

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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

September 2001
Number 386

SENTINEL, Aurora, CO - Aug. 2, 2001

Story by Frank Bell Photo by Melody Parten

Joshua Estudillo makes no claims to being Aurora's Fox Mulder, but the self-described sky watcher said he has seen some things in the skies that defy explanation.

Estudillo, 23, is part of a small but growing — and increasingly vocal — nationwide community that believes in forces and beings beyond our knowledge that might be visiting our planet on a regular basis. Call it the hot rods of the gods or the grays if you like. But Estudillo and his 26-year-old girlfriend, Rae Gonzales, said they saw "something" in the skies near Buckley Air Force Base shortly before 4 a.m. July 20. The sighting was no chance encounter — Estudillo and Gonzales regularly make forays to an observation site near E-470 and East Jewell Avenue to watch the skies for out-of-the-ordinary occurrences.

The couple described the object they saw as a glowing copper-colored disc with a blue, iridescent, comma-



The truth is out there...

shaped tail that looked, as Gonzales described it, like "diamond dust" coming off one end of the disc. The object moved in a straight line behind some patchy clouds then reappeared, which means it had to be fairly high up but not high enough to see without binoculars, the couple said.

When asked if the object could have been a weather balloon, Estudillo matter-of-factly said, "Nah, they don't glow like that."

Gonzales said she saw the same object and that she and Estudillo were amazed to find that after they separated to record in their notebooks what they saw, their sketches and notes were nearly identical.

"I'm not into it as much as he is," Gonzales said. "But I definitely did see something."

Estudillo is passionate about skywatching.

"I started as a fourth grader," Estudillo said. "I'm constantly looking up, every day. When I got older, I got stronger; it's sort of my calling."

Estudillo and Gonzales have traveled to the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado to catch a glimpse of what many have described as glowing red and orange orbs that appear at night, something Colorado-based Mutual UFO Network International Director John Schuessler said is a common sighting.

"The orbs, that has been occurring for years around the world," Schuessler said. "Lately, we've had a number of sightings in the San Luis Valley and its darn remote there."

That remoteness is good for sighting such things as the orbs because the air is generally more clear than near populated and developed areas.

"When something like that moves in the San Luis Valley, you know it," Schuessler said.

Schuessler, who worked as a life support systems manager on NASA's Gemini program, was one of the non-profit group's founding members in 1969. He retired three years ago. The group's Colorado headquarters is located here in Aurora and the international headquarters is in Littleton. Schuessler said his group often works in conjunction with the National UFO Reporting Center run by Peter Davenport, a regular commentator on national radio about such phenomena.

"At the time, when we started the group, my interest grew out of my work in the space program," Schuessler said. "People I trust told me some things that were mind-boggling. I haven't had a sighting myself, but I deal with data and I accept the data."

He said there are several factors that have driven the rise in UFO-consciousness over the last two decades.

"First, you can only poo-poo something for so long," Schuessler said. "Also, there are a lot of people with a scientific background getting involved."

As an increasing number of military veterans have come forward publicly over the last decade with sightings they have had, civilians have become more comfortable with it as well.

"What's somebody going to do to

them?" he asked. "The times have changed, too. We really have no more of the 'loose lips sink ships' attitude that began in World War II. The Internet can be a useful tool — and a devil as well — but it does communicate things worldwide. It's very hard to cover it up when it's worldwide. And I don't think people are as intimidated today as they were 10, 20, 30 years ago. It really doesn't matter to them what people think, and a lot more people are thinking for themselves now."

As for Estudillo's sighting, Schuessler said it is intriguing, although the iridescent tail is not a common element.

"We've got almost nothing like that recently, but the disc shape and copper color, that's fairly prevalent."

When Estudillo told members of the Denver UFO Society, of which he is a member, about his sighting, several other Aurora members told him they had seen the same thing recently.

Officials at Buckley Air Force Base said they were unaware of any reports about such an object and referred questions to Air Force spokesman Capt. Joe DellaVedova at the Pentagon.

"We're not in the UFO business," DellaVedova said, but added that his office receives UFO reports about two or three times a year.

DellaVedova did speak briefly about Project Blue Book, an Air Force investigation into UFO's that was discontinued in the late 1960s. The project spawned a brief but popular late-1970s NBC television series about

two Air Force officers who investigated fictional accounts of UFO reports based on real Project Blue Book material.

"Project Blue Book is on the web now," he said. "But as far as us getting reports, it's pretty rare."

Estudillo, whose interest was partly influenced by his grandfather's work for NASA, said he believes there will soon be major revelations about what many UFOs actually are. When asked, he agrees that UFOs don't always mean little green men, but said there are bound to be things discovered that we as humans have not yet encountered.

"My grandfather always used to say 'For sure, they're out there,'" Estudillo said. Stranger still, his grandfather spoke of someone coming for him on the day he died.

"That day there was a UFO spotted," he said.

As long as curiosity remains high, Estudillo said he believes a revelation might come sooner than later.

"It's 2001 now," he said. "There's gotta be a reason for all this."

If you think you've seen something in the sky that defies explanation, there are several local and national outlets for making a report. The Colorado MUFON chapter in Aurora can be reached at 303-451-5992. The National UFO Reporting Center also takes reports at its website at www.nuforc.com. The NUFORC website also outlines formats for concise report submissions.

Skywatching 101

Local skywatcher Joshua Estudillo admits his hobby might seem strange to some people, but there is a method to it.

Whether you are looking for UFOs or simply want to catch a glimpse of astronomical phenomena, Estudillo has some tips for those who are new to skywatching.

"Don't drink alcohol or smoke while you go," he said.

Alcohol impairs judgement and smoking has been shown to affect night vision.

Dressing for the weather is a must, but always take along at least a light jacket — nighttime temperatures can still drop into the 40s even in July or August if a cold front is moving through.

Basic equipment should include:

- A digital or film camera with zoom capability
- A video recorder, with night vision mode if possible
- Comfortable outdoor chairs
- Good binoculars with a 7 x 50 rating or higher
- A notebook and pens and pencils

It's also a good idea to bring a partner who shares your interest along as well. Find a semi-remote area and set up shop. The human visual range can pick up about a third of the total sky. Watch sectors of the sky on a scheduled basis and make notes of what you see.



CHARLTON COMICS 'OUTER SPACE' VOL. 2, NO. 1 NOVEMBER 1968

From comic books to movies to television — UFOs, flying saucers and aliens have long been part of popular culture.

1 9 5 2

Summer OF saucers

When the UFO phenomenon swept Iredell County

BY O.C. STONESTREET III
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD & LANDMARK

Simply put, the summer of 1952 was different. It started out just like other summers: School let out, kids came home from college, the weather got warmer, people took to doing more things outside.

It was to be exceptionally hot and dry that summer. The local fire departments had their hands full controlling grass and brush fires from the first week of July. Thermometers registered 104 degrees in Columbia, S.C., on July 20 and 96 degrees in Statesville on July 23. That same day, it was 99 in Myrtle Beach and 98 in Charlotte and Raleigh.

Very few homes then had air conditioning — something we take for granted 50 years later. But most houses did have front porches then, and in the evening people got out of their warm houses to sit on front porches to enjoy the evening air and perhaps catch a refreshing breeze while they perused the newspaper or snapped a mess of beans.

It is a safe bet that few Iredell folk were thinking about flying saucers.

These flying saucers were not exactly new, the term having been coined in the summer of 1947, five summers earlier. Commercial pilot Kenneth Arnold claimed to have seen nine shiny, pulsating objects cruising over the Cascade Mountains of Washington state.

In his words, the discs "flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water." Notice that he was describing the movement of the objects, not the appearance of the objects themselves.

Nonetheless, the name "flying saucers" was coined by the press, and it stuck. Now, five years later, flying saucer sightings were reaching epidemic proportions.

The first saucers of the season were reported in the local newspapers on July 17. Two airline pilots said that they had observed eight objects "glowing like red hot coals and traveling 1,000 miles per hour."

The things had zoomed past their aircraft when it had been over the Chesapeake Bay.

Two days later the papers said saucers had been spotted by an Elizabeth City, N.C., watchman. Mr. H.G. Lane said that he had spotted them on three occasions — two of them on May 12, three on June 10 and four of the things on the 18th of July. He also mentioned that his radio had gone on the blink when saucers were in the area.

Seven to 10 "unidentified aerial objects" were seen in the vicinity of Washington National Airport on July 21. Adding to their credibility was the fact that the objects were not only seen visually, but were also observed on radar screens.

"This information," said the paper, "has been relayed to the proper Air Force authorities, and the Air Force is investigating the matter."

You bet they were. Remember that the Korean War was going on at this time. The Russians had the atomic bomb. Unidentified aircraft, if indeed they were some kind of aircraft, zipping willy-nilly over the Heart of Democracy was a situation that the U.S. Air Force took very seriously.

About the same time and on the same night, some boys and girls were having a wiener roast at the home of Tommy Kerr on Caldwell Street in Statesville. According to Jim Lippard, John Roueche and Tommy Kerr, a saucer made an appearance at 8:05, returned at 9:05, and then returned again at 9:23.

The young men conceded the possibility that it could have been just one saucer making three appearances. "The boys," said The Landmark, "described the objects as 'bigger than a softball; very bright, the first two looking flat in the sky, the third one at an angle.'"

All the objects were reported as moving north to south. They estimated the objects as being between 75 to 100 feet in diameter. The boys didn't believe the light had been airplanes, but it was noted, "...As they moved a trail of light seemed to follow."

Meanwhile, down in Mooresville, two Cascade Street residents, Mrs. C.A. Major and Mrs. Buford Blanton, were taking in a breath of fresh air on the porch of Mrs. Blanton's home "When whoosh — a light lit up the northern sky, grew quickly into what Mrs. Manor described as a 'pinkish-purple ball of fire,' and quickly disappeared toward the south."

Within half an hour, another object appeared, behaving in a similar fashion as the first and also eventually disappearing toward the south.

There was to be more: "Before the two skywatchers had decided to retire they had seen at least half a dozen similar mysterious swift-moving lights."

A notice had appeared in the previous week's Mooresville Tribune advising its readers to report "mysterious aerial occurrences" to the Mooresville City Manager Mr. Robert Peck, who would, in turn, pass on such reports to the Civil Defence people. The next morning, Mrs. Blanton did just that.

Making a personal visit to the two ladies, City Manager Peck concluded that what the two distressed damsels had seen had been meteorites. The Tribune concluded its coverage of the incident with the following: "Meanwhile, both Mrs. Major and Mrs. Blanton are not convinced that what they saw Monday night were only meteorites."

With the rains of the middle of August 1952 came relief from the sweltering heat. Million-dollar rains came at supertime.

Fall came in like the voice of reason, and with it things got back to normal. School buses rolled again. College kids returned to their studies. The weather began to turn noticeably cooler. People spent more of their evenings inside, and with all the rainclouds, one couldn't see that much in the night sky anyway. Everyone agreed that the autumn leaves were not as bright, not as colorful as usual, probably because of the long dry spell and unseasonable heat.

Thoughts of flying saucers were hauled off with the dead leaves.

An Air Force spokesman commented that the number of saucer sightings were already almost double the number reported the previous year.

The Statesville Landmark next told about how a mysterious object had raced across the heavens over Cleveland, Ohio, on the 24th of July. It made, so said the story, "... A flight of six speedy jets look like tired snails."

The Air Force, predictably, wrote this one off as a weather balloon.

On the night of July 27, lights again visited the nation's capital. This time, they were seen from the ground, tracked on radar and chased by a jet interceptor. For some reason or other, the jet wasn't able to get near them.

It was just a matter of time until one of the things made an appearance closer to home. Two nights later, on the 29th of July, a "bright red glowing cylindrical object"



COURTESY OF CHARLTON COMICS 'OUTER SPACE' VOL. 2, NO. 1 NOVEMBER 1968

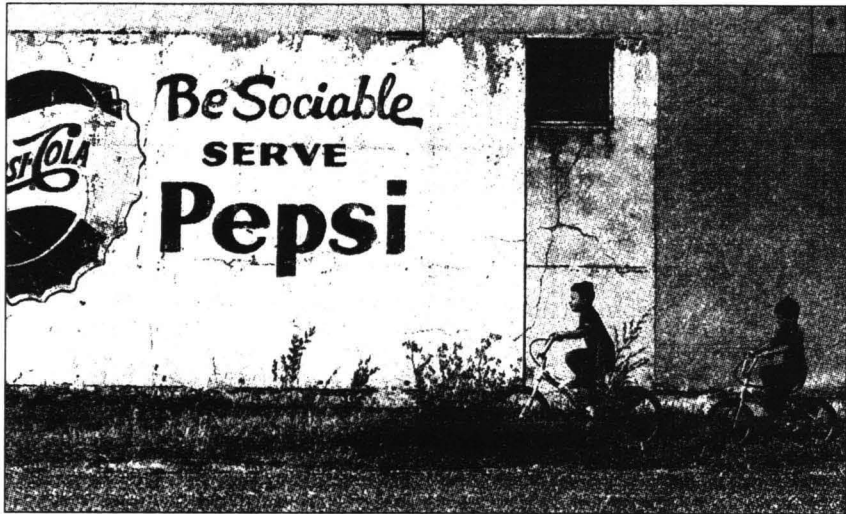
was spotted over the North Carolina town of Goldsboro. The two married couples that saw it didn't know what it was, but said that the object definitely was not an aircraft.

The next day, the 30th of July, three speedy saucers were seen whizzing over central Indiana.

On Aug. 4, the local paper told the citizens of Iredell to report any saucers they might see to the local Civil Defence authorities. And 10 days later, on Aug. 14, things began to happen in Iredell.

The Daily Record recorded that Patricia Setzer and Charles Dagenhart, who lived

near Lookout Dam, saw saucers that came in from the east and then disappeared toward the north. Miss Setzer remarked that they left an orange "streamer" behind them, which she estimated to have been about two yards long and a foot wide.



Special to The Denver Post / Chuck Bigger
Anthony Cicone, 7, left, and Nicky Marlett, 5, ride their bikes in Saguache. Sightings of a meteor on Aug. 17 have spurred scientific inquiry and talk of UFOs.

Meteor lands in San Luis lore

By Gwen Florio
Denver Post Staff Writer

SAGUACHE — It's out there. Somewhere. Whatever it is.

This IS the San Luis Valley, after all. Who knows if the blazing object that fell (was piloted?) to Earth two weeks ago was really a meteor?

Whatever it is — and, just for the record, scientists have no doubt it was a meteor — is the object of intense curiosity by everyone from geologists to gold diggers.

"Those things have a lot of precious metals in them," said Eric Davey, who runs cattle south of

Saguache, the unofficial staging ground for the meteorite hunt. "Someone's going to find it, and it's not going to be a scientist."

But the scientists are trying.

"Did you see the meteor?" reads a sign in the window of Q-Foods, whose half-dozen aisles constitute the town's sole grocery store. "Denver museum scientists are seeking information."

Jack Murphy, curator of geology for the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, has been trying to pinpoint the meteorite's location by talking to people who saw it, then plotting its trajectory from their descriptions.

So far, those descriptions indicate the meteor broke into burning bits that showered down on an area somewhere between Storm King campground, west of town, and Creede.

Problem is, everybody who saw the meteor thinks it came down practically in his backyard.

"I was 150 miles away," said Dick Doyle, 51, who lives 5 miles from Storm King campground but was guiding a trip down the Chama River when the meteor lit up the sky about 10:45 that Friday night. "But it was so enormous, we thought it fell two ridges over."

People who saw the meteor talk of it in terms of wonderment usually reserved for accounts of unidentified flying objects — of which plenty have been reported in the valley.

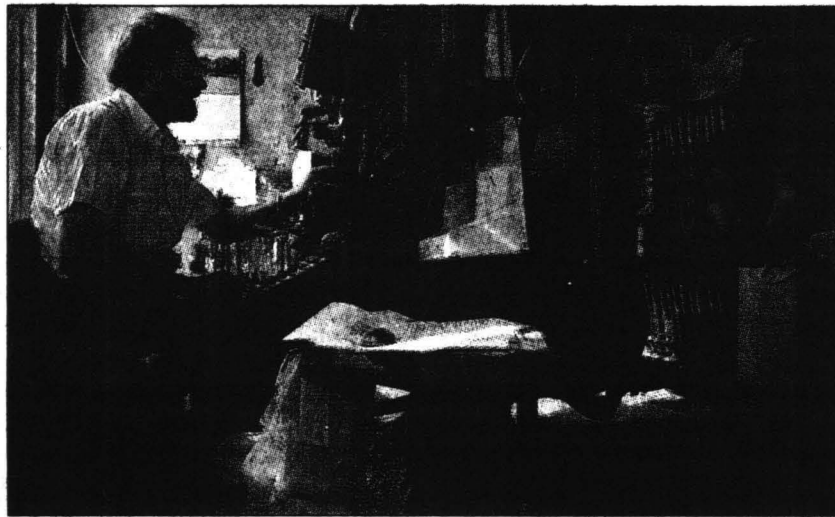
Riff Fenton of Saguache doesn't think what he saw that night was a UFO — "we knew immediately what it was" — but called it a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "It lit up the night sky like a skylight," said Fenton, a potter who with his wife, Marilyn, was driving over Poncha Pass when the meteor flashed overhead.

"It was like fireworks, except it was going down instead of coming up," he said. "You know you're looking at a wonderful phenomenon you'll never see again."

The meteor, naturally, is the talk of the town in Saguache, a community of 584 populated by a mix of Hispanic and Anglo ranchers who have been there for generations and "the aliens," as people like Don Geddes, who runs Saguache Gallery & Espresso, describes relative newcomers like himself.

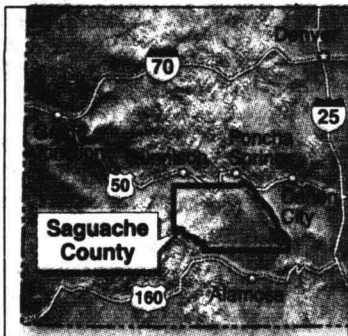
Geddes was lounging in a hot spring, helping a friend celebrate his 50th birthday, when the meteor put on its display. "The light had a greenish look — a real deep intensity."

As it would be in any small town, everybody knows who saw the me-



Saguache Crescent publisher Dean Coombs sets type on a hot-lead typesetter, an antique no longer used at any other paper in Colorado. The San Luis Valley goes its own way in other matters, too, including its UFO lore.

Special to The Post
Chuck Bigger



The Denver Post

eteor and who didn't. Ruth Sewell, 84, whose grandfather was the valley's first doctor, didn't see the meteor, but she's seen plenty of other things in the valley.

"The ice floe," she said, speaking of a pileup of spring ice and snow

on Saguache Creek in the 1970s that became so threatening that the Army Corps of Engineers bulldozed it. "That was something."

Kay Doyle, who with her husband, Dick, runs La Garita Llama outfitters, took up the refrain.

"Well, a guy got murdered two canyons down 13, 14 years ago. And there was Snippy," she said, referring to the Appaloosa filly whose flaying death in 1967 was the first in a string of animal mutilations in the valley that some people attribute to aliens.

About those aliens . . .

