naval top-brass briefed terrified crews to beware of the lethal powers of the "Man From Atlantis".

American UFO expert George Flier, who studied the papers, said: "Russian divers encountered a mysterious underwater swimmer, very human-like but nearly three metres tall."

"He wore a tight silvery suit, despite icy-cold seas - and despite swimming at 50 metres wore no aqualung, only a sphere-like helmet."

Surge

The reports conjure up the creepy Cybermen aliens Dr Who battled to protect the Earth in the hit telly show.

But one Soviet naval chief reports three of his divers dying from the bends after a surge threw them up to the surface as they tried to capture the silver wonder in icy Lake Baikal, Siberia, in 1982.

Military briefings allege many other "strange underwater creatures" in the



DEEPLY CREEPY: TV Cyberman

same lake and others around the world - including huge saucers blasting out of the water and zapping boats' radar, and "unearthly lights" from the deep.

And Mr Flier's study, also drawing on papers from Moscow's Russian UFOlogy Research Centre, reports Soviet submarines claiming they were chased by ultra-quick subs, the like of which they had never seen.

Mr Flier, a former US Air Force Major who began probing UFOs after unsuccessfully trying to INTERCEPT one in the UK in 1969, said: "There are many Soviet accounts of strange objects beneath the sea."

A LIFE marred with what seemed to be more than his fair share of personal tragedy could not dim the character, or resolve, of 72-year-old Charles, a retired farmworker, living near the village of Wolverley, who decided after 42 years to tell what he stumbled across during July 1958.

He had kept quiet for fear of ridicule.

At the time, Charles was employed locally as a foreman at Lea Castle Farm, situated just off the A449, which then encompassed what is now known locally as Brown Westhead Park.

It was originally used as a United States Air Force hospital, but after the war was taken over by the British Army Pay Corps.

Charles escorted US to the area concerned, the approach to which lay along a short stretch of tarmac road, before we parked our car next to gates leading into the now local authority-owned park.

Somewhat incongruously, the gates were next to another set of gates which had obviously been used as the original access into the now-defunct army base.

Ironically, some of the original buildings still remain standing, now in use as changing rooms, in contrast to other remnants of what had been a thriving army base.

These included large blocks of concrete, positioned in front of the original army gates, and the presence of concrete slabs and paths, now overgrown, marking the original site of huts used for accommodation by nurses.

Approximately 250ft away, heading towards the direction of Lea Castle Farm, originally the site of a castle which was burnt

Bidding to solve a Wolverley mystery

down in the late 1930s, close to a perimeter fence was a field, now heavily overgrown but which, in 1958, contained a crop of sugar beet.

This was where Charles discovered what appeared to have been the "landing site" of "something" which had been heavy enough to leave indentations in

The strange case of the scorched sugar beet

the ground.

It had all started when one of the farmhands, working at the local farm, brought to the attention of Charles what he had thought was damage created by aphids to one part of the sugar beet crop, which were yellowed

and withered.

He went to have a look and discovered an elliptically-shaped patch of completely burnt crop, situated roughly in the middle of four mysterious "slots", which were 22 inches square, the distance between each slot being approximately 22ft on each side.

This was calculated by the number of equidistant rows of planted crop, which were 22 inches wide, there being seven rows between the mysterious "marks".

There was nothing left of the sugar beet crop inside the totally burnt area of the elliptical shape.

However, in the middle of one of the "slots" was found just one withered sugar beet plant.

Of considerable interest was the fact that above the right-hand indentation in the ground, was a noticeable impression running adjacent to the top of one of the "slots", giving the impression that whatever had settled onto the ground had slipped slightly - probably because the soil in that particular area was quite weak.



METRO, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

June 19, 2001 CR: G. Duplantier

Monkey-man episode result of mass hysteria

An investigation has found that a mysterious monkey man who spread terror and panic in the Indian capital of New Delhi last month was a product of mass hysteria, newspapers said yesterday.

The probe by forensic experts and psychiatrists concluded the monkey-man was a "mere figment of the imagination of emotionally weak people," The Times of India said, quoting police sources.

Large colonies in New Delhi were gripped by fear of attacks after dozens of people reported they were bitten or clawed by the nocturnal monkey man.

At least three people panicked and fell to their deaths from buildings during the two-week saga because they were con-

vinced the attacker — described variously as a monkey-like creature with metallic claws and a cat with tawny, glowing eyes — was pursuing them.

Suresh Roy, Delhi's joint commissioner of police, said the experts' report had been submitted to police and would be made public later this week.