A book by valley resident Chris O'Brien, "The Mysterious Valley," outlines hundreds of supposed UFO and extraterrestrial sightings. There have been so many that Judy Messoline's UFO Watchtower, on the eastern edge of the valley, has done a brisk business since opening

18 months ago, attracting visitors from as far away as Australia, Japan and Russia. Her phone has been ringing off the hook ever since the meteor fell, said Messoline, who slept through the sky show.

"Like the other things," she said, quickly outlining a handful of sky shenanigans she has seen since moving to the valley just six years ago. "I want an explanation for this. Nobody can tell you what it is."

But David Lawrence, 29, who lives in Crestone, put the valley's phenomena in perspective.

It's true, he said: Amazing things happen here all the time.

He gestured toward the sky, where the setting sun flamed red, lighting up the Sangre de Cristos in a way that underscored their name.

"The spectacular things that happen around here?" he said. "They're called sunsets."

THE WORM Maybe it's the heat ...

OK, no use denying it. The sun is beating down, temperatures are flying off the chart and some unusual things have been happening in the old city as August unfolds.

Can you say "dog days of summer"?

Want proof? Read on.

From above: June Berdine

reports she observed strange lights jumping and dancing around the skies the evening of Aug. 1.

The Wenatchee resident is not the only one. Two sober journalists say they saw the same thing.

"The first thing I thought was that it must be some spotlights somewhere," said Berdine, describing the lights as white and round. "I was thinking, 'These aren't UFOs! I don't believe in them.'"

The men in blue aren't buying talk of UFOs. They say no one called to report strange lights. Nor are they aware of any large spotlights working the area.

Was that the Giffords' android that was hovering over Carteret?

By BARRY LANK

What I hate most about UFO sightings is that I don't know what I'm supposed to do with them. I mean, somebody shines a light in your face, and you either get probed or you don't — sort of like a doctor's exam after you turn 40. What, then, can we do about the sightings over Carteret two weeks ago?

Dozens of people reported seeing yellowish-orange lights float slowly across the sky in a V formation. Motorists pulled over along the New Jersey Turnpike to watch, and video footage of it showed up on MSNBC — both on the air and online. And I guess my question is, so what?

The first people I asked were the publishers of *Weird New Jersey*, a twice-yearly magazine with first-hand accounts of UFOs, haunted houses and inexplicable stuff that turns up in people's front yards.

They get all kinds of calls and letters — including, according to co-editor Mark Moran, a six-page handwritten note (not slated for publication) from a guy in prison saying Frank and Kathie Lee Gifford were something other than human and were taking over the media. I gently pointed out that the Giffords are taking over the media. But I focused my questions on Carteret. Moran said dozens of witnesses indeed had contacted the magazine.

"The reports seem almost identical," he said. "No one can say what it was, but they can agree on what they saw ... little balls of fire moving across the sky, falling down and fading."

These reports will be in issue No. 17 of *Weird New Jersey*, due out in

October. But they don't seem to explain much.

"I think this one is going to remain a mystery," Moran said. "I guess it's why they call it 'unidentified.'"

Maybe so, I thought. But I couldn't help thinking about the Giffords.

So I sought research insights from

When confronted with the inexplicable, most of us long to break away from the methodical approach for a really wild, screwball conclusion.

New Jersey's "Dr. UFO," Pat Marcattilio, who has been studying UFOs for 45 years and holds monthly discussion groups at a library every month. Marcattilio said the main things you do with UFO reports, however, is establish what the objects were not.

"We've ruled out meteors," because the lights moved too slowly, he said. And they've ruled out balloons, because balloons don't float in formation. They didn't look like airplane lights or birds. And although Venus was very bright in the sky that night, it wasn't Venus because there were more than a dozen of them.

"That's all we can do, is rule out what the people saw," Marcattilio said.

That sounds reasonable. But instead of being reasonable, I would like to point out that Frank Gifford became a TV sportscaster in 1958,

while still playing for the New York Giants. Kathie Lee was born 5 years earlier on Aug. 16, Frank Gifford's birthday! Also born on Aug. 16 were Eydie Gorme, Fess Parker (TV's "Daniel Boone"), Julie Newmar, Lesley Ann Warren and Madonna.

Science cannot explain any of this. But science can do a few more things before we give up.

Peter B. Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said witness accounts from Carteret can help establish the objects' location, ground track, size and similarity to other sightings.

"Cases that seemingly are indistinguishable from the Carteret event have been reported at our center since February 2000, principally from Rockford, Ill., and Prescott, Ariz.," Davenport said.

Ah, now we're getting somewhere! Unfortunately, though, it's as far as we're going to get for now. And how satisfying is that?

When confronted with the inexplicable, most of us long to break away from Davenport's methodical approach for a really wild, screwball conclusion. And here's mine:

Frank and Kathie Lee Gifford have made an android version of Daniel Boone in the future. Strangely, Madonna is not part of the conspiracy. But Julie Newmar and Lesley Ann Warren are taking over Monday Night Football. And all of them are controlled by the true mastermind, Eydie Gorme. That can mean only one thing about the UFOs over Carteret:

They're weather balloons or something.

Barry Lank is a columnist for the *Courier-Post* in Cherry Hill.

WORLD-HERALD, Omaha, NE - July 12, 2001



Michael Kelly

UFO Beliefs Part Folklore

The whole notion of UFOs fascinates some and infuriates others. Is the truth out there, as they say on TV's "X-Files"?

Or is the idea just — far out?

The Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, holds meetings every other month in Omaha for those interested in unidentified flying objects, including people who believe they have been abducted by aliens. The next meeting is 11 a.m. July 21 at the Abrahams Public Library, 5111 N. 90th St.

"For the most part, people are really sincere," said John W. Buder, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant who calls "ufology" his hobby. "They're not cuckoo clocks who see stuff in the sky every day."

The public, Buder said, is invited to attend — debunkers, too.

That same weekend in Los Angeles, an international MUFON meeting will attract hundreds. Among them will be John C. "Jack" Kasher, who retired this spring as a physics professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Speaking at the convention will be Dr. Steven Greer, a Virginia emergency-room physician. He heads the Disclosure Project, an attempt to get the government to admit that UFOs are real.

At the project's May 9 press conference in Washington, D.C., more than 20 people, many of them former military personnel, described their encounters with UFOs and said they were prepared to testify before Congress — if hearings are held, as the Disclosure Project wants.

Phenomenon

Kasher believes we have been visited by extraterrestrials. Buder said he believes in UFOs but can't say he knows for sure.

"When you look at the phenomenon worldwide," Buder said, "the stories are so interesting. It's part of folklore. It's fascinating. But I'll go to my grave never knowing for sure."

Among those who attend the Omaha meetings is Phillip S. Duke, a former UNO instructor who in 1966 earned a

doctorate in experimental pathology from the University of Southern California medical school. He has written a collection of short stories, "Tales of Evil and Good," published by iuniverse.com; and has self-published a book that's controversial even in the UFO community, "The AIDS-ET Connection."

Duke hypothesizes that the AIDS epidemic was caused by extraterrestrials. He says that widely documented cattle mutilations — with laserlike cuts and the blood drained from the carcasses — are the key.

Kasher said no one knows why mutilations occur. "Maybe they were some kind of scientific study. They definitely seem to be UFO-related."

Kasher added: "I believe in the reality of UFO abductions, but the hypothesis that extraterrestrials have caused AIDS by deliberately infecting abductees is more than I can personally accept."

Buder, who said Duke is a friend, likewise doesn't endorse an AIDS-ET connection.

Plague, Too?

"Phil is a very prolific writer," Buder said. "He is not the first with this hypothesis, but I do not subscribe to it. He could be right, he could be wrong. If someone asked me do I believe extraterrestrials planted AIDS on this

planet — I don't know. Did they also plant the bubonic plague?"

Duke said he's had difficulty getting his hypothesis reviewed. His main professional interest has been disease. Few ufologists, he said, have his background in biology.

On clear summer nights, away from city lights, it's easy to look at the skies and wonder what's out there beyond the stars. It's happened for a long time.

Fifty-four years ago this month in Roswell, N.M., a military press release said the wreckage of a crashed disk had been recovered. Hours later the release was rescinded, saying the 509th Bomb Group had mistakenly identified a weather balloon as the wreckage of a flying saucer. People still talk about "the Roswell incident."

In 1938, Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" broadcast of a fictional Martian invasion caused panic.

Buder said newspaper reports in 1884 tell of cowboys near the southwest Nebraska town of Max. They saw a strange object in the sky that crashed and set the prairie on fire, leaving metal parts on the ground.

Reports of fiery objects in the sky date to antiquity. Today, some take UFOs very seriously, to the point of obsession. Others, even those who seriously believe, realize they have to keep a sense of humor.

Said Kasher: "Everybody in the field knows that to a lot of people, this is far out."

Rush takes aim at UFO politics

Judging from the brevity of the exchange, which was recorded by CNN on July 28, 2000, you can almost hear George W. Bush's eyeballs clicking against the socket ceilings.

Addressing the media horde as the Republican Convention in Philadelphia winds down, this one guy, Charles Huffer, manages to squeeze a response from the Texas governor. What the gov doesn't know is, Huffer's a state regional director for the Mutual UFO Network in Arkansas.

Huffer: "Half the public believes that (unidentified flying objects) are real. Would you finally tell us what the hell is going on (if elected president)?"

W.: "Sure I will."
Huffer (gesturing to running mate Dick Cheney): "This man knows. He was secretary of defense."
W.: "And a good one."

A few minutes later, off camera, Huffer catches one more Bush blurb on his audiocassette: "It'll be the first thing he (Cheney) will do. He'll get right on it."

Yeah, sure, whatever. The only reason for presenting this otherwise inconsequential snippet from the margins is that recently, \$120 million gasbag Rush Limbaugh decided that no attack on the Bush clan — not even those related to UFOs — should get a free pass. Limbaugh drew a bead on Daniel Sheehan, chief counsel for the Disclosure Project, a group of former government, military and corporate types who gathered in Washington, D.C., on May 9 to lobby Congress for open hearings on the UFO phenomenon.

Sheehan and Disclosure Project director Steven Greer argued that the recovery and exploitation of crashed UFOs has led to the development of technologies that can harness free energy, enough to end petroleum's hammerlock on the world economy.

But they also contended the innovations were buried deep inside black budget operations to keep from destabilizing financial institutions.

Media coverage of the witness testimony was scant and yawning. Three months after the press conference, letter-writing campaigns haven't generated many blips on political radar screens. Senate heavies like Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) brush off constituents with form-letter replies referring all queries to the long-dead Project Blue Book archives. Lesser-known rubber stamps like Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), who support pouring billions of dollars into National Missile Defense, write that "it would be irresponsible to spend taxpayer money on hearings and legislation related to such phenomena."

So, obviously, if you're just another brick in the wall, the smart thing to do is let this Disclosure Project thing die a slow, natural death. But then, along comes Limbaugh — you know, the guy with talent on loan from God? With half his brain tied behind his back? On the cutting edge of societal revolution? Limbaugh makes an issue of Sheehan's charge that President-elect Carter's attempts to honor a campaign pledge to declassify UFOs were stymied by then-CIA director George Bush in 1976.

"So let me get this straight," Limbaugh says. "The Bushes are at the heart of the vast right-wing conspiracy to keep the oil companies rich by hiding extraterrestrial solar panels or super-warm sweaters or whatever it is they showed Jimmy Carter."

Limbaugh's bottom line: UFOs are just another "liberals from Planet X" Bush-bashing platform. "You may be surprised to hear me say that Mr. Sheehan is half right," Limbaugh says. "There is alien life — but we are not hiding it. We see Dick Gephardt plain as day!"

That's a real seam-splitter, dude.

Too bad the godfather of Republican conservatism, Barry Goldwater — Mr. Extremism In Defense of Liberty Is No Vice — isn't around to untie the other half of Limbaugh's brain. Goldwater aired his frustrations to no less than Larry King regarding his inability to access top-secret UFO data when he was chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.



Billy Cox
People

DAILY RECORD, Hickory, NC - July 18, 2001 CR: G. Fawcett

PEOPLE Local quoted in documentary about UFOs

A Mount Airy native and Lincolnton resident, known for his 57 years of UFO investigations and research this week received recognition in two different media in Nevada and in York.

A documentary video film titled "Roswell (The Naked Truth Revealed)" filmed by Mark Easter of easterfilms.com located at Sparks, Nev., had its World Premiere showing at the International UFO Museum & Research Center at Roswell, New Mexico.

Interviewed in the film was George D. Fawcett, a ufologist from Lincolnton, North Carolina along with other.

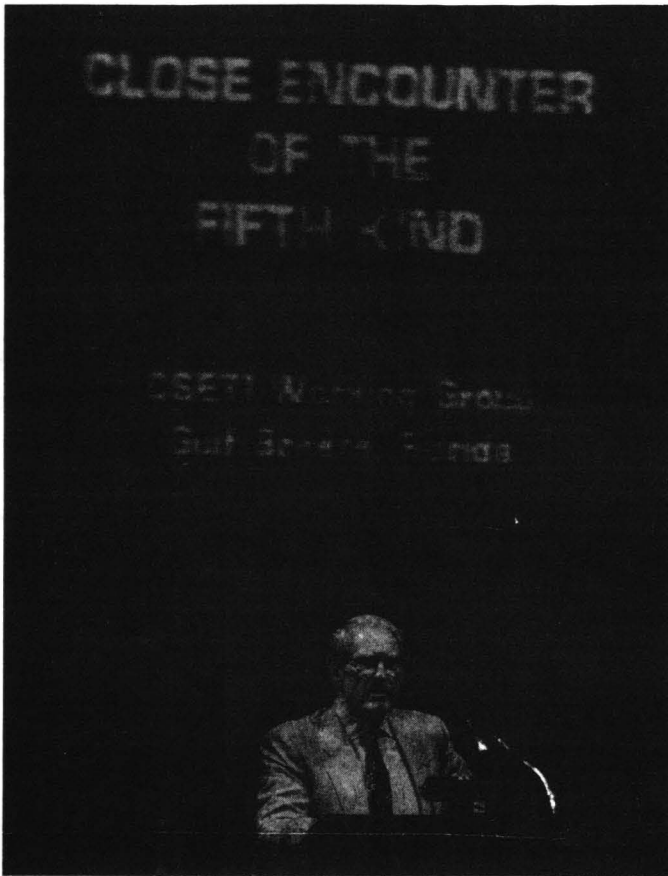
Science writer Ronald D. Story of St. Petersburg, Fla., is the author of a book "The Encyclopedia of Extraterrestrial Encounters (A Definitive Illustrated A-Z Guide to All Things Alien)," which is published by Penquin Putnam, Inc. in New York, N.Y. The book features contributions by hundreds of UFO investigators and organizations globally.

Fawcett's "Repetitions" and other articles, his biography, photo and position statement are all published in this volume.

"This thing has gotten so highly classified ... that it is just impossible to get anything on it," Goldwater wrote to one constituent. To another, he added: "I have no idea of who controls the flow of 'need to know,' because frankly, I was told in such an emphatic way that it was none of my business that I've never tried to make it my business since."

Glib campaign sound bites to the contrary, the status quo is safely entrenched. Limbaugh attacking UFO declassification as a "liberal agenda" is like a hippo breakdancing in Spandex. He draws major-league attention to what his fellow ideologues would just as soon leave under a rock, and the guy winds up looking like a dork.

Billy Cox's column runs every Wednesday. He can be reached at 242-3774, or Florida Today, P.O. Box 419000, Melbourne, FL 32941-9000.



Project discloses secrets from beyond the fringe

By Douglas Fischer
STAFF WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — This is what we're not being told: That UFOs have landed on this planet.

That the propulsion systems on these machines would forever change your trip to the grocery store. That government, in cahoots with Big Oil, has conspired to keep these secrets from society.

Oh yes, and that there's a giant alien base on the dark side of the moon.

The Disclosure Project rolled into San Francisco Sunday, drawing 1,000 people interested in hearing more about humanity's encounters of the close kind — and the military-industrial complex's efforts to cover them up.

This is a world 38 levels beyond Top Secret clearance. You need Cosmic Clearance. Crypto Clearance. Need-to-Know with Zebra Stripes.

Roswell started this. But there's so much more Uncle Sam isn't telling you.

"And yes there were some aliens on it. And yes, we got 'em," came one disclosure, via video, from a former military officer.

It's a world where aliens come in peace, only to find their engines jammed by military radar and their crafts shot down by U.S. missiles. Where military scientists, using captured propulsion systems, have unlocked the secrets of

antigravity and "zero-point" energy yet keep mum to avoid destabilizing the American hegemony. Where a space-based missile system would grievously affront the international and intergalactic community alike.

Video proof comes thanks to the Disclosure Project, a crusade headed by an emergency room doctor from Virginia.

"We are the last generation that can live in the way our ancestors did — in war and strife and greed," said Steven Greer, Disclosure's founder. "The world begins with new energy and propulsion systems, that you and I can pay for, and that are locked in a black box."

But most surprising about the afternoon was not the two-hour video disclosing painstakingly collected details of aliens and their capture. It was the cross-section of society the audience reflected: housewives and college kids, button-downed grandparents and pierced bleached blonds, male and female, Latino and black.

Even a Nazi scientist, killed in 1939 and reborn as a woman now living in Vallejo.

"A lot of crazy, crazy people are involved in this," said Disclosure's media liaison, Leslie Kean, plaintively adding: "I hope you don't ridicule it."

Visit the Disclosure Project at www.disclosureproject.com

Soap-opera actor Jon Cypher spoke to nearly 1,000 people Sunday in San Francisco on the Disclosure Project, an effort to peel away military secrets about extraterrestrials. The project's goal is to unveil new alien technologies and bring peace to the globe.

SEAN CONNELLEY
— Staff

CAPITAL-JOURNAL, Topeka, KS
Aug. 12, 2001 CR: A. Yoho

Ventura says there's other life

APPLE VALLEY, Minn. — UFOs? Why not? "You look at the vast array of stars up there and we're to believe we're the only life?" Gov. Jesse Ventura said Friday. "I don't think so. There's got to be somebody else out there."

The comments came in reaction to a question from an audience member during Ventura's live weekly radio show, broadcast from the Minnesota Zoo.

Ventura said the federal government should disclose whatever it knows about aliens or unidentified flying

objects to the public. "That's called national security," he said. "People in government think you can't handle it, and you need to be protected from it." "Personally, I've never seen a UFO. I can't say that I have," Ventura said. "But do they exist? Who knows?"



Gov. Jesse Ventura



FOREIGN NEWS

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

IN 1974, AMERICA'S FINEST BRAINS SENT A COMMUNICATION TO A DISTANT WORLD. NOW, IT'S CLAIMED, ALIENS HAVE SENT THEIR ANSWER TO HAMPSHIRE

Is this a message from space or a huge hoax?



ANNA PUKAS

EVER since man first gazed at the stars, he has been asking: is there anything — or anyone — out there? And if there is, how do we talk to them? In November 1974, scientists from the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project at Nasa decided to try. The occasion was the rededication of SETI's great telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico after a major upgrade.

The great and the good of astrophysics and astronomy, including Carl Sagan, were going to be there and Frank Drake, the director of the observatory, thought it would add a nice touch to transmit a radio message to M13, a cluster of stars located 25,000 light years away and first spotted by the 18th-century astronomer Charles Messier.

The transmission, which became known as the Arecibo Message, was ingenious. It was a graphic consisting of 1,679 "bits" arranged in 73 rows and 23 columns. The numbers were no accident; 1,679 equals 73 times 23 — two prime numbers which, they

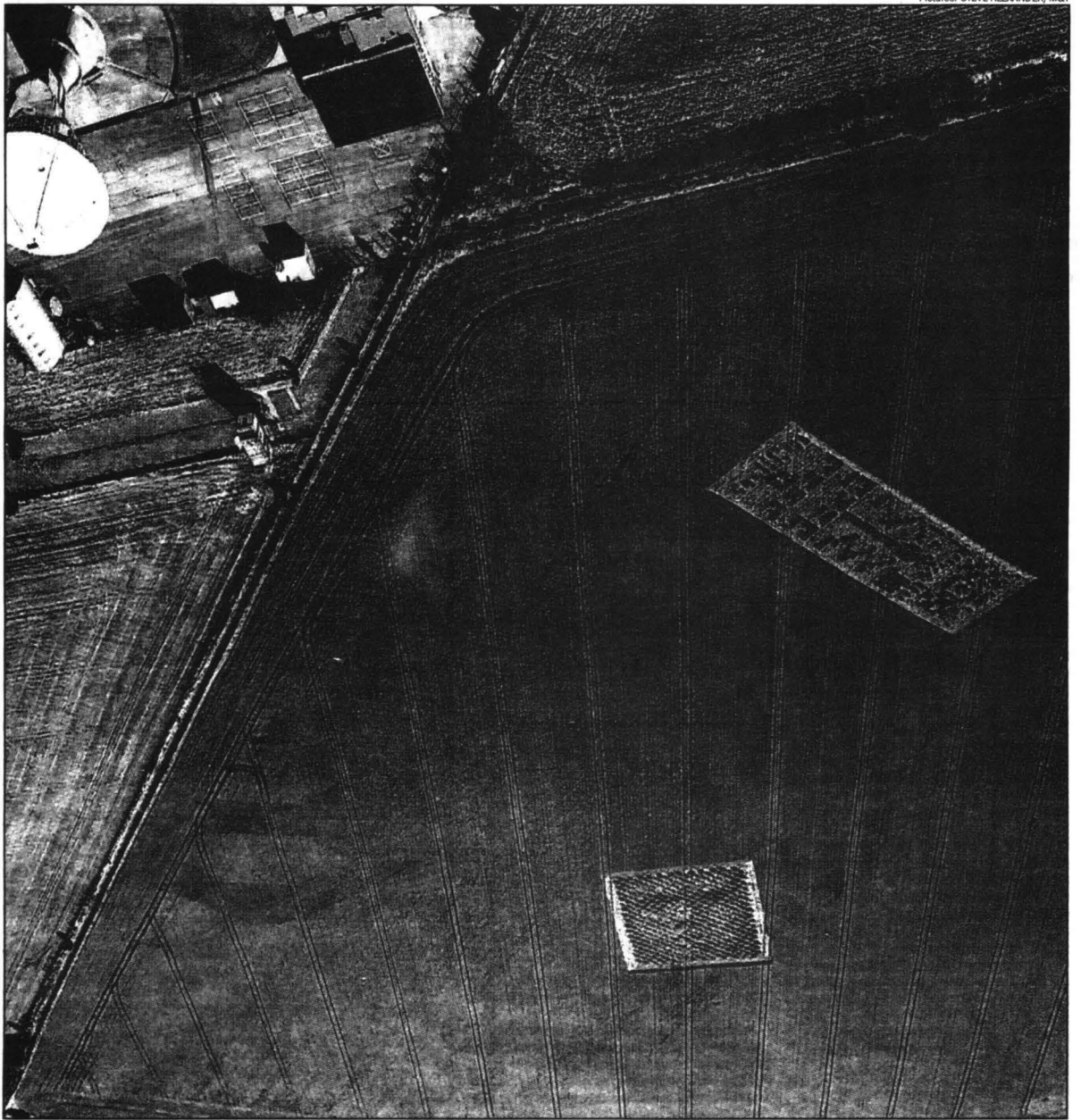
'It is a spoof done with great art and humour'

reasoned, would be recognised as such by any recipients of the message. The Arecibo Message used binary code, the language of computers, as an inter-galactic lingua franca to tell any recipient where it came from, who had sent it and how they had sent it.

This week, nearly three decades later, a new crop circle appeared in a cornfield close to the Chilbolton Observatory in Hampshire. The pattern is an almost exact facsimile of the 1974 transmission. But it is the differences which have given crop circle enthusiasts, UFO chasers and scientists reason to pause. Is it the most ingenious example of the 25-year phenomenon of crop circles, skilfully executed by hoaxers? Or has someone replied to the Arecibo Message?

For dedicated "croppies" such as Michael Glickman, from Wiltshire, there is no debate. "There is no doubt that this formation, as with most others, is an attempt by another being to make contact. The universal language is the language of numbers and shapes and the purest language of all is binary because it reduces and refines everything to 'one' or 'zero', 'on' or 'off', 'yes' or 'no'. By using this simplest of languages with enough complexity, you can answer any question."

Croppie-sceptic Dr H Paul Shuch is the executive director of SETI League, an international group of



SEEDS OF DEBATE: The Chilbolton Reply and the face formations are said to be precisely placed...but the big mystery is, who positioned them?

astronomers based in New Jersey, US, and he is equally certain. "This crop shape is a delightful spoof, done with great art and humour, but there is no reason to believe it is proof of extra-terrestrial intelligence. Sure, it reveals something about the intelligence of beings — human beings."

It is the intricacies of the Chilbolton formation that convince both believer and sceptic that they are right.

So what did the Arecibo Message say? The top line identifies the language as binary and the 10 components show that the sender uses a decimal system of counting. The next two lines denote the chemical composition of Earthlings: hydrogen, nitro-

gen and carbon. The two swirls represent the DNA helix, telling the recipient: this is what we're made of. The bottom end of the helix meets at the head of a crude stick figure: this is what we look like. The T-shape to the right of the matchstick man is a height scale and the graphic to the left is a binary number: if you multiply that number by the radio wavelength of the signal, you get the answer 1.80m — the height of an average Earthling.

The line below the matchstick denotes our solar system. The biggest shape on the right is our sun. The smaller square three places away from the Sun is Earth, the third

nearest planet to the Sun. The Earth symbol is out of line with the rest and slightly raised towards the stick figure to show: this is where we come from. The sizes of the other symbols in the line correspond to the sizes of the other planets in our solar system.

The symbol at the bottom incorporating the M-shape is a radio wave and another binary number. If you multiply the number with the radio wavelength on which the message was transmitted (2,380 MHz), the answer is 305m, which is the length of the Arecibo telescope. This, we are saying, is how we sent the message.

The message was composed by Frank Drake, but present at its trans-

mission was Dr Bernard Oliver, vice-president of engineering at Hewlett-Packard but also the head of the Cyclops Project, a 1971 Nasa-sponsored study in the design of interstellar communications systems.

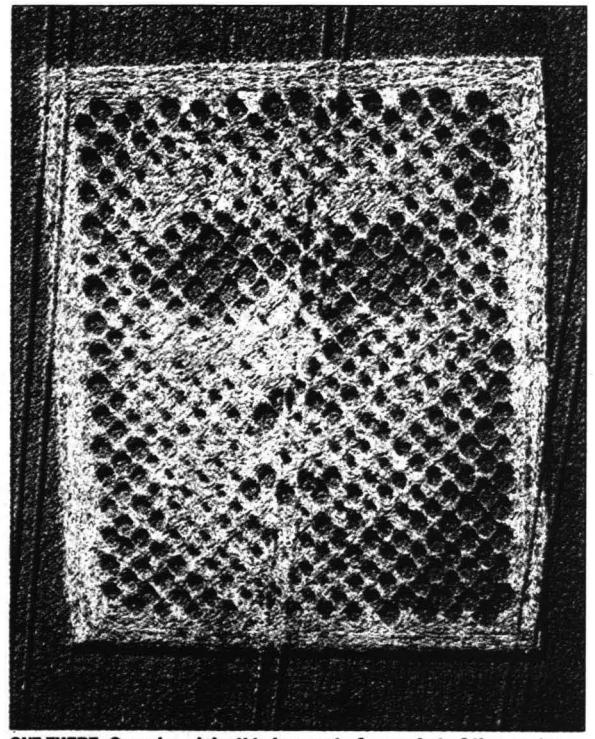
"The presence of Dr Oliver is significant," says Dr Shuch. During Cyclops, he devised a binary message and sent it to top scientists. He asked them to imagine it was a message from an unknown source. How would they interpret it? No one cracked the code. So how would an alien, with no familiar points of reference, get it?"

So what does the Chilbolton Reply say? The top line is the same: a confirmation, perhaps, that the "sender"

Pictures: STEVE ALEXANDER/M&Y

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? HOW TO CRACK THE CODE

THE ARECIBO MESSAGE	THIS WEEK'S 'REPLY'
1 BINARY CODE Establishes language of message and shows we Earthlings count in tens	Same as Arecibo
2 HYDROGEN, NITROGEN AND CARBON The Human biochemical composition	HYDROGEN, NITROGEN AND SILICON The 'Aliens' biochemical composition
3 DNA HELIX Our genetic make-up	Different DNA
4 A binary number	
5 Figure of a human	Big head on alien figure
6 HEIGHT, SCALE Multiply binary number by radio wavelength and you get 1.80metres, the average height of a human	
7 OUR SOLAR SYSTEM Big square = The Sun 3rd square from Sun = Earth,	THEIR SOLAR SYSTEM Has two suns and 3 inhabited planets
8 Radio wavelength	
9 Telescope	SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM How the aliens sent their messages
10 BINARY NUMBER Multiplied by radio wavelength you get 305metres (1000ft), the length of the Arecibo Telescope	



OUT THERE: Croppies claim this is a sort of snapshot of the sender

speaks binary. The first discrepancy comes in the chemical composition segment. Instead of hydrogen, nitrogen and carbon, we have hydrogen, nitrogen and silicon. To Dr Shuch, this shows someone (and someone human) is having a joke. "Silicon is the stuff of life forms in science fiction... It is also what computers are made of. Some have argued that computers are the descendants of humans, that we're evolving into silicon-based life."

THE Chilbolton Reply depicts DNA but one strand is jagged rather than a swirl. The alien is saying it is made of DNA too, but different DNA. The matchstick figure has acquired a huge head. "I guess the inference is bigger head, bigger brain," says Dr Shuch.

The alien then tells us about where he lives. His solar system appears to have twin suns and not one but three planets which are inhabited — planets three, four and five.

Below that is a figure that appears to represent a communications satellite with solar panels, "which looks remarkably like the satellites we have" according to Dr Shuch.

There are serious reasons for his scepticism. The first is the way the message was delivered. "Arecibo was transmitted by radio waves. They are a good, simple communications system. So why not reply in the same way? Why send your response to a field thousands of miles away in Britain, when we have many

more fields of grain and grass in America?"

He also points out that the M13 cluster is 25,000 light years away — so the Arecibo Message won't even be there for thousands and thousands of years! "We're not talking about imposing the limits of our intelligence upon a superior being," he says. "This is about the limits of nature and it doesn't matter how superior your intelligence, you can't make radio waves move faster than the speed of light."

What if the Arecibo Message were intercepted by travelling aliens closer to earth? "The message was specifically targeted. They'd have to be in exactly the right spot, using the exact same radio frequency. I'm not saying the odds are zero but they are staggeringly small."

For Michael Glickman, the reasons for Dr Shuch's debunking of Chilbolton are precisely the reasons for his belief that the crop formation is communication from the great beyond. "It is breathtaking arrogance to presume they [aliens] would use radio when we've been visited by crop circles already," he says. Or to presume the message is a direct reply to Arecibo. "This is a 'to whom it may concern' sort of message."

The modified copy of the Arecibo Message was not the

only crop pattern to appear in the field a week last Sunday. Some yards away is another rectangular formation, made up of dozens of circles. Viewed from a distance, they look like a shadowy human (or humanoid) face.

"There is a positive and precise geometric relationship between the two formations," says Glickman. But why a face? "It could be a sort of snapshot or reflection of the sender, but executed in a form that won't alarm humans."

Much razzmatazz surrounded the Arecibo Message in 1974. But by 1993, political priorities had changed and the US government cancelled SETI's funding. It was reborn as the SETI Institute with a private endowment of \$30million. It has an annual budget of around \$7million and almost all its 120 employees have connections with the old SETI. The 1,000ft-long Arecibo remains in place in a natural, almost spherical, crater (believed to be the site of a meteorite crash) in Puerto Rico where it still surveys the skies.

The SETI League was founded in 1994 and has nearly 1,300 members worldwide, a \$160,000-a-year budget and two staff. Most members are passionate amateurs working from 105 home-made telescopes. While they do not discount the possibility of

other life in outer space, SETI Leaguers say any manifestations of it must be repeat occurrences and independently verified. The SETI heartland in Britain is centred around Cambridge.

Crop circles are an almost exclusively British phenomenon and have become big business as a tourist feature in counties such as Glickman's Wiltshire. In 1991, two artists claimed they had been making circles for 13 years for a laugh, using planks pulled by ropes through grainfields.

BUT despite other hoaxers going public, Glickman argues that the majority of crop circles cannot be manmade because no humans — especially working in haste, in darkness and in secret — could create such geometric perfection. Yet Dr Shuch says: "A well co-ordinated team could do it. Crop circles are enigmatic, which popular culture loves but science hates."

For centuries, if anyone wondered if there was anybody out there, there was only one permitted answer: God. Even as late as 1961, Carl Sagan was denied tenure at the University of California at Berkeley for publicly discussing the possibility of extra-terrestrial life.

"Good science comes from speculation," says Dr Shuch. "Crop circles are fantastic pranks. We should look at them as high art. But they have made it acceptable for ordinary people to speculate about other civilisations beyond our planet or galaxy."

Man can't create such geometric precision'

INDEPENDENT, London, England - May 10, 2001

Confessions of a UFO spotter: We don't want a war in space

THEY GOT to their feet one at a time, taking their turn at the microphone and unburdening themselves of their stories. They then sat down to rapturous applause. Confession is never easy. When you are confessing to strangers that you believe you have witnessed UFOs, it is even more difficult.

Yesterday 20 witnesses from the American military, intelligence services, and scientific establishments gave their testimony to start a campaign which they hope will force the government to investigate the UFO phenomenon. They want Congress to hold open hearings and to halt the development of space-based weapons — "to prohibit acts of war against extra-terrestrial civilisations".

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Washington

The former naval commander Graham Bethune was typical of many giving evidence at a press launch in Washington. He said he was piloting a plane between Iceland and Newfoundland on 10 February 1951 when he witnessed a series of unexplained lights, which rapidly turned into a halo-shaped vessel that flew alongside him.

"The instruments in the cockpit... we had four or five failures. We had 31 people on board and a psychiatrist — we all witnessed it," he said, before adding to raucous applause: "I will testify under oath before Congress that everything I have said is true."

The Disclosure Project, which was set up in 1993 and is co-ordinating the campaign, said the witnesses were people in senior positions with top-secret clearance and who had nothing to gain from inventing stories. The group also wants Congress to hold hearings about technology the UFOs might be using, as a way of dealing with the US's energy crisis.

"A number of members of Congress have told us privately that this is the way it has to happen — for people to take the initiative," said a spokeswoman. "These [witnesses] are highly credible. They used to be trusted with nuclear weapons. Why would they not be trusted to believe what they saw with their own eyes?"

UFO spotted in night sky

A UFO was spotted over West Wiltshire on Wednesday night. An unidentified craft was reported by two sets of witnesses over Semington and Trowbridge between 10.20pm and 11.10pm.

Eyewitness Roger White saw a bright light in Semington. "It seemed to be moving slowly," he said.

"At first I thought it was a planet but it was too bright."

"I think the RAF may have gone for a look because I saw a strobing light but when I looked back seconds later it had disappeared."

"It must have taken off at an incredible speed because it was a dot on the horizon."

A strange craft was reported 50 minutes later at around 11.10pm by four people in Trowbridge.

Witness Nicholas Winney said the object featured three lights in a triangle formation.

She said it blocked out the stars as it passed overhead, making a soft droning sound as it moved.

Mr White, a veteran UFO spotter, said the object in the sky was the genuine article.

UFO alert as readers back our snapper

UFO FEVER swept Scotland yesterday in the wake of the amazing pictures captured by a Record photographer.

Mark Runnacles' images of a flying saucer-shaped object in the skies above Glasgow sparked a flood of calls to the Record reporting similar sightings.

Martin Fraser, of Maryhill in the city, saw a UFO in the same place six days before Mark. He was watching meteors over the Campsie at 4.30am.

He said: "What appeared to be a star grew to about 25 times its original size."

"The flash of light was incredibly bright and I know for sure it wasn't an aeroplane."

George Young, of Motherwell,



AMAZING: Our story

saw the objects as he scanned the skies early on Saturday morning.

He said: "I was looking out towards Hamilton when I saw what I can only describe as a glowing beach ball in the sky."

"This was not a plane. It was an awesome sight and I watched it for about five minutes before it disappeared."

Raymond Adams, 36, of Carnwadric, Glasgow, was alerted around the same time when his six-year-old son Ross began shouting about coloured lights in the sky.

He said: "I saw a thin streak of light in the direction of the Campsie. It was reddish white in colour and was there one minute and gone the next."

Jack Young, 53, of Kilmarnock, and Elizabeth McGleish, 42, of Springboig, Glasgow, also reported sightings.

The Ministry of Defence are investigating the pictures taken by our photographer.

"It was definitely a UFO and it was an incredible thing to see. It was a really exciting moment."

The Ministry of Defence was not available for comment.

SUNDAY MYSTERY

'Something came down here'

But was it a UFO? Thirty years later, they're still talking about the 'dark object' that landed in Shag Harbour

By Allison Auld
Canadian Press

LAWRENCE SMITH stares out through a thick, milky fog hanging heavily over Shag Harbour's quiet bay. There — he points — only a kilometre or so out from this rocky shore, is the spot many of the residents of this sleepy town believe holds a mystery that has captivated the world and eluded government officials and sci-fi buffs looking for clues into what has been called one of the most important UFO sightings ever.

"Something came down there, there's no doubt about it," Smith, his eyes squinting with intensity, says in a heavy south-shore drawl.

"I'm not sure what it was. It's made me wonder, ya'know, way out there in space, if there's some other type of life besides us.

"Whatever that object was, it came from somewhere and our authorities don't know anything about it, so they're saying."

Smith, now 68, was a 34-year-old fisherman on Oct. 4, 1967, when the RCMP called him at around 11 p.m. to see if he could take his boat out in the sound.

There were reports, they told him, that what looked to be a plane might have gone down in the harbour.

Smith jumped in his truck and raced to the wharf where dozens of people had already gathered and were buzzing about a mysterious object that glowed a dull orange.