Forensic experts and psychiatrists conducted detailed examinations of victims of the attacks and had also visited the locations of the attacks.

The Hindustan Times newspaper said at least 35 victims examined by the experts suffered from trauma. The experts said sensational media coverage of the monkey man episode blew it out of proportion. (Reuters)

LANTERN [Ohio State University], Columbus, OH - May 29, 2001 CR: J. Fry

Ghost cat may stalk lighthouse

FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio (AP) — Lighthouse museum curator Pamela Brent swears that on several occasions she saw the wispy gray spirit of a cat.

"It would skitter across the floor near the kitchen, like it was playing," said Brent, who lived on the lighthouse's upper floor for four years. "I would catch glimpses of it from time to time."

"Then one evening I felt its presence when it jumped on the bed. I felt its weight pressing on me. At first it kind of freaked me out. But ghosts don't bother me.

They are part of the world."

Volunteers also spoke of an eerie presence in the lighthouse, but skeptics dismissed the ghost story as ridiculous — until this winter.

Workers installing air conditioning vents discovered the mummified remains of a gray cat in a crawl space.

"That was a little freakish when they found the cat," Brent said.

Brent said historians learned that the wife of one lighthouse tender kept several cats in the

quarters. They believe the cat unearthed during the winter renovations was trapped for years in the crawl space, somehow preserved in the cold, dank basement floor.

Valerie Laczkó, president of the Fairport Harbor Historical Society, said the gray feline, whose leathery remains are kept in a cardboard box, has become a favorite attraction for schoolchildren touring the museum.

Brent said it is not the only lighthouse that provides a haven for spirits.

EXAMINER, Beaumont, TX - June 6, 2001 CR: R. Riggs

Mysteries of the Big Thicket

By Erin Koenig
Staff writer

Like any other child who grew up in Sour Lake or other areas of Hardin County, Rob Riggs heard many strange stories involving the woods of the Big Thicket National Preserve. These tales — spooky sightings of a "ghost light" along Bragg Road, north of Saratoga, and of hairy, Bigfoot-type creatures living in the Thicket — fueled many campfire conversations between Riggs and his childhood friends.

But was that all they were ... tales? Or was there something more than folklore to the stories that have intrigued generations?

While working as a journalist at the Kountze News, Riggs did a story about the phenomenon on Bragg Road. After it was published, he was bombarded with calls and letters from people who wanted to share their strange experiences in the Thicket.

"So many of them told me that they didn't tell anyone else their stories because they were sure that no one would believe them," he said. "What struck me about it was that many of the details corroborated stories of different sightings."

The details of those striking similarities drove Riggs to do further research. What resulted was the recently published book, "In the Big Thicket: On the Trail of the Wild Man."

The Ghost Light

At one time, Bragg Road was the right-of-way for an old railroad. One local legend says the mysterious light comes from the glow of a lantern used by a phantom railroad worker who roams in search of the head he lost during an accident.

Another attributes the light to a lost hunter. Many locals believe the light sightings are nothing more than the glow of distant car lights or swamp gas. Not so, say people who have seen them.

"That damned light was alive," Jim, a local resident who kept silent for 30 years about his experience with the

"The Big Thicket is simply a spooky place, and it is a common experience, even among experienced campers and outdoors enthusiasts, that a night in the woods there will put the fear in you."

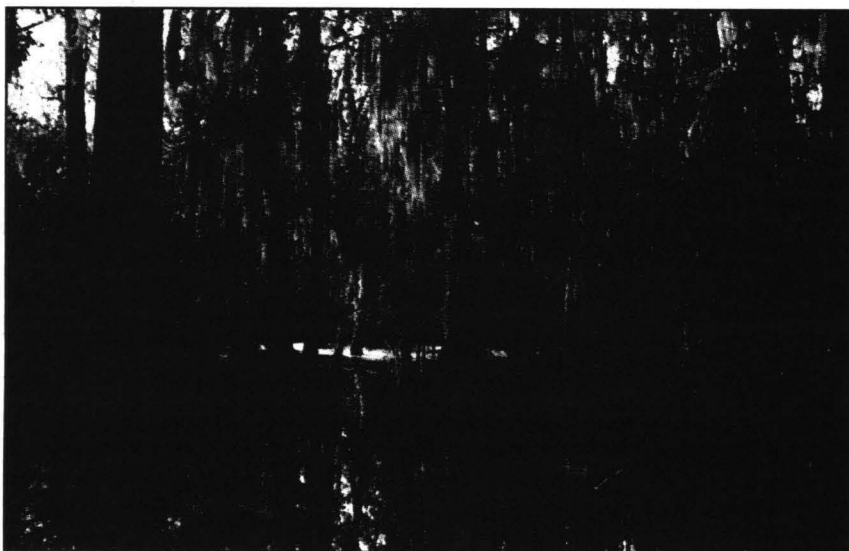
Rob Riggs, author of
"In the Big Thicket: On the Trail of the Wild Man"

infamous light, told Riggs during an interview for the book.

Jim had gone in search of the ghost light with his buddies one evening, as many local teenagers had done before them.

"Just as they were trying to decide whether to sit and wait or turn back, they were greeted by an eerie, diffused orange glow. Jim described it as being 'like what would precede a lantern entering a dark room. The glow emitted from a six-inch ball of brilliant orange light that came to hover less than twenty feet in front of them,'" states an excerpt from the book. "It stopped just to the right of the car that was still idling. Slowly it moved across the hood, causing the engine to stall."

"Frantically, the boys were able to restart the engine as the light came to rest to the left of their car. They took off down Bragg Road just as fast as its unpaved sandy surface would allow. The light pursued them and easily kept pace with the car at speeds approaching 50 miles and hour. After about two miles, and without slowing down, the light made an abrupt 90 degree turn to the left, ascended above the treetops, and disappeared in a streak of



Cover photo and above courtesy of the National Park Service

unimaginable speed. The entire episode lasted for over five minutes."

Jim, as well as several others interviewed for the book, described the light's actions similar to that of a conscious being that seemed to react to them.

Despite hearing similar accounts, Riggs said he didn't believe the light was something "unexplainable" until he saw it for himself.

"It appeared suddenly about 30 feet in front of our slowly moving vehicle. We were headed north, away from the direction of the Votaw-bound traffic and with the suspect car light beams to our backs. It was as if a light bulb had been turned on," Riggs wrote. "The light was sharply defined, spherical, and about the size of a basketball. It glowed with a bluish-white luminosity, drifted slowly to our right for a span of a few seconds, and blinked off."

Since his first sighting, Riggs conducted research on similar light sightings that have been seen in various parts of the country, such as New Mexico, West Texas and Arizona. He explores the similarities and differences in the book.

What do they all have in common? The unexplained

lights all seem to resemble the shape of a basketball and vary from bluish to reddish white, says Riggs. Though they may be seen within a range of a few miles, they are usually found in one central area.

While many explanations have been offered by scientists who have studied these phenomena — including theories on electromagnetic conditions, geophysical forces, and solar magnetic storms — their causes still remain a mystery.

What does Riggs believe its cause to be?

"I explore many possibilities in the book. I think it is probably supernatural in nature," Riggs said. "I think there are things that exist outside the natural order ... things we cannot understand."

The Wild Man

Another persistent legend of the Big Thicket is the tale of the Wild Man — a hairy, Bigfoot-like creature seen around the woods for generations.

Some legends claim the creature is an escaped convict or a mental patient who has survived on his own, eating animals and plants found in the woods.

"A young couple had innocently gone to look for the ghost light, naively assuming there was no risk to such an

adventure, when something large and hairy suddenly pounced on their hood and glared menacingly at them through the windshield," reads an excerpt from "In the Big Thicket: On the Trail of the Wild Man."

"Luckily the gentleman involved just happened to have his shotgun on a rack in the pickup truck and without hesitation pulled it down and emptied both barrels at the beast through the plate glass ... There were two sets of claw marks scratched deeply into the paint surface of the pickup's hood, which the creature left before it dismounted and ran screaming into the woods."

These types of sightings are not unique to the Big Thicket. In fact, an organization exists that is dedicated to conducting research on Bigfoot sightings throughout the Gulf Coast and the rest of the country. The Gulf Coast Bigfoot

Research Organization Web site at www.gcbro.com records creature sightings by people all over the world.

In the United States' database of reported sightings, the group lists more than 50 Bigfoot sightings in Texas. Three of those listed occurred in the Big Thicket area.

(continued on page 18)



Photo courtesy of Rob Riggs

Pictured above is Bragg Road, just north of Saratoga, where the mysterious "ghost light" has been sighted many times over the years.

In December of 1996, someone reported seeing an eight foot tall, dark-colored creature covered in hair while driving down a country road near the Thicket. Another described the creature as more of a large, dog-like creature that they saw lurking at the edge of the woods. In 1971, a hairy, ape-like creature was seen in a wooded area in Sour Lake.