Cars lined the shoreline near the old moss plant, their headlights trained on the site where they said something had plunged into the water.

"God, it was quite a fiery looking site with all those lights," says Smith, wearing a T-shirt with a picture of a flying saucer and a logo that reads, Shag Harbour — Home of the '67 UFO Visit.

"It was a lovely night, no moon or anything and no stars. It was just a dark, calm night."

Smith, a couple of friends and



Lawrence Smith rests on the wharf in Shag Harbour, N.S.: He regrets going out on his boat.

an RCMP officer jumped in his boat, travelling at full throttle out to where they thought the plane had crashed. The men had laid out lines and hooks to retrieve debris and help survivors into the vessel.

But they found no debris, no survivors and nothing to indicate a plane had gone into their bay.

"All we found was a patch of yellowish brown foam on the water

from people along the coast, including fishing captains, motorists and an Air Canada captain.

All of them said they had seen an unusual object that had several lights and looked nothing like a conventional aircraft.

The Air Canada captain, flying a DC-8 over southeastern Quebec, reported seeing a large rectangular object, followed by a string of lights at about 7:20 p.m. Seconds later, he said there were several huge explosions near the object, while small lights flickered around it.

Chris Styles witnessed the object from his bedroom that looked out over Halifax harbour. Just 12 years old, he ran from his home in Dartmouth, N.S., down to the waterfront to figure out what was hovering over the ocean.

"What I saw was an orange sphere that was probably 60 feet in diameter, slightly above the water, not making a sound, just tracing the shoreline," said Styles, co-author of *Dark Object*, a recently released book about the Shag Harbour incident.

"It just gave me a cold feeling inside, like this is the other, this is what you're not supposed to see."

As he and the fewer than 700 residents of Shag Harbour puzzled over the object, the Royal Canadian Air Force moved in to investigate and the navy dispatched a team of divers to search for wreckage.

They could find nothing, although some fishermen said they saw divers bringing up shiny pieces of debris, according to Styles' book.

By this point, speculation was growing that the orange object that some say floated noiselessly in the skies over the south shore was not an airplane.

Days after the incident, the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* was emblazoned with a bold, two-inch red headline that read: Could be something concrete in Shag Harbour UFO — RCAF.

"By 10:20 a.m., the Rescue Command Centre in Halifax was referring to the object as a UFO, having eliminated the possibility that it was a crashed airplane," Styles writes of the incident that was being called Dark Object.

Despite that, the Canadian Forces Maritime Command called off the official search on Oct. 9, concluding in its report there was "not a trace ... not a clue ... not a bit of anything."

There was never any official explanation, but theories swirled, particularly since the event occurred at the height of the Cold War and near CFB Shelburne, a top-secret submarine detection base.

For years, that's how the incident was treated — an unexplained phenomenon that most in the community gladly let drift into obscurity.

Many were afraid the object could come crashing down on their village again. They spoke little of it, says Smith, whose brother still won't talk about the night of Oct. 4, 1967.

But that quiet lifted earlier this year when Styles' book was released and the local post office released a commemorative stamp depicting a flying saucer hovering over water with a lighthouse and boat beneath it.

In an instant, people in this south-shore town were dealing with a buzz that stretched around the world.

TV crews from the United States and Canada showed up to interview witnesses. Enthusiasts stopped by to have their picture taken. The *National Enquirer* wanted to do interviews. People from Roswell, N.M., were visiting to compare notes about their infamous alien crash incident.

Now, there is talk of a company taking tourists out to the site to collect bottles of water.

Postmaster Cindy Nickerson, who came up with the idea for the stamp two years ago and has had 370 requests for it since May, says the attention has aroused a fond interest in her town.

"So many people stop in from all over wanting to take pictures of the post office," she says from the small building on Shag Harbour's main street.

"At the moss plant, where people went that night, there's always people up there taking photos.

"It's kinda neat."

Neat for some, but a bother for Smith, who, after wondering for years what happened, wishes he never went out on his boat that night. Did he see the remains of a UFO? Or, since it was at the height of the Cold War, was it a Russian spacecraft or submarine, as some have speculated?

"I wouldn't want to go out there again," says Smith, sporting a cap from the Space Channel, which interviewed him about the crash.

"If I saw something today I'd just forget it. It caused too much trouble — too many interviews."

— Canadian Press

Canadian mysteries

— the colour looked like burnt pancakes to me, you know, when they're good and brown," says Smith, one of the few surviving fishermen who witnessed the strange happenings that night.

"It was a strip of foam that looked like a runway to me, where something came down on the water and sunk or the lights went out and it lifted off again."

By this point, the RCMP, a Halifax newspaper and other agencies were receiving a flurry of calls

Are extraterrestrials carrying out reconnaissance flights over a top-secret defence site near Portsmouth? The government denies it, but UFO investigator Ernie Sears believes the truth is out there. **RICHARD HARGREAVES** reports.

THE date was Saturday March 18, 2000.

Pompey were beating Crewe to stave off relegation (again). Campaigners were fighting to save Gosport's Haslar hospital (again). TV licence squads were catching dodgers (again).

All fairly routine really. Apart from a UFO darting in the night sky over Portsmouth Hill which the authorities say was never there.

Nor was a giant beam of light hovering over the Solent on May 19 last year for at least 20 minutes — and there was no aircraft circling around to inspect the phenomenon.

Or so the official line goes. All this is meat and drink to Ernie Sears, former insurance agent and investigator of all things alien over Portsmouth for more than 50 years.

Official denial is part and parcel of the world of unidentified flying objects, especially when these same objects are apparently inspecting some of Portsmouth's most sensitive defence sites.

Portsmouth Hill comes in for most attention, or rather the government's top secret research labs around Fort Southwick.

Our unworldly visitors have been taking a look for at least 40 years, no doubt attracted by the array of antennae and radar and perhaps testing our defences.

And pensioner Ernie has seen at least one UFO hovering over the site for himself.

One March morning in 1960 he was on his rounds in Gosport when he spotted a shining object motionless over the for-

mer Admiralty weapons research building. Ernie remembers: "Two Meteor jets came zooming over Gosport. The object turned and just disappeared.

"It was the heart of the Cold War. Maybe it was a secret Russian aircraft. If they flew things like that then we didn't stand a chance.

"I wanted an answer and called the airbase at Thorney Island: 'You didn't see any Meteors and you didn't see any object.'"

The phone went dead. "My brother-in-law worked at the research centre. As soon as I mentioned what I had seen he turned white. He clammed up," the pensioner adds.

By then Ernie, who now lives in Netley Abbey, near Hamble, was convinced there was 'something out there'.

In November 1957 he had watched the sky over Portsmouth waiting for the world's second satellite — Sputnik 2 — to fly overhead.

"It did, but not before a bright orange disc had gone before it. It wasn't a satellite.

Ernie took up UFO investiga-

tions in the aftermath of the second world war when alien sightings were coming thick and fast — partly Cold War hysteria, but partly genuine sightings.

And these sightings are becoming increasingly frequent over Portsmouth, prompting UFO watchers to regularly camp there in the evenings. Are the extra terrestrials probing our defences?

"The Portsmouth area is exceptional for sightings," says Ernie.

"The history of UFO sightings is that they concentrate on defence bases. If you are looking to invade then you obviously check out the defences first."

And in more than half a century watching the skies, the former RAF man has also watched people's attitudes to UFOs change.

"UFOs are part of the culture now. People no longer believe you are mad if you say you've seen one," he says.

"People no longer believe we are the only life in the universe. It is too big. There are so many TV shows, reports, and the government keeps on giving us the same old guff."

Is anybody out there?

Canadian ufologists search earth and sky for answers to the age-old mystery of whether we are alone or not



Gord Kijek is the founder of the Alberta UFO Study Group.

- WALTER TYCHONOWICZ, Sun

A "huge ball of light ... at least twice the size of any airliner" was spotted over Edmonton by several witnesses on Apr. 19 at 10:30 p.m. As the object approached, its brightness faded to reveal at least five lights on the exterior. Eyewitnesses were "absolutely certain it was not a jet, plane or airliner of any kind." Duration of sighting: more than 10 minutes. Earlier that month, on Apr. 3, between 7:45 and 8 a.m. a witness in southeast Edmonton reported a "silver disc" flying below a jetliner. It maintained the same distance from the aircraft and did not leave a contrail.

These two recent sightings were investigated by Alberta UFO Study Group (AUFOSG). Established in Edmonton in 1990, AUFOSG began probing reports of UFO sightings and related phenomenon in Alberta. It became a private research group in 1994.

Founder Gord Kijek defines UFO as "an unidentified flying object. It doesn't mean an extraterrestrial spaceship because we simply don't know if they exist at all."

"We get a whole bunch of people reporting things. This year we've done three investigations where we've really gone out of our way to research," said Kijek. "Other UFO sightings we do over the telephone, or by e-mail. We'll just simply record that as an initial witness report."

"Nocturnal lights occur for 70% of all sightings. What a nocturnal light is, is a point of light in the sky that moves in a way the observer thinks is unusual. But from a UFO researcher's point of view, those are probably the least interesting because there's absolutely no information that you can gather from that."

Kijek is a serious, no-nonsense type who possesses a burning curiosity about UFOs. "I think of myself as an open-minded skeptic. In other words, if you were to ask me if I believe we're being visited by ETs, I'd say we have

some very interesting anecdotal evidence but I'm not so sure that's indeed what's happening."

"But I would really like to find that evidence. And that's why I'm doing this," said Kijek. A "frustrated astronomy student," he recalls looking up at the stars as a kid and wondering if there was life up there. Somewhere.

And what does he know now that he didn't as a kid? "This is a whole lot more confusing than it seemed at that time," laughed Kijek. "Every time you think you have an answer, you come up with a lot more questions."

"The majority of cases have a simple prosaic or natural explanation. And that may not be evident at face value."

When you look into a lot of these cases, many of them lead to at least a probable explanation.

"But the ones that intrigue us are those last little five per cent of sightings that are so well-documented, so well-reported and the witnesses are so reliable and what they report is so exceedingly strange - that a natural explanation just doesn't seem to fit."

UFOs don't quite produce the terror they first stirred up 50 years ago, nor even command the same media attention. Nevertheless, they aren't going away.

Indeed, at least three million Canadians claim to have seen a UFO. Last year 263 such sightings were reported across the country - including 17 in Alberta - according to research by the Canadian Annual UFO Survey.

Chris Rutkowski co-ordinates findings for the Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM) which for the last 12 years has compiled the annual national survey.

"Effectively, we are the X-Files division of Canada. We do get some reports from government military agencies and we are the ones that actually investigate," said Rutkowski during a telephone interview from Winnipeg.



Erik Floren

"Canada is actually at the forefront of UFO research."

What percentage of sightings involve aliens?

"Very, very few reports that involve landings are made these days. In fact, I would be hard-pressed to name a couple over the past few years. It used to be very common but it seems to be supplanted by the abduction phenomena now," said Rutkowski.

What are some of the more interesting Canadian UFO cases? "There are several, including 1967 in Shag Harbour in Nova Scotia and Falcon Lake, where a man was burned by a UFO. It was a very famous case and it was investigated by the U.S. Air Force. In Alberta, there's a very good case of triangular craft tracked by radar. Well-investigated. Very puzzling. Very strange. And up in the Yukon several years ago, where a number of people witnessed a very large craft flying over the trees."

What do you really think?

"As an astronomer I think there is certainly a possibility of extraterrestrials out there zipping around in spaceships but the distances between the stars are so great that it would be very difficult to reach here from there."

"We just don't have the physical proof yet. No chunk of something that we can hold on to and wave and say 'this is definitely from a UFO.' Nobody's come back from an abduction experience with a towel from the Mars Hilton."

Searching for proof is what the U.S. agency SETI Institute's Project Phoenix is all about. It

searches for scientific evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence. On contacting the agency, I was referred to its Web site:

"Investigations of UFO sightings or alien abductions are not conducted at the SETI Institute."

"A practical reason for this is that the distance to the star nearest to our own is over four light years. That's about 24 trillion miles away. With our current rocket technology, it would take around 300,000 years to travel there. In addition ... there is no scientific evidence. Personal accounts are not physical or verifiable evidence. These reasons are sufficient to exclude UFOs from the research objectives of the SETI Institute."

Ashley Pachal is the former president of the UFO Society of Edmonton, an organization which closed shop two years ago. Why shut down?

"Lack of interest. We couldn't attract any new members. UFOs are being spotted but people are not paying as much attention to them. It's old hat now. They don't get excited. A lot of sightings don't even get reported."

Pachal believes many UFO sightings can be explained as "mirages. One of the common sightings - that a UFO followed a car or a plane - is pretty well a moon mirage. The moon is reflected by temperature inversion in the atmosphere around you. As well, when the mirage is breaking up it can appear to be making a sudden 90-degree turn. And in a minute or so, it's gone."

"Unlike what you see on TV or read about in books, most of the UFO reports we get are really quite banal. Simple lights in the sky that are certainly more likely to be airplanes or satellites and stars. That type of thing."

"Out of each year, for example, out of the 250 or so cases, only two or three are really good or interesting."

"But even saying that, it doesn't mean those are the reports of flying saucers - just puzzling cases that suggest science should study."

Since the beginning of the last decade, UFOROM has accumulated 3,000 Canadian UFO cases. Studied are details such as where a UFO was seen, the time of day, its colour, shape and observed behaviour.

UFOs were reported in the late summer and early fall more than at any other time of the year. Typical sightings lasted between five and eight minutes last year. Most UFOs were reported in Western and Northern Canada.

About 13% of all UFO reports are unexplained.

"I co-ordinate the research being done across Canada," said Rutkowski, who has been investigating UFO sightings for 25 years. Why the interest?

"I have a master's degree in astronomy. The UFO interest began in my undergraduate days. In the astronomy department, calls occasionally came in from people who'd seen UFOs and wanted to talk with somebody. None of the professors wanted to take the calls so I started taking them. I'm called a skeptic but I have a very open mind - I don't dismiss anything out of hand."

Canada is the only country that compiles and analyses UFO sightings and makes the information publicly available. "Sweden does this as well although their reports aren't online. But there's no comparable group in the U.S. or Britain."

Still, many people continue to believe.

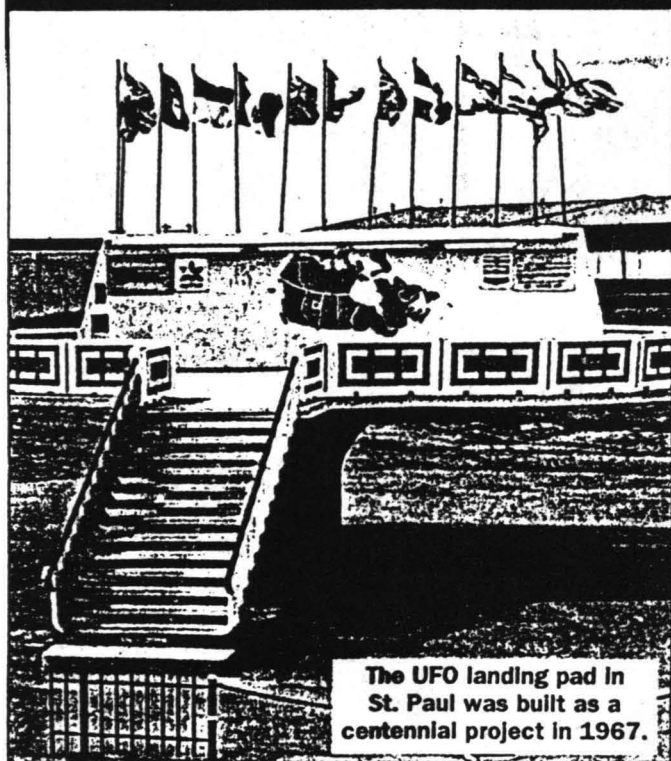
Rutkowski cites several polls in which 10% of Canadians say they've seen a UFO. "If you plug that number in, that's three million Canadians - that's a lot of people who have seen UFOs. It's the type of thing which I think should have a co-ordinated investigation and study at the scientific level," said Rutkowski.

Perhaps it's already being done.

The AUFOSG has an extensive Web site (www.aufosg.org) and offers a confidential UFO sighting report form. Kijek, whose site uses a tracker, said: "It's very interesting to see who some of the visitors are. Visits from the Pentagon, 33 visits from the U.S. Air Force, 23 times from the U.S. Navy, 43 times from Boeing."

"Now this could be just lunch-hour surfing. But when you take a look at all of those sites - the RCMP, NASA - when you see that volume ... There is a lot of interest in this topic but it tends to be a quiet under-the-covers type of interest - at least from official people."

(continued on page 10)



The UFO landing pad in St. Paul was built as a centennial project in 1967.

Still awaiting guests

'Build it and they will come' may have worked for Kevin Costner in *Field of Dreams*, but for the folks of St. Paul - they're still waiting.

For more than three decades, their UFO landing pad has remained unused by alien craft. Built in 1967 as a Canadian centennial project, the structure was intended to draw visitors. And so it has. Tourists of a terrestrial nature.

Keeping with its theme, St. Paul also boasts UFO Pizza, Galaxy Motel and Mama's Flying Saucer Diner. They used to have a Polaris Arena but it changed its name two months ago, much to the chagrin of Rhea Labrie, general manager of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Information Centre.

"The pad has been a wonderful tourist draw, especially in the last 10 years," said Labrie. "When people hear there's a UFO landing pad here, they want to come and see it. There's lots of tourists who make a detour to see it."

St. Paul, a pleasant town of about 5,000 people, is a two-hour drive northeast of Edmonton. It hosted a UFO Conference in 1998 and again in 2000. The three-day event

featured picture displays and expert speakers on paranormal activities such as UFO sightings, crop circles and animal mutilations.

"The first one was pretty good in terms of attendance," said Labrie. "But the second one was a little bit down. We were disappointed in the turnout. We would have liked to see more people."

"If we have another one, it'll be next summer."

Labrie also mans the UFO hotline in St. Paul (1-888-SEE-UFOS). Many calls? "No. It's been quiet. Occasionally, maybe one or two calls come in."

Have you ever seen a UFO?

"No, not myself, no. Unfortunately."

Has anything ever landed at the UFO landing centre?

"Nothing that couldn't be identified," she laughed.

"It was built as a symbol. They didn't believe UFOs would ever land there when they built it in 1967, I wouldn't imagine. It was a symbol that we welcome everybody to our town. Even people from other worlds. And if they come from other worlds, we've got a place for them to land."

- FLOREN

DAILY STAR, London, England - Aug. 30, 2001 CR: N. Oliver

DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT THE ALIENS HAVE LANDED

■ by JOHN DORAN

TOP SECRET documents could prove that aliens have LANDED on Earth, it was claimed last night.

But MOD officials are still refusing to release the papers, which UFO-hunters say may show that extra-terrestrials have actually touched down.

The documents relate to the sighting, by high-ranking Royal Air Force officers, of a mysterious flying craft - "metallic in appearance and triangular in shape" - which was spotted landing in a Suffolk forest.

According to the witnesses: "The strange, glowing object had a pulsing, red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath it," and caused local farm animals to go into a frenzy as it passed over.



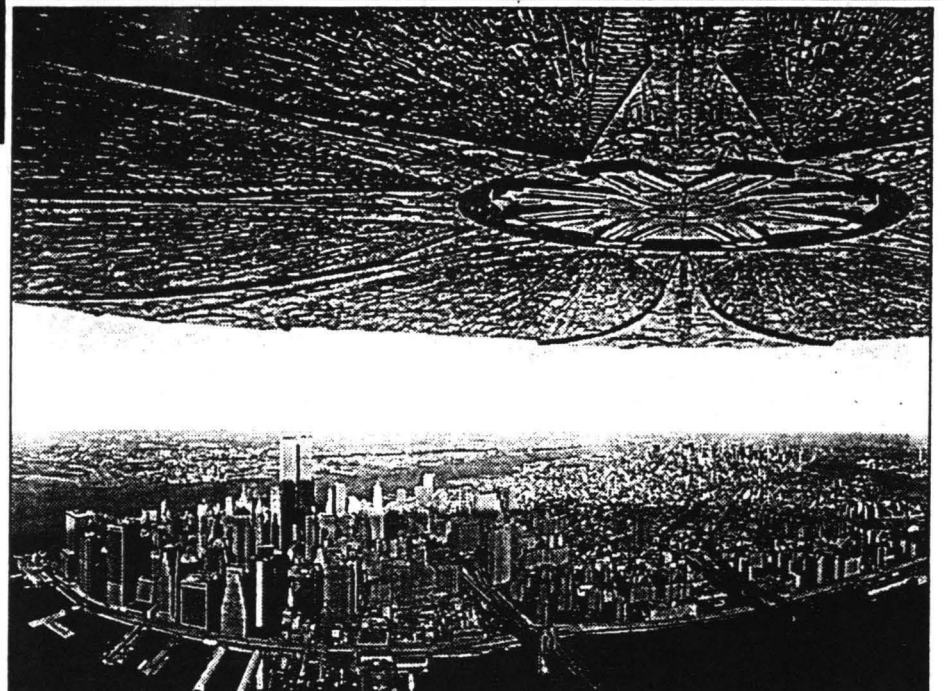
COVER-UP: Could it be ET?

Shocked

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, Commander of the US Air Force Bentwaters base near Woodbridge, Suffolk, said that originally it was thought that an aeroplane had crash-landed, after "unusual lights" had been seen in the forest.

But after racing with three other servicemen to the woods, Halt saw something that looked like a "large, winking eye".

And when his men went to investigate the next day, they were shocked to find three indentations in the ground and traces of radiation. An



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Are our intergalactic neighbours dropping in?

RAF big-wig, Squadron Leader Donald Moreland, also confirmed that there had been "some mysterious sightings".

Now university researcher Dr David Clarke has discovered five top secret documents, which could prove there really WERE aliens on English soil.

But he says publishing the reports was blocked by worried defence top brass. Dr

Clarke demanded that the papers should be released immediately.

Revealing

He said: "We had US servicemen at a Nato base chasing UFOs in a forest in the middle of the night."

The sighting, which happened in December 1980, was the subject of a book called *You Can't Tell The People*, by Georgina Bruni. The author

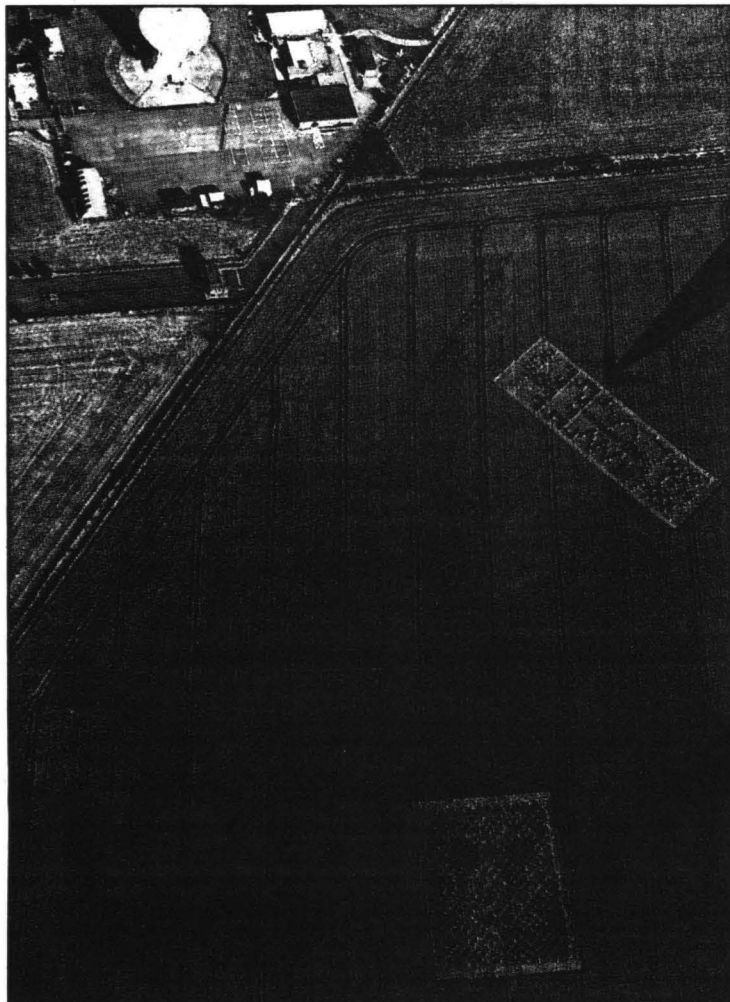
even got hold of a tape recording of Lt Col Halt during the sighting.

On it, he can be heard whispering: "No doubt about it - there's some kind of flashing, red light. It's like the pupil of an eye looking at you, winking."

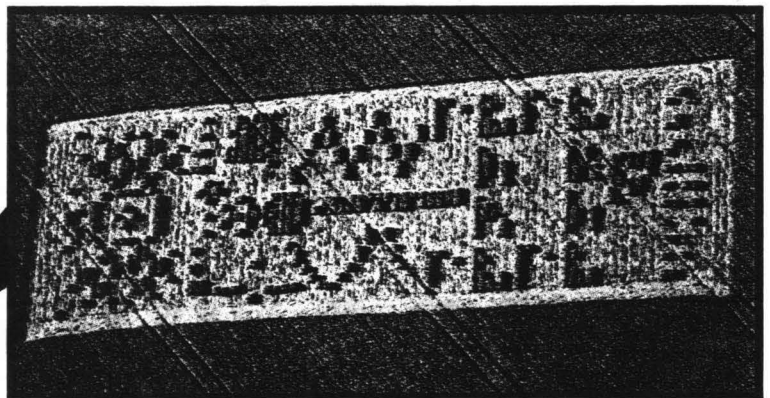
He said later: "I thought we were dealing with an extra-terrestrial visitation. I can't say I saw beings - I saw outlines of something."

Returning your call

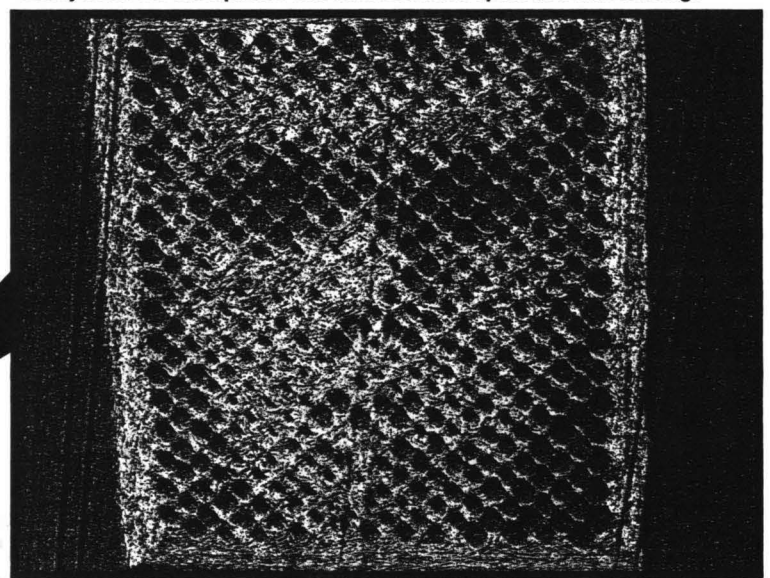
Are these intricate crop patterns a reply to the radio message we beamed out into space in 1974?



Field of dreams: An aerial view of the two patterns formed in the wheat



Binary code: The same pattern was transmitted into space as a radio message



Three-dimensional effect: The face is made up of hundreds of individual circles

VIEWED from the air they are a pair of extraordinarily intricate patterns stretching across a Hampshire wheat field.

To sceptics they are just an elaborate hoax.

But crop circle believers are hailing them as a message from outer space.

The first image - when seen from above - emerges as a brooding face. Alongside is an intricate copy of a binary radio message beamed

By **James Chapman** and **James Mills**

into deep space by Nasa scientists in the 1970s in an attempt to contact alien civilisations.

Crop circle enthusiasts describe the patterns as among the most spectacular examples yet of a seasonal mystery that has been going on for more than 25 years.

Lucy Pringle, who has written books about the phenomenon, said the face was made up of hundreds of individual circles of

standing crop which combined to produce a spectacular 3D effect.

'It's really rather spooky,' she said. 'There's a humanoid face looking out from a wheat field.'

The binary message in the second formation includes digits from one to 10 and the formulae for sugar and DNA.

Mrs Pringle said it had been recognised as a pattern transmitted as a radio message in the direction of a star cluster in 1974 from the world's largest radio telescope in Puerto Rico.

It was sent in the direction of so-

called cluster M13, some 25,000 light years from Earth, as part of Nasa's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project.

'We did send that message out as a means of communication with another intelligence,' said Mrs Pringle. 'And here, in a wheat field, is some sort of reply.'

She added: 'My personal belief is that there is an intelligence behind the phenomenon that is also using these glyphs as a means of communication.'

But circle investigator Andy Thomas was more sceptical. He

pointed out that the radio message would not reach the M13 star cluster for more than 20,000 years.

The formations appeared under cover of darkness six nights apart in the field alongside an observatory at Chilbolton, Hants.

Karen Douglas, another circle investigator, said: 'I find it fascinating that we beam all this information out into space and then this appears to bounce back in a field next to a giant telescope.'

'Could this be our reply or some strange intergalactic echo?' j.chapman@dailymail.co.uk

SCOTTISH X Files

BY RON HALLIDAY

Strange encounters that won't go away

FOR most people an encounter with a UFO is a one-off event - but some have had repeated contact.

Derek Lauder, of Aultbea in Ross-shire, has experienced UFO and other strange encounters all over Scotland. The first he can remember was seeing an angel at his bedroom window as a child.

After that, the encounters came thick and fast.

Derek said: 'I lived in the village of Roslin for seven years. And from my wooden cabin in the grounds of the remains of Roslin Castle, I saw many UFOs.'

'I saw a one being chased by two jet aircraft and another slow-moving, multi-coloured UFO.'

'Then there was the UFO which looked like one object when you saw it with the naked eye, but when I watched it through my telescope was clearly five separate objects.'

'On another occasion I saw a beam of intense white light shoot down on to Roslin Castle from an unseen source as I was walking back to my cabin. I decided to try signalling to the UFOs so I flashed my torch and someone flashed back.'

In 1979, Derek saw a black lens-shaped UFO with two bright white lights like car headlights which rose up next to the castle.

Derek's experiences at Roslin

UFO nicknamed Big Bertha because of the noise it made

supported the views of those who believe the chapel there is a mystic centre of the world and may have been a landing site of ancient astronauts. The area is full of strange carvings.

But Derek's own experiences are of a more extensive nature. 'I moved to Hoprig Mains farm in East Lothian and once again the UFOs were there. And they were still flashing back to my torchlight.'

'I particularly remember the time I saw two orange-coloured objects. One was brighter than the other. I watched as the smaller object sped away from the larger one. They were over Fife heading south.'

Now living in Aultbea, Derek is still seeing UFOs.

He added: 'I have many good sightings in this area and 'someone' is still replying to my torchlight.'

Only Joyce Byers from Moffat can match such UFO multi-sightings. In the 70s she had hundreds.

Joyce regularly saw a large spacecraft which she nicknamed Big Bertha because of the rumbling noise it made. Another UFO was shaped like an egg timer.

As with Derek, Joyce was convinced that on at least one occasion she had seen an aircraft following a UFO.

The response of the UFO was aggressive, flying directly at the plane and chasing it away.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire, England - May 31, 2001

UFOs hit screens

THE SPATE of UFO sightings in the Dales over the last few months is to be the subject of a TV documentary.

Award winning Nottingham documentary film-maker Owen Gaffney has just been commissioned by Carlton Television to make the programme.

He will be filming over the summer and the programme will be broadcast in the autumn.

Mr Gaffney is keen to speak to anyone who has seen a UFO in the area and can be contacted on (0115) 985 6493.

Observer feature

Readers are familiar with the name Nick Redfern after reading the author's regular features in the Observer.

His subject matter is always intriguing. But what of the man himself?

The Observer sets out to find what makes Nick tick...

Redfern: space detective

For someone who spends much of his time investigating UFOs, author Nick Redfern is remarkably down to earth.

And he is keen to dispel the unattractive image of someone obsessed with extra-terrestrials 24 hours a day.

by Janet Lee

Nick has a life on earth, a Texan girlfriend, and is determined not to be a sad individual obsessed with UFOs.

That said, his life is the nearest you will get to a real life X-Files investigator.

Though he tries to work a structured nine till five,

inevitably Nick finds himself in bizarre situations, listening to outlandish tales, meeting some stranger on a station platform somewhere in secret.

His fascination with the subject of UFOs began at the age of 14 when he went with his dad to see 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'.

But it wasn't just the film that inspired him: it was when his father, who used to be in the RAF, told him about an experience he had in 1952 when he was stationed in Norfolk.

He picked up 'something weird' on radar over the North Sea.

When aircraft were scrambled to investigate, they were confronted by disc-shaped objects shooting away at phenomenal speed, then slowing down: dancing around the aircraft as if it was a game.

The strange craft, which were spotted several times over the next few days, then shot off towards Scandinavia.

Mysteriously the pilots and radar crew were instructed not to talk about their experience at the time.

At the time, technology was not advanced enough for aircraft to reach such speeds and to have such manoeuvrability.

And it is this secrecy that intrigues Nick the most.

While he readily concedes 95-96 per cent of UFO sightings can be explained as comets, satellites, a prototype aircraft etc, it is the four or five per cent he is most interested in.

"It impressed upon me that UFOs are not only seen by people leaving the pub on a Friday night," he said.

Nick, who lives in Pelsall, has now had three books published: 'A Covert Agenda', 'FBI Files' and 'Cosmic Crashes'.

His first job in writing was



■ The truth is out there... and Nick Redfern is searching for it.

Picture by Marie Farrington

for a rock magazine 'Zero' and he has since written freelance for various UFO and paranormal magazines.

As a result, people ring him with sightings and strange tales.

And when Government files were made open to the public under the 30-year ruling, Nick became even more convinced there are

are multiple witnesses, also adds credence.

Nick's own theory is that we ARE being visited by extra terrestrials (be that from another planet, dimension, time or whatever).

He believes it is quite reasonable to expect that other civilisations would want to keep watch on a people developing weapons of mass destruction - particularly when they are able to leave earth.

And frequently, people's abduction accounts are not about flying around the universe with Captain Zog from planet Krypton.

They are consistently about individuals being experimented on, laboratory style, and returned - which Nick believes is quite credible.

He works with Rugeley-based Staffordshire UFO Group which he praises for its 'level-headed' approach. Staffordshire has been

quite a prolific area for sightings, and there was even a reported UFO crash in a field near Old Penkridge Road, Cannock, in 1964.

Witnesses say the area was cordoned off by the military and the UFO was loaded on to a trailer.

Although he admits he may be a thorn in the side of officials, Nick refuses to become paranoid about phone-tapping and Men in Black mind games.

He firmly believes one day, in his lifetime, it will be front page international news that a UFO has landed.

But the story will not have come from officialdom. It will be because of a mass landing, or someone finding a craft.

Nick is then looking forward to saying: "I told you so."

If anyone would like to contact Nick about UFOs, crop circles or paranormal experiences, ring him on 01922 869641.

When Government files were opened under the 30-year ruling, Nick became convinced there are massive cover-ups

massive cover-ups.

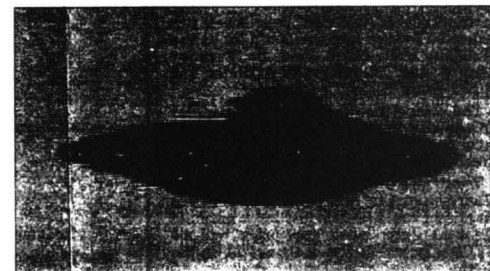
He also firmly believes there are even more official files that remain top secret which are never released even under the 30-year ruling.

Nick, aged 36, finds he is constantly in demand for talks and conferences, both on home ground and abroad, particularly in the USA.

This year he embarks on a 'pilgrimage' to the infamous Roswell.

He interviews the military, police and airline pilots (though some are mysteriously silenced before he gets to them).

The fact that they are not paid for their contributions, and that frequently there



formation. There was no sound, no engine noise," she said.

After describing it to a friend who was in the Royal Air Force for over 40 years, she has ruled out the possibility of it being a conventional aircraft and is now working on a theory that it could be a top secret military aircraft, of which there have previously been reports in the area.

She believes her video footage, which runs for about three minutes, is among the best in the country of a UFO and is sending it to experts at UFO Magazine for analysis.

Sharon, of Harrington, is the investigations/administration director of North West Cumbria UFO Research and Investigations and a member of Central Investigations into Paranormal Activity and PROJECT FT (Research into Flying Triangles). She has attracted

national and international attention with her claims that West Cumbria is a hotbed of UFO activity.

Last year she was featured in a *News of the World* Sunday magazine article about Britain's real-life answers to Dana Scully, the FBI agent in the cult TV series *The X-Files*.

The article focused on her sky-watching outside the Dump, where most of the UFO sightings she investigates are alleged to take place, and local sightings of the mysterious 'black triangle' craft, which she believes are being made at a Lancashire aerospace factory.

Sharon will be starring in a new BBC Choice series, called *Rush*, which looks at the quirky, offbeat and sometimes wacky stories of people living along the coast of Britain and Ireland and is due to be screened next month.

WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES
Cockermouth, England - April 6, 2001

Sharon captures UFO on video

WEST Cumbrian paranormal investigator Sharon Larkin claims to have caught an unidentified flying object on camera during a skywatch at the Ministry of Defence-owned former armaments depot at Broughton Moor.