Riggs has not seen the creature himself, but believes he has seen some proof of a large creature's existence in the Big Thicket National Preserve.

In the introduction of his book, Riggs tells of an outing at the Thicket where he and a friend heard the distress calls of a hawk.

"Something was causing that hawk considerable grief. Then its cries were abruptly cut off," he wrote.

The two wondered what happened to the hawk. Neither of the men heard a gun shot or sounds from another animal attacking. Further down the path, the they found the hawk — or what was left of it.

"At the base of a huge pine tree we found the wings, tail feathers, legs and talons of an extremely unlucky Cooper's Hawk. There is little question it was the same hawk. The talons were still limp, and the tendons, ragged and exposed where the legs had been ripped from the hawk's body, were still moist," Riggs said.

"It was as if something had taken this poor bird by the feet, spread its legs, chomped down on it, and swallowed it whole after spitting out the

less digestible parts. You may know something that can do this to a hawk, but I don't."

Bob Valen, chief of resources and education for the Big Thicket National Preserve, said park rangers haven't gotten any calls that he knows of from people reporting Bigfoot sightings.

"Occasionally we get calls about sightings of large, black cats or black bears," he said.

Valen said he has not had any unusual experiences in the Thicket, although another employee told him he saw the ghost light while returning



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

The Madonna Tree at Cooks Lake

from one of their programs.

"I have had interesting experiences in other parks, but I haven't seen anything here," said Valen, who also serves as a national fire information officer.

"Five years ago, I was dispatched to New Mexico for a fire ... out of Tao in the Carson National Forest. About three days after I got there, this fellow came in with a photograph of the smoke column, just as the fire started," Valen said. "Immediately,

myself and the person I was working with, looked at it and were stunned. Within the column of smoke, at that particular moment the photograph was taken, there was what looked like a human head. It looked very Native American."

The man who brought in the photograph told Valen that the religious leaders of several nearby Native American tribes were very concerned about what they saw in the column of smoke.

"In essence, with their religious beliefs, they felt it was the release of something very evil," he said.

Valen neither dismissed the event nor tried to explain its validity. His story, like many of the stories in Riggs' book, seem beyond reasonable explanation.

"Is there a side to life that maybe we're not real aware of? I don't know. I certainly have no proof," Valen said. "It's a fascinating topic though."

CRESCENT-NEWS, Defiance, OH - May 2, 2001 CR: J. Hamm

Whose lion is it anyway?

Now, I'm not one to spread rumors, but I know what I heard ...

I was reading the last chapter of a library book. A cool spring breeze lifted the curtains at the window. Tim and the dog snored softly in tandem. Suddenly, the dog stiffened and a growl rumbled deep in his throat. Then I heard it — a succession of hair-raising screams echoing from the woods.

The dog howled in response and the

snoring beside me stopped.

"Did you hear that?" I poked an elbow into Tim's side.

I didn't really have to ask. I knew he'd heard it. He just didn't want to admit it because that meant he would have to haul his carcass out of the sack and "go check on things."

Running to the front door, I cracked it open as a second series of shrieks sliced through the night air, only this time they were much louder — and closer.

I shivered and it wasn't from the cold. Footsteps thundered down the stairs and I turned around just as a pair of saucer-wide eyes loomed out of the living room dark like two watch dials.

"Augh!" Startled, I clutched my throat.

"MOM-CLOSE THE DOOR-CLOSE THE DOOR-CLOSE THE DOOR!" Our 13-year-old pleaded, her teeth chattering.

"Do you think the animals in the barn are all right?" I asked nervously as Tim trudged begrudgingly out of the bedroom.

"MOM-DON'T GO OUT THERE! IT'LL GET YOU!"

Later Tim pointed out that he found it slightly offensive that our child thought it perfectly acceptable for him to brave the unknown and go down to the barn, but not me.

I called the sheriff's office, and with a great deal of embarrassment, explained that something was screaming in the woods. I know the dispatcher put a hand over the receiver and with eyes rolling upward, mouthed the words, "We've got another one."

Who could find fault with that reaction after a week of escalating reports of a renegade lion running amok? Stories that raced across the county faster than a prairie fire ranged from sightings of paw prints the size of dinner plates and disemboweled cattle to entire families being dragged off into the underbrush. Urban legends may effect a wider population base, but nothing increases in magnitude faster than a rural rumor.

ON MY MIND



Georgia Kohart

City dwellers may think we have it dull out here in the sticks, but lately life in our area has taken on the attributes of a 1960's Don Knotts movie. As was evidenced when a neighbor putt-putted by wearing a pith helmet.

Even though deputies responded quickly and performed a thorough search, the source of the eerie cries remained at large.

The afternoon after our close encounter, we decided to check the woods ourselves. I plucked two sticks out the kindling box and, like in the original "Parent Trap" movie, started down the trail clapping them together to ward off unsolicited felines.

"Ho, ho, aren't you funny," Tim said. "Here," I said, tossing one of the sticks to him.

"What's this — a puma toothpick?"

"Use it to prop it's mouth open. That way, it can't bite you and that'll give me a chance to snap its picture," I said, holding up my camera.

As we stepped off, I laughed at the thought of a snaggle-toothed cartoon cat lounging on a tree limb, picking his teeth. Then I remembered that in scary movies the skeptic is the first guy to get it. I stopped searching the ground for hubcap-sized cat tracks to squint warily up into the branches overhead. Before, the woods have always been a place of beauty and peace. Suddenly, although the sun was shining brightly, the dappled shadows seemed dark and foreboding — the forest primeval.

Tim peered cautiously over his shoulder. "Well," he said briskly. "I don't see anything. Do you?"

"Nope."

"Wanna go back?"

"Yep."

The trip back to the house was made at a significantly faster clip.

Legend has it that America's most famous pioneer advertised his hunting prowess by carving "Dan'l Boone kilt a bar on this tree." If we'd actually seen anything, my message would have been a little less heroic, probably something akin to: "Georgia Kohart durn near wet her britches on this hyar spot, but she was a-runnin' too fast."

(Georgia Kohart is a staff writer with The Crescent-News. Her column will appear here on Wednesday's. She may be reached by e-mail at cncolumn@crescent-news.com)

Chief believes big prints could only belong to Bigfoot

PEAWANUCK • Footprints indicating a creature with a two-metre stride have some Northern Ontario residents speculating the elusive Bigfoot may have moved in. Abraham Hunter, the chief of Weenusk First Nation, says the 35 cm by 12 cm prints could only be made by the mythical beast. Ministry of Natural Resources officials could not explain the tracks.

CR: G. Duplantier

CRESCENT-NEWS, Defiance, OH - April 29, 2001 CR: J. Hamm

Alleged lioness remains elusive

OAKWOOD — Residents of the Oakwood area remain on the alert since a reported sighting of a loose lion surfaced around 8 p.m. Wednesday evening. According to information released by the Paulding County sheriff's office, an animal resembling a female African lion was reported to have been seen in a field near Ohio 66 and Brown Township Road 110, about a mile north of Oakwood.

Deputies checked the area at that time, but were unable to find anything. They alerted residents in a square mile area of the sighting, asked them to report any sightings or unusual sounds, and suggested that they keep their children and pets inside the rest of the evening.

Although several people in the area have reported seeing the animal, according to Dave Cline, Paulding County dog warden, and local law enforcement agencies cannot confirm a sighting.

Cline cautions the public. "First of all, people need to remain calm. Should anyone see anything, they shouldn't try to take things into their own hands. They need to contact the sheriff's office or the local law enforcement agency and let them handle it."

Should anyone spot the animal, the sheriff's office warns not to approach it. Although raised by humans, the lion is not a pet and could be dangerous.

Subglacial lake generates research and conspiracy theories

By BRYON OKADA
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — A vast, subglacial lake discovered more than two miles below the South Pole has captured the imaginations not only of scientists, but also of conspiracy theorists, alien-encounter types and devotees of urban myths.

NASA wants to use Lake Vostok to test equipment for a planned mission to Jupiter.

Microbiologists want to study life in extreme climates. Environmentalists want to halt exploration to keep the lake, believed to have the purest water on Earth, free of contaminants.

UFO buffs and X-philies, meanwhile, are generating a Bermuda Triangle-like buzz about the lake, and renewed interest in ancient history and the recent release of the movie "Atlantis" are fueling the talk.

For those unfamiliar with the cool.

posting in several Internet chat rooms: "If the Great Flood was caused by the Earth shifting its axis, as appears to be what actually happened, where what used to be the North Pole ended up near the equator, then Atlantis didn't sink. It simply relocated to the South Pole."

And another: "This is where Godzilla lives..."

To put it simply, Lake Vostok is cool.

story, a lot of hard science has gone into the exploration of Lake Vostok.