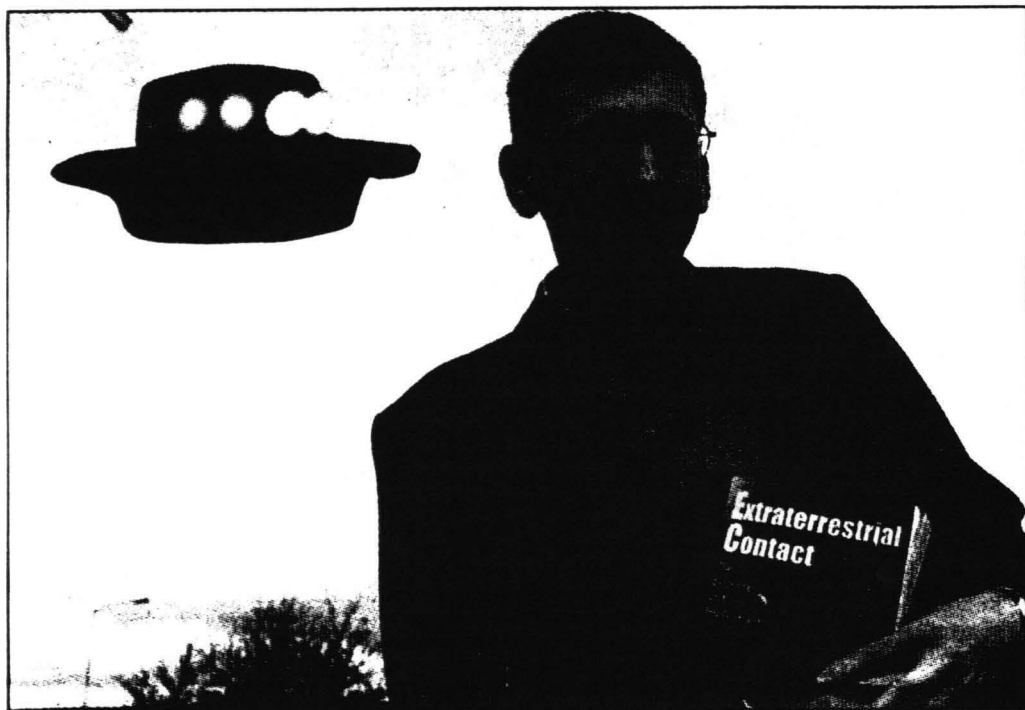
Sharon, well known for her investigations into reports of local UFO sightings, regularly makes

trips to the area known as the Dump, to monitor the skies for unusual activity.

It was during a recent visit that she managed to video a strange aerial object, which she initially thought was a star.

"It was an orange object that started to rise up in the sky and then came right towards us. I could make out two big lights with a red light in the centre, in a triangular

APPEAL: Childhood sighting spurs man to write



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: Eddie Rees is writing a book about UFOs. His interest was sparked by a sighting of a UFO when he was younger. (1rh0490/19) Picture: ROWLAND HOBSON

Truth is out there, but not of this world?

by **RACHEL BANHAM**
FEATURES EDITOR

A PETERBOROUGH man who is writing a book on UFOs is appealing for city people to contact him with their stories.

Eddie Rees (44) first saw a UFO in the late 1960s, and now he's preparing to put down his thoughts down on paper.

Eddie has lived in Stanground for the past 14 years, and has still to see a UFO in Peterborough, but he remembers clearly the night he saw an UFO in London when he was just a schoolboy.

He told *The Evening Telegraph*: "I was watching a satellite going overhead, then go round the earth in an orbit.

"But I watched this one settle. It came over the top of me and stopped for a few minutes, then it went back on itself. I then knew it wasn't a satellite and it was my first UFO experience."

Eddie is convinced UFOs exist - because of his sighting and also because he believes the evidence adds up.

"It's down to mathematics. There are a number of planets in

Controversial views

THE term "flying saucer" was first used in 1947 after pilot Kenneth Arnold described seeing a formation of objects moving "like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water". The press latched onto this, although the objects were actually crescent-shaped.

The same year, the famous "Roswell Incident" happened, when a UFO was

the solar system and they revolve around the sun.

"The sun is a star and there are billions and billions of stars in the galaxy. Each one of the suns has its own solar system," he added.

"The galaxy is one of hundreds of galaxies in the universe, and there are probably as many planets as there are grains of sand in the Sahara Desert. It's almost impossible for there not to be life elsewhere and I think we have been visited by extra-terrestrials out of interest and study.

"I don't believe everything I

alleged to have crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. The US Air Force allegedly captured alien bodies.

The official MoD line is that UFOs are of "no defence significance". There is an MoD desk to handle UFO reports, based at Whitehall.

Nations to have set up official studies into UFOs include the USA, Project Blue Book, and France with GEPAN.

read, but I do link one book to another. Now I want to write a book on the subject and to do that you have to be known in the field."

Eddie has already enrolled on a writers' course to help prepare for his book. He is now looking forward to an announcement by CSETI (Centre of the Study of Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) in the USA on Thursday which will include evidence about UFOs it has collected in the last 10 years.

● If you can help Eddie, e-mail him at eddie.rees.cwcom.net
For more information, log onto www.cseti.org

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - April 7, 2001

Stamp design is out of this world

THE weird and wonderful celestial sightings over a Stirlingshire village could be immortalised on the face of a postage stamp.

Bonnybridge - a mecca for extra-terrestrial hunters - may soon be seen on thousands of letters if an out-of-this-world design for a new stamp is given approval by Consignia, the newly-privatised Post Office.

The design was created by local independent councillor Billy Buchanan, who has boosted interest in the area by logging thousands of sightings of mysterious lights and UFOs.

He reckons the stamp would attract even more tourists to the area which has been swamped by visitors from around the globe hoping for an unearthly experience.

Some American enthusiasts even phoned the local tourist information office and asked when was the best time to come and see the UFOs. A mass of documentaries has also been made about the reported sightings.

The stamp depicts a UFO beaming down on to the moors of Bonnybridge.

Within the beam, it reads: "The Lights of Bonnybridge. UFO Capital of the World."

Investigation

Mr Buchanan has also recorded a song on the mysterious sightings and demanded an investigation by the Ministry of Defence.

He created the stamp design with the help of local firm Larbert Print. The maverick councillor, who says 170 worldwide TV documentaries all testify to the importance of the area, is also in the process of twinning the village with Roswell in New Mexico - the ultimate spot for Ufologists.

Mr Buchanan said: "Bonnybridge has received intense worldwide interest because of the UFO phenomenon for nine years and is the UFO capital of the world, along with Roswell in New Mexico. I feel this would be an interesting stamp for the new millennium."

Steven Stewart, spokesman for Consignia, said, if selected to a shortlist, the design would then be analysed by the stamp advisory committee.

He said: "All designs are considered and stamps stimulate a lot of debate. We get hundreds sent to us. We get a huge postbag of ideas and suggestions and with a huge range of subject matter. Obviously it tends to be very much anniversaries and events that are commemorated with stamps which is the British way of life, but this will also be considered."

Did this Nazi killer teach America how to build UFOs?

For ten years a leading writer on Britain's most authoritative military journal has conducted an extraordinary investigation into aviation's greatest mystery: anti-gravity. Now he reveals why he believes he has uncovered an incredible secret – the truth about flying saucers

Deputy Sheriff Amelia Lopez led me into the distant scrub of the Sierra Nevada mountains, scratched the soil and said: 'They sieved the dirt for a thousand yards from the impact point. A few weeks after they left, it was like nothing ever happened.'

Whatever happened – or not – took place back in July 1986. Lopez, after partying until dawn on a camping trip with friends, was settling into her sleeping bag when the crash occurred just a dozen miles from Bakersfield, California. A supersonic jet roared overhead with a sonic boom like a clap of thunder. Then the horizon was flashlit by an enormous explosion, flames shooting skywards as the jet ploughed into a desert canyon nearby.

Lopez and her friends, like others

By Nick Cook

AVIATION EDITOR OF
JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY

in the area, were determined to find out what had happened. They had not gone more than half-a-dozen miles towards the point of impact before her face was forced into the dirt, a boot was in her back and a gun was at her head. These were not ordinary soldiers, but SWAT-types brandishing Colt Commandos, wearing night-vision goggles and issuing threats about government property and national security.

It was not until 1988 that the outgoing Reagan administration admitted the plane, strictly classified even

though it had been in service for three years, was an F-117A Stealth fighter. The troops at the crash site were part of a Pentagon 'red team' helicoptered in to secure the area – and to keep the secret of the Stealth's highly classified technology.

It was a measure of the lengths the US military goes to guard its secrets. But I was to discover there is an even greater secret which is no less than the aerospace equivalent of the Holy Grail – anti-gravity. In other words,



Cruel genius... SS General Hans Kammler is believed to have struck a deal with the Americans after the war

the action of levitation where gravity's force is more than overcome by electrostatic or other propulsion.

For some time I had regarded an anti-gravity system as the ultimate quantum leap in aircraft design. Something dreamed about, but beyond reach and likely to remain so.

It was the stuff of science fiction. Or so I thought until my investigations, undertaken over the last ten years, led me to change my mind. I am now convinced it is one of the last century's most breathtaking – and most closely guarded – discoveries.

Anti-gravity is a discovery born of the Nazis' desire to conquer the world. And it could also explain the thousands of sightings of UFOs that have occurred since the Second World War. In the light of anti-gravity, the notion of X-Files-type flying saucers does not seem so strange.

The draconian measures applied at the Californian crash site were among the final pieces in a jigsaw I had been putting together ever since photocopied pages of an old popular science journal had been placed anonymously on my desk at Jane's Defence Weekly, the British magazine which documents the day-to-day dealings of the multi-billion-dollar global defence industry.

I have worked there for 14 years as aviation editor and aerospace consul-

tant, covering everything from Chinese combat engines to radar systems. But this was way off my usual beat. The cutting, about revolutionary US military research, was dated 1956. The headline ran: 'The G-Engines Are Coming!' It contained a drawing of a US airman stepping out of an aircraft that had no wings and no visible means of propulsion. The article proclaimed: 'By far the most potent source of energy is gravity. Using it as power, future aircraft will attain the speed of light. Scientists, designers and engineers are perfecting a way to control gravity – a force infinitely more powerful than the mighty atom. The result of their labours will be anti-gravity engines working without fuel – weightless airliners and space ships able to travel to 170,000 miles per second.'

On any other day, this article would have been consigned to the bin as sheer fantasy. But something in the next paragraph caught my eye.

This gravity research, it said, had been supported by Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company, Bell Aircraft, Lear and 'several other American aircraft manufacturers who would not spend millions of dollars on science fiction'.

It quoted Lawrence D. Bell, founder of the plane company that was the first to break the sound barrier: 'We're already working on

nuclear fuels and equipment to cancel out gravity.' George S. Trimble, head of Advanced Programs at Martin Aircraft, added: 'The conquest of gravity could be done in about the time it took to build the first atomic bomb.'

They were openly predicting a golden age of anti-gravity in the Sixties. They set out the notion of a fuelless propulsion source, one that could deliver phenomenal performance gains over a jet – perhaps including the ability to accelerate rapidly, to pull hairpin turns without crushing the pilot and to achieve speeds that defied imagination. In short, something that resembled a UFO.

I began to research the subject of anti-gravity – and discovered that the seeds of the technology were sown by German scientists in the dying days of the Second World War – and appropriated by the conquering Americans under the noses of their allies.

The key man was a German

engineer and administrator, Hans Kammler, who began as a civil servant with the Reich Air Ministry but whose ambition led him to the SS, where he became head of the Building and Works divisions that masterminded the concentration camps.

Albert Speer, Hitler's Minister for Armaments, noted that Kammler was 'blond, blue-eyed, long-headed, always neatly dressed and well bred... capable of unexpected decisions at any minute.' It was the SS, not the Luftwaffe, that controlled Hitler's secret weapons programme – and Kammler, a qualified engineer, soon became deeply involved.

He was clever and cruel – 20,000 slave workers died creating the vast galleried complex hacked out under the Harz Mountains in Germany, where Kammler oversaw production of V1 rockets. One day in March 1945, the guards hanged 52 people in Gallery 41, tying a dozen at a time to a beam which was then pulled up by a crane. Those next in line were forced to watch. These were Kammler's hallmarks.

Kammler rose to the rank of SS General, in charge not only of all aircraft and missile programmes but also his own high-powered research and development think-tank. He set up his secret operation in the vast Skoda industrial complex in Czecho-

slovakia, a country which the SS regarded as its own private domain.

According to my researches, scientists there were working on weapons systems so futuristic that they made Germany's V1 and V2 rocket bombs look pedestrian. Among these were nuclear power plants for rockets and aircraft, highly sophisticated guided weapons and anti-aircraft lasers.

But there was more. A Polish source told me the extraordinary story of 'The Bell'. Experiments had been taking place in a mine close to the Czech border. They involved feeding large doses of electricity into an underground chamber where a bell-shaped device emitted a pale blue light. Five scientists exposed to the device had died of side-effects. Word had it that they were investigating some kind of anti-gravitational effect. The Bell,

Experiments took place below ground

which was about the height of a man and glowed during testing, was made of hard, heavy metal, filled with a

(continued on page 15) 14

violet mercury-like substance. This metallic liquid was stored in a flask, encased in lead three centimetres thick.

Experiments always took place under a thick ceramic cover and involved the rapid spinning of two cylinders in opposite directions. The chamber in which the experiments took place was deep below ground. Only The Bell itself was preserved after a series of tests, each lasting about one minute. Even the room was destroyed and rebuilt.

Various plants, and animals such as frogs, mice and rats, were exposed to The Bell's sphere of influence. Rapid decay set in and people who helped conduct the experiments suffered from sleep problems, memory loss and muscle spasms. One of the terms used was 'vortex compression'. Another was 'magnetic fields separation'. Both were associated with anti-gravity.

These secrets were undoubtedly Kammler's ticket to safety once war had ended. By mid-April of 1945 Kammler had dropped off the map. He was a leading Nazi, implicated in the Final Solution - yet protracted searches in the US National Archives yielded not a single mention.

How could this monster, the most powerful individual outside Hitler's inner circle, be so easily forgotten?

It was only as I gazed at the single wartime picture that exists of Kammler - in his general's uniform, striding for the camera, his cap with death's head badge enough to one side to betray more than a hint of vanity - that I began to understand. Kammler was fair. Take away the uniform, and he could have been any 40-year-old European male. In the chaos of the collapsing Reich, Kammler could have gone any-

keeper of the Third Reich's most exotic military secrets. There is evidence that the Americans did produce such technology. A memo I found in the archives of the Imperial War Museum, written by Lieutenant General Nathan Twining, head of US Army Air Forces' Air Material Command, a brigadier in USAAF intelligence in September 1947, stated that objects 'approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to be as large as a manmade aircraft' were neither 'visionary nor fictitious'.

Twining went on to write that it was possible 'within the present US knowledge - provided extensive detailed development is undertaken - to construct a piloted aircraft which has the general description of the object above which would be capable of an approximate range of 7,000 miles...'. His memo was written just three months after the supposed crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947; the period many people tout as the real start of the modern UFO sightings.

Not all attempts to produce disc technology were successful. It

emerged, during the 1959 hearings of the Space Committee of the US Congress, that the US Department of Defense had been working with the Avro Canada company to develop a flying saucer.

The Avrocar, as it was called, was the brainchild of gifted British engineer John Frost, who had moved to Canada after the war. News leaked as early as 1953, when a Canadian newspaper revealed plans for it to take off and land vertically, and fly at 1,500mph.

It was easy to see why Avro played down reports of the Avrocar. One look at the prototype, underpowered and unstable, was enough to confirm it would never achieve supersonic flight. It became an aviation joke

that Avro was working on a range of flying saucers capable of eclipsing existing jet-fighters. And the US air force had bought Avro's disc-shaped designs for craft called Project Silverbug, capable of almost instant high-speed turns in any direction.

Were the Americans using the Canadians to perfect the aerodynamics of a flying saucer? Or had the disastrous Avro programme been hushed up to avoid embarrassment? Either way, it showed that man-made flying saucers existed.

There was no golden age, as 'The G-Engines Are Coming!' had predicted. At least, not in the open. But I discovered evidence of mysterious aircraft which chimed with reduced gravity systems.

Since the Eighties, there has been speculation about the existence of a mythical plane called Aurora that supposedly flew on the edges of space. In 1992, there was a detailed sighting of a massive triangular-shaped aircraft spotted flying in formation with US air force bombers above the North Sea.

In Belgium, in 1989 and again a year later, hundreds of people

reported seeing silent triangular-shaped craft all over the country. They were tracked by Belgian radar and pulled turns of about 20G-40G - enough to kill a human pilot. The Belgian air force confirmed their existence in a government report.

I also discovered evidence of the Pentagon's enormous 'black budgets' which finance deeply classified defence programmes.

Huge amounts of money have been spent, often in areas of the US where UFO reports are most common. What happened to Kammler's secrets, and was anti-gravity among them? My research would soon take me to the deserts of America, home of the strange Stealth fighters, the leading edge of aeronautical science - and much more.

● Extract from *The Hunt For Zero Point: One Man's Journey To Discover The Biggest Secret Since The Invention Of The Atom Bomb* by Nick Cook, to be published by Century on September 6 at £17.99. © Nick Cook 2001. To order a copy for £16.99 (free p&p), telephone 01206 255800.

Silent craft were spotted over Belgium

which drifted into obscurity. Yet, that may have been the intention. Recently declassified papers show

What anti gravity is - and what it does

What is anti-gravity - and how does it work? Gravity is a force field which can be compared to magnetism, a power which pulls a metallic object to a magnet, but precisely what causes it is still a mystery.

Einstein believed that when an object sits in space its mass bends the space around it and this distortion causes gravity. But a

theory gaining more credence is that gravity is caused by little-known forces within atoms - just as magnetism is caused by forces within a magnet's atomic structure.

Master science fiction writer H.G. Wells came up with an idea 100 years ago for a spacecraft to use a substance called Cavorite which shielded the forces of gravity, allowing craft and their occupants to escape Earth's pull and fly to the Moon. Since then, scientists have

dreamed of building such a machine. In Moscow last week, scientist Evgeny Podkletnov said he had perfected a machine to push objects away from the pull of Earth's gravity, using superconducting magnets. He has called this anti-gravity effect a 'gravity shield' - rather like Wells's Cavorite.

Then there are rapidly spinning gyroscopes. Scots inventor Sandy Kidd was inspired by an experience he had walking down a Vulcan

bomber's steps when he was an RAF technician in the Eighties carrying a still-spinning heavy gyroscope he had just removed. When he stepped on the ground he was flattened by a blow to his back...transmitted from the gyroscope.

After three years, he built an anti-gravity machine with two gyroscopes at each end of a flexible arm. When he switched it on he was amazed to see it levitate and settle three inches above the workbench.

Five scientists died of side-effects

where, assumed any persona and no one would have noticed.

Kammler, who had moved his HQ to Munich, told Albert Speer he would offer the Americans 'jet planes and rockets'. He also let slip he had 'other developments' up his sleeve.

He probably went east, back to his 'special projects group' in Czechoslovakia, rather than simply wait for the Americans to arrive in Munich. He had a two-fold purpose in making his dangerous journey. First, to retrieve the mother lode of documentation and blueprints. And second, to hide it prior to setting up the deal which would buy his freedom.

Although the Skoda Works were in the Soviet zone of occupation, my research shows that US forces had the run of the place for six days before the Red Army turned up.