The Russians have had a base at the site since the 1960s, but it was not until two decades later that scientists suspected there was something beneath it. Since 1989, scientists and engineers have been drilling the ice sheet above Lake Vostok to study the Earth's past climates. Drilling was abruptly halted when researchers hit a layer of

refrozen ice 120 meters thick. That led to speculation, later confirmed that almost 12,000 feet below the base there is a 9,000-square-mile subglacial lake about the size of Lake Ontario. The water is unusually warm, probably a little below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, compared with 67 degrees below zero at the surface.

U.S. scientists studied the refrozen ice and found bacteria, which could suggest that a whole

ecosystem different from ours — an alternate ecology — may have existed for thousands, maybe millions, of years.

"That's what we know, and it's not much," said John Priscu, a Montana State University microbial ecology professor who conducted the study.

"We know there's life down there, and it's a bizarre environment under three miles of ice, and it's been there a long time. That's pretty wild."

land just below the Arctic Circle. The closest rock is at least 30 miles down the coast and 50 miles in the other direction.

"I just hope it don't end up being a nice heavy doorstep," Nayokpuk said. "It would be good to have a souvenir."

An expert gave a grainy digital photograph of the rock a quick scan late Thursday.

His first impression?

The world may have another doorstep.

The image of the rock doesn't show any signs of surface melting that is unique to meteorites, which become superheated as they pass into Earth's atmosphere, according to David Stone, a professor emeritus at the university's Geophysical Institute.

"It doesn't have any of the characteristics that I would look for in a meteorite," Stone said by e-mail. "This doesn't rule

there, especially on top of the ice," Nayokpuk said by telephone Thursday from Shishmaref. "I don't think a polar bear would be dragging it home as a souvenir."

The 42-year-old hunter doesn't know whether he's found a meteorite. He wants experts at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to tell him for sure.

The rock — the size of a watermelon, a very dense watermelon — looks a little like basalt, a dark volcanic rock.

But there's no basalt anywhere around Shishmaref, an Inupiat village of fewer than 600 people on a windswept slip of a barrier is-

METEORITE OR DOORSTOP?

Odd rock puzzles Shishmaref hunters

Eighty-pound object turns up on shore ice 9 miles out of town

By ZAZ HOLLANDER
Anchorage Daily News

Curtis Nayokpuk and a friend buzzed across the shore ice nine miles off Shishmaref, scouting for good spots to hunt seals.

Suddenly, Nayokpuk saw something, a flash of dark against the flat, white expanse — a seal poking its head through a breathing hole.

Upon closer inspection, the seal turned into a rock. A rock only 12 inches long but heavy, 80 pounds, and encased in a frozen shell. A rock hot enough to melt the ice around it.

A space rock maybe.

"It's kind of a strange thing to find out

out the possibility that it is one, but I think it is very unlikely."

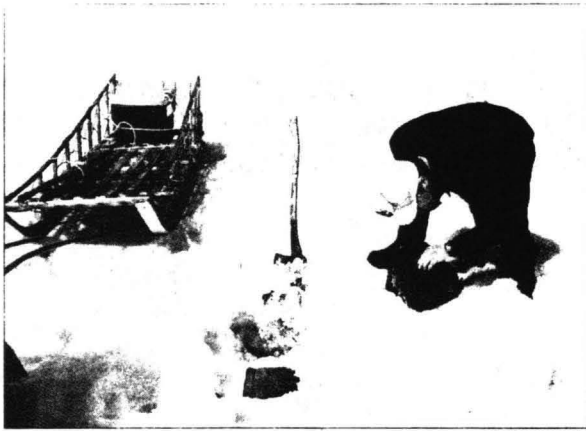
Meteorites aren't uncommon in Alaska. But neither are chunks of very ordinary rock that people carry to UAF for analysis.

The rock on the ice may have drifted up on the seasonal pack ice. The ice moves around, and the rock may have rolled off a coastal cliff onto a floe that ended up off Shishmaref. The melted ice? A product of the rock's dark surface absorbing heat.

The next step is chemical sampling, if Nayokpuk and the university can figure out how to get the rock to Fairbanks.

Sending an 80-pound rock by air cargo makes the seal hunter wonder whether the mystery rock might turn into a doorstep immediately.

"You're looking at at least 70 cents a pound," he said. On the other hand, "it would be worth it just to see what it's made of," he said.



Leonard Kuzuguk examines a rock discovered by seal hunters in sea ice nine miles off Shishmaref. An expert says the rock probably isn't a meteorite

So for the time being, the mystery endures.

There's the fact that there's no rock around Shishmaref. And the seal hunters also say they found the rock on "young," weak ice rather than the main ice that drifts from a distance away.

"That makes it a little more interesting," Stone said.

Alfred Weyiouanna, Shishmaref's public safety officer, decided to check out the rock Thursday afternoon after hearing villagers talk about "how Curtis says he found a meteorite."

Weyiouanna grew up in Shishmaref. He'd never heard of a rock turning up like that on the sea ice.

"I don't think a seal would bring that heavy rock up to the surface," he said.

Reporter Zaz Hollander can be reached at zhollander@adn.com or 257-4591.

PROGRESS, Paulding, OH - May 16, 2001 CR: J. Hamm

More feline sightings keep Oakwood in up-roar

By NANCY WHITAKER
Feature Writer

OAKWOOD — Three weeks after a mysterious large animal was sighted near Oakwood, the creature remains elusive despite several eyewitness reports.

At approximately 9:35 a.m. last Wednesday, the Progress received a report from Sheila Rhees, stating that two residents of Oakwood had spotted the cat, which has been at large around Oakwood since April 25. The two Oakwood residents were Lydia Ferris, and another neighbor, who wished to remain anonymous. The sheriff's office had received the call approximately 9 a.m.

On this particular morning, Ferris' neighbor had gone outside to get her mail sometime between 8:30 and 9 a.m. The source stated she saw a big cat, with pointed ears. It was lying between two trees, across from

her home on Chapel Road. The creature then moved on down through the opening, and was across from Lydia Ferris' home.

Ferris confirmed, "I saw it." She described the cat as yellow, with black pointed ears, which were standing up. It also had a long tubular tail and was about the size of a large boxer dog.

Ferris is very concerned, because she takes care of children in her home, and she is leery about letting them play outside.

The unidentified large animal, which has been sighted by at least three other people, has some of the Oakwood area residents in an uproar.

Sheila Rhees initially had reported the cat sighting on April 25. Since that time, numerous sightings and rumors have circulated around this small town. Some feel that the situation is not being taken seriously, while others seem unaffected by the

animal, and go on like it doesn't exist.

Randy Moore of Grover Hill stated that he has owned exotic pets in the past, but this is not one of his animals roaming around; none of his animals is missing or loose.

Prints taken from around Oakwood were identified as being some type of animal in the dog or wolf family.

Wildlife officer Duane Bailey stated that this type of incident does not fall under his jurisdiction, but that to his knowledge no exotic pets have been reported missing.

After checking the area the morning of May 9, officials still had not spotted the cat, or were any closer to proving or disproving its existence than they were previously.

Ferris says that the town is

tired of being laughed at, and that she knows what she saw. "I know there is a God, and I've never seen him, but I know He is there. Just like I know there is a cat out there in those woods, right across from my house."

One person who saw the animal on Wednesday said it was a big tabby housecat. The other three witnesses disagree. Ferris says, "Trust me, this is no common house cat. This cat was

hunting."

Although there have been no sightings since May 9, some of the residents in Oakwood, are still apprehensive, and want this incident treated more objectively.

So, the folks in Oakwood are waiting, and hoping that the cat will either move on, or get tired of playing cat and mouse games with county officials.

Mystery still unsolved

QUESTION In these days of global navigation systems, do ships and planes still disappear in the Bermuda Triangle?

THE Bermuda Triangle, sometimes called the Devil's Triangle, is an indistinct area whose boundaries are not universally agreed upon, but which has a vaguely triangular shape marked by the southern U.S. Coast, Bermuda and the Greater Antilles.

It comprises an area of about 500 square leagues, 1,500,000 square miles, of sea. Reports of unexplained occurrences — of shipping and aircraft which have disappeared or gone down for no apparent reason — date back to the mid-19th century.

No ships have gone down in the triangle since the Seventies but aircraft, though not necessarily disappearing (the last to vanish without trace was 1986), are still crashing with mysterious regularity.

In the Nineties, 13 planes were lost or destroyed, with 29 people killed; in the Eighties, 26 planes, 84 killed; in the Seventies, 44 planes, 102 killed; in the Sixties, 32 planes, 106 killed; and in the Fifties, two planes, 52 killed.

The most recent crash was on January 5, 2000, when a Cessna 172 crashed four miles east of St Augustine Airport, Florida.

The National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause as the pilot's 'lack of experience in instrument flight, simulated instrument flight and night flight, resulting in the pilot becoming spatially disoriented, and subsequent in-flight collision with water. Contributing to the accident was the dark night with no visible horizon'.

The mysterious factor was that the night was clear and the airport well lit, but even then the pilot's last radio message was: 'I don't see anything.'

There have also been a number of strange occurrences. On June 28, 1980, an Ercole 415-D flying from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic to San Juan in Puerto Rico went down with the loss of



Panic: Fear aboard a doomed airliner in The Bermuda Triangle film

two persons. It reported a UFO just before disappearing.

A number of theories, most fanciful, have been put forward to explain the curse of the Triangle. These include fluctuations in the magnetic field, UFOs, men from Atlantis, freak weather and human error.

Frank Gardner, Liverpool.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
June 25, 2001 CR: G. Duplantier

Big footprints stir sasquatch speculation

'MAYBE MONSTERS'

By Francine Dubé

In May, reports that a monkey man with steel claws was killing people as they slept panicked residents of New Delhi. Last week residents of Santiago, Chile, were enthralled by tales that a 10-year-old boy had been found living in a cave with a pack of dogs. Now, Canada is fielding reports that Bigfoot is prowling around Northern Ontario.

Footprints 35 centimetres long and 12 centimetres wide have been found on the Weenusk First Nation reserve along the south shore of Hudsons Bay, 1,600 kilometres north of Toronto.

"It's definitely not a bear," said Abraham Hunter, chief of the 260-member band.

"I looked at them. They were six feet [two metres] apart, walking."

Brett Kelly, a non-believing spokesman in the office of John Snobelen, Ontario's Environment Minister, noted no official analysis has been done of the print.

"It's just big, shaped like a human footprint, and ... further analysis will be required to determine its origin," said Mr. Kelly.

He said the official position of the ministry is that officials are "bemused."

Such sightings are typically cultural-specific, said Dr. Laurence Kirmayer, director of McGill University's division of social and transcultural psychiatry.

No one would believe that a crazed monkey man was on the loose in Canada, but in India, where monkeys are common,

people did believe — until it was proven to be the product of mass hysteria. The dog-boy of Chile, meanwhile, turned out to be embellishing.

"These things happen all the time, but we're surprised because we underestimate the power of the imagination and the power of belief," said Dr. Kirmayer.

At the Weenusk First Nation, elders have spoken of the existence of a sasquatch for hundreds of years, Mr. Hunter said, and two elders claimed to have spotted the beast about 20 years ago.

On June 14, days after the reserve sighting, a provincial Ministry of Natural Resources officer examining old radar stations uncovered an unusual track 150 kilometres east, in a remote area of Polar Bear Provincial Park.

"I was walking through the bush and I looked down and saw this footprint," said Rick Tapley, an MNR officer with 31 years of experience. "I couldn't explain what it was. I naturally thought it might be Bigfoot because of the shape of it."

He has taken a lot of ribbing from colleagues, but Mr. Tapley has believed Sasquatch is real since coming across giant footprints leading out of the woods north of Sudbury in 1972.

Cliff Crook, a sasquatch tracker from Washington state who believes in sasquatch but not all sightings, says he can't be sure without visiting Canada whether the footprints are real.

"I call them 'maybe monsters,' because I believe people are sighting apparitions — things that exist to them, but not to anybody else," he said.

National Post

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - May 3, 2001

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

MORE BIGFOOT ACTIVITY — An organization which has been doing a lot of Bigfoot research is in the field in a big way in this area. We speak of the Washington Bigfoot Research Group (WBRG), whose rep is Ron Knapp of the Tri-Cities.

"We have been active all winter long in the Blue Mountains," Knapp tells me. "We have been doing snowmobile surveys for migration patterns to lower altitudes. In late January members found old tracks leading into the Spangler Creek basin. We tried night vision in the area but the bitter cold at 5,000 feet was very deterring for us."

"Last month doing surveys of roads and trails in one of our research area, we located what we believe are old tracks on one of the roads on Cahill Mountain. This area now has a motion camera in place. This may be just a single male roaming the area. We have heard some creature in the area screaming at us and members have heard similar screaming in the Panjab Creek area, too."

Knapp says he has hopes of some success come summer months. He says his group can be contacted on the Internet under "Washington Bigfoot Research Group, where field reports are filed for your perusal."

"You can also file sighting reports, with all such reports being kept strictly confidential, or you can contact me direct at: forestrkr@aol.com."

As in our previous Bigfoot report of activities around here, the researchers/investigators are now doing their thing with the latest in electronic devices on all fronts.

Maybe this is the year the Bigfoot matter is finally



"It's definitely not a bear," said Weenusk First Nation Chief Abraham Hunter about the massive footprints. The dotted line was added to this photograph to better show the footprint's size in comparison with a human foot.

RICK TAPLEY