Plenty of time to remove something you want if you know it is there. Or ignore it, if you have it already.

The Americans appeared indifferent to any pointers towards Kammler. Had he already done a deal with the Americans? The answer must be yes.

The Bell was removed by a special SS evacuation team just before the Russians arrived. More than 60 scientists working on the experiment were then ruthlessly killed to preserve the secrets of the mine. The Bell was shipped out - but to where?

One possibility was using one of the northern Adriatic ports that remained in German hands. A U-boat commander could conceivably have run the gauntlet of the Allies to evacuate cargo and personnel by sea. Another possibility was a heavy transport plane used by a special German air force wing and flown under an enemy or neutral flag. Either way, Kammler had the means to move thousands of tons of documentation, equipment and personnel pretty much where he wanted.

At the end of the Second World War, via captured technology from Germany that has never seen the light of day, America acquired knowledge of the most dangerous kind.

Whatever the secrets of The Bell and other technology, the German secret weapons programme had yielded the ability to design a radically different form of aircraft. A craft that was 'circular or elliptical', made no sound and could turn on a sixpence. And one involving a process which could also be harnessed to create a weapon more destructive than the hydrogen bomb.

With the help of German-derived science, America's technological lead over the rest of the world accelerated after the war. Kammler's secrets from the Skoda Works had moved 4,000 miles to the west and somehow, I just knew, Kammler had come with it. The extensive US recruitment programme would have bent over backwards to accommodate Kammler,

ADVERTISER, Croydon, England - July 13, 2001

Close encounters of the weirdest kind

Aliens find there's life in New Addington: but not as they know it, Jim!

Startled star-gazers spotted what they believe to have been a spaceship, whizzing around the skies over New Addington.

Mark Harwood believes the eerie ball of white light he captured on amateur video two nights running was life - but not as we know it.

His wife, June, was so unsettled by the mysterious sightings, she has struggled to sleep at night since.

And Mark's previously sceptical brother-in-law, Robert Gardner, has been convinced that there are, in fact, unearthly goings-on out there.

As X-Files investigators Mulder and Scully would no doubt agree, Mark is adamant that "the truth is out there."

He and his family spent four hours watching the strange apparition high above their home in Flora Gardens, New Addington.

Mark, 33, zoomed in using a hand-held camcorder, picking up what appeared to be a black-ringed ball of light zipping back and forth in jagged lines.

And at different times it appeared to change its form into a hazy triangular shape, before becoming round again.

UFO experts have said the footage seems to tally with similar reports made by people in Lewisham, Woolwich and Reading.

Self-confessed sci-fi fan Mark believes it could not have been an aeroplane, a shooting star nor a meteorite.

His wife June had first noticed the light, which was moving upwards, from a landing window on her way to bed.

Mark told the Advertiser: "Looking at it with the naked eye, all you could see was this strange white dot moving about."

"It was only when I saw it with the

camcorder that I realised it was even more weird. We've been watching the footage over and over again since.

"It was so odd the way it was moving and changing shape. The rest of the sky was completely clear, and there was no sound at all. It felt very eerie."

"At one point a plane comes across and leaves a trail. You can clearly tell the difference."

He added that the apparition got progressively smaller as it moved upwards, before disappearing.

After making the first tape in the early hours of Saturday, June 31, the family sat up the following morning to see the UFO appear again.

And this time it was joined by another, very similar shape with the two UFOs circling each other.

Father-of-four Mark, who shares a love of "Star Wars" with his children, was willing to believe he saw something from another planet.

He said: "I've always half-believed in things like that, though of course when it's someone else saying it you're always a bit sceptical."

"It's different when you've actually witnessed something yourself."

"My wife's been freaking out a bit every night since, and my children were a little frightened but they're over it now."

His brother-in-law Robert, of Queen Elizabeth's Drive, New Addington, said: "I've always been sceptical like everyone else."

"But now I'm starting to think there's someone else out there. This has convinced me. There's no way we've got anything on this planet that can move like this thing did."

"A star doesn't change shape like that, and an aeroplane couldn't move that fast or in all different directions."



MARK HARWOOD
Alien visitors caught on video



Field trip... as the believers' explanations for crop circles become more sophisticated, the makers become more adept at making them

Ever increasing circles

Britain's largest ever crop circle has reignited the age-old debate about UFOs and pranksters. **John Vidal** separates the wheat from the chaff

With 400 different-sized rings in spiralling formations over a field almost a kilometre square, the latest crop circle formation looks pretty impressive. From the air it has an eerie geometric beauty, as if the circles just dropped quietly on to the field at Alton Barnes in Hampshire last week. From the ground, the wheat seems to have been swept downwards by a benign force, as if water has been poured over the crop.

With respect to its creators, it's quite well made – though there is evidence of sloppiness – but mathematically and aesthetically it's one of the more boring and predictable advanced formations made in the past few years. At first glance, it has employed no geometry or arithmetical principles that have not already been used in crop circles and little new skill or imagination was needed. While superficially beautiful, it is remarkable only for its scale.

By my estimation it took a team of six people approximately five hours to make, but quite considerably more to plan. The makers probably had a lot of fun doing it, had a pint or two before they started and a good breakfast in a service station as they sped back to London or Southampton. They will be chortling now at newspapers' coverage.

My hunch is that this one comes courtesy of Rod Dickinson and John Lundberg, or at least their "school" of trickster artists. These respected, London-based "post-situationists" specialise in giant anonymous fieldworks and have been active circle makers for at least five years. I met them in a Wiltshire layby one summer night three years ago. Their team of

four had little but a drawing pad and a school-room geometry set. They told me that their three-quarter-sketched formation had taken them about a week to compose. That evening they were to make a "spinner", a 200ft-square formation with anticlockwise spirals coming out of it, surrounded by small, different-sized circles or "grapeshot" which were to be positioned in a simple arithmetical progression around it. The formation, they said, was to be based on threefold geometry, meaning that all the lines and proportions were based on the figure three.

It was surprisingly easy. We went into the pre-chosen field by a "tramline" left by a tractor. All we had were sketches, 100ft-long tape measures marked off at different intervals and 4ft planks with a rope connecting each end. It took the four men several hours to mark out. At the darkest point, there was enough light to see 50 yards.

It was hard work, and rather boring. After about an hour I fell asleep in one of the circles. By the time I woke up the foursome were flattening the corn with the planks, and moving about at a cracking pace. It's remarkable how quickly and accurately a large area can be flattened. As dawn came, they were almost running round the field to make the small circles.

What happened next was the whole point of the evening. The circle believers – paranormalists, esoterics, sceptics, mystics, spiritualists, ufologists, researchers, scientists and others who plot, interpret and appreciate them – were ecstatic. They raved about a "truly significant" formation; but when I told them that I had seen it being made they threatened me with legal action, denounced me as a liar. Lundberg and Dickinson were not happy either. I should not have linked them specifically to this formation.

Circle makers and believers are locked to each other in a symbiotic relationship, a game with unwritten but set rules. The true "believers", cannier now than they used to be and better at spotting "fakes", are convinced that humans could not have made some of the best circles that have been appearing for more than 10 years. It's easy to understand why: some are staggeringly complex and beautiful, the formations ranging from DNA structures to snowflakes, helices, webs, knots and complex patterns derived from sacred geometry and chaos theory. Every year the believers' explanations as to why some cannot be made by humans become more sophisticated and the makers become more adept at making them, even studying the books they suspect the believers use when they try to classify them.

The makers are keen to perpetuate the mystery. Careful never to admit responsibility for any specific formation, they do not claim authorship of all the circles that appear each year. Once the makers of a circle are identified, they say, the magic goes and the believers become disillusioned – which spoils it for everyone. So it is that the makers are demonised by the believers, who in turn are demonised by broader society, which cannot accept that they are not man-made, yet cannot see how they are done.

Study carefully the thousands of formations made in the past 10 years and it's possible to see the distinct hand of at least three different design schools – broadly, the geometric, the spiritual and the fractal. But the beauty of the game being played out in the fields of southern England is that it would be almost impossible for just three expert teams to construct so many formations and stay quiet about them for so long. So who has made the rest? And why?



THE FOUKE MONSTER

30 YEARS LATER

Ex-journalists recall sifting fact from Fouke fiction after sighting

By SUNNI THIBODEAU
Special to the Gazette

More often than not, a reporter's life is anything but glamorous. Instead of unraveling mysteries *a la* some paperback novel hero, most days are spent pecking out bits of hard news—meetings, traffic accidents, fires.

Then, for the very lucky, along comes a gem of a story.

Jim Powell was a reporter for the *Texarkana Gazette* and *Daily News* when he came across such a story in May 1971. He is now building manager of the Bi-State Justice Building.

"Dave Hall called me and said something strange was going on down in Fouke," Powell recalls. "So we went down there."

At the time, Hall was the news director of Texarkana radio station KTFS. He is now emergency management coordinator for Texarkana and Bowie County.

What Powell saw was every reporter's dream. It became an ongoing story that would eventually become a legend.

The story was the sighting of the Fouke Monster.

"When we got to the house, the people were moving out," Powell said. "They had a U-Haul and were packing their things and leaving the area."

Powell and Hall didn't see any tracks that day, but they did see a family that was literally scared out of their wits.

"We checked with the hospital and they said this guy was in shock," Powell said. "He was really afraid of something."

In fact, Powell's story is the basis for much of what is known about the incident.

The Bobby Ford family had moved into the house less than a week before. The men had been out hunting when they heard a woman scream at the house. Returning back to the house, Ford saw a creature that stood 7 feet tall and was 3 feet wide across the chest.

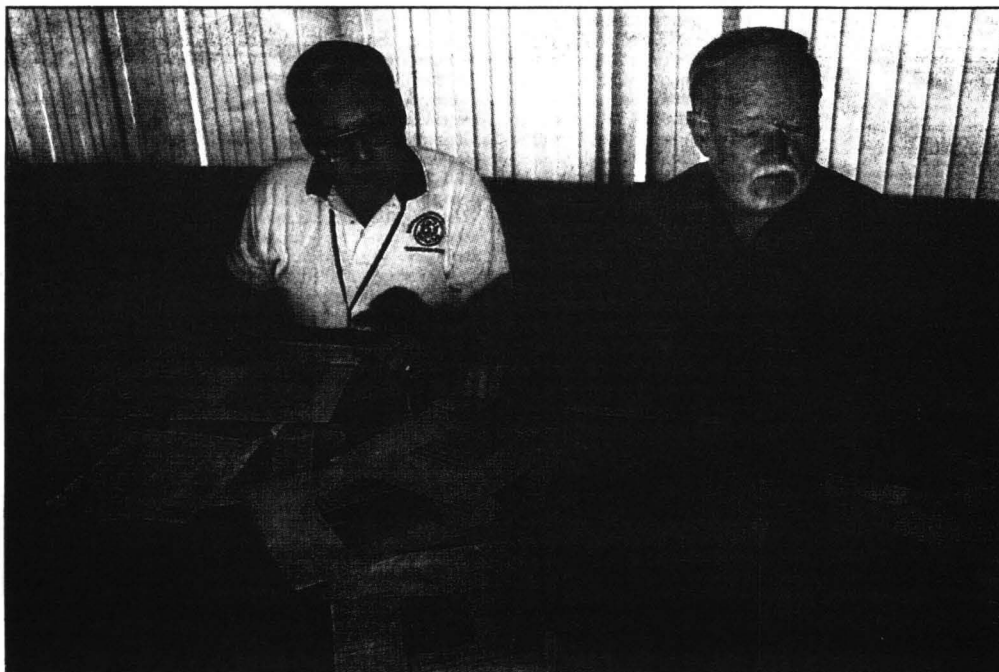
When he felt a hairy arm around his neck it scared him so badly that he ran through a glass and wood front door.

The men said they shot at the creature seven times and thought that they had at least wounded it. They told Powell they had used all their ammunition. But when investigators later combed the scene, no blood was found.

But their fear was so real that night that Fouke Constable Ernest Walraven loaned them a gun and ammunition in case the creature came back before morning.

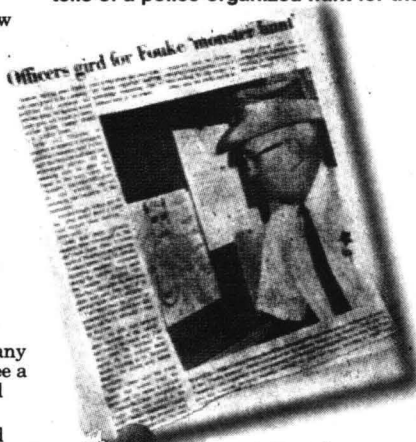
Powell said he researched the story thoroughly, finding printed sources for earlier sightings in the 1960s.

It is possible that the story might have



Staff photo by ROBB PITTARD

Emergency management coordinator Dave Hall and Bi-State Justice Building manager Jim Powell peruse articles published during the hype days of the Fouke monster sighting in 1971. At the time, Hall was news director of Texarkana radio station KTFS, and Powell was a newspaper reporter. The article at lower left tells of a police-organized hunt for the creature.



stayed a local legend, buried on some back page and thrown out with the garbage at the end of the day. But something in the story sparked the public's imagination.

The Associated Press and United Press International both picked up the story and transmitted it to member newspapers across the nation.

Maybe the story struck a cord because Powell let the words of the people who had seen the creature tell the story. Maybe it was because he gave it an identity when he gave it a name.

"I was sitting at my typewriter on the second story, and I realized that I had to call it something," he said. "The woman had said it reached a hairy arm through the window. It was breathing hard, and had eyes that were as big as half-dollars and red as coal."

Powell dubbed the creature the Fouke Monster.

The name stuck.

Hall recalled arriving at the scene early the morning after the attack to find a frightened family moving their belongings into a U-Haul.

"We went into the area behind the house and saw unusual footprints, and small saplings broken off, heading into a

Monster sighting solidifies Fouke's spot in annals of lore

It was 30 years ago that the reported sighting of a large creature about 10 miles south of Texarkana near Fouke, Ark., made headlines.

This was not the first strange "monster" sighting in this part of the country, but it became the most famous.

It turned the national spotlight on the region and even inspired a movie, "The Legend of Boggy Creek," that turned a small fortune on a modest investment.

The tales that stemmed from the sightings developed lives of their own, and the details that survived are now more fiction than fact.

As a result, many who have heard about the Fouke Monster dismiss it with a nod and a wink.

wooded area," he said.

"We never saw any blood, although the people said they fired several shots and thought they hit it."

There was a lot of speculation at the time about whether the sighting was an elaborate hoax.

Rumors circulated that a circus train had derailed along the Sulphur River bottoms years before and the sightings were merely animals that had escaped and gone wild.

This and other monster stories had a snowballing effect.

Soon teams of monster hunters descended on the city, and calls and letters from interested parties flooded local officials' phone lines and desks.

"My desk, too," Powell said. "It got to be quite a show down there."

The local sheriff's office stopped people to check for guns and liquor and asked them to not cut fence lines.

Monster hunters, fueled by rewards, swarmed across the countryside.

The Little Rock radio station, KAAY, offered a reward of \$1,090 to anyone who could find the monster. A local man by the name of Scoggins offered a \$200 reward.

"It was chaos," Rickie Roberts, owner

of the Monster Mart in Fouke, remembers. "There were a lot of people out there looking who weren't local."

People showed up with everything from guns to tape recorders, hoping to catch a sight or sound of the creature. Giant footprints appeared in Willie E. Smith's soybean field.

"They were strange," Powell said. "They were all in a line and didn't step on any plants. I got pictures of them."

But although the hunters didn't capture the monster, the sightings continued. Three weeks after the Ford sighting, three people heading back to Texarkana from Shreveport saw something large and hairy run across the highway in front of them.

USA Today lists Fouke in its 10 top places to find a monster.

While the existence of the Fouke Monster will always be questioned, its impact cannot be. We hope today's package of stories brings together some of the more interesting elements of this phenomenon.

—LES MINOR

of the Monster Mart in Fouke, remembers. "There were a lot of people out there looking who weren't local."

People showed up with everything from guns to tape recorders, hoping to catch a sight or sound of the creature.

Giant footprints appeared in Willie E. Smith's soybean field.

"They were strange," Powell said. "They were all in a line and didn't step on any plants. I got pictures of them."

But although the hunters didn't capture the monster, the sightings continued.

Three weeks after the Ford sighting, three people heading back to Texarkana from Shreveport saw something large and hairy run across the highway in front of them.

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17 - GAZETTE, Texarkana, TX - June 24, 2001)

"I know those people, and they were very reliable and very truthful," former sheriff Leslie Greer recalled. "I don't know what they saw, but I do believe they saw something."

An Oats Street resident sitting on her front porch said she saw the monster in a field across from her home.

"We had several here in town," Powell said.

Then, the sightings slacked off after the arrest of three hoaxsters who claimed they were attacked by the monster.

"I think they were drinking and got into a scuffle and skinned one another up," Greer said.

They were fined \$59 each for filing a fraudulent monster report.

Greer, who was the Miller County Sheriff from 1967 to 1974, said he first heard of the monster as early as 1946.

"I was campaigning for tax assessor and stopped to talk to a lady sitting on her front porch," he said. "She lived about halfway between Fouke and the Below Bridge. She told me that she saw some kind of animal go down in the field in a low, bushy place. She said it looked kind of like a man, and walked like a man, but she didn't think it was a man."

Greer never gave much consideration to the report until the 1971 sightings.

"Then I got to thinking about it," he said.

There were other reported monster attacks, but most turned out to be hoaxes. More worrisome was the fear that would-be monster hunters would harm some innocent person.

"There was a group who were going to get together a hunting party, and I told them it would be all right to come and look, but they couldn't trespass and they weren't allowed to carry any guns," Greer said. "It hadn't hurt anything and they didn't need to be carrying guns."

Trespassing did create some hurt feelings, though.

Word soon got out that Willie E. Smith, a local service station owner, found three-toed tracks in his soybean field and made a mold of the prints.

He made souvenirs from the mold and sold them to monster enthusiasts. The original mold of the print stayed in the service station until it was destroyed by fire.

Greer said he took the local game warden to the bean field, but neither he nor the game warden, Carl Galyon, had ever seen animal tracks like those in the field and couldn't say the tracks were authentic.

Interest eventually began to wane, but the coming of the movie "The Legend of Boggy Creek" three years later refueled the story, bringing all the activity back to town. Powell covered that story, too.

Whether or not the Fouke monster exists—or ever existed—is the million-dollar question everyone in this small town ponder.

"I haven't seen it, but a lot of people have and some of them are very credible," Roberts said. "I believe them."

Fouke Mayor Cecil Smith also has ambivalent feelings about the monster, and although he has seen the movie that scared millions, his only comment was that he thought the scenery was pretty.

"I used to coon hunt down there," he said. "People would ask me if I was scared. But I never felt like anything that big could maneuver around. Some believe it strong, and some don't."

But for Powell, the veracity of the story is no longer as significant as its longevity. His primary satisfaction comes from the lasting interest in the story itself—a living tale that endures, like the Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

"At the time, it was a good story," he said. "I've had a lot of fun with it through the years. I've gotten to talk to people from all over North America, and get their views on the story. We don't have a lot of legends here, and it is interesting to be a part of that legend."

And every time Powell logs onto a Bigfoot site on the Internet, he is reminded of his contribution to the lore and legends that are kept alive there.

He named the Fouke Monster.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Aug. 8, 2001 CR: G. Conway

PHYSICS

SLOWING DOWNTIME TRAVEL

BY JASON CHOW

Forget about zooming through space faster than the speed of light or diving into wormholes through the space-time continuum to travel back in time.

Ronald Mallett, a theoretical physics professor at the University of Connecticut, thinks he has figured out a more practical way to fulfill the old science-fiction fantasy of time travel — by slowing down light.

No one will be going back to witness the War of 1812 any time soon, but Mallett thinks we are at least close to achieving time travel at the atomic level.

Mallett's work is based on Albert Einstein's quantum theory, which postulates gravity is a distortion of space and time. Any object that has energy or mass distorts the space and the passage of time around it. A rotating object twists the space in its area, like doughnut crumbs in a stirred cup of coffee. The more dense matter is, and the more quickly it spins, the more it distorts space and time.

Einstein's work suggests time can be twisted to such a degree, it can be bent from a straight line from the past to the future into a loop that runs from present to future (or past) and back to present.

It is these closed time-like loops that Mallett believes will allow for time travel.

When he began researching theories about time travel, he found most physicists were focusing on using matter to bend space and time. They were working on the theory that, by accelerating matter to faster-than-light speeds, it would travel back in time.

But Mallett's theory involves almost the opposite concept: He thinks he can create closed time loops by decelerating light. Light, after all, has a great deal of energy that can be used to bend space and time.

Mallett's solution involves angling four mirrors in such a way that they direct a powerful laser beam in a square loop. The high-energy light distorts space and puts what amounts to a bend in the time-line. By adding a second laser beam, circulating in the opposite direction, Mallett believes physicists will be able to bend time into a closed loop.

"If you're inside this circle of light and suppose that you increase the intensity of the light enough, or slow down the speed, what I've shown is that space and time in the circle will be interchanged — what was space before will become time and time will become space."

A particle (and perhaps an object) within the square will therefore be able to move through time in a non-linear fashion.

"Even if you think you're walking around in a small circle in space, you'll be walking in a circle in time," he said.

The key to Mallett's theory is slowing down light.

Normally, light travels through a vacuum at about 300,000 kilometres per second.

Recently, though, a group of Harvard researchers have slowed light to about 13 metres per second, or a near standstill. When light slows, its mass increases. Greater mass produces a stronger gravitational field, strong enough, Mallett thinks, to bend space and time.

If all goes according to plan, Mallett predicts his atomic time machine would have particles periodically appear out of nowhere. Spontaneous particles

could suddenly jump into the present due to experiments that were done later. "It didn't come out of nowhere. It's actually the particle that you put in the time machine — tomorrow."

But if someone really is going to build a time machine in the future, why hasn't anyone travelled back in time to tell us about it? Mallett suspects time travellers will be able to go back only to the point when the machine was invented.

Because of time travel's allure, Mallett has been garnering attention. The science journal *New Scientist* and the BBC ran stories about his theory. And while his department backs his research, many members of the physics community think Mallett's ideas are just a pipe dream.

Don Page, a professor of physics at the University of Alberta, is skeptical of the whole proposition. He estimated a mass-energy of 100,000 times the sun would

be necessary to give a significantly large space-time curvature — a feat that will not be attained in the foreseeable future, he said.

"It seems likely to me that one would need an enormous energy for limited energy density to give enough space-time warpage to get anywhere near time travel, and even then we are highly uncertain whether it can be achieved," he said.

Many physicists would not even comment on Mallett's theory, dismissing the whole notion of time travel as fantasy.

"I should say that the idea of time travel is certainly not accepted by the community of theoretical physicists working on the problems of space and time — at least, not among the ones I talk to," said one California-based theoretical physicist who asked not to be named.

Mallett still has a way to go to prove himself. He is in the process of securing grant money to build the apparatus but he admits he is still years away from even testing his hypothesis.

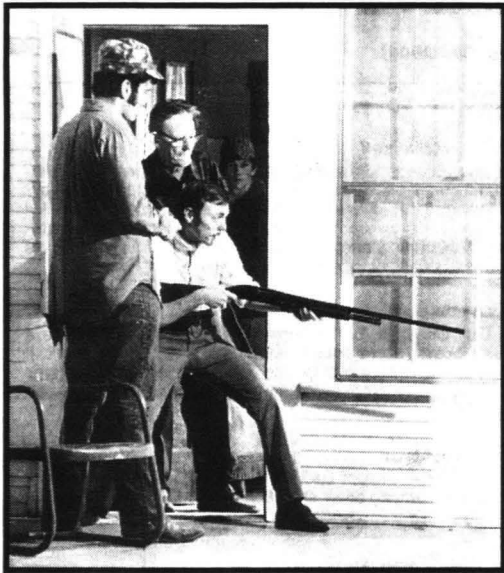
Still, the elusive time-travel dream remains seductive for Mallett.

"I think that within all of us is the fundamental human urge of 'what if we could change the past?'"

National Post



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A painting titled *Stillness of Time*, by Salvador Dali. The painting was used to promote a recent Dali exhibition in Los Angeles.



Gazette file photo by GEORGE GUTHRIE
Willie Smith of Fouke, Ark., watches Charles Pierce as he runs through the scene where Smith shot at a large, hairy monster that appeared on his porch. The scene was from "Tracking the Fouke Monster," which became "The Legend of Boggy Creek."



Staff photo by CHRIS DEAN
An artist's rendition of the Fouke Monster greets visitors at Fouke's Monster Mart.

MONSTERMANIA: 30 years hence

'Legend of Boggy Creek' considered a cult classic

By SUNNI THIBODEAU
Special to the Gazette

Not everyone liked the cult movie classic, "The Legend of Boggy Creek." Some people thought it made inhabitants of the rural town of Fouke, Ark., look like buffoons.

Some thought it made the creature into a veritable monster.

Some said the publicity created serious problems for them.

In fact, about the only thing that everyone can agree on is that the movie and the town are irrevocably, forever bound to each other in the annals of time.

"To this day people still talk about it," said Dave Hall, a former journalist who played himself in the movie. "People still talk about whether it was real or a hoax. There is a lot of mystique there. It put the area on the map."

The movie chronicled a May 1971 attack on the Bobby Ford family by a Bigfoot-like creature.

At the time, Hall was the news director of Texarkana radio station KTFS.

He and former *Texarkana Gazette* reporter Jim Powell broke the story in May 1971.



Gazette file photo by GEORGE GUTHRIE
Members of the film crew working on "Tracking the Fouke Monster" (later "The Legend of Boggy Creek") are silhouetted against the lights of an automobile as they prepare to film a scene on U.S. Highway 134 south of Fouke, Ark.

CHARLES PIERCE FILMOGRAPHY

Charles Pierce parlayed the money from 1974's "The Legend of Boggy Creek" into a series of movies, including:

- "The Town That Dreaded Sundown" (1976)
- "Graveyard" (1977)
- "The Norseman" (1978)
- "The Evictors" (1979)
- "Sacred Ground" (1983)
- "Hawken's Breed" (1987)
- "Boggy Creek 2" (1989)

Although he filmed "The Legend of Boggy Creek" with local talent, he introduced professional actors in his later films, including Dawn Wells, of "Gilligan's Island" fame; Ben Johnson, famous for his cowboy roles and Lee Majors, then at the peak of his professional career as television's "Six Million Dollar Man."

Tom Boutross, famed as co-director of the classic, "The Hideous Sun Demon," directed both "The Legend of Boggy Creek," and "The Town That Dreaded Sundown."

"Boggy Creek 2" was actually the third in the Fouke monster series. An earlier film, called "Return to Boggy Creek," was filmed without Pierce's participation.

When he filmed the third installment, he conveniently ignored the second film.

Pierce starred in the third film, which flopped at the box office.

The movie, which premiered in 1974, is reputed to have cost about \$165,000 to make.

It was the No. 7 grossing movie of that year, and eventually earned \$22 million. It is considered a horror film classic in some circles, with its influence extending to encompass such direct descendants as the recent smash independent film, "The Blair Witch Project."

It has even inspired the author of a Canadian children's mystery book, who recalls that her father used to tell her stories of the movie.

Using only local talent, director Charles B. Pierce pieced together the story of a single encounter with a creature from the unknown, taking more than a few literary liberties with the yarn.

Pierce, a local talent who performed in a children's television show, was, at the very least, flamboyant.

John Welsh, who worked with Pierce on a subsequent movie, "The Town That Dreaded Sundown" which chronicled the Phantom Killer in the Texarkana area, posted a group of embellished stories about Pierce on a movie Website.

In an e-mail correspondence, Welsh related the story of one local who was still upset over "The Legend of Boggy Creek."

"Apparently, the man threatened Charlie, and wanted to meet with them. Charlie and Steve (Lyons) and Earl (Smith) all took to wearing guns, but the guy never showed," Welsh wrote. "It was pretty comical."

Lyons was Pierce's brother-in-law and Smith was the scriptwriter for
(continued on page 20)

SMOKEY AND THE FOUKE MONSTER by J. E. Smokey Crabtree



Crabtree book still generates interest

By SUNNI THIBODEAU
Of the Gazette Staff

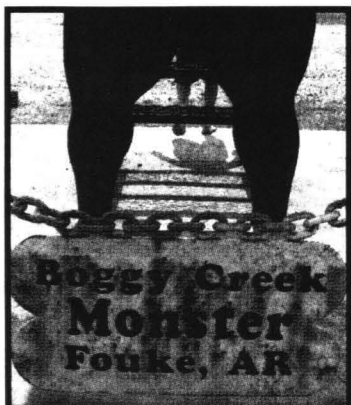
While the town of Fouke is famous for its legendary monster, one particular resident's name always comes up in monster discussions—Smokey Crabtree.

Crabtree is acknowledged to be somewhat of an expert on the monster, although he admits he has never caught sight of it. "I've never seen it, but there ain't no telling what I'd give to see it," he said.

In his folksy way, Crabtree says the monster was "wished on us."

The Crabtree farm was located near the 1971 sighting, and he was drawn into the saga without much of a choice. This was not the first monster sighting, of course. Several had preceded it, going back to the 1940s, with Crabtree's son contributing a sighting in 1964.

It was tagged the Jonesville Monster back then, but there was little notoriety or publicity about the event outside of Fouke. Most of those involved in the sightings up to



Staff photo by CHRIS DEAN



Staff photo by CHRIS DEAN

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19 - GAZETTE, Texarkana, TX - June 24, 2001)

that point had simply kept the sightings to themselves.

That all changed with the events that took place in May of 1971 and the movie that fictionalized those events three years later.

Since then, much of Crabtree's life has been taken up with the monster. He's often asked to speak at meetings of Bigfoot enthusiasts, although he says he never thought of the Fouke monster as a Bigfoot.

He has spoken in locales as far away as the Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group in Ohio, and shared the bill with such Bigfoot notables as Loren Coleman, Larry Battson, and Bob Chance. His next speaking engagement is in Jefferson, Texas, in September.

But not all of the monster dealings have been pleasant.

The success of the 1974 movie, "The Legend of Boggy Creek," earned Crabtree international fame,

but he was less than pleased with the film. Angered, he sat down and wrote a book, although he is quick to claim that he is "no author."

Instead, he said he wrote the book because he wanted to set the record straight, explaining that the events were real events that happened to honest, everyday people. "The movie made it into a horror story. If people would read the book, they would see that the people of Fouke had no part in a hoax," he said. "They were scared. That movie is not even close to the truth."

The book doesn't focus on only the monster. Instead, Crabtree went back in time, providing readers with an interesting look at life in the area during the Depression. He talks about hunting and fishing in the area, and he has done his share of both. In fact, he was listed as "wildlife consultant" on the movie credits.

He talks about his professional life, traveling through 18 countries and throughout the United States. And finally, he tells his own story of the movie production and what the resulting publicity cost him, both personally and professionally. Sometimes he wishes that he hadn't titled the book, "Smokey and the Fouke Monster: A True Story by Smokey Crabtree."

"It's not a joke, not a monster story," he said. "I couldn't care less whether there is monster down there or not. I have no desire to take it and make money on it."



MONSTER WEB SITES

Although some might argue the Fouke Monster is not exactly a Bigfoot, Bigfoot organizations like to claim it as one of theirs. If you want to learn more about the legend or see the most current

updates of area sightings, check out these Websites:

<http://www.bfro.net/>

This site belongs to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization and focuses on Sasquatch/Bigfoot sightings. It lists state-by-state geographical areas. Although state information for Arkansas and Texas are not yet available, a January 2000 sighting from McCurtain County, Oklahoma is listed. The site also lists a January 2000 sighting from Miller County—near Fouke.

www.gcbro.com

The Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Association site contains a message board, a chat room, and some pretty nifty artwork. It also has a superb library of related links. Special bonus—it gives credit to the Fouke Monster as the most famous Southern sighting.

<http://www.angelfire.com/tn/bigfootlady/>

The Tennessee Bigfoot Lady's Web site offers photographs of Bigfoot tracks, among other attractions.

And of course the Website with the namesake of our monster: www.thefoukemonster.com

—COMPILED BY SUNNI THIBODEAU

But the title has brought success to the self-published book. It has sold worldwide, and is in its second printing, although local sales have not matched those from out of the area.

For a time, the book was sold on Amazon.com., but Crabtree wasn't pleased with the arrangement and pulled the book from the site. He handles his own marketing now, pushing the book from his Web sites.

The book even won a Writers Digest Certificate of merit from the National Self Published Book Competition.

High tech has given new life to the book, with orders flowing in internationally. Although he said he has shied away from working with promoters, he has agreed to allow a British Web site to publish the book as an e-book.

The Web site can be located at www.legendofboggycreek.com or www.thefoukemonster.com. The site contains press clippings from the early seventies sightings, and also sells copies of the Pierce movie, other Bigfoot videos, and Bigfoot souvenirs.

Some fans have even tried to cash in on the notoriety of the legend.

A recent eBay offering touted a copy of the "rare" first edition of the Crabtree book. Bids poured in, some as high as \$175.

What was happening was that

some enterprising entrepreneur had contacted Crabtree, purchased the books at the regular price, and asked Crabtree to sign and mail copies to his "friends."

"We were even doing the postage and handling for him," Crabtree said.

When he figured out what was going on, Crabtree immediately stopped the supply, although he said he does have some copies of the first edition left for those who want them.

For those who have read the first book and want more, the man who said he is not an author is now working on a second book.

But that first book will always hold a special place in his heart. It has remained popular for nearly three decades, and has developed a devoted following.

Crabtree's one wish is that more local people would read the book.

Still, it was Crabtree's son who first saw the monster back in 1964.

The monster was known as the Jonesville Monster back then, and, unlike the 1971 sighting, there was little notoriety about the event outside of Fouke. Most of those involved in the sightings up to that point had simply kept the sightings to themselves. There was little publicity.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 25, 2001 CR: G. Conway

Maddening Buzz



Many residents of southwestern Germany are being irritated by a strange, nighttime

buzzing sound that is baffling experts. During the past two years, some who experienced the phenomenon have complained that it is causing their heart to race, and that they have feelings that alternate between fatigue and excitement. Complaints of muscle spasms and insomnia have also been received from Lake Constance to Heidelberg. Authorities have contracted physicist Henrich Menges to investigate the nocturnal buzzing. He has dismissed theories that the sounds come from U.S. military experiments such as the HAARP project based in Alaska. He believes that the noises could be from diesel motors, waterfalls or compressors. Wind blowing across the tops of chimneys is also said to be a possibility.

Distributed by: The Los Angeles Times Syndicate E-mail: mail@earthweek.com
©2001 Earth Environment Service

Monster

(continued from page 19)

the film.

Those involved in the movie production remember Pierce as a man who was able to create special effects long before there was specialized technology. Much of the footage is dark and gritty, but Pierce also went into the river bottoms and shot extensive footage of area wildlife.

Internet reports propagate the story that Pierce heard and recorded the monster, and the soundtrack makes liberal use of the recording. Pierce could not be reached to either verify or discount that story.

Much of the movie was shot in the area where the action took place, but Pierce was unable to obtain permission to shoot the original house on U.S. Highway 71 where the monster sighting took place. Instead, he used a house in Texarkana.

The original house, located on U.S. Highway 71, no longer stands.

Other scenes were filmed in areas that lent color to the story line.

"The part we were involved in was shot north of town in the Red River bottoms," Hall said.

"For a three-second clip, it took us a half hour to 45 minutes to get it right."

The movie made stars out of the locals, or so they thought at the time.

"We all thought we were stars," Hall said. "I saw it on TV a few months ago, and the acting was really bad."

Even if the acting wasn't Oscar-quality, the movie caught the fancy of a viewing public enmeshed in Watergate, post-Vietnam and a recession. It chilled fans across the country in big city theaters and rural drive-ins.

Nearly a year after the Texarkana premier, Hall remembers traveling through Oklahoma and stopping at a motel for the night.

The film was playing at the drive-in theater next door to the motel.

"The girl at the desk kept looking at me and said she knew me from somewhere," Hall said. "I'd never been in that town before."

As it turned out, the girl had seen the film the night before, and she recognized him from the movie.

Even the locals who played in the movie gained celebrity sta-

tus.

Keith Crabtree was cast as the monster, mostly because of his size, but also because he was available. The monster sightings took place next door to his uncle's property.

"I cut Keith's hair during the filming," Fouke Mayor Cecil Smith said. Smith was a barber in the city at the time, but like others in the community, he remembers the initial uproar after the sightings.

Things have settled down since the madness of the 1970s, but there are still occasional queries.

"We get calls, although it is not as popular as it used to be," Smith said. "We get a lot of letters from students making school projects, and we do have literature we send them."

Fouke had a population of about 500 people when the monster was sighted in 1971. Today, the population has grown to 814, and the town enjoys a yearly Monster Days, a typical, small-town festival celebrating the event that put the town on

the map.

The only other outward tribute to the Fouke Monster is the Monster Mart, which hawks souvenirs such as T-shirts, caps, mugs and postcards.

Rickie Roberts, who owns the business, is the unofficial monster spokesman. "We get calls from all over the world—some from Florida, and a lot from Maine," he said.

Arkansas is a hot spot for monster sightings.

USA Today ranks Fouke among the 10 great places to find monsters.

Other Arkansas counties also claim their share of Bigfoot-like creatures, including nearby Sevier.

"I've been here 15 years, and I've never heard of one," said Sevier County Sheriff John Par-tain.

Roberts said people were still

reporting monster sightings—just not to the authorities.

"We still get a few," he said. "There were three last year, with the latest in October. But people don't report it because they are afraid someone will laugh at them."

Miller County authorities said they were unaware of any recent sightings.

But the Internet is alive with Fouke sightings and Fouke rumors, including a purported video of the monster.

Videos of the movie are also a popular request, and several Internet sites sell the film as a "rare movie," although Roberts doesn't currently carry the item.

He has seen the movie, though.

"It was OK," he said. "There was a lot real, and a lot that wasn't